

RSTC Minutes for November 21st, 2019

Note this meeting conducted business for the month September and October due to the October 17th meeting being canceled.

Meeting called to order at 1805 hours by Mr. Kissinger, Jr.

1. Attendance:
 - a. Lester Kissinger, Jr. – City Arborist, Shade Tree Administrator
 - b. Robert Reimer – Member, Acting Chairman
 - c. David Moodhart – Member
 - d. Margaret Yevics – Member
 - e. Thomas Ryan – Member
 - f. Brian Twyman – City Council – **Absent**
 - g. Jeff Thompson – Support
 - h. John Denick – Support – **Absent**
 - i. Kyle Zeiber – Public Works Operations Manager
2. Presenters / Guests:
 - a. None
3. Review of the minutes from September, 2019
 - a. Motion to approve the minutes was made by Mr. Ryan, seconded by Ms. Yevics
 - i. All in favor. 4y, 0n
4. Report of permits
 - a. For September, 2019
 - i. Removals – 17
 - ii. Pruning – 1
 - iii. Planting – 0
 - b. For October, 2019
 - i. Removals – 9
 - ii. Pruning – 3
 - iii. Plantings – 2
5. Arborist Report
 - a. Classes Attended
 - i. None for the month of September & October
 - b. 0 – Letters sent out to property owner during the month of September and October.
 - c. 18 – Notification of Violations for hazards, pruning, or violations sent out to the property owners for the month of September
 - i. (9) are in citation
 - ii. (1) for re-inspection
 - iii. (8) have complied

- d. 2 – Notification of Violations for hazards, pruning, or violations sent out to the property owners for the month of October
 - i. (2) are in citation
 - e. 0 – Adopt-a-Tree Agreement for Spring of 2020
 - f. 0 – Invoices to property owners for failure to comply
 - g. 3 – Invoices for In House work during September totaling \$6,108.90 and (4) for the month of October totaling \$4,390.00
 - i. This work consisted of removal at the BAMBA lot, WWTP, and storm clean up
 - h. 5 – Contractor Invoices for September totaling \$28,477.07 (Nolde Pines), and (3) for the month of October \$14,026.72.
 - i. This work was done at 3rd and Spruce, 2nd & Oley, Angelica Park, Laurel St., Drenkel Field, Mineral Spring Hotel, The Stadium, and 10th South Playground.
 - i. 1 – Additional invoice was received from Klahr Landscaping in the amount of \$10,500 for the Penn Street Pruning Project.
 - j. 1 – Letters of interest received for the Spring 2020 Adopt-a-Tree
- 6. Request for Variance in having to replant
 - a. None
- 7. Review of Zoning Plans
 - a. 1408 Meade Street – Private property review. New home being built on vacant lot requiring the need to plant one tree anywhere within the property. Property owner has chosen the rear yard due to utility conflicts. Landscaping plan was submitted.
- 8. Old Business
 - a. Ordinance:
 - i. Mr. Kissinger reports there has been some movement with this since the last meeting. He notes the Clerk's office took up interest. He states there were some additional changes suggested by the City Clerk which were made. He states it has since been sent back for their review and to be forwarded to legal.
 - 1. Remains Tabled awaiting a response
 - ii. Draft Ordinance Review by the Commission handout in May
 - 1. Commission has asked for more time to review.
 - a. Tabled
 - b. Budget:
 - i. Mr. Kissinger did a review of the budget until the end of October.
 - c. Memorial Tree for Mr. Slifko
 - i. Mr. Kissinger states the PA One Call for design came back clear for utilities in the proposed location at N.3rd and Centre Ave triangle. He notes that Mr. Denick and a member of Centre Park will be working on the design phase together to present a draft plan.
 - 1. No additional comments on the matter at this time.

- ii. Mr. Kissinger will try and schedule both John Denick and Mike Lauter to attend the September meeting to provide an update.
 - iii. Mr. Kissinger states there has been no new conversations about this as of the end of October. He notes he will look to re-visit this in 2020.
- d. 908 Rose St.
 - i. Mr. Kissinger notes he received a 25 page Arbitration request about the appeal the commission ruled on. Copies were distributed previously.
 - ii. Mr. Kissinger states after speaking with Linda Kelleher Council will not be taking action on the matter. Linda states the Commission should consider moving to the next step.
 - 1. A motion was made by Mr. Ryan, seconded by Ms. Yevics to advance the NOV's to Citation.
 - a. All in favor. 3Y, 0N
 - 2. Mr. Kissinger will issue citations and keep the Commission posted on the status moving forward.
 - a. Mr. Kissinger notes a Court Date has been set for September 17th, 2019 at 1400 hours
 - i. Court has been rescheduled till Nov due to request for continuance.
 - ii. Court date is set for November 26th at 2pm.
- e. Arbor Day 2020
 - i. Mr. Kissinger reminds everyone that Arbor Day 2020 will be the 35th Anniversary the City has been participating in the Tree City USA program. He asked the Commission begin thinking about what ideas they might have for this event.
- f. Park Assessments
 - i. Mr. Kissinger states the assessments are going well. He notes Nolde Pines has completed work at Brookline Playground, EJ Dives, Reading Iron, Schlegel Park, 2nd & Oley, 3rd & Spruce, Front & Schiller, and 10th & South so far this year.
 - 1. Work being done at these parks includes removals, pruning, crown raising, etc.
 - ii. Mr. Kissinger states the contractor is currently working on odds and ends jobs that have been on hold.
- g. Spotted Lanternfly
 - i. Mr. Kissinger is working to obtain banding material. He notes he reached out to Catch Master who states there vendors are Lowes and Home Depot.
 - 1. Mr. Kissinger continues to follow up with other vendors but has been unsuccessful.
 - a. Mr. Kissinger states he will try to have material for spring of 2020.

- ii. Mr. Kissinger states the issue has not been as bad as last year. He states while evaluating Skyline Drive the nymphs are minimal to this time last year when evaluation were conducted. He notes that other have also expressed the same observations.
 - 1. No change in observation, still the same.
 - a. Ms. Yevics states the peak for adults should occur over the next couple of weeks.
- iii. Mr. Kissinger states it was a better year than last. He states there was less calls about the matter and that he did not have to spray at all for infestation this fall. He believes things will hopeful continue to improve as SLF continues to move.
 - 1. He notes that nothing new has come from the state lately.

9. New Business

- a. State EAB Treatment Reimbursement
 - i. Mr. Kissinger states he will seek reimbursement for the amount of \$4,324.69 for the EAB treatment program in 2019. He notes that the inter-governmental agreement has been renewed for the years 2019 thru 2021 and reminds everyone that this is a 50:50 match.
 - 1. Mr. Kissinger states he has heard back from the state and that there is only one signature needing to be obtained yet on the states side of things. He states he should hopefully be able to submit the bill shortly for the reimbursement.
- b. Penn Street Pruning
 - i. Mr. Kissinger states this project has been completed. We have paid our share of the Invoice and have been receiving positive feedback on the work perform.
- c. Meeting scheduled for 2020
 - i. Next year's meeting dates will be moved to the 3rd Monday of each month with the exception of January and February due to the holidays. Those meeting dates will be Tuesday.
 - 1. Motion was made by Mr. Reimer, seconded by Mr. Ryan to accept the change.
 - a. All in favor 4Y, 0N
- d. VSU Pruning Project
 - i. Mr. Kissinger states he received notification from the Reading Police Departments VSU of pruning work required due to communications issues with cameras not operating properly. He states that they supplied all the information needed to complete the work and that Klahr Landscaping was awarded as the lowest bidder.
 - 1. Work was completed and Invoice sent to VSU for payment
- e. Public Comment / Presentation Rules for meetings.
 - i. Mr. Kissinger states he would like to adopt the memo passed around for rules of Public speaking. He states it's pretty much the same language City Council is using with minor changes.
 - 1. The commission took some time to review.

- a. A motion was made by Ms. Yevics, seconded by Mr. Moodhart to accept the Public Speaking Rules.
 - i. 4Y, 0N

10. Information:

- a. Mr. Kissinger states he is continuously working to address the commission concerns. He notes he is making good progress when scheduling allows.

11. RSTC Observations / Concerns:

- a. N. 5th and Buttonwood – Mr. Kissinger notes this property has been cited. He states no court date has been set. He offered that we could perform the removals and take measure to recover the cost.
- b. N. 4th and Oley, the Law firm – Mr. Kissinger states he was working with the property to allow additional time to get the work completed. He notes the last communication he had with them via email is that it would be completed once they found someone to perform the work since their normal landscaper doesn't perform tree work. He apologizes for the delay but has moved it into citation.

Motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Reimer, seconded by Mr. Ryan at 1925 hours.