

SHADE TREE REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
March 10, 2010

Meeting Called to Order: 7:00 p.m.

Members in Attendance: L. Ferguson, K. Halpin, P. Huizenga, L. Starita
Absent: K. Clark,

MINUTES:

Regular Meeting

The Washington Borough Shade Tree Commission Meeting was called to order and the "Open Public Meetings Act" read into the Record. The meeting was duly advertised and posted on the Bulletin Board for Wednesday, March 10, 2010. A Motion was made by L. Starita and seconded by P. Huizenga that the minutes be approved for the meeting of February 10, 2010.

Ayes: 4, Nays: 0

COMMUNICATIONS:

1. Memo regarding Grant Applications- The Shade Tree Commission reviewed the grant application guidelines provided by the Borough's Grants Committee. This memo will be added to the Commission's files for future reference.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Arbor Day- P. Huizenga noted that there are 73 kindergarten children at Taylor Street School. The Commission will order 1 tray of (98) tree seedlings to distribute to the students during the Arbor Day Celebration, which will be April 30, 2010. A Proclamation will be prepared for the March 16th Council Meeting's Agenda. Mayor Scott McDonald will be invited to attend the ceremony and read the Proclamation to the Kindergarten classes.
2. 98 Youmans Avenue- Homeowner (Pasquale Giovannone) submitted a letter to the Commission regarding property damage when his r.o.w. tree was removed by a professional tree service. K. Halpin forwarded Mr. Giovannone's letter to Sunshine Tree and Landscape. They have not responded to the letter at this time. K. Halpin will contact Sunshine before the April 14th Shade Tree meeting to resolve this concern for the homeowner.
3. 2009 Business Stimulus Fund- The Grant Agreement was submitted to the Borough's March 2, 2010 Council Meeting along with the Attachment A-1 signature pages. According to the Grant's Timeline, these signed documents should be submitted to the State Forest Service by March 31, 2010.
L. Ferguson has received 3 quotes for the Washington Borough Park Tree Maintenance Proposal. Lauren will also request a quote from Sunshine Tree and

Landscape. One of the professional services will be selected at the April 14th Shade Tree Meeting upon evaluation of these quotes. The vendor's name will be forwarded to the State Forest Service on the Grant's Business Selection form.

4. Home Depot Grant- Due to the inaccessibility of grant information, the Commission has decided not to pursue this application. No further action will be taken at this time.
5. Cool Cities Community Grant- The Commission is accountable for maintaining the 56 trees that were planted. K. Halpin suggested that the Commission distribute door hangers with maintenance instructions to all homeowners who were provided with the new trees. Kathy notated the tree species on these generic hangers to notify the owners of this additional information. P. Huizenga will assist K. Halpin when dispensing this material.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Washington Borough Park Tree Maintenance Proposal- Councilman Cioni requested clarification on a number of areas presented in the proposal. L. Ferguson addressed every concern in a written format in order respond to Mr. Cioni as promptly as possible. To summarize the concerns, the following topics were explained:
 - a. The professional service hired to complete the grant project will provide the estimated cost to reseed all holes that are backfilled from tree and stump removals.
 - b. The timeline for the Borough Park maintenance will commence in the Fall 2010. There is less activity at the location after the pool is closed, lowering any risk to the public. Also, the Commission does not have the funding to begin the project at an earlier time.
 - c. The Commission will explore every possible area in order to keep expenses to a minimum. Local nurseries are unlikely to donate trees during the Fall, since it is a peak time for planting. Also, the State Forestry Service requires that specific tree species are planted in order to stay within their guidelines.A copy of the questions and responses will be filed with the Proposal for future reference.
2. 261 Carlton Avenue- Homeowner (Rachel Semonche) reported dead branches. K. Halpin evaluated the tree and determined it to be healthy. It was also not located in the r.o.w. area, which does not constitute it to be a Borough tree. Kathy will contact Mrs. Semonche to respond to her concerns. No further action will be taken.

ADJOURNMENT:

Hearing no further business before the Commission, it was moved by L. Starita and seconded by L. Ferguson that the meeting be adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Ayes: 4, Nays: 0
Motion Carried

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Fleming