

RSTC Minutes for November 15th, 2022

Meeting called to order at 1710 hours by Mr. Kissinger, Jr.

Special Notes: No meetings were held during the month of August, September, and October due to scheduling conflicts

1. Attendance:
 - a. Lester Kissinger, Jr. – City Arborist, Shade Tree Administrator / Chair
 - b. Robert Reimer – Member - **ABSENT**
 - c. Vacant – Member
 - d. Margaret Yevics – Member
 - e. Thomas Ryan – Member
 - f. Pamela S Gockley – Member
 - g. Donna Reed – City Council – **ABSENT**
 - h. David Moodhart - Support
 - i. Jeff Thompson – Support
 - j. Kyle Zeiber – Public Works Operations Manager / Acting Director - **ABSENT**
2. Presenters / Guests:
 - a. None
3. Review of the minutes from July, 2022
 - a. Motion to approve made by Ms. Gockley, seconded by Ms. Yevics
 - i. All in favor, no objections
4. Report of permits for the months of August, September, and Oct
 - a. Removals: 37
 - b. Pruning: 5
 - c. Plantings: 2
 - d. Treatment 0
5. Arborist Report
 - a. Classes Attended
 - i. EnerGov – on going
 - ii. Understanding Urban Tree Systems, cost etc.
 - iii. GIS Training
 - iv. Tree Injection Best Management Practices for managing pest
 - v. Tree Biology of Tree Pruning
 - vi. The Essential Value of Street Trees in City’s making and sustainable Urban Design

- b. Letters sent to Property owners for the months of August, September, and October
 - i. None
- c. Notice of Violations Issued
 - i. 41 for either hazards, pruning, removals or other violations for the month of August, September, and October
 - 1. (18) moved to Citation since January
 - 2. (4) for re-inspection
 - 3. (10) Cases open pending Court for the year of 2021
- d. Adopt-a-Tree
 - i. 0 – Adopt-a-Tree agreements for Fall of 2022
 - ii. 0 – Letter of interest for Fall 2022
- e. Invoices for 2022
 - i. 0 – to property owners
 - ii. In House work totaling \$42,825 for the year
 - 1. Recent work being storm clean up:
 - a. Multiple Locations -Storm Related
 - b. S. 18th & Highland
 - c. 500 N. 4th St
 - d. 3rd & Spruce Hockey Rink
 - e. S. 12th & Chestnut St
 - f. N. 12th & Pike
 - g. 413 Green TC
 - h. 547 Penn St
 - i. 1434 Oak Lane
 - j. 531 Chestnut St
 - k. 1619 Mineral Spring Rd
 - l. 1900 Lorraine Rd
 - m. W. Windsor & Lincoln St
 - iii. Contractor Invoices totaling \$172,00 for the year
 - 1. Most recent jobs:
 - a. City Park - Removals
 - b. 13th & Marion
 - c. Various Street Pruning
 - d. 11th & Pike
 - e. 900 N. Front St
 - f. 505 Penn St
 - g. 11th & Pike
 - h. Riverfront Park
 - i. Buttonwood & Schuylkill Av
 - j. K-9 Facility
 - k. City Park

- l. N. 13th & Windsor
- m. Eglemans Park
- n. 500 Block Penn: Island
- o. City Park
- p. S. 4th & Chestnut

6. Request for Variance in having to replant

- a. None

7. Review of Zoning Plans

- a. 4th & Elm
- b. RSD – 9th and Douglass
- c. Stadium
- d. 641 McKnight
- e. 743 Thorn
- f. 531 Upland Av
- g. 322 Walnut
- h. 600 S. 9th
- i. 1010-1012 Lancaster Av
- j. 6th & Spring
- k. Holy Trinity Church of God
- l. Iron Gate
- m. Bern Storage and Car Wash
- n. Prince and Princesses Day
- o. Triple Duce Minor Land Development
- p. Hope Rescue

8. Old Business

- a. Park Assessments
 - i. Mr. Kissinger had nothing to report
- b. Capital Budget 2022
 - i. Mr. Kissinger states Skyline Overlook clearing project is underway and scheduled to wrap up before the end of the year. He notes the project will cost approximately \$165,000 and is being done in phases. First phase is clearing cutting the first one hundred feet with the option to go and additional 100 in phase two. He notes treatment applications are also being applied during the removal to prevent the unwanted growth from coming back.
 - ii. The remaining funds will go to replace the current dump truck which could then be used by another department or reallocated.

9. New Business

- a. Budget:
 - i. Mr. Kissinger reviewed the current budget status for 2022.
- b. Planting Projects
 - i. Mr. Kissinger states he will be working with Larry Lloyd and Berks Nature for plantings in the spring at Schlegel Park and Reading High
- c. Scheduled for 2023
 - i. Meeting will be held the second Monday of every month at 5pm. Located at 503 N. 6th Street, The Public Works Building
- d. Arbor Day 2023 will be the City's 38th year participating
 - i. Mr. Kissinger states he will be working with Reading High to host the ceremony.

10. Information:

- a. Mr. Kissinger states the next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, December 20th, 2022
 - i. The commission has elected to hold the annual dinner in place of the meeting. Place and time to be determined.
- b. Mr. Kissinger provides a brief update on the MP3 initiatives with regards to the trail feasibility study and forester management plan.

11. RSTC Observations / Concerns:

- a. 139 N. 5th – Dead Tree

12. Adjournment:

- a. Motion to adjourn was made by Ms. Gockley, seconded by Ms. Yevics at 1715 hours