

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
MICHIGAN CITY TREE BOARD
JANUARY 8, 2014**

The Michigan City Tree Board met in a regular meeting in the Common Council Chambers, City Hall Building, 100 East Michigan Boulevard, Michigan City, Indiana, on Wednesday, January 8, 2014, at 6:00 p.m. local time; the date, hour, and place duly established for the holding of said meeting.

CALL TO ORDER

President Mick Wulff called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

ROLL CALL

The roll was called with the following noted present for the record: Patricia Boy, Kathy Ceperich, Bill Ginther, Laura Kalk, and Mick Wulff. Dave Morlan was absent and there is one vacancy. With five members present a quorum was noted.

Staff present: Planning Department Secretary Debbie Wilson. City Forester Frank Seilheimer was absent.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Mrs. Boy stated that the Nominating Committee presented their slate at the December meeting with Mick Wulff as President, Laura Kalk as Vice-President, and Kathy Ceperich as Secretary.

President Wulff opened the floor to any other nominations.

There being none, President Wulff closed nominations.

A motion was made by Mrs. Boy to adopt the slate of officers as presented by the Nominating Committee; seconded by Mr. Ginther, with voice vote as follows: (Ayes): Patricia Boy, Kathy Ceperich, Bill Ginther, Laura Kalk, Mick Wulff (Nays): None

With a vote of 5 ayes and 0 nays, the motion CARRIED.

Officers for 2014 are: Mick Wulff, President; Laura Kalk, Vice-President; Kathy Ceperich, Secretary.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Chair entertained a motion for approval of the minutes of the regular meeting of December 5, 2013.

Mrs. Boy moved to approve the minutes of December 5, 2013 as written; seconded by Ms. Ceperich, with voice vote as follows: (Ayes): Patricia Boy, Kathy Ceperich, Bill Ginther, Laura Kalk, Mick Wulff (Nays): None

With a vote of 5 ayes and 0 nays, the motion CARRIED.

SECRETARY-TREASURER'S REPORT

The chair entertained a motion for approval of the financial report ended 12/31/13.

Mrs. Boy moved to approve the financial report ended 12/31/13; seconded by Mr. Ginther, with voice vote as follows: (Ayes): Patricia Boy, Kathy Ceperich, Bill Ginther, Laura Kalk, Mick Wulff (Nays): None

With a vote of 5 ayes and 0 nays, the motion CARRIED.

CLAIMS

President Mick Wulff reviewed the claims list for the month of January.

The chair entertained a motion for approval.

Mrs. Boy moved to approve the claims for January; seconded by Mrs. Kalk, with voice vote as follows: (Ayes): Patricia Boy, Kathy Ceperich, Bill Ginther, Laura Kalk, Mick Wulff (Nays): None

With a vote of 5 ayes and 0 nays, the motion CARRIED.

COMMUNICATIONS

Ms. Wilson announced that the Mayor's Office informed her the Tree Board meetings for the remainder of 2014 will be held in the Mayor's Conference Room instead of the Council Chambers.

Mrs. Boy added that the meeting day has also been changed back to the regular schedule of the first Wednesday of the month.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Outreach

Arbor Day: President Wulff reminded board members to start thinking about upcoming Arbor Day activities.

Gardening/Landscaping Monthly News and Tips: Mrs. Kalk mentioned that there is a lot of heavy snow and she has noticed a lot of branches breaking from the weight, especially on evergreens because they have a bigger wingspan. She suggested getting the heaviness off the branches by carefully taking a long handled push broom and shaking the branch. She stressed safety while doing it making sure there is no ice and moving away from the snow as it falls off.

City Park Trees

(No report) Mr. Wulff acknowledged that Mr. Seilheimer and Mr. Morlan were out plowing snow for the citizens of Michigan City.

Tree Walk: Mrs. Kalk said she would touch base with Mr. Seilheimer once he is relieved of snow duty. She stated that their focus will be getting the tree walk plans going this year.

City Street Trees

(No report)

Grant Application and Maintenance

(No report)

Purchasing and Tree Planting

(No report)

Planning Department

Mrs. Boy had nothing new to report.

Urban Forest Plan Maintenance

Mr. Wulff commented that Mr. Seilheimer continues to update information for the inventory during his down time.

Tree City Designation

Mr. Wulff stated that the Tree City application was due at the end of December 2013 and he is confident Mr. Seilheimer has submitted it.

Goals for 2014

Goals for 2014 are the tree walk and the informational flyers.

OLD BUSINESS

Discussion of flyers to be included in with the Water Department billings: Mr. Wulff stated that board members need to start getting information together for the flyers to be mailed with the April Water Department bills. He said the flyers need to be completed by March for the April mailing.

It was suggested by board members to have a workshop prior to the next regular meeting. Mr. Wulff directed Ms. Wilson to coordinate with board members to schedule a time for the workshop.

Mrs. Boy added that in the meantime, board members could put together information and send it to each other electronically.

Mr. Wulff also reached out to the public for information that they feel would be important to include in the mailing. He said the public could contact the board members with their ideas through the emichigancity.com website.

NEW BUSINESS

(None)

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Board members felt that the written report Mr. Seilheimer submitted last month in his absence was very helpful as a reference and it was much appreciated. They requested that he continue to provide the board with a written report when he knows he cannot be in attendance.

Ms. Wilson indicated that she would inform him of the board's request.

As a point of information, Mrs. Boy stated that in spite of the fact that there is a lot of snow, she said some of the snow is providing protection for the roots of trees and shrubs.

Mr. Ginther reminded the board that the St. Patrick's Day parade is coming up in March. Board members agreed that participating in the parade is a fun time as well as a great morale booster, and that they should be a part of the parade again this year.

Mrs. Boy suggested discussing participation in the parade at the workshop in addition to the discussion on the flyers.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

(None)

NEXT MEETING DATE

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 5, 2014, at 6:00 p.m., in the Mayor's Conference Room of City Hall.

A workshop will be scheduled prior to the regular meeting with notice forthcoming.

ADJOURNMENT

The chair entertained a motion to adjourn.

Mrs. Boy moved to adjourn and it was unanimously approved.

The chair declared the meeting adjourned at approximately 6:18 p.m.

/s/ Kathy Ceperich, Secretary