

Ferguson Township Tree Commission (FTTC)

Date November 19, 2018

Meeting Agenda

Time 5:30pm

Call to Order

Approval of October 15th Meeting Minutes

The FTTC shall review and approve the minutes from the October Meeting.

FTTC Review of SALDO and Zoning Draft Ordinances

The FTTC has been tasked with reviewing the current drafts of the above ordinances and providing comments. Planning Department staff will be in attendance at this meeting. FTTC shall present their comments on both ordinances and discuss any further review.

Driveway Damage 2319 Falconpointe Dr

Yuanhong Zhu, resident at the above address will be in attendance to discuss root damage to his driveway.

2019 FTTC Meeting Schedule

The FTTC shall review the proposed meeting dates for 2019 and suggest edits as needed.

Communications to Commission Members

This is an opportunity for FTTC members to report on any contact by residents regarding FTTC matters.

Future agenda items

SALDO/Zoning, Suburban Park Master Plan, 2019 Planting Contract

Other

The next meeting is Monday January 21st at 5:30pm in conference room 2.

**FERGUSON TOWNSHIP TREE COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2018
6:00 PM**

I. ATTENDANCE

The Tree Commission held its public meeting on Monday, October 15, 2018 at the Ferguson Township Municipal Building. In attendance were:

COMMISSION:

Howard Fescemyer, Chairperson
Darlene Chivers, Vice-Chairperson
Jerry Learn
Marc McDill
Mike Jacobson

STAFF:

Lance King, Arborist
David Modricker, Public Works Director

Others in attendance were: Mark Troutman, Thistlewood HOA; Jean Phillips, Thistlewood HOA ; and Glen Parrillo, Thistlewood HOA

II. CALL TO ORDER

Dr. Fescemyer called the Monday, October 15, 2018 Ferguson Township Tree Commission meeting to order at 6:00 PM

III. THISTLEWOOD TREE PLANTING DISCUSSION

The residents of the Thistlewood neighborhood introduced themselves. Mr. Modricker provided a brief background on this issue. He explained that when Thistlewood was developed, the Township did not have an arborist. During the subdivision approval process at that time, there was discussion on whether street trees were needed in the proposed neighborhood. It was up to the Township Engineer to decide whether or not street trees were needed. Surety for public improvements was posted, the trees were planted over a period of time, the surety was released, and the public improvements were accepted. However, through research conducted some time later, the Township realized that the trees were planted behind the Township right-of-way on private property. About two years ago there were discussions regarding entrance planting trees, however, nothing came out of the discussions.

Mr. Modricker provided the group with the following forms: articles of agreement, a list of home owners that need to provide easements, and an easement and right-of-way agreement.

There was a detailed discussion on which trees in the entryway need to be removed due to health and on the species of the proposed new trees to be planted. There are eleven trees in the entryway that need to be replaced. After some discussion, there was consensus from the HOA members present to plant several species including honey locust and oak along the entranceway.

Mr. Modricker added that the Township will be planting 11 trees and will end up

maintaining 32 trees in total. The tree plan will be updated to show the current and proposed tree species. The tree plan will become a part of the agreement as an attachment. A survey is needed to prepare the description for the easements.

Staff will be in touch with the HOA when the survey is done and the agreements are ready to be signed.

IV. AUGUST 20, 2018 FTTC MEETING AND SEPTEMBER 11, 2018 JOINT WORK SESSION MEETING MINUTES

Dr. Fescemyer provided several corrections for the August 20, 2018 meeting minutes.

A motion was made by Dr. McDill and seconded by Dr. Jacobson to approve the amended meeting minutes of August 20, 2018.

Mr. Learn stated that he was not in attendance at the September 11, 2018 Joint Work Session with the Board of Supervisors as the meeting minutes indicate.

V. PUBLIC HEARING ON TREE REMOVAL AND REPLACEMENT

Mr. King stated that he had a phone call regarding the removal of two bradford pear street trees on Devonshire Drive. The concerned resident offered to pay to replace them if the Tree Commission approves the removal. There was a consensus from the Tree Commission to remove the trees and have the resident pay for the replacement trees. The Tree Commission directed Mr. King to clarify the standards of tree replacement and planting to the resident so that she is aware of the cost.

In response to a question from Mr. Learn, Mr. Modricker stated that the Township has removed street trees in the past at the request of a resident; however, every situation is different. Mr. King added that these situations depend on the condition of the tree that is present, the species of the tree, and the reason behind the removal.

With no other questions, comments, or concerns, the public hearing on tree removals and replacements was closed.

VI. FTTC REVIEW OF SALDO AND ZONING DRAFT ORDINANCES

Dr. Fescemyer stated that Mr. King has come up with a few discussion points related to the draft SALDO and Zoning ordinances. He went on to say that he has not had a chance to review anything; however, from just a glance, it seems as if there are sections that will need major revisions, if not rewritten entirely. Dr. Fescemyer stated that he is concerned that the Tree Commission does not have the technical knowledge to rewrite some of the language. He stated that the Tree Commission should find specific areas that need to be reworked, give reasons as to why, give the Board of Supervisors examples of alternatives, and explain that the Tree Commission is not qualified to recommend technical details.

There was a brief discussion on adding details within the ordinance on the crown spread of a tree at maturity, instead of just requiring a certain tree height at maturity.

There was a brief discussion on the definition of open space. Dr. McDill stated that the open space definition should include the requirement that open space should be free of invasive species and have a management plan.

The Tree Commission discussed the possibility of having a fee-in-lieu for trees. If the developer did not want to plant trees in the development, could the developer pay the Township the cost of the trees to be planted elsewhere? Mr. King stated that he doesn't think the Township can have that type of fee-in-lieu--the solicitor will need to give his opinion on that.

Mr. King reviewed some of the things that the Tree Commission should discuss: definitions, parking lot requirements, and buffer yard plantings. The Tree Commission discussed the process of making recommendations and how those recommendations would be incorporated into the next draft of the Zoning and SALDO. Mr. King explained that when staff first started updating the Zoning and SALDO, he sat on the committee that was reviewing the ordinances. He stated that he made the very same comments back then that the Tree Commission is making now and none of those comments made it into the draft ordinances; however, the Board of Supervisors has given the Tree Commission the go-ahead to review, comment, and make recommendations on these draft ordinances. When the recommendations are submitted to the consultant, they will either incorporate the comments, or they won't and an explanation will be provided as to why.

Dr. Fescemyer agreed with Ms. Chivers regarding each Tree Commission member taking certain sections of the ordinances to review individually and then meeting at another time to review comments and proposed changes. After a brief discussion, there was a consensus for the Tree Commission members to review the entire ordinances individually and meet at another time to collate comments. The Tree Commission would like to meet with Mr. Ray Stolinis, Planning and Zoning Director, at the November Tree Commission meeting to discuss their comments on the Zoning and SALDO.

VII. ARBORIST REPORT

Mr. King stated that the pruning contract went out to bid last Friday and the bid opening is on November 13, 2018 to be awarded November 19, 2018. There are 728 trees in the contract that are scheduled to be pruned. In response to a question from Dr. McDill, Mr. King explained that tree pruning is on schedule, however, there are still neighborhoods that have not had trees pruned in a while. The neighborhood trees are to be pruned every seven years. In response to a question from Ms. Chivers, Mr. King clarified that he does update the tree count and list within the Township GIS program when he is out looking at trees.

Mr. King stated that he is still working with a few groups for the Songbird Sanctuary passive park. He met with a representative of the US Fish and Wildlife and Art Gover from PSU to go over invasive species control in the area as well as set up the pollinator area for planting next year.

Mr. King stated that a pollinator plot is still planned for the Haymarket Park stormwater basin next year. Mr. King stated that he is on the Suburban Park Master Plan Committee and they will meet October 17, 2018.

Mr. King stated that he has been doing miscellaneous landscaping at the Township buildings and at other places like the roundabout on Old Gatesburg Road. Dr. McDill stated that it seemed like Mr. King's time could be better used elsewhere, rather than pulling weeds. He suggested the Township hire a summer intern to help with that. Mr. King explained that he has a summer mowing crew, however, due to all of the rain this year, the summer crew focused mainly on mowing. He went on to say that the Township advertised for a summer internship this past year, however, he did not receive any applications. Mr. King stated that the Township will be advertising for another internship at the beginning of the year.

In response to a question from Dr. Fescemyer, Mr. King explained that there still needs to be a discussion about planting over top of utility lines in relation to the Stonebridge planting.

VIII. COMMUNICATIONS TO COMMISSION MEMBERS

Dr. McDill asked if the Tree Commission received his pictures of parking lots via email. The Tree Commission has not seen them yet, as he sent them just that afternoon.

IX. FUTURE AGENA ITEMS

The Tree Commission will discuss the Zoning and SALDO drafts at the next meeting and will discuss tree plantings on utilities at a future meeting. The Tree Preservation Ordinance will be discussed at a meeting next year.

X. ADJOURNMENT

The next meeting is scheduled for November 12, 2018 unless Mr. Stolinas can't make it. Mr. King will let the Tree Commission know as soon as he hears from Mr. Stolinas.

With no further business, the October 15, 2018 Tree Commission meeting adjourned at 8:07 PM.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

David Modricker, Director of Public Works
For the Tree Commission

2019 FTTC Meeting Dates

January 21, 2019

February 25, 2019

March 18, 2019

April 15, 2019

May 20, 2019

June 17, 2019

July 15, 2019

August 19, 2019

September 16, 2019

October 21, 2019 Public Hearing

November 18, 2019