

RSTC Minutes for September 19th, 2019

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 – **Absent**
2. Presenters / Guests:
 - a. Ken Roth
 - i. A City Resident interested in joining the Commission. Came to see what the commission is all about.
3. Review of the minutes from August, 2019
 - a. Motion to approve the minutes was made by Mr. Reimer, seconded by Ms. Yevics
 - i. All in favor. 4y, 0n
4. Report of permits
 - a. For August, 2019
 - i. Removals – 7
 - ii. Pruning – 1
 - iii. Planting – 0
5. Arborist Report
 - a. Classes Attended
 - i. LTAP Webinar – Crosswalks
 - b. 3 – Letters sent out to property owner advising of the concerns of Tree of Heaven in their back yards. The letter was a request advising them to remove.
 - c. 0 – Notifications for hazards, pruning, or violations sent out to the property owners for the month of August
 - d. 15 – Notice of Violations issued for hazardous trees, vacant pits, etc.....
 - e. 3 – Adopt-a-Tree Agreement for Fall of 2019
 - f. 0 – Invoices to property owners for failure to comply
 - g. 7 – Invoices for In House work during August 2019 totaling \$10,090.00
 - h. 5 – Contractor Invoices for August 2019 totaling \$10,459.41 (Nolde Pines)
 - i. 0 – Letters of interest received for the Fall 2019 Adopt-a-Tree
6. Request for Variance in having to replant
 - a. None

7. Review of Zoning Plans

- a. None

8. Old Business

a. Ordinance:

- i. Mr. Kissinger states the ordinance is still with legal. He has received no response on the status and continues to work with Mr. Johnson to get this back.

- 1. Remains Tabled

- 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 August.

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.

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.

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, and Schlegel Park, 2nd & Oley, and 3rd & Spruce 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 waiting.
- 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.

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.
- b. Accepting Fall Adopt-a-Tree Applications
 - i. Mr. Kissinger states he currently has three agreements on file for the fall.
 - 1. He reminds everyone that he is still accepting applications.
 - ii. Mr. Kissinger states we will need to have a plan for volunteers if the property owners are not capable of planting.
 - 1. Mr. Thompson agrees and that further talks should occur about this.
 - a. Mr. Kissinger notes he has received an email about students looking for projects and will follow up on that lead and provide updates at a later meeting.
- c. Penn Street Pruning
 - i. Mr. Kissinger states that Cindy Castner spoke with the Mayor and he is onboard with this project.

1. Mr. Kissinger states there is a meeting later this month to talk about the project further and discuss the estimates that came back. He notes the lowest one received was for 21,000 (+/-) from Klahr Landscaping.
 - a. He reminds everyone that this came about after a meeting with Council President, Linda Kelleher, Cindy Castner, and Aaron Gantz about pruning along Penn Street. Mr. Kissinger notes the last time pruning along this stretch was completed was in 2015 from N. 2nd to N. 11th Street. Pruning only included raising of the canopies, clearing obstructed street lights and overhead traffic signals.
2. Mr. Kissinger states this project would include full pruning of all trees (approximately 151) to improve the astatic throughout the entire canopy to include crown raising, removal of all dead, dying, diseased, decayed wood, to improve the overall health and reduction off structures, etc.
 - a. He will provide an update next month on the status
 - i. Update
 1. The private sector has come up with the share of the money \$11,000. We are currently waiting on MERC approval before moving forward.

10. Information:

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

11. RSTC Observations / Concerns:

- a. 410 N. 5th
- b. 1011 N. 4th
- c. N. 5th and Buttonwood – Mr. Kissinger notes this property has been cited
- d. 4th & Penn on 4th
 - i. Mr. Kissinger states he will add these to the list and make the proper notifications after inspections are complete.

Motion to adjourn was made by Ms. Yevics, seconded by Mr. Ryan at 1920 hours.