

RSTC Minutes for May 13th, 2024

Meeting called to order at 1608 hours by Mr. Kissinger, Jr.

Special Notes: None.

1. Attendance:
 - a. Lester Kissinger, Jr. – City Arborist, Shade Tree Administrator / Chair
 - b. Lori Bellman – Member
 - c. Thomas Ryan – Member
 - d. Pamela Gockley – Member
 - e. Vacant – Member
 - f. Vacant – Member
 - g. Melissa Ventura – City Council - **Absent**
 - h. David Moodhart - Support
2. Presenters / Guests:
 - a. None
3. Review of the minutes from April 2024
 - a. Motion to approve made by Pam Gockley, seconded by Thomas Ryan
 - i. All in favor, no objections
4. Report of permits for 2024
 - a. Removals: four
 - b. Pruning: two
 - c. Plantings: twenty-four
 - d. Treatment none
5. Arborist Report
 - a. Classes Attended
 - i. EnerGov – on going.
 - ii. BCCD Mosquito Training
 - iii. Dale Carnegie Leadership Training
 - b. Letters sent to Property owners for April 2024.
 - i. None
 - c. Notice of Violations Issued
 - i. Three for either hazards, pruning, removals or other violations from Jan through Feb
 1. (0) moved to Citation.
 2. (3) for re-inspection coming up.
 3. (5) Cases pending Court for the year of 2023
 4. (8) closed cases in 2024

- d. Adopt-a-Tree.
 - i. 0 – Adopt-a-Tree agreements for Fall of 2024
 - ii. 1 – Letter of interest for Fall 2024
 - 1. 1100 block N. 11th Street – Pending Utility Evaluation
 - e. Invoices for 2024
 - i. 0 – to property owners
 - ii. In Housework totaling \$38,450.00 for the year
 - 1. Recent work being storm clean up:
 - a. 1600 Eckert Av
 - b. 951 Morgantown Rd
 - c. City Park, Rose Garden
 - d. 900 Madison Av
 - e. Stone Cliff Trail
 - iii. Contractor Invoices totaling \$22,891.26 for the year.
 - 1. Most recent jobs:
 - a. April
 - i. BAMBA Lot
 - ii. Schlegel Pool
 - iii. Reading Iron
- 6. Request for Variance in having to replant.
 - a. None
 - 7. Review of Zoning Plans
 - a. Castlewood
 - b. 1029 Buttonwood St
 - c. Bern Street Carwash
 - d. Mercedes South
 - e. 625 McKnight St
 - 8. Old Business
 - a. Park Assessments
 - i. Mr. Kissinger states a few hazardous trees will be removed in City Park.
 - b. Capital Budget 2024
 - i. Renewal of the Deer Management Plan with USDA for 2024-2025 season
 - ii. Treatment of overlooks – vegetation management

9. New Business

- a. Budget:
 - i. Mr. Kissinger reviewed the 2024 budget.
- b. Planting Projects
 - i. Schlegel Park – 15 new trees
 - ii. Hampden Park – 6 new trees
 - iii. City Park – 3 new trees
- c. Arbor Day 2024 will be the City's 39th year taking part.
 - i. Tree planting in City Park in conjunction with the 275th Anniversary and Time Capsule
 - 1. Was held Friday, April 26th at 10am
- d. Contracts
 - i. Mr. Kissinger states he is working on the Ash Tree Treatments. He notes that Bartlett Tree Experts was awarded at a cost of \$7,198.13 and treatments will begin shortly if not already.

10. Information:

- a. Mr. Kissinger says the next meeting will be Monday, June 10th, 2024, at 1600 hours.
- b. Mr. Kissinger provides a brief update on the MP3 initiatives with regards to the trail feasibility study and forester management plan.
- c. Grant Application
 - i. The Grant is the Inflation Reduction Act Urban and Community Forestry Funds (USDA Forest Service) - \$4 million available for projects that deliver 100% of the benefits to disadvantaged communities, as determined by the Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool and/or Pennsylvania EnviroScience. No match required; cannot be combined with other Community and Watershed Forestry project types; funding provided on a reimbursement basis for activities as they are completed. The U.S. Forest Service and Inflation Reduction Act will be acknowledged as a funding source for work performed under these grants, including any future signage requirements. Construction activities and equipment purchase (over \$5000 per item) not allowable.
 - 1. Paperwork was submitted requesting \$400,000 to be used to conduct an inventory, pruning projects, and education.

11. RSTC Observations / Concerns:

- a. Hazardous Tree – Post Office North 5th Street
- b. Hazardous Trees – Centre Park, will have to coordinate around current construction.
- c. 1910 N. 16th – Check to see if replants are required after the recent removals.

12. Adjournment:

- a. Motion to adjourn by Lori Bellman, seconded by Thomas Ryan at 1710 hours.