

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
MICHIGAN CITY TREE BOARD  
FEBRUARY 3, 2016**

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, February 3, 2016, at 6:00 p.m. local time; the date, hour, and place duly established for the holding of said meeting.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Vice-President Laura Kalk called the meeting to order at approximately 6:07 p.m.

**ROLL CALL**

**Members present:**

Patricia Boy, Barb Ginther, Bill Ginther, Laura Kalk, Mick Wulff (entered later) – 5

**Members absent:**

Kathy Ceperich – 1

There is 1 vacancy.

**Staff present:**

City Forester Frank Seilheimer, Planning Department Administrative Assistant Debbie Wilson.

A quorum was noted and the meeting proceeded.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The chair entertained a motion for approval of the minutes of the regular meeting of January 6, 2016.

***Motion by Mrs. Boy and seconded by Mr. Ginther approving the minutes of the regular meeting of January 6, 2016 as submitted. Voice vote was as follows: (Ayes) Patricia Boy, Barb Ginther, Bill Ginther, Laura Kalk – 4 (Nays) None – 0 (Absent) Kathy Ceperich, Mick Wulff – 2. Motion CARRIED.***

**SECRETARY/TREASURER'S REPORT**

The chair entertained a motion for approval of the financial report ended 01/31/16.

***Motion by Mrs. Ginther and seconded by Mrs. Boy approving the financial report ended 01/31/16. Voice vote was as follows: (Ayes) Patricia Boy, Barb Ginther, Bill Ginther, Laura Kalk – 4 (Nays) None – 0 (Absent) Kathy Ceperich, Mick Wulff – 2. Motion CARRIED.***

**CLAIMS**

The chair entertained a motion for approval of the claims for February.

***Motion by Mrs. Boy and seconded by Mr. Ginther approving the claims list for February. Voice vote was as follows: (Ayes) Patricia Boy, Barb Ginther, Bill Ginther, Laura Kalk – 4 (Nays) None – 0 (Absent) Kathy Ceperich, Mick Wulff – 2. Motion CARRIED.***

**COMMUNICATIONS**

Mrs. Boy commented that two people have expressed an interest in the neighborhood association Tree Board member position; one of them from Elston Grove and knows a lot about trees. The amendments to the ordinance will be discussed under Old Business.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Outreach**

**(Gardening/Landscaping)**

Ms. Kalk said we are having very soft winter and spring is just around the corner. Along with softer weather comes a lot of new growth already. With new growth the deer tend to get out earlier and start munching on things. Ms. Kalk recommended getting out early and applying natural deer sprays to create an environment they don't necessarily love so they go elsewhere to eat.

**(Calendar Events)**

Mrs. Ginther reminded everyone of the "Give Back Night" fundraiser to be held at Galveston Restaurant on Thursday, February 11<sup>th</sup>. Coupons are available at Al's on Karwick, Al's on Franklin, Brandt's, the Visitor Center, Beachside Garden, and City Hall.

Mick Wulff entered and was noted present for the record.

**(Arbor Day)**

Mr. Seilheimer stated that he would like to have the Arbor Day celebration in spring this year.

Everyone felt there would be more participation by having the Arbor Day event in spring instead of fall.

Mr. Wulff suggested that Mr. Seilheimer contact the State for seedlings.

With Arbor Day being the last Friday in April, it was suggested to hand out seedlings at either the Farmer's Market on Saturday or the following First Friday event in May, or at both events.

Mr. Seilheimer will place the order with the State this week and focus on the more popular trees like white pine, cherry, tulip, red oak, and maple. He will order the same amount as last year (about 800) and pay for it out of his budget.

**City Park Trees**

Mr. Seilheimer reported that the project at the golf course got started last week.

**City Street Trees**

Mr. Seilheimer reported that Street Department staff will start doing some tree work while the weather is good.

He also reported that the walk through for the cemetery project took place today. It was attended by five local companies. All five are licensed with the City. The project involves the removal of 106 trees in Greenwood Cemetery.

**Grant Application and Maintenance**

Mr. Seilheimer stated that there are no grants at this time for what the City wants to do. There is a small amount of funding through the Indiana DNR, but it focuses on planting.

**Purchasing and Tree Planting**

Mr. Seilheimer stated that there is no purchasing or tree planting at this time. He said Board members might want to start thinking about planting trees in the fall at locations from the tree request list. He said the Council would have to be approached to see if they would be interested in appropriating a \$10,000-\$12,000 line item for a planting project.

Mr. Wulff said it would be nice to plant 50-100 trees every year.

Mr. Seilheimer stated that the City removes between 70-90 trees a year. He pointed out that the numbers have been lower over the past few years, but the trees have been bigger.

Mrs. Boy said the Mayor would need to be aware of the Board's desire to have a line item in the budget for tree planting so he could include it in the budget if he wants to.

Mr. Seilheimer pointed out the possibility of using riverboat appropriations through infrastructure projects.

Mr. Wulff commented that when the Tree Board first started, a majority of the tree planting money came from the riverboat fund. Blue Chip gave the City trees off to the side because it was the community thing to do; it wasn't taken out of the funds it was taken out of the direct coffer as they bought the trees for the City.

**Planning Department**

Mrs. Boy had no tree related activities to report at this time.

**Urban Forest Plan Maintenance**

Mr. Seilheimer reported that he has not had the opportunity to update the inventory because the Department staff has been busy since the weather has been nice. He will work on it during rainy days.

**Tree City Designation Maintenance**

Mr. Seilheimer reported that the Tree City application was submitted in December. The City usually receives the award letter the last week in March. Mr. Seilheimer said he has two large Tree City USA signs to install and one to replace the damaged sign at 8<sup>th</sup>/Michigan. He suggested installing them by the Welcome to Michigan City signs. There currently is one located at the fire administration building on Michigan Boulevard as well as the one at 8<sup>th</sup>/Michigan.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**(Update on board member position)**

Mrs. Boy stated that the Council is looking at all the boards and commissions that have a voting Council member on them, and the Tree Board is one of them. The ordinance previously stated that the councilperson is to be appointed by the Council but instead has always been appointed by the President of the Council. The Council's attorney has advised them that if the ordinance language says "appointed", it means the Council votes for it by nominations.

Mrs. Boy reviewed the proposed change made to replace the Vector Control Officer position on the Tree Board with a neighborhood association nomination or member. The proposed ordinance language states that "One member, to be appointed by the

Common Council, shall be nominated by a City neighborhood association.” The ordinance language for the term of office for that member states “The term of the neighborhood association member appointed by the Common Council shall be for one year, and the member shall be replaced each year by a member nominated by a different neighborhood association. In the event that no other neighborhood association offers a member to replace the former member, the Common Council may appoint any member of a neighborhood association and the current neighborhood association member shall continue to remain on the board until a replacement is appointed by the Common Council.”

Mrs. Boy said she believes there is an application in the Mayor’s Office from a member of a neighborhood association, and she also received an email from a neighborhood association member who knows someone who knows about trees and is also in the neighborhood. Mrs. Boy requested that person send a letter from the neighborhood association to the Council nominating that person. If this ordinance amendment passes, then a person will be ready to step in to fill the vacant position on the Tree Board. The ordinance had one reading and has two more readings, so the position could possibly be filled at the April meeting.

Mr. Wulff said he thinks this is what the Board is looking for and that it would get the general feel out to the neighborhoods better. He said other City boards might take this idea of going out into the neighborhoods.

Mrs. Boy agreed that it creates more community involvement.

**NEW BUSINESS**

***Motion by Mrs. Boy and seconded by Mrs. Ginther approving the City Forester’s membership dues to the International Society of Arborists (ISA) – National and State, in an amount not to exceed \$200.00. Voice vote was as follows: (Ayes) Patricia Boy, Barb Ginther, Bill Ginther, Laura Kalk, Mick Wulff – 5 (Nays) None – 0 (Absent) Kathy Ceperich – 1. Motion CARRIED.***

**BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

(none)

**NEXT MEETING DATE**

Mr. Wulff announced that the next regular meeting will be March 2, 2016 at 6:00 p.m.

**ADJOURNMENT**


The chair entertained a motion to adjourn.

**TREE BOARD**

**FEBRUARY 3, 2016**

Motion to adjourn by Mrs. Ginther – seconded by Mrs. Boy and unanimously approved.

The chair declared the meeting adjourned at approximately 6:30 p.m.

  
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Kathy Ceperich, Secretary