

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
MICHIGAN CITY TREE BOARD  
MAY 7, 2008**

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, May 7, 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 6:15 p.m.

**ROLL CALL**

The roll was called with the following noted present: William Bolton, Kathy Ceperich, Jeffrey Meyer, and Mick Wulff. Patricia Boy, Dan Carabine, and Dave Morlan were absent. (4 present, 3 absent) Staff in attendance: Secretary Debbie Wilson.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The Chair entertained a motion for approval of the minutes of the regular meetings of March 5, 2008 and April 2, 2008.

***A motion to approve was made by Mr. Wulff – seconded by Mr. Meyer and unanimously approved.***

**SECRETARY-TREASURERS REPORT**

The reports for February, March and April were submitted and reviewed.

The Chair entertained a motion for approval.

***A motion to approve was made by Mr. Wulff – seconded by Mr. Meyer and unanimously approved.***

**CLAIMS**

Board Secretary Kathy Ceperich submitted and reviewed the claims list:

**TREE BOARD**

**MAY 7, 2008**

Debbie Wilson	Secretarial Services – Apr 08	\$200.00
	Secretarial Services – May 08	200.00
	<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$400.00</b>

The Chair entertained a motion for approval of the claims.

***A motion to approve was made by Mr. Meyer – seconded by Ms. Ceperich and unanimously approved.***

**COMMUNICATIONS**

Mr. Bolton reviewed a letter from the Unity Foundation of LaPorte County which indicates the urban forestry funds' spendable portion available is \$3,047.52. The funds could be used for urban forest projects.

Suggestions made for the use of funds were seed money for a larger grant or using it toward getting the inventory up and running.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Arbor Day:** Leftover seedlings from the Arbor Day event were taken to Friendship Gardens and were also given away at a fire department pancake breakfast.

Board members discussed the seedling giveaway in the future and a suggestion was made to have a donation can available. Another idea was to have the seedling giveaway at different events – Labor Dayz Festival, Art Show, and Boat Show.

Discussion will continue at the next meeting.

The winning posters from the Arbor Day event poster contest are on display in City Hall. Sponsors were Wal-Mart, Beachside Gardens, Rag Tops, and the zoo.

Ms. Ceperich suggested that maybe the winning artists could be used to make a banner for the parades. She will contact the winners to see if they would be interested. If not, she will contact the scouts and 4H. Mr. Bolton will see if he can get any supplies donated. Ms. Ceperich will get prices on supplies.

***A motion was made by Mr. Meyer for an amount not to exceed \$300 from the education fund to use towards materials/supplies for the banner – seconded by Ms. Ceperich and unanimously approved.***

***A motion was made by Mr. Meyer for the Tree Board to participate in the Summer Festival Parade – seconded by Ms. Ceperich and unanimously approved.***

Board members discussed handing out the postcards again, like they did for the St. Patrick's Day Parade, for a tree giveaway. The only change would be to have a drop box somewhere for the cards. Ms. Ceperich suggested the cards could also be used to advertise the seedling giveaway in the fall by directing people to the City's website.

***A motion was made by Mr. Meyer to allocate an additional \$200 from the education fund to use toward promotion (printing of cards) of the tree giveaway at the Summer Festival Parade – seconded by Mr. Wulff and unanimously approved.***

Also discussed was the possibility of an information booth at the various Summer Festival events. Ms. Ceperich will get prices on informational materials and report back at the next meeting.

**City Park Trees:** Mr. Wulff stated that a lot of damaged trees in Washington Park have been taken down. He hopes to see new ones being planted. He wanted to publicly announce that even though it does not look good now, this is being done for the future betterment of the park.

**City Street Trees:** Mr. Meyer said thought should be given to starting a nursery for left over seedlings. This would have to be discussed with the Forester to determine the net value of doing something like this.

**Education and Public Relations:** Already discussed.

**Grant Application and Maintenance:** No report.

**Purchasing and Tree Planting:** No report.

**Planning Department:** No report.

**Urban Forest Plan Maintenance:** No report.

**Tree City Designation:** No report.

**OLD BUSINESS**

None

**NEW BUSINESS**

Mr. Wulff stated that there is a serious moonlighting problem with Nelson Tree Service who has been hired by NIPSCO to do line clearance only. They are not licensed with the City and cannot do any other work. He also stated that they are cutting more extensively than the old cuts for line clearance.

Ms. Ceperich will draft a letter to NIPSCO with a copy to Nelson addressing two issues – their quality of work and their side work. The Board, and possibly the City Attorney, will review the wording before the letter is sent.

**BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

None

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None

**NEXT MEETING DATE**

June 4, 2008

**ADJOURNMENT**

A motion to adjourn was made by Ms. Ceperich – seconded by Mr. Meyer.

The meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

/s/ Kathy Ceperich, Secretary