

Reading Shade Tree Commission Meeting October 6, 2014

Present:

Members: David Ruyak – Shade Tree Administrator, Lester Kissinger, Jr. – City Arborist, Bob Reimer – Commission Member

Guests: Jeff Thompson, John Slifko, John Denick, Caryl Peck, and Frank Denbowski (special assistant to Mayor Spencer)

The meeting was called to order at 6:15 PM.....

1. Report of Permits: Last month there were permits issued for 7 removals, 3 prunings & 1 planting.
2. Street Tree Inventory
 - a. Intern is working on a tree inventory of 34 City owned parks.
 - b. Purchasing Apple iPads to assist in the data collection and future management of the inventory.
3. Missed in last month's minutes was the fact that two of the Skyline's Overlooks have several large trees that completely block any view of the city.
4. Quotes were received and approved from Arbor Care for the Penn Street and Main Library area trimming projects for a total of \$11,850 for both projects.
5. Emerald Ash Borer is nearby and various types of treatment are being considered including how to make a decision on what trees will be treated.
 - a. D. Ruyak is trying to secure funding from the state to assist in the treatments
 - b. DCNR is going to assist Reading in developing a EAB management plan.
6. A Christmas tree for Penn Square has not been obtained as of yet.
 - a. This is an annual problem for the Arborist.
 - b. The amount of 'man hours' dedicated each year to this project is staggering.
 - c. Looking to secure funding for a 25' to 30' artificial tree
 - i. Would be purchased in advance of 2015 Holiday Season.
 - ii. The Reading Royals have been approached to possibly contribute.
7. The Arbor Day Celebration
 - a. 30 years anniversary of Tree City USA will be in April of 2015.
 - b. This should be a bigger event than in the past.
 - c. It needs to be brought to the public's attention for community involvement.
8. Visit from the Mayor's Office
 - a. Frank Denbowski has been attending meetings of all boards and commissions to offer any help that may be needed from the Mayor's Office.
 - b. The Commission must have at least 3 members and no more than 5.
 - i. Currently, there are only 3, and it is rare that all 3 are present at each meeting.
 - ii. Looking to fill 2 vacancies. Caryl Peck has expressed interest in joining the Commission to fill one position.
 - c. The Shade Tree Commission would benefit from more publicity. All have a substantial effect on neighborhood appearance and quality of life.
 - i. For tree planting and trimming projects.
 - ii. Arbor Day events.
 - iii. Public education opportunities.

Meeting Adjourned.....

Robert Reimer, Vice/Chair

Edited by David Ruyak