

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
MICHIGAN CITY TREE BOARD
MARCH 4, 2009**

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, March 4, 2009 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 6:15 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Rebecca Pelath was appointed to fill the unexpired term of Dan Carabine.

The roll was called with the following noted present for the record: William Bolton, Patricia Boy, Kathy Ceperich and Mick Wulff. Jeffrey Meyer, Dave Morlan and Rebecca Pelath were absent. (4 present, 3 absent) Staff in attendance: Secretary Debbie Wilson. City Forester Frank Seilheimer was absent.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Chair entertained a motion for approval of the minutes of February 11, 2009.

A motion was made by Mrs. Boy to approve the minutes as written. The motion was seconded by Ms. Ceperich, with the vote as follow: (AYES): William Bolton, Patricia Boy, Kathy Ceperich, Mick Wulff (NAYS): None

With a vote of 4 ayes and 0 nays, the motion was APPROVED.

SECRETARY TREASURER'S REPORT

The financial report ended 2/28/09 was submitted and reviewed by the Board.

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

A motion was made by Mrs. Boy to approve the financial report as submitted. The motion was seconded by Ms. Ceperich, with the vote as follow: (AYES): William Bolton, Patricia Boy, Kathy Ceperich, Mick Wulff (NAYS): None

With a vote of 4 ayes and 0 nays, the motion was APPROVED.

CLAIMS

The following claims were submitted for approval:

Debbie Wilson	Secretarial services for March 2009	200.00
Board Members	1 st qtr Board member pay	500.00

The Chair entertained a motion for approval of the claims.

A motion was made by Mrs. Boy to approve the claims as submitted. The motion was seconded by Ms. Ceperich, with the vote as follow: (AYES): William Bolton, Patricia Boy, Kathy Ceperich, Mick Wulff (NAYS): None

With a vote of 4 ayes and 0 nays, the motion was APPROVED.

COMMUNICATIONS

Mrs. Boy reminded everyone of the St. Patrick’s Day Parade on Saturday, March 14th. Lineup is at 11:45 and the parade starts at 1:00.

Board members will coordinate for their entry into the parade. At least two trees will be provided for the tree give away. Cards will be distributed at the parade for the drawing which will take place at the Board’s April meeting.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Arbor Day: The committee will continue to work on ideas and firm up the events at the April meeting.

It was mentioned at the last meeting to move to more visible locations for the seedling give away. Ms. Ceperich will contact several businesses to see if those locations could be used.

Trees will be planted at the Lighthouse Museum on Arbor Day.

City Park Trees: No report

City Street Trees: No report

Education/Public Relations: The St. Patrick’s Day parade with the tree raffle will serve as public outreach for the month of March.

Ms. Ceperich noted that she is working with Mr. Seilheimer on the raffle cards which will include tree information specific to Michigan City. City Hall could possibly be used as a location for the drop off box for the raffle cards.

Grant Application and Maintenance: No report

Purchasing and Tree Planting: No report

Planning Department: An idea proposed at the workshop would be to have the Planning Department provide developers with an information packet from the Tree Board with recommendations for green space.

Discussion for the recommendations will continue at the workshop.

Urban Forest Plan Maintenance: Mr. Bolton reported that the Board discussed this during their last workshop and reviewed the sections of the plan. Everything seems to be in order with the exception of updating the inventory which is in process.

Tree City Designation: Awards will be announced within the next couple weeks.

OLD BUSINESS

Mrs. Boy made note that there was discussion at the workshop with regard to recommendations for a green space ordinance to be included with the County-wide Plan as it relates to adoption in Michigan City. This discussion will continue at the next workshop.

Mr. Wulff inquired into the status of the ethics ordinance.

Mrs. Boy responded that the members have been appointed but there has not been a meeting yet. The Council's ethics committee includes three Council members, one of which would be a liaison to the City's ethics committee. The committee consists of four members along with an Ethics Officer (Shelley Dunleavy).

NEW BUSINESS

A workshop was scheduled for Wednesday, March 11th, at noon, at Shoreline Restaurant. Topics of discussion will be Arbor Day, St. Patrick's Day Parade and green space ordinance.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Mrs. Boy welcomed the new member, Rebecca Pelath, to the Board.

Mr. Wulff started discussion on tree planting. He stated that the City is only planting in one specific neighborhood at a time. He feels that the City should go out into each neighborhood/ward and 25% of the trees to be planted should be set aside and planted in the various neighborhoods throughout the city. Citizens on the request for tree list keep calling to see when they are going to get trees because they see trees being planted elsewhere in the city. By doing it that way, he said everyone would see a little bit of their tax dollars at work. Mr. Wulff said that the Board needs to steer Mr. Seilheimer and Mr. Morlan to do that kind of thing.

Mrs. Boy remarked that it would be a good idea once in a while if possible. She said she knows they work in one neighborhood at a time to keep track of what they got and where they are working – like an economy of scale kind of thing.

Mr. Wulff replied that he thinks it is possible – Michigan City is not a big metropolis. He said the minimal time going to the different neighborhoods isn't anything that will break the bank and it would be a cost benefit in getting it done. Mr. Wulff continued that there are people out in every ward every day and there isn't any reason we can't get a couple of trees in a couple different blocks every so often.

Ms. Ceperich pointed out that Mr. Seilheimer has indicated it would be more costly to mobilize equipment for just one to two trees and it wouldn't make a very big impact on one block.

Mrs. Boy also pointed out that sometimes the City has plans for redoing the street and there would be no point in planting trees before they redo the street.

Mr. Wulff gave an example of Ohio Street and that the City needs to get into the arterial streets off from Ohio.

Mr. Wulff stated that the request for tree list dates back before 2000. He said the City needs to honor some of these requests as citizens want to see some action. He commented that the littlest things people see will give the biggest punch.

Mrs. Boy agreed that the Board should possibly have Mr. Seilheimer look at the older requests.

Mr. Wulff stated that Mr. Seilheimer is doing the inventory and will get a pretty good picture of what is out there and where to put some stuff. He said the stock in the nursery needs to get used if the City is not buying any trees this year. The stock is

getting big and the nursery needs thinning. He commented that the more the Board talks about it, he is going to get the hint.

Mrs. Boy added that somewhere there is a happy medium between projects and single trees.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

NEXT MEETING DATE

The next workshop will be March 11th, at noon, at Shoreline Restaurant.

The next regular meeting will be April 1st, at 6:00 p.m., in the Council Chambers.

ADJOURNMENT

The Chair entertained a motion to adjourn.

A motion to adjourn was made by Mrs. Boy – seconded by Ms. Ceperich and unanimously approved.

The Chair declared the meeting adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

/s/ Kathy Ceperich, Secretary