

**Swissvale Shade Tree Advisory Committee  
Meeting Minutes, March 8, 2017**

**Members Present:** Heather Lyle, Gib Miller, Kurt Summersgill, Terry Ward

**Others Present:** Jared Manzo, NMRWA Urban Forestry Manager; Swissvale resident, Kirsten Raether

The meeting began at 7:05 p.m.

**Agenda:**

**Prognosis for the 2017 TreeVitalize Application**

The application was sent by Gib on March 8<sup>th</sup>. Greg Bachy requested the wording be changed on the letter so that it was written as a proclamation. Jared included the necessary map. Even though the committee has been told that funding is limited, it has been relayed to us that it was beneficial for us to go through the process.

**Finalize listing of tree requests for the application**

The request was for 13-14 trees. The DPW is willing to aid in our needs for planting within reason.

**Discuss remaining open items**

Locations for tree requests that have some issues are located in the tree request folder in google.docs. These include:

**6912 McClure**- questionable space/need to talk to neighbor about a tree between their homes

**1720 Nevada** - current location of a very large tree- homeowner requested a small one next to it. This request can be honored after the old tree is removed.

**1716 Nevada** - currently not interested

**7335 Whipple** - no room for trees

**1813 ½ Lafayette** – sidewalk is too narrow, curb is damaged

Kirsten and Heather will look at other locations on the list to see if there are additional appropriate sites for trees.

It was decided the SSTAC should touch base with people who have requested trees but have not been selected as a site either due to their current location or if their yards are not conducive to trees for one reason or another. The committee will work on wording for this communication. This will include why they were not selected, description of areas that were selected and why, and encouragement to ask neighbors to submit tree requests.

Kurt will follow up by email.

Terry will write an article for the next newsletter. Deadline for submission is May 1.

**Action for a 2017 Arbor Day event**

Celine informed Gib that our application for Tree City has been approved by the state. It still needs to be approved by the Arbor Day Foundation.

It was decided that a good day for the formal proclamation would be on Swissvale Clean Up Day on May 20<sup>th</sup>. The mayor will be asked to read the official proclamation. The April and May meetings will be used to put together a script. The Borough will also be contacted about where to put the sign once we are approved. There was discussion of getting scouts involved in some way. This discussion will be continued at the April meeting.

**Tree Maintenance Activities**

Each member of the SSTAC should observe trees in the neighborhood that could use some maintenance. This would include suckers, vines, etc. Compiling a list for the DPW is the goal.

Jared discussed the bus way weeding that is done in the spring. In addition, we should organize care for the trees planted last fall and should also check on the Noble Street trees and the young trees on Monongahela Avenue.

### **Other business**

Gib has organized our folders in google.docs.

Kirsten Raether is interested in being appointed to the SSTAC. There was some confusion about the resignation of Matt Mercurio and Gib resubmitted his letter of resignation. Kirsten's name will be presented to Council at the next meeting.

SSTAC members should edit Open Tree Map as we notice problems with data. The username is **SSTAC** and password is **Swissvale**.

### **For the April meeting:**

- Further ideas to commemorate Arbor Day on Clean-Up Day
- Proclamation wording
- Plan informing Swissvale residents about the tree process (how residents are selected for trees as well as informing residents if they are not selected.)

Next meeting: Wednesday, April 12 at 7 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Terry Ward