

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
MICHIGAN CITY TREE BOARD
MARCH 5, 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, March 5, 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 6:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Chair entertained a motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of 2/6/08 and the workshop of 2/19/08.

A motion to approve was made by Mrs. Boy. The motion was seconded and the minutes were unanimously approved.

SECRETARY-TREASURER'S REPORT

In the absence of the secretary, the secretary-treasurer's report ended 2/29/08 will be submitted next month for review and approval.

CLAIMS

There was a typographical error on the agenda. It should have read Secretarial services for March and Board member pay for March, not February as noted on the agenda.

The Chair entertained a motion for approval of the claims.

Mrs. Boy made a motion to approve claims for secretarial services for March, Board member pay for March attendance and 1st quarter Board member pay. The motion was seconded by Mr. Meyer and unanimously approved.

COMMUNICATIONS

None

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Arbor Day: The Tree Board will be participating in the St. Patrick's Day Parade on March 15th. Post cards for a tree raffle will be distributed along the parade route.

Arbor Day events on April 26th will include a poster contest for middle school students and activities for other children. The event will take place in Gardena Park with a tree planting. Seedlings will also be distributed. Ms. Ceperich will handle the press release.

Mr. Seilheimer requested approval of the claim for printing of the postcards at the Beacher in the approximate amount of \$189.50, along with postage in the approximate amount of \$130.00.

Mrs. Boy made a motion to approve \$325.00 to cover the cost of printing and postage. The motion was seconded by Mr. Wulff and unanimously approved.

Mr. Seilheimer described the postcards for the raffle which will be double sided with the front having a picture of a tree along with six urban forestry facts, perforated in the middle, with rules on the back of the card. The winners will be announced and the trees delivered to their residences before April 30th. First prize is two 12' tall Bartlett pear trees, 2 inches in diameter; second prize is one 11' tall red oak tree, 2 inches in diameter.

City Park Trees: Tree removal will begin in Washington Park. There will be a presentation to the Park Board on March 20th to update them on the status of removal and planting.

City Street Trees: Mr. Seilheimer reported that they are going to begin locating for planting. Trees will be planted in a couple areas left over from last year in the Washington Street sewer area and the side street by McDonald's on Michigan Boulevard. The retaining pods on Tennessee and Kentucky Streets will be removed, the ground leveled, and trees planted.

Besides the City projects for planting, Mr. Wulff inquired into the timeframe for planting from the list of "requested trees" from the residents.

Mr. Seilheimer replied that most of the planting this spring will take place in the parks. He still has the list and they work some of those areas in as they do the sewer/City projects.

Education and Public Relations: Already discussed for Arbor Day.

Grant Application and Maintenance: Mr. Seilheimer will pick up seedlings for Arbor Day and for Pullman Park. The Pullman Park Grant will be closed out at the end of April. The official sign is ready to be put up at the site.

Mr. Seilheimer advised that the Home Depot application was denied.

Mr. Seilheimer reported that the Urban Forestry program was cut by another 44%. They will try to piggyback with ALCOA. There are not a lot of funds available right now.

Purchasing and Tree Planting: Mr. Seilheimer purchased 25 red oaks (2" diameter) to add to the nursery stock.

Planning Department: No report.

Urban Forest Plan Maintenance: Mr. Seilheimer is updating the inventory (westside - Franklin to prison to city limits).

Tree City Designation: Mr. Seilheimer received a blanket e-mail from Pam Louks stating that everyone met the requirements and should receive their awards before Arbor Day.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Board members discussed participation in the St. Patrick's Day Parade.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

None

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

NEXT MEETING DATE

The next regular meeting is scheduled for April 2, 2008.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:28 p.m.

/s/ Kathy Ceperich, Secretary _____