

RSTC Minutes for November 13th, 2023

Meeting called to order at 1615 hours by Mr. Kissinger, Jr.

Special Notes: None

1. Attendance:
 - a. Lester Kissinger, Jr. – City Arborist, Shade Tree Administrator / Chair
 - b. Robert Reimer – Member – **ABSENT, Medical**
 - 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 - **ABSENT**
 - j. Kyle Zeiber – Public Works Operations Manager / Deputy PW Director - **ABSENT**
2. Presenters / Guests:
 - a. None
3. Review of the minutes from August 2023
 - a. Motion to approve made by Mrs. Ryan, seconded by Mrs. Gockley
 - i. All in favor, no objections
4. Report of permits for 2023
 - a. Removals: ninety-one
 - b. Pruning: nineteen
 - c. Plantings: sixty-nine
 - d. Treatment zero
5. Arborist Report
 - a. Classes Attended
 - i. EnerGov – on going.
 - ii. Landscape Pest Walk
 - iii. Pest and Disease Walk
 - iv. Industrial Right-of-way Weed Updates
 - v. Hydretain Product overview and training
 - b. Letters sent to Property owners for August through October.
 - i. None
 - c. Notice of Violations Issued

- i. Seventeen for either hazards, pruning, removals or other violations from August through October
 - 1. (11) moved to Citation
 - 2. (2) for re-inspection coming up.
 - 3. (11) Cases pending Court for the year of 2023
 - d. Adopt-a-Tree.
 - i. 0 – Adopt-a-Tree agreements for Fall of 2023
 - ii. 1 – Letter of interest for Fall 2023
 - 1. Person did not return phone calls and prepare site.
 - e. Invoices for 2023
 - i. 0 – to property owners
 - ii. In Housework totaling \$78,158 for the year
 - 1. Recent work being storm clean up:
 - a. 423 N 2nd St
 - b. Duryea Drive (Turn 1)
 - c. Storm Work
 - d. 1511 Lorraine Road
 - e. 1208 Green St
 - f. 1500 N. 11th St
 - iii. Contractor Invoices totaling \$194,437 for the year.
 - 1. Most recent jobs:
 - a. August
 - i. City Park
 - ii. Riverfront Park
 - iii. Blair Av
 - iv. Schlegel Pool
 - v. 320 S. 3rd (3rd & Spruce Playground)
 - b. September
 - i. Wyomissing Blvd traffic island
 - ii. Riverfront Park
 - iii. City Park
 - iv. 320 S. 3rd (3rd & Spruce Playground)
 - c. October
 - i. 11th & Penn
 - ii. City Park
 - iii. Riverfront Park
 - iv. Fire Trail, 14th & Walnut
- 6. Request for Variance in having to replant.
 - a. None

7. Review of Zoning Plans

- a. First Energy Stadium
- b. 1340 Centre Av
- c. 104 S. 4th
- d. 408 N. 9th
- e. 100 S. 4th
- f. 1119 Luzerne St
- g. 542 Poplar Lane
- h. 625 McKnight
- i. Lichty's Mennonite Church
- j. Inglesia Pentecostal Church
- k. Abilities in Motion
- l. Exeter Hall
- m. 320-324 N. 9th
- n. 4th & Elm

8. Old Business

- a. Park Assessments
 - i. Mr. Kissinger had nothing to report.
- b. Capital Budget 2023
 - i. Mr. Kissinger had nothing new to report.

9. New Business

- a. Budget:
 - i. Mr. Kissinger reviewed the 2023 budget.
 - ii. Mr. Kissinger reviewed the preliminary 2024 budget.
- b. Planting Projects
 - i. Mr. Kissinger says the plan is to continue planting at Schlegel Park. More details to come in the coming months.
- c. Arbor Day 2024 will be the City's 39th year taking part.
- d. Contracts
 - i. Mr. Kissinger had nothing new to report.
- e. Ordinance
 - i. Fees.
 - 1. Mr. Kissinger says the EAC will be reviewing and offering an opinion. More to come later.
 - a. No recent updates

10. Information:

- a. Mr. Kissinger says the next meeting will be Monday, December 11th, 2023, at 1800 hours.
 - i. The commission would like to meet for dinner instead of a monthly meeting. Dinner will be at the Pike.
- b. Mr. Kissinger provides a brief update on the MP3 initiatives with regards to the trail feasibility study and forest management plan.
 - i. Mr. Kissinger invites the commission to the public meeting on Tuesday, December 5th at 6pm in Council Chambers.

11. RSTC Observations / Concerns:

- a. No one had anything to report.

12. Adjournment:

- a. Motion to adjourn by Mr. Ryan, seconded by Mrs. Yevics at 1710 hours.