

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
MICHIGAN CITY TREE BOARD
NOVEMBER 4, 2009**

The Michigan City Tree Board met in a regular meeting in the Common Council Chambers, City Hall Building, 100 E. Michigan Boulevard, Michigan City, Indiana, on Wednesday, November 4, 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, Jeffrey Meyer, Rebecca Pelath, and Mick Wulff. Kathy Ceperich and Dave Morlan were absent. (5 present – 2 absent) Staff in attendance: City Forester Frank Seilheimer and Secretary Debbie Wilson.

Public in attendance: Paul Przybylinski

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Chair entertained a motion for approval of the minutes of October 14, 2009.

A motion to approve the minutes as written was made by Mr. Meyer. The motion was seconded by Ms. Pelath, with the vote as follows: (AYES): William Bolton, Jeffrey Meyer, Rebecca Pelath, Mick Wulff (NAYS): None (ABSTAIN): Patricia Boy

With a vote of 4 ayes, 0 nays, and 1 abstention the motion was APPROVED.

SECRETARY-TREASURER'S REPORT

The financial report ended 10/31/09 was submitted and reviewed by the Board.

The Chair entertained a motion.

A motion to approve the financial report was made by Mrs. Boy. The motion was seconded by Mr. Meyer, with the vote as follows: (AYES): William Bolton, Patricia Boy, Jeffrey Meyer, Rebecca Pelath, Mick Wulff (NAYS): None

With a vote of 5 ayes and 0 nays, the motion was APPROVED.

CLAIMS

The claims list was submitted and reviewed.

The Chair entertained a motion.

A motion to approve the claims was made by Mrs. Boy. The motion was seconded by Mr. Meyer, with the vote as follows: (AYES): William Bolton, Patricia Boy, Jeffrey Meyer, Rebecca Pelath, Mick Wulff (NAYS): None

With a vote of 5 ayes and 0 nays, the motion was APPROVED.

COMMUNICATIONS

Chairman Bolton read a request from Paul Przybylinski to plant a northern maple tree on the easement on the south side (Homer Street side) of his home at 1716 Washington Street. Mr. Przybylinski indicated that this tree is presently growing on his property and his family wishes to transfer it as a working environmental experience.

Mr. Seilheimer advised that the tree fits the guidelines and is on the acceptable tree list.

The Board would like to thank Mr. Przybylinski for his consideration in contacting the Tree Board with this request and his concern for the environment and tree canopy within our community.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Outreach: Mr. Wulff participated in Boo at the Zoo and passed out candy. The event was well attended with approximately 3,000 kids plus adults.

Mrs. Boy mentioned that there will be a Turkey Walk at Friendship Gardens on Thanksgiving Day.

Ms. Pelath stated that there are a lot of trees at Friendship Gardens and the Board needs to carefully choose events to promote the Tree Board.

City Park Trees: Mr. Seilheimer stated that the Park Department is decorating trees for Festival of Lights. They will do tree planting in the spring at Gardena and Patriot Parks.

City Street Trees: Mr. Seilheimer reported that they are taking care of the miscellaneous items that built up over the summer.

Grant Application and Maintenance: Mr. Seilheimer sent in the DNR grant for \$15,000 to begin doing some of the inventory. This is a 50/50 match grant.

Mr. Meyer questioned the use of a contractor for the inventory.

Mr. Seilheimer stated that an outside contractor would be used to administer the software, setup, and provide a working sample of the inventory. When funds become available to the City, the inventory could be updated. Mr. Seilheimer advised that this would qualify as a community service project for the Eagle Scouts. He will explore that opportunity in the spring. The City should have a response on award status from the DNR by 12/31/09. Tentative funding would be available by 3/1/10.

Purchasing and Tree Planting: Mr. Seilheimer reported that trees were planted on Washington Street to replace trees that died.

Mr. Seilheimer purchased some bigger trees – locust and twelve 3-4” caliper hybrid elms for Wabash Street. The hybrid elms have a genetically altered root base and are resistant to Dutch elm disease. He will also purchase some low growing trees to complete Decatur Street.

Mr. Seilheimer stated that Al Walus is working with Woodruff’s in getting trees in the spring before they bulldoze them. They will transplant larger trees out at Striebel Pond.

Mr. Meyer asked if the trees at Striebel Pond are back under the City’s responsibility.

Mr. Seilheimer replied that the guarantee from the tree provider has been fulfilled. The maintenance is now the responsibility of the Sanitary District.

Mr. Wulff asked Mr. Seilheimer to clean up the cuts on a poorly pruned tree at 701 Thurman Avenue.

Mr. Seilheimer will plant a large maple tree at Lighthouse Museum within the next couple weeks.

Planning Department: Mrs. Boy reported that the draft copy of the planning code is available. She did not have a chance to review it to see if there is anything on greenspace. If there is nothing in there, the Board needs to start working on something.

Urban Forest Plan Maintenance: No report.

Tree City: Mr. Seilheimer will start working on the figures in December for submission of the application.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Selection of Nominating Committee: Mrs. Boy and Ms. Pelath volunteered to serve on the Nominating Committee.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

None

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Paul Przybylinski, 1716 Washington Street, said he was not sure if the Board already discussed his request since he came in late. He explained that he would move the tree at his expense in order to initiate some type of adoption program. He said the tree has been located on his property since it was a seedling. His family does not want to cut it down but wants it moved to a different location. This is also being done as an environmental project for his son. He said he will follow the planting guidelines and setback requirements. Mr. Przybylinski wants to put in a tree that the neighborhood wants so they will take a stand and help out.

Mr. Bolton advised that Mr. Seilheimer looked at the request and has indicated it looks good and the tree is on the City's acceptable tree list. Mr. Bolton thanked Mr. Przybylinski for being a concerned citizen by planting a tree and adopting it.

Also, Mr. Przybylinski discussed his concern with City departments not following ordinances. As a result, a tree died in his neighborhood because the Water Department put taps in on Charles Street. He said there are a lot of people disgusted with what they did on the street itself when they revamped the street. They made gullies in front of their homes and replaced the topsoil with clay and sugar sand which he said a lot of trees will not grow in. He said the Board needs to get involved in the street projects and the City departments need to follow the spirit of the ordinances.

NEXT MEETING DATE

The next regular meeting will be on Wednesday, December 2, 2009.

ADJOURNMENT

The Chair entertained a motion to adjourn.

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

The Chair declared the meeting adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

/s/ Kathy Ceperich, Secretary