

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
MICHIGAN CITY TREE BOARD  
JUNE 4, 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, June 4, 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, Patricia Boy, Kathy Ceperich, Jeffrey Meyer, and Dave Morlan. Dan Carabine and Mick Wulff were absent. (5 present, 2 absent) Staff in attendance: City Forester Frank Seilheimer and Secretary Debbie Wilson.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The Chair entertained a motion for approval of the minutes of the regular meeting of May 7, 2008.

Ms. Ceperich noted the last paragraph on page 2, the word "art" should be "artists".

***Ms. Ceperich made a motion to approve the minutes with the change as noted – seconded by Mr. Morlan. Mrs. Boy abstained as she was not present. With a vote of 4 ayes and 1 abstention, the motion carried and the minutes were APPROVED.***

**SECRETARY-TREASURER'S REPORT**

The report for the month ended 05/31/08 was submitted and reviewed.

The Chair entertained a motion for approval.

***A motion to approve the report was made by Mrs. Boy – seconded by Mr. Meyer. Upon voice vote the motion carried and the report was unanimously APPROVED.***

**CLAIMS**

The claims list was submitted and reviewed:

**TREE BOARD****JUNE 4, 2008**

Ntl Arbor Day Found	Tree City Plaque & additions	79.85
Debbie Wilson	Secretarial Services – June 08	\$200.00
Dave Morlan	Board member pay for Jun 08	50.00
	2 <sup>nd</sup> qtr Board member pay	350.00

The Chair entertained a motion for approval of the claims.

A motion to approve the claims was made by Mrs. Boy – seconded by Mr. Meyer. Upon voice vote the motion carried and the claims were APPROVED.

The Board discussed having some type of standard procedure so they don't have to submit and vote on claims every month; but it was determined that the claims should be officially approved every month.

**COMMUNICATIONS**

None

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Arbor Day:** No report

**City Park Trees:** Mr. Seilheimer reported that trees were planted in Gardena Park. Tree removal of dead and hazardous trees in Washington Park will be finished this week except for lot 2. Lot 2 will be finished when the Park finishes running the underground electric. 80 trees were removed which includes Fedder's Alley and the burn area. Replanting will take place in the fall.

Mr. Bolton asked if the Park Department has a plan.

Mr. Seilheimer replied that there is a Washington Park Master Plan, although they will need to maintain clear areas so they can continue to host events. Their Plan does call for replanting of trees.

Mr. Meyer asked if Mr. Seilheimer is involved with the repair of the rock garden.

Mr. Seilheimer stated that the Park received a historical grant for structural improvements. It has nothing to do with planting.

**City Street Trees:** Mr. Seilheimer reported that 63 trees have to be removed which are in conflict of constructing ADA compliant sidewalks. In addition, 3,000 square feet of rubber sidewalk will be put down where possible to save trees.

Storm damaged trees on Franklin Square were removed. The tree grates were cut out and new trees will be planted.

They continue with daily removals and trimming, being proactive at the same time by doing routine maintenance while they are in the area.

A tree at 5<sup>th</sup> and Wabash which blew over in the storm was replaced. One at Barker Mansion will be replaced this fall.

One tree location was vacated in front of Reprographic Arts due to the fact that it was obstructing the train signal heading south. A trash receptacle will be put in that location instead.

Mrs. Boy questioned replacing the dead trees at Striebel Pond.

Mr. Seilheimer stated that the dead ones were already replaced once. He will check with Al Walus at the Sanitary District as it is their project.

Mrs. Boy asked about the pocket park in Village Green.

Mr. Seilheimer said that they cannot do it because the residents would not be able to back out of their driveways and there would not be any place to put the snow in the winter. Instead, ivy was planted that will cover the fence and provide screening.

Mr. Seilheimer noted that they will clean up the two medians just south of the bridge.

**Education and Public Relations:** Ms. Ceperich indicated that she is working on upcoming events, but had nothing to report tonight.

**Grant Application and Maintenance:** Mr. Seilheimer advised that there is no money available at this time. The Lake Michigan Coastal Advisory Board Grant Committee will be touring Michigan City at the end of June to look at the projects Michigan City has done with the grant money. At Pullman Forest, 1500 seedlings were planted along with wild flowers in the front. That grant will be closed out this month.

**Purchasing and Tree Planting:** Mr. Seilheimer purchased 24 red oak trees. Depending on weather, the planting season will begin on September 15<sup>th</sup>.

**Planning Department:** Mrs. Boy reported that the County-wide Plan has been approved. The Plan emphasizes protecting green space and suggests a green space ordinance. Bids are out now for rewriting the code. She suggested the Tree Board help with the green space ordinance.

**Urban Forest Plan Maintenance:** Mr. Seilheimer informed the Board that he will make a presentation to the Council at the end of June.

**Tree City Designation:** Mr. Seilheimer will order new tree city signs and will install them in more visible locations.

Mr. Bolton pointed out that he has seen where some cities have welcome signs with “our city is a tree city” or “designated tree city” added to them. He suggested making a recommendation to the Board of Works.

Ms. Ceperich will draft a letter.

**OLD BUSINESS**

None

**NEW BUSINESS**

Mr. Meyer stated that LaPorte has started a nursery. He inquired into advantages of Michigan City starting one.

Mr. Seilheimer replied that with the set up cost and time involved, it is easier to just buy stock. It would require a lot of time for upkeep and other departments would have to get involved to make it worthwhile.

**BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

None

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

**NEXT MEETING DATE**

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

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

/s/ Kathy Ceperich  
Kathy Ceperich, Secretary