

Township Building
May 24, 2007

The regular meeting of the Shade Tree Advisory Commission was held tonight in the Township Administration Building. Those in attendance were: Ms. Middleton and Messrs. Barry, Panzak, and Ruberg. Also in attendance was Carmen Reitano, Assistant to the Director of Engineering, Zoning and Inspections.

1. The minutes of the March 22, 2007 Shade Tree Advisory Commission meeting minutes were accepted as presented.
2. Mr. Michael Coveney, Vice President of Arcadia University, and Messrs. Peter Simone and Erik Karlsson, Landscape Architects, were present to discuss Arcadia University's Master Plan.

Mr. Simone stated that this project received an Honor Award from the American Society of Landscape Architects.

The Master Plan includes tree inventory, recommendations, planning areas, lighting, signage, phasing/priorities and Estimates of Probable Costs.

Mr. Simone stated the conception of the Master Plan began approximately two years ago. An inventory of trees has been performed by Bartlett Trees and approximately 55 tree species have been identified. Replacement trees will be three to one. Future and existing buildings, including Oak Summit, have been identified in this plan. It was stated that Easton Road may be reconfigured and a rendering of a proposed new entrance was presented. The Master Plan has been divided into thirty seven different areas. There will be lighting for the towers and the gateway at the intersection of Church Road and

Limekiln Pike will be enhanced. Traffic circulation will be reconfigured at the large parking lot.

Regarding Brubaker Hall, it was stated that the pond will be constructed in a woodland setting, and the north side of the castle will be a more formal plaza area.

The Kuch Athletic Center will be softened with landscaping.

A courtyard setting will be created at Murphy Hall with lighting, and it was stated that this project will be submitted for land development review.

Landscaping and a retaining wall will be added at the Thomas/ Kistler area.

Parking will be eliminated from Blankley Hall and this area will be made pedestrian friendly.

A small water feature and trees are being proposed for the Landman Terrace.

A courtyard setting is being proposed for Tacony Creek.

Offices will be located along Church Road.

Lighting improvements, three courtyards, woodland gardens and fencing into the courtyards are being proposed for the Oak Summit Residence.

Gothic architectural signage is being proposed with white lettering and a black background. Signage is being proposed for trees and benches.

There will be bench type site furniture.

The estimated time for this project to be completed is 10 years or more, with a cost of approximately \$12,000,000.

Mr. Panzak recollected that approximately 6 to 8 months ago a project was presented to STAC for review and inquired as to its status. Mr. Coveney stated that this project is the Murphy Hall Parking Area; it is substantially complete and the landscaping is complete.

3. At this time Cheltenham Township Development Application No. 06-18: Record Plan Arcadia University – Brubaker Hall Expansion was discussed.

Mr. Erik Karlsson, Landscape Architect, was present.

A revised rendering of the Brubaker Hall Expansion was presented. Mr. Karlsson stated the proposed pond will be in a woodland setting. The tree species will be native to the area, canopy trees will be planted, there will be a stream course and the water recycled. The pond will be built on-site, the driveway entrance will be canopied with Hickory trees. White Ash trees and understory plantings is also being proposed.

It was stated the walkway is actually a fire lane and ground cover will be planted. A vine on the retaining wall is being considered. The highest peak of the retaining wall is 7'.

Green plantings will surround the pond, and a field stone pavement will be constructed.

Murphy Hall is better equipped for parking, but if pedestrians have difficulty walking up stairs parking is available at the Kuch Center.

Ms. Middleton suggested that the trees be donated in order to help defray the cost.

Mr. Coveney stated a major fundraising effort is underway for the Phase I Project.

A discussion ensued regarding the tree arboretum at the college and it was stated that it is not an official arboretum.

Mr. Ruberg noted that one tree slated to be removed is a memorial tree and inquired if additional memorial trees are being removed. Mr. Coveney stated that the plaques from the trees to be removed will be placed on the replacement trees. He stated that 14 trees are being removed, 36 trees are being planted and 10 large trees will remain.

Upon motion of Mr. Ruberg, seconded by Mr. Barry, it is recommended that Cheltenham Township Development Application No. 06-18: Record Plan Arcadia University – Brubaker Hall Expansion be approved as presented.

4. Ms. Middleton informed the Commission that she attended a Public Hearing on May 22, 2007 regarding a proposed Ordinance pertaining to Multiple Family Dwelling Units for the Elderly in the R-4 Residential Districts. She inquired if the reporter was actually present because Mr. Lynch, who was not in attendance, was quoted in the Times Chronicle. Mr. Reitano stated he was not aware if the reporter was actually present. Ms. Middleton stated she was concerned because what was reported was selective highlights.

Mr. Panzak stated this subject is not pertinent to STAC; Ms. Middleton disagreed because this type of housing will have an impact on open space.

5. Mr. Ruberg stated he attended a meeting sponsored by PECO regarding the remediation program for the passive township parkland adjacent to the Wyncote Post Office and stated PECO should be commended for its efforts to soften the area. He stated PECO is proposing to plant American Sycamore trees.

Ms. Middleton recommended that Mr. Panzak write a letter to PECO expressing appreciation for its efforts.

6. Mr. Barry inquired if any information was available regarding the Yorktown Development. Mr. Reitano stated no additional information is available.
7. Mr. Reitano stated trees selected for the Township have been examined and approved by Mr. Ruberg for the Township's tree planting program.
8. Upon motion of Ms. Middleton, seconded by Mr. Barry, the Commission adjourned.

David G. Kraynik
Township Manager

Per: Emma Wetzel