

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
MICHIGAN CITY TREE BOARD
JUNE 3, 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, June 3, 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 6:05 p.m.

ROLL CALL

The following members were noted present for the record: William Bolton, Patricia Boy, Kathy Ceperich, Dave Morlan, Rebecca Pelath, and Mick Wulff. Jeffrey Meyer was absent. (6 present, 1 absent) Staff in attendance: City Forester Frank Seilheimer and Secretary Debbie Wilson.

Public in attendance: Jason Scoville of Green Leaves Tree Service.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Chair entertained a motion for approval of the minutes of May 6, 2009.

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

With a vote of 6 ayes and 0 nays, the motion was APPROVED.

SECRETARY TREASURER'S REPORT

The financial report ended 5/31/09 was submitted and reviewed by the Board.

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

A motion to approve the financial report was made by Mrs. Boy. The motion was seconded by Ms. Ceperich, with the vote as follows: (AYES): William Bolton,

***Patricia Boy, Kathy Ceperich, Dave Morlan, Rebecca Pelath, Mick Wulff (NAYS):
None***

With a vote of 6 ayes and 0 nays, the motion was APPROVED.

CLAIMS

The claims list was submitted and reviewed.

Ms. Ceperich noted that the claims list is amended to add the Board member 2nd qtr pay amount of \$550.

The Chair entertained a motion for approval of the claims.

A motion to approve the claims list as amended was made by Mrs. Boy. The motion was seconded by Ms. Ceperich, with the vote as follows: (AYES): William Bolton, Patricia Boy, Kathy Ceperich, Dave Morlan, Rebecca Pelath, Mick Wulff (NAYS): None

With a vote of 6 ayes and 0 nays, the motion was APPROVED.

COMMUNICATIONS

None

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Arbor Day: Ms. Ceperich announced that the Arbor Day photo was in the newspaper.

Mr. Wulff thanked Kabelin's and Wal-Mart for letting the Board use their facilities to get the word out about Arbor Day.

Ms. Ceperich mentioned that a phone call was received from a citizen who was disappointed that there wasn't notice of the tree give away.

Ms. Ceperich verified that there was notice in the "Around Town" section of the newspaper and announced on the radio the week of the event, but also indicated that the Board would try to get notice of the event out sooner next year.

Board members noted their desire to undertake some type of fundraiser next year for the trees.

Mr. Wulff suggested trying to get some type of organization together to give out trees for donations.

Board members did state their appreciation for all the donations they received from the public at this year's event.

City Park Trees: Mr. Seilheimer stated that a large tree was planted at the site of the Lighthouse Museum for Arbor Day.

Mr. Seilheimer reported that Park Department staff is trimming trees and removing trees that did not survive the winter. They also continue with removals at Memorial and Gardena Parks. The oak trees that died seemed to be from a root grafting issue.

Mr. Bolton asked who is pruning the trees at the park.

Mr. Seilheimer replied that they have two employees that do the trimming. Mr. Seilheimer stated that he did a walk-thru with them last week.

Mr. Wulff asked Mr. Seilheimer if he is confident with them doing the work.

Mr. Seilheimer stated that he is and indicated that they know what they are doing.

Mrs. Boy asked if replanting at Streibel Pond will be done this fall.

Mr. Seilheimer stated that replanting will probably take place this fall through reimbursement from the contractor guarantee. He said he would fill in what doesn't get replanted by the contractor.

City Street Trees: Mr. Seilheimer reported that the sidewalk program has started. The focus is on an area bounded by Poplar to Spring to North Carroll to Michigan Boulevard. 23 trees are causing sidewalk conflicts. 15 will be removed and the rest will get rubber sidewalks. When that area is completed, they will move across to an area bounded by Michigan Boulevard to Barker Avenue to Poplar to Carroll.

Mr. Bolton asked Mr. Seilheimer to explain why rubber sidewalks are put in certain areas.

Mr. Seilheimer explained that the rubber sidewalks are put in areas where the tree roots are close to the ground and flare out. The rubber sidewalk can be laid over the roots and taken up and moved if necessary.

Education: Ms. Ceperich reported that the Boys and Girls Club is having a “Day for Kids” on September 12th. She suggested the Tree Board could partner with them in activities for the day.

Ms. Ceperich also suggested scheduling a workshop to talk about pursuing the Growth Award as well as discussing what to do with developers as they come in – i.e. providing materials as information in regards to greenspace and new development.

Mr. Seilheimer explained that the community does not qualify for the Growth Award unless they increase their annual budget. But in reality, Mr. Seilheimer stated that costs should decrease over time if maintenance is being done properly.

Ms. Pelath asked if in-kind services could be used.

Mr. Seilheimer stated that it could.

A workshop was scheduled for Wednesday, June 17th, at noon, at Swing Belly’s Restaurant.

It was agreed that Mr. Pugh should be invited to the workshop since he is the first to meet with developers.

Grant Application and Maintenance: Mr. Seilheimer reported that the grant through FEMA for Trail Creek clean up will be reimbursed through the stimulus package and WorkOne. He also reported that Judy Pinkston, CDBG Director, has \$420,000 for short-term immediate projects. This could be used for the tree inventory and to GPS manholes.

Purchasing and Tree Planting: Mr. Seilheimer reported that he has planted just under 100 trees this spring. Gator bags were purchased for the trees in Washington Park for slow release watering.

Planning Department: Mrs. Boy reported that the Council Code Review Committee is working on making sure all ordinances are in the code since the last codification.

Board members will review the Tree Ordinance at the workshop.

Mrs. Boy also reported that work continues on the county-wide plan. Any suggestions for the greenspace ordinance should be directed to Councilman Richard Murphy.

Urban Forest Plan Maintenance: Mr. Seilheimer stated that he received the new cost benefit analysis for lower Midwest urban ecosystems. It was put out by the Forest

Service and was done in Indianapolis, so it provides more local numbers. He will make the book available for viewing in the Planning Department.

Tree City: It was mentioned that in-kind services could count toward monetary value for the Growth Award.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

None

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Mr. Wulff pointed out that someone is clearing a large lot on the City right-of-way on U.S. Highway 12, just past Benny's Restaurant.

Mr. Morlan and Mr. Seilheimer indicated that they would check it out.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Jason Scoville, Green Leaves Tree Service, requested that he get put on the list for City work. The last time he did any work for the City was 2002.

NEXT MEETING DATE

The workshop is scheduled for Wednesday, June 17th, at noon, at Swing Belly's.

Due to the next regular meeting falling so close to the Fourth of July holiday, Board members agreed to change the meeting date to July 8th.

ADJOURNMENT

The Chair declared the meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

/s/ Kathy Ceperich, Secretary