

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
MICHIGAN CITY TREE BOARD
JULY 8, 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, July 8, 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 6:17 p.m.

ROLL CALL

The following members were 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: City Forester Frank Seilheimer and Secretary Debbie Wilson.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Chair entertained a motion for approval of the minutes of June 3, 2009.

Ms. Ceperich made a motion amending the minutes to include a statement under the Tree City report that in-kind services would count toward monetary value for the Growth Award. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Boy, with the vote as follows: (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 06/30/09 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, Mick Wulff (NAYS): None

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

CLAIMS

The claims list was submitted and reviewed.

It should be noted that the claims list is to be amended deleting \$50.00 for Dave Morlan as he is not in attendance.

The Chair entertained a motion.

A motion to approve the claims list was made by Mrs. Boy. The motion was seconded by Ms. Ceperich, with the vote as follows: (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

Mr. Bolton noted that a seminar is coming up and he would e-mail the information to Board members.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mr. Bolton asked if Board members wanted to add anything or delete anything from the format of the agenda.

After discussion, it was decided to make an "outreach" committee report with subcommittee reports under that to include education, advertising, Arbor Day planning, and calendar events.

Arbor Day: No report

City Park Trees: Watering and maintenance is ongoing.

City Street Trees: Mr. Seilheimer reported that as a result of sidewalk replacements, trees that are either old or too large for their space are being removed.

Mr. Wulff advised Mr. Seilheimer that there is a triangular piece of City-owned property in Shoreland Hills which has a lot of old trees. He noted concern with four of the large trees being dangerous.

Mr. Seilheimer indicated that he would take care of it.

Education: Ms. Ceperich reported that she continues to explore ideas on which projects to undertake for the Growth Award.

Grant Application and Maintenance: No report

Purchasing and Tree Planting: There currently is no purchasing or planting of trees. A list is being compiled for the fall.

Ms. Ceperich asked if there is an inventory of trees in the nursery.

Mr. Seilheimer indicated that there are about 200 trees left but there are no low growing species.

Planning Department: No report

Urban Forest Plan Maintenance: Mr. Seilheimer stated that he started to inventory the street trees but has found it physically impossible to do the inventory by himself before it would be completed and have to be done again. Therefore there is a request included in the 2010 budget for a capital expenditure to do a complete street tree inventory, a park inventory, and a woodland assessment inventory. He explained that it factors out to be \$2.17/tree. It would take four people 3 ½ months each working 50 hours/week to do everything. It could be phased out by doing the immediate town area, then branching out and following up with the parks in subsequent years. It would cost about \$150,000 which would not include any writing – just collecting and compiling. There would be two different inventories. One would be a functional inventory similar to the one we have now for daily work orders. The second one would be a total environmental working inventory with GPS which would allow us to meet most of the paperless objectives for grants. All information would be stored in the hand collection device.

Mrs. Boy asked if something should be included in the budget for summer interns to help with the inventory next year.

Mr. Seilheimer stated that this would be a straight capital expenditure and professional services would be solicited.

Mr. Wulff asked if this would be the same as the inventory undertaken before.

Mr. Seilheimer stated that it would be more elaborate. It will help in applying for grants to present the information the way they want it.

Ms. Ceperich asked who develops the criteria.

Mr. Seilheimer stated that the government does.

Ms. Ceperich asked if voluntary services could be utilized.

Mr. Seilheimer replied that voluntary services would not be utilized as this is too specialized and involved.

Mr. Seilheimer also noted that this could be applied toward the Growth Award.

Tree City: Mr. Seilheimer mentioned that as of last month, requirements for Tree City have been met.

OLD BUSINESS

Mrs. Boy stated that the Code Review Committee is looking at the last 10 years of ordinances to make sure they have been codified properly and then they will be recodified again. The City Attorney has asked each department to review and comment on things that might improve their ordinances.

Mr. Seilheimer pointed out several things for consideration in the Tree Ordinance. He stated that fees have never been collected for tree work and it should be taken out of the ordinance. There is no enforcement language if someone is doing tree work without a license. The language for verification of a dead tree from the DNR needs to be taken out. There needs to be a mechanism in place that follows up with statutes through the State code in maintaining a dangerous tree. Also, lien procedures need to be added for trees removed by the City if a homeowner doesn't remove a dangerous tree.

Mrs. Boy stated that the Committee will be meeting with each department.

Mr. Seilheimer asked that any suggestions by the Board be submitted to him by the 20th.

NEW BUSINESS

None

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

None

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

NEXT MEETING DATE

The next regular meeting is scheduled for August 5, 2009

ADJOURNMENT

The Chair entertained a motion to adjourn.

A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Wulff – seconded by Mrs. Boy.

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

/s/ Kathy Ceperich, Secretary