

**BOROUGH OF CHURCHILL
2300 WILLIAM PENN HIGHWAY
PITTSBURGH, PA 15235**

Minutes of Workshop Meeting

October 7, 2019

The Workshop Meeting of the Borough of Churchill was held in the Municipal Building on Monday, October 7, 2019 and was called to order by Ms. Law at 7:00 p.m. Members present included Meses. Yankes, Greco, Messrs. Collins, and McDowell. Messrs. Dworin and DeFranco were absent. Also present were Donna J. Perry, Mayor Gamrat and Solicitor Gavin Robb.

Visitors

Ken Balkey of 2007 Hampstead Drive spoke about the Bartlett Tree Experts Plant Health Care Seminar that he attended on Tuesday, October 1 at the Pittsburgh Zoo Educational Center. Also in attendance were Ruth Anne Balkey, Judy Diorio and Nancy Del Presto (President of the Blackridge Garden Club). A copy of his summary on the topics covered is attached to the minutes.

New Business

Medication Drop Box – Ms. Perry would like to have one of these placed in the lobby of the Municipal Building. This is a program being sponsored by KidsCents and the Rite Aid Foundation. Ms. Yankes was opposed to the idea because she said the box is extremely large and there wouldn't be room in the lobby. Also, Ms. Law wanted to know who empties the box. Ms. Perry stated she would determine dimensions and obtain an answer for removal of the medications.

Old Business

Committee Reports

- Diane Law reported that she has received complaints about the real estate tax collector not depositing checks in a timely manner. She also reported the Allegheny Land Trust is having a presentation on the proposed acquisition of the former Churchill Country Club property on October 24 at the Beulah Church social hall.
- Kevin Collins reported that we are way over budget on engineering costs. We were denied for the Grow Grant from Alcosan. We are going to have a meeting with the engineer and an Alcosan representative to determine why were denied on the grant application.
- Mayor Gamrat said the Police Department is short-staffed due to one of our officers being off due to an injury. He stated he would like to participate in the Trunk or Treat event sponsored by the Woodland Hills Foundation on Sunday, October 20. The Mayor invited all to attend the Churchill-Wilkins Rotary fundraising event on November 9 at the Green Oaks Golf Club in Verona.

Property Maintenance Report

Manager Report

Bills

Adjourn

There was a motion by Mr. Collins, seconded by Norma Greco and unanimously approved to adjourn at 8:17 p.m.

**Donna J. Perry
Borough Secretary**

Donna Perry

From: kenkrb@aol.com
Sent: Monday, October 7, 2019 1:01 PM
To: dianeelaw9@gmail.com; nanngreco@gmail.com; gamrat.paul@gmail.com; ahkline@comcast.net; donna@churchillborough.com
Cc: jad2386@gmail.com; barrykisloff@gmail.com; ruthrasb@aol.com
Subject: Summary and Key Contacts from Bartlett Tree Experts Plant Health Care Seminar, October 1, 2019

Folks –

Ruth Anne, Judy Diorio, Nancy Del Presto (President of Blackridge Garden Club) and I had the opportunity to attend the Bartlett Tree Experts Plant Health Care Seminar last Tuesday, October 1, 2019 at the Pittsburgh Zoo Educational Center.

The all day seminar addressed a wide range of topics including impact of weather on plants and trees, serious pest and fungal diseases, deer and tick challenges, and tree care updates, including successful planting. While solid educational content was provided throughout the day, a major benefit was being able to meet and interact with other key representatives who should be of great value as we move forward on our Churchill Borough Tree Committee efforts. Here is a summary of key contacts made:

- 1) Danielle Crumrine, Executive Director, and Matt Erb, Director of Forestry, of Tree Pittsburgh - Matt developed the tree canopy diagram for Churchill Borough extracting information from the tree canopy change that he did for Allegheny County for the period 2010-2015. Danielle and Matt indicated that they plan to hold an event in the coming months for members of tree committees of various municipalities throughout Allegheny County to share experiences and best practices. We are welcome to reach out to them for help on our tree committee efforts, as needed.
- 2) Dr. Beth Brantley, Technical Support Specialist at Bartlett Tree Experts Research Laboratories and former Professor at Penn State University – Dr. Brantley is an outstanding speaker who uses clear photos and factual graphics to support her bases for concerns and recommendations on a wide range of topics. She would be willing to share some of her data and graphics for use in educational seminars or workshops that we hold in Churchill, which could be quite valuable for the workshop that Judy is organizing this coming February. Jason Rihn, Arborist with Bartlett, was a student of Dr. Brantley about 20 years ago at Penn State.
- 3) Alan Jones, Vice President / Division Manager Bartlett Tree Experts and Chair, Tree Care industry Association Board of Directors – TCIA is comprised of 500 accredited companies and 2,400 certified tree care professionals. In his TCIA leadership position, Alan is quite knowledgeable of tree ordinances across the country. He provided his business card if we need any further help in implementing the Churchill Borough tree ordinance. Alan is located in Charlottesville, Virginia.
- 4) Peter Kyne, Certified Horticulturist, Vice President of Eisler Nurseries – Peter spoke on growing successful trees for the urban landscape. He is a supplier to the City of Pittsburgh, and has a 90% success rate of having new trees grow in urban environments. He provided me some rough estimates for larger 10'-12' trees if we want to consider planting such trees in our public spaces.
- 5) Peggy Jayne, Member, Fox Chapel Tree Committee - Peggy has been a member of the Fox Chapel Tree Committee for 18 years and is willing to share her past and current experiences in protecting our trees. Stormwater management has become a large driver in prohibiting tree removal. Movement is also occurring to require replacement of large trees that are removed with large new trees, e.g., one cannot remove a large 60 year old tree and replace it with a small sapling.
- 6) Oakmont Borough Tree Committee member – Per brief discussion with Oakmont representative who had to leave early and I was unable to get his name, he shared concern to Dr. Brantley of Asian Jump Worms that have been seen in their borough. Dr. Brantley is quite concerned about these worms destroying tree undergrowth. Jason Rihn is getting me this representative's contact information.

Judy, please feel free to add any further information.