

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
MICHIGAN CITY TREE BOARD
SEPTEMBER 2, 2015**

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, September 2, 2015, at 6:00 p.m. local time; the date, hour, and place duly established for the holding of said meeting.

CALL TO ORDER

Vice-President Laura Kalk called the meeting to order at approximately 6:05 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Board members present: Patricia Boy, Kathy Ceperich, Barb Ginther, Bill Ginther, Laura Kalk, Mick Wulff. There is one vacancy.

Staff present: Planning Department Administrative Assistant Debbie Wilson. City Forester Frank Seilheimer was absent.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The chair entertained a motion for approval of the minutes of the regular meeting of August 5, 2015.

A motion was made by Mrs. Boy and seconded by Mr. Ginther to approve the minutes of August 5, 2015 as submitted. Voice vote was as follows: Ayes: Patricia Boy, Barb Ginther, Bill Ginther, Laura Kalk Nays: None Absent: Mick Wulff Abstain: Kathy Ceperich

With a vote of 4 ayes, 0 nays, 1 absent, and 1 abstention, the motion CARRIED.

SECRETARY/TREASURER'S REPORT

The chair entertained a motion for approval of the financial report ended 08/31/15.

A motion was made by Ms. Ceperich and seconded by Mrs. Boy to approve the financial report ended 08/31/15. Voice vote was as follows: Ayes: Pat Boy, Kathy Ceperich, Barb Ginther, Bill Ginther, Laura Kalk Nays: None Absent: Mick Wulff

With a vote of 5 ayes, 0 nays, and 1 absent, the motion CARRIED.

CLAIMS

The chair entertained a motion for approval of the claims for September.

A motion was made by Mrs. Boy and seconded by Mrs. Ginther to approve the claims for September. Voice vote was as follows: Ayes: Pat Boy, Kathy Ceperich, Barb Ginther, Bill Ginther, Laura Kalk Nays: None Absent: Mick Wulff

With a vote of 5 ayes, 0 nays, and 1 absent, the motion CARRIED.

COMMUNICATIONS

(None)

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Outreach

Gardening Tips:

Mrs. Kalk again emphasized the importance of watering with the hot weather; new plantings as well as established plants are under stress and require frequent watering. She said insect and fungal activity is often a result of stress due to a lack of water. She pointed out that there is a lot of webbing and worms on trees and shrubs which can be treated with thuricide and dipel dust.

Mick Wulff entered and was noted present for the record.

Mrs. Kalk stated there are a lot of spider mites which come along with the humidity. To check for spider mites she explained that you shake the branch over a piece of white paper and slide your hand across the paper. If there are red streaks, there are spider mites. They can be treated with neem oil or an insecticide specific for spider mites. These must be applied during cooler temperatures (under 80°) so it does not magnify the heat on the plants.

Mrs. Boy asked if that applies to grass too.

Mrs. Kalk replied that spider mites usually don't affect the lawns as much as they do the trees. She said right now fungal issues are affecting the lawns because of the high humidity. There are applications to treat the fungus.

Mr. Wulff presided over the meeting.

City Park Trees

Mr. Seilheimer provided a written report in his absence.

Mr. Wulff read from the Forester's report that the City Council passed on second reading \$140,000 for tree removals at the golf course.

Mrs. Boy explained that the \$140,000 will be used to remove the dangerous trees by the buildings and the really large trees. The rest will be handled by the City/Park.

City Street Trees

Mr. Wulff read from the Forester's report that they have continued with the removal of the larger ash trees; an amount of \$180,000 was approved by the City Council for tree removal in Greenwood Cemetery and contractual language is being drafted outlining responsibilities, liabilities, and exclusionary operational dates; they continue watering in Elston Grove and on Michigan Boulevard.

Mrs. Boy stated that the \$180,000 was approved because the Cemetery is creating additional burial sites and trees will have to be removed in order to do that.

Grant Application and Maintenance

Mr. Wulff read from the Forester's report that there are no grants available at this time.

Purchasing and Tree Planting

Mr. Wulff read from the Forester's report that there has not been any purchasing or planting of trees.

Planning Department

Mrs. Boy had no tree related activities to report.

Urban Forest Plan Maintenance

Mr. Wulff read that the Forester had no report.

Tree City Designation Maintenance

Mr. Wulff read from the Forester's report that the City is on track for meeting all the requirements for Tree City USA status this year.

Goals

Ms. Ceperich will follow up with Galveston Restaurant on the Tree Board's Give Back Night fundraiser held last month. She will report back to the Board.

OLD BUSINESS

Discussion of Board Member Position:

Mrs. Boy stated that she told the Council the Tree Board would provide them with recommendations of wording for the position.

Mr. Wulff recalled last month the Board discussed the idea of having a different neighborhood group representative each year. He felt that it would increase public awareness by having neighborhood representatives as members on the Board.

Ms. Ceperich felt it was a good idea but pointed out that there are a lot of neighborhood groups and that it would spread out over a lot of years before every neighborhood was represented. She also questioned how they would be chosen.

Mrs. Kalk supported the neighborhood group representative but also had a couple of people that could be considered as a member; one being in tree distribution and a part of the growth process at a nursery. She said she could reach out to them to see if they would be interested.

Board members liked that idea as well and Mrs. Boy stated that she could present both ideas to the Council. Suggested language could include either being a one year member at large position representing a neighborhood association replaced annually by another neighborhood association representative or a three year member with tree related expertise.

It was suggested if there were any other ideas that they be emailed to the Board.

Mrs. Boy stated that she would recommend to the Council that the Tree Board ask for neighborhood association volunteers first before changing the ordinance and find out if there is any input. If there is input, the Board would recommend that be the membership. If there is no interest, then the Board would recommend the three year member with tree related expertise.

NEW BUSINESS

(None)

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

(None)

PUBLIC COMMENTS

(None)

NEXT MEETING DATE

Mr. Wulff announced the next regular meeting is scheduled for October 7, 2015.

ADJOURNMENT

The chair entertained a motion to adjourn.

A motion to adjourn was made by Mrs. Boy – seconded by Mr. Ginther and unanimously approved.

The chair declared the meeting adjourned at approximately 6:27 p.m.

/s/ Mick Wulff, President _____