

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
MICHIGAN CITY TREE BOARD  
FEBRUARY 6, 2008**

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, February 6, 2008, at 6:00 p.m. local time; the date, hour, and place duly established for the holding of said meeting.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman William Bolton called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m.

**ROLL CALL**

Chairman Bolton welcomed new member Jeffrey Meyer to the Board, filling the unexpired term of John Flegel.

Mr. Meyer introduced himself noting that he has lived in Michigan City for 12 years. He stated that he has a Degree in Horticulture and has worked in the landscaping/tree care industry for 5 years. He is now a regional sales manager for a company that manufactures industrial chemical dispensing equipment, covering 15 states. He is married with 2 children.

The roll was called with the following noted present: William Bolton, Patricia Boy, Dan Carabine, Kathy Ceperich, and Jeffrey Meyer. Dave Morlan and Mick Wulff were absent. (5 present, 2 absent) Staff in attendance: City Forester Frank Seilheimer and Secretary Debbie Wilson.

**ELECTION OF BOARD MEMBER SECRETARY**

The Chair opened the floor for nominations.

Mrs. Boy nominated Kathy Ceperich – seconded by Mr. Carabine.

There were no other nominations. Nominations were closed and the vote called.

Upon voice vote, the nomination of Kathy Ceperich for Board Member Secretary was unanimously approved.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The Chair entertained a motion for approval of the minutes of the regular meeting of January 9, 2008.

***A motion to approve the minutes was made by Mr. Carabine – seconded by Mrs. Boy and unanimously approved.***

The Chair entertained a motion for approval of the minutes from the workshop of January 23, 2008.

***A motion to approve the minutes was made by Mrs. Boy – seconded by Mr. Carabine and unanimously approved.***

**SECRETARY-TREASURER'S REPORT**

The financial report ended 1/31/08 was submitted and reviewed.

Ms. Ceperich made note that there was one disbursement of \$50 from Membership and Dues for 2008 membership dues with the IUFC for Mr. Seilheimer.

The Chair entertained a motion for approval of the financial report.

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

**CLAIMS**

The following claim(s) were submitted for approval:

Debbie Wilson	Secretarial services for Feb 08	200.00
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The Chair entertained a motion for approval.

***A motion to approve the claim was made by Mrs. Boy – seconded by Mr. Carabine and unanimously approved.***

**COMMUNICATIONS**

None

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Arbor Day:** Ms. Ceperich reported that the Board met in a workshop session two weeks ago. Several ideas were brought forward. Board members had agreed to look into participating in the St. Patrick's Day Parade this year. Ms. Ceperich confirmed that the Board is eligible to participate.

Ideas for the parade included getting youth group(s) involved to decorate a truck and make shamrock leis. Since it is too early in the year to hand out tree seedlings, Ms. Ceperich suggested handing out shamrock seeds. As public outreach, a note could be provided with the seeds explaining the purpose of the Tree Board and what services they provide to the community.

Mr. Meyer asked if anyone checked with private nurseries for seedlings.

Mr. Seilheimer explained that seedlings are not available in our area at this time and they would have to come from south. From his experience, anything purchased further south than Indianapolis dies when planted here, and anything purchased from the east or west is too expensive because of shipping. He can get seedlings from Jasper Pulaski, but they are not available until about a week before Arbor Day. He also noted that it is too early to plant in this area.

Mr. Meyer stated that Hensler's Nursery by Plymouth has a variety of seedlings in stock. He will check with them.

It was the consensus of the Board to participate in the St. Patrick's Day Parade this year and to discuss it further in a workshop session to be held on Tuesday, February 19<sup>th</sup>, at 12:30 p.m., at Swing Belly's Restaurant.

Mrs. Boy will complete and submit the application to participate in the parade.

With regard to the Arbor Day celebration, there was discussion of having a tree planting in Gardena Park with a poster contest. The Board agreed to hold the event on Saturday, April 26<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m. Details will be discussed at the workshop session.

**City Park Trees:** Mr. Seilheimer reported that he met with Darrell from the Park. Windscreen planting will be done out at Patriot Park, along with sporadic planting between and around the outfields. To control the foot traffic, they will plant wildflowers.

There still are trees to be removed in Washington Park. Planting will take place in the fall. The tree walk will be part of the fall planting. Trees are available and will be ready to go.

**City Street Trees:** Mr. Seilheimer reported that they will begin their first target area for cycle tree trimming and removal. This area is from Wabash to 11<sup>th</sup>, from the prison to the water tower to Hwy 12. They are starting in this area because all infrastructure improvements have been completed. The next area of focus would be Franklin to Cleveland, Michigan Boulevard to Barker Avenue and the cemetery. He doesn't want to start in the Village Green area until the City decides what they are going to do with the streets. Once that is completed he can work in that area.

A pocket park was put in at the dead end of Lexington Street. Other areas slated for pocket parks are the dead end of Hampden Road and the parking lot at 11<sup>th</sup>/Lafayette Street, and the possibility of Chicago Street depending on road construction.

The focus on tree planting this spring will be in the parks, not the streets. Street tree planting will take place in the fall.

The 1500 gallon water truck is done and will be ready for watering trees this year.

Mr. Meyer asked the general condition of the street trees.

Mr. Seilheimer replied that statistically they are in decent shape. Most of it is normal die back.

**Education and Public Relations:** The poster contest for the Arbor Day event will be a focus on public relations.

**Grant Application and Maintenance:** No report

**Purchasing and Tree Planting:** Mr. Seilheimer stated that he purchased 25 Red Oaks. Some of those will be planted in Gardena Park. He will get the seedlings for Arbor Day. The City nursery is well stocked except for purchasing some variety for diversity.

**Planning Department:** Mrs. Boy reported that there was a petition presented at the last Plan Commission meeting for a new subdivision off Lake Avenue. The developer indicated he would save as many trees as possible. She noted that the developers coming in now seem to be looking more at the environment in addition to their construction.

**Urban Forest Plan Maintenance:** Mr. Seilheimer stated that he has the inventory software installed on his palm pilot and will begin updating the tree inventory. His goal is to have something on paper toward the end of the year.

Mr. Bolton asked if he could put together an annual update to present to the Council.

Mr. Seilheimer indicated he would make a presentation.

**Tree City Designation:** Mr. Seilheimer stated that approval should take place by the end of March or early April. He feels confident the City will also receive the Growth Award after the discrepancy was corrected with the dollars spent for the storm. Mr. Seilheimer stated that the Board will need to discuss how to meet other requirements for this year, as requirements cannot be repeated.

The Board would like to invite Pam Louks to the Arbor Day event. Ms. Ceperich will draft an invitation.

**OLD BUSINESS**

None

**NEW BUSINESS**

None

**BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

None

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None

**NEXT MEETING DATE**

The next workshop will be held on Tuesday, February 19<sup>th</sup>, at 12:30 p.m., at Swing Belly's.

The next regular meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 5<sup>th</sup>, at 6:00 p.m.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The Chair entertained a motion to adjourn.

Mrs. Boy moved to adjourn. The motion was unanimous. The meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

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Kathy Ceperich, Secretary