

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
MICHIGAN CITY TREE BOARD
JANUARY 3, 2007**

The Michigan City Tree Board met in a regular meeting in the Mayor's Conference Room, City Hall Building, 100 East Michigan Boulevard, Michigan City, Indiana, on Wednesday, January 3, 2007, at 6:00 p.m. local time; the date, hour, and place duly established for the holding of said meeting.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:10 p.m.

ROLL CALL

The following members were noted present: William Bolton, Patricia Boy (6:15 p.m.), Dan Carabine, John Flegel, Robert Frame, and Dave Morlan. Mick Wulff was absent. (6 present, 1 absent) Also in attendance: City Forester Frank Seilheimer and Secretary Debbie Wilson.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The floor was opened for nominations for President.

Mr. Frame nominated Mr. Bolton for President. The nomination was seconded by Mr. Carabine.

There were no other nominations. Nominations were closed and the vote was taken. A unanimous ballot was cast for Mr. Bolton as President.

The floor was opened for nominations for Vice-President.

Mr. Frame nominated Mr. Morlan for Vice-President. The nomination was seconded by Mr. Flegel.

There were no other nominations. Nominations were closed and the vote was taken. A unanimous ballot was cast for Mr. Morlan as Vice-President.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Due to the fact that someone was present to address the Board, Chairman Bolton changed the format of the meeting and called for public comments.

Jan Smith, 402 E 8th Street, addressed the Board and stated that she lives at the northeast corner of 8th and Cedar Streets. She has an issue with a large maple tree in front of her home located in the area between the sidewalk and street. She noted that the sidewalk is buckling from the tree roots. She requested an inspection of the tree for either trimming and/or removal.

Mr. Seilheimer and Mr. Morlan will go out tomorrow to look at the tree and make a determination. Mr. Morlan noted that there are a lot of trees in the Elston Grove neighborhood in poor condition which need to be removed.

MRS. BOY ENTERED AT 6:15 P.M. AND WAS NOTED PRESENT FOR THE RECORD.

Chairman Bolton continued with the order of the agenda.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Chair entertained a motion for approval of the minutes of the regular meeting of December 6, 2006.

A motion to approve the minutes of December 6, 2006 was made by Mr. Frame – seconded by Mr. Morlan and unanimously approved.

The Chair entertained a motion for approval of the minutes of the workshop of December 15, 2006.

A motion to approve the minutes of December 15, 2006 was made by Mrs. Boy – seconded by Mr. Carabine and unanimously approved.

SECRETARY-TREASURERS REPORT

The financial report ended December 31, 2006 was submitted and reviewed by the Board.

The Chair entertained a motion for approval.

A motion to approve the financial report was made by Mrs. Boy – seconded by Mr. Flegel and unanimously approved.

CLAIMS

The Secretary requested approval of the following Board member and Secretarial services for January:

TREE BOARD

JANUARY 3, 2007

Dave Morlan	January Board member stipend	\$50.00
Debbie Wilson	January Secretarial services	\$200.00

The request for payment was unanimously approved.

COMMUNICATIONS

None

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Arbor Day: No report

City Park Trees: Mr. Seilheimer reported that the Park Department encumbered \$5,500 in funds to purchase trees for Gardena Park. 35-40 Storm damaged trees are marked for removal in Washington Park.

City Street Trees: Mr. Morlan stated that they still have stumps to grind around City Hall from the storm.

Mr. Bolton shared information that he found about rubber sidewalks. The sidewalk can actually be lifted to allow for pruning of the tree roots and then laid back down.

Mr. Morlan stated the problem is that it is not very cost prohibitive as an 80' section would cost approximately \$26,000.

Mr. Morlan and Mr. Seilheimer have miscellaneous jobs to finish – cleaning up behind Memorial property, backfill sidewalks... They will start on the Elston Grove list and they will also go through the tree request list and separate them by wards. Phase I of the Washington Street project is done.

Education: No report

Grant Application and Maintenance: Mr. Seilheimer noted that the global relief program would be available by July 1st. It would have to be an area of 20 contiguous acres of City-owned land either decimated by the storm or ruined from abuse where trees could be planted and habitat restoration could take place.

Purchasing and Tree Planting: Mr. Seilheimer said he would begin ordering more trees for planting in the spring.

Planning Department: Mrs. Boy reported that there was no Plan Commission meeting last month. She said the green space ordinance needs to be forwarded to the County Planning Committee.

Mr. Seilheimer stated that LaPorte is looking at building a parking lot using a lot of the requirements from this ordinance. He still has to meet with Mr. Pugh to review the ordinance.

Urban Forest Plan Maintenance: Mr. Flegel and Mr. Seilheimer will meet to focus on the presentation to the Common Council and beyond that, begin looking at a maintenance plan.

Tree City Designation: The application has been sent in.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

None

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Mrs. Boy mentioned that there was an article in the newspaper that made it look like she took all the credit for writing the tree ordinance. She will have that retracted.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

NEXT MEETING DATE

The next workshop will be on Wednesday, January 24th, at 12:30 p.m., at Shoreline Restaurant.

The next regular meeting will be on Wednesday, February 7, 2007.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

Submitted by: _____
Debbie Wilson, Secretary