

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
MICHIGAN CITY TREE BOARD
FEBRUARY 4, 2015**

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 4, 2015, 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 approximately 6:10 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Board member Barb Ginther called the roll with the following noted present for the record: Patricia Boy, Barb Ginther, Bill Ginther, Laura Kalk, and Mick Wulff. Kathy Ceperich and Dave Morlan were absent. With 5 present and 2 absent a quorum was noted and the meeting proceeded.

Staff present: Planning Department Administrative Assistant Debbie Wilson. Staff absent: City Forester Frank Seilheimer.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The chair entertained a motion for approval of the minutes of the regular meeting of January 7, 2015.

A motion was made by Mrs. Boy and seconded by Mrs. Kalk to approve the minutes of January 7, 2015 as written, with voice vote as follows: Ayes: Patricia Boy, Barb Ginther, Bill Ginther, Laura Kalk, Mick Wulff (5) Nays: None (0) Absent: Kathy Ceperich, Dave Morlan (2)

By a vote of 5 ayes, 0 nays, and 2 absent, the motion CARRIED.

SECRETARY/TREASURER'S REPORT

The chair entertained a motion for approval of the financial report ended 01/31/15.

A motion was made by Mrs. Boy and seconded by Mrs. Ginther to approve the financial report ended 01/31/15, with voice vote as follows: Ayes: Patricia Boy,

Barb Ginther, Bill Ginther, Laura Kalk, Mick Wulff (5) Nays: None (0) Absent: Kathy Ceperich, Dave Morlan (2)

By a vote of 5 ayes, 0 nays, and 2 absent, the motion CARRIED.

CLAIMS

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

A motion was made by Mrs. Boy and seconded by Mr. Ginther to approve the claims for February, with voice vote as follows: Ayes: Patricia Boy, Barb Ginther, Bill Ginther, Laura Kalk, Mick Wulff (5) Nays: None (0) Absent: Kathy Ceperich, Dave Morlan (2)

By a vote of 5 ayes, 0 nays, and 2 absent, the motion CARRIED.

COMMUNICATIONS

(None)

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Outreach

(Gardening/Landscaping Monthly News and Tips):

Mrs. Kalk stated that there is a lot of deer activity on the evergreens. She said there are several deer repellants available. Mrs. Kalk suggests adding a spreader sticker with it to make it hold better in the cold weather. The repellant should be applied monthly.

Mrs. Kalk also mentioned to take caution when using de-icer around trees and plants.

Mr. Wulff added that salt is an issue but its effects can be counteracted with a good dose of iron in early spring.

Mrs. Kalk added that there are safer de-icer options available like ones that specify being safe for pets and plants.

City Park Trees

(No report)

City Street Trees

(No report)

Grant Application and Maintenance

(No report)

Purchasing and Tree Planting

(No report)

Planning Department

Mrs. Boy stated had nothing to report as there have not been any Plan Commission meetings over the last several months. They will be meeting later this month.

Urban Forest Plan Maintenance

(No report)

Tree City Designation Maintenance

It was noted that Mr. Seilheimer had submitted the Tree City application on line in December and we are just waiting on IDNR decision to be announced in March or April.

Goals

Informational flyers to be discussed under Old Business.

OLD BUSINESS

Review of Informational Flyer

Board members reviewed the flyer drafted by Mr. Seilheimer using information from the Arbor Day Foundation. All agreed the flyer was well laid out and detailed.

Mrs. Boy provided a revised version of the flyer with a couple suggested changes of adding a section on Tree City as well as changing language from asking about the benefits to instead directing the public to the benefits listed on the website. Board members also liked the picture change which defines more of what an urban forest is.

Citing a statistic of percentile trees versus city population from a prior report of Mr. Seilheimer's, Mr. Wulff said Michigan City is in the 75 percent top range which is well above the national average and better than some of the best cities in the United States. All agreed this is unique to Michigan City and this statistic should be mentioned in the flyer.

Mrs. Boy pointed out that she also changed the color of the font. All liked the change and agreed it looked bolder.

Mrs. Boy said she would send her suggested changes to Mr. Seilheimer for his comments. She will also send a PDF to the board members for final approval.

Mr. Wulff commented that the edits looked good and asked Mrs. Boy to add the side notes as mentioned.

NEW BUSINESS

Mrs. Boy stated that Councilman Don Przybylinski has questioned why the Tree Board is not asking the Council for more appropriations of tree money.

Board members indicated they would like to ask but felt this is not the time to do it with the budget situation.

Mr. Wulff pointed out that he thinks Mr. Seilheimer is doing a great job of getting State grant funds. He said what the board would ask of the Council is that when the City receives these grants that they provide the funding match. Mr. Wulff stated that matching funds are the best bang for the buck.

Mrs. Boy stated that she just wanted to make the board aware that Councilman Przybylinski was asking and that he is concerned about the streets.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

(None)

PUBLIC COMMENTS

(None)

NEXT MEETING DATE

A workshop will immediately follow this meeting.

President Wulff announced that the next regular meeting date is March 4, 2015.

ADJOURNMENT

The chair entertained a motion to adjourn.

TREE BOARD

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

The chair declared the meeting adjourned at approximately 6:25 p.m.

/s/ Kathy Ceperich, Secretary _____