

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
MICHIGAN CITY TREE BOARD
JULY 11, 2007**

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, July 11, 2007, 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, Dan Carabine, and Dave Morlan. John Flegel, Robert Frame, and Mick Wulff 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 the regular meeting of June 6, 2007.

A motion to approve the minutes was made by Mrs. Boy – seconded by Mr. Carabine and unanimously approved.

SECRETARY-TREASURERS REPORT

The financial reported ended June 30, 2007 was submitted and reviewed. It was noted that the budget has not been officially approved yet.

The Chair entertained a motion to approve the financial report.

A motion to approve the financial report was made by Mrs. Boy – seconded by Mr. Carabine and unanimously approved.

CLAIMS

The Secretary requested approval of the monthly Board member pay for Mr. Morlan in the amount of \$50 and secretarial services in the amount of \$200.

The Chair entertained a motion for approval of claims.

A motion to approve the claims was made by Mrs. Boy – seconded by Mr. Carabine and unanimously approved.

COMMUNICATIONS

None

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Arbor Day: No report

City Park Trees: Mr. Seilheimer reported that he will be getting Washington Park ready for the weekend events. He has been doing a lot of watering during the drought. 15 dead trees were removed.

City Street Trees: Mr. Morlan stated that even some of the well established trees are showing signs of stress with the drought. They have done a few trim jobs.

Education: No report

Grant Application and Maintenance: Mr. Seilheimer will submit the quarterly report for the Coastal Grant. Also, he met with someone today regarding a \$5,000 grant that could be used toward a saw mill. With their own saw mill, the City could build benches and picnic tables from trees removed and use them throughout the city.

Purchasing and Tree Planting: No report

Planning Department: No report

Urban Forest Plan Maintenance: No report

Tree City: No report

OLD BUSINESS

Mrs. Boy noted that a letter was sent to Weatherstone Village regarding the Board's concern with tree removal for their proposed expansion.

NEW BUSINESS

Mrs. Boy mentioned that as a result of last years' storm, the Barker Woods Enrichment Center had trees logged on their property. They are offering free fire wood and are

looking for help to clean up the area. Mrs. Boy said she realizes the City cannot help as this is a classified forest, but she would like to organize a group of volunteers.

Mr. Carabine noted his concern if someone would get hurt on the property while they are removing the wood.

Mr. Seilheimer stated for liability purposes they would have to post signs saying "enter at your own risk".

Mrs. Boy said that she would suggest that to them.

Mr. Bolton noted an e-mail forwarded to Board members from the secretary regarding a complaint received from someone at Lake County Trust on McClung Road in LaPorte who wanted to file a complaint against Loggins Tree Service. They indicated that they did not have a signed contract with Loggins, but his workers cut down a tree across the street at 218 McClung Road, trimmed the tree on Lake County Trust property and then sent them a bill for \$600.

Board members determined that the City could not do anything as this was outside the corporate limits of Michigan City. The complaint would have to be filed with the City of LaPorte. The secretary already informed the caller of this.

Mr. Morlan stated that Asphlunde removed a tree on Harrison Street which did not need to be removed.

Mr. Seilheimer stated that he contacted them and is waiting to hear back.

Mr. Seilheimer mentioned that the City has ordered 300 lineal feet of rubber sidewalk to try in an area around a large oak tree on Dupage Street. A company has volunteered to install it as a learning process and another company will observe. Michigan City would be the first city in Indiana to use the product.

Mr. Carabine questioned if the Board should be concerned about plantings at the new Super Wal-Mart which is under construction.

Mr. Seilheimer stated that Wal-Mart is normally pretty good with their landscaping.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

None

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

NEXT MEETING DATE

August 1, 2007

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

Submitted by: _____
Debbie Wilson, Secretary