

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
MICHIGAN CITY TREE BOARD
OCTOBER 1, 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, October 1, 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 6:10 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 August 8, 2008.

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

SECRETARY-TREASURER’S REPORT

Reports for the months ended 8/31/08 and 9/30/08 were submitted and reviewed.

The Chair entertained a motion.

A motion to approve was made by Mrs. Boy – seconded by Ms. Ceperich. Upon voice vote the motion carried and the financial reports were unanimously APPROVED.

CLAIMS

The claims list was submitted and reviewed:

Debbie Wilson	Secretarial Services – Sept 2008	\$200.00
Board	3 rd qtr Board member pay	150.00

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Debbie Wilson	Secretarial Services – Oct 2008	200.00
Dave Morlan	Board member pay – Oct 2008	50.00

The Chair entertained a motion for approval of the claims.

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

COMMUNICATIONS

None

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Arbor Day: No report

City Park Trees: Mr. Seilheimer reported that the Park Department removed 20 dangerous oak trees behind Memorial Park. Replanting will take place this fall. Approximately 40 trees will be planted in Washington Park as well.

Mr. Meyer asked if any trees were replaced at Striebel Pond.

Mr. Seilheimer responded that the Sanitary District will handle those replacements through contractor guarantees.

City Street Trees: Mr. Seilheimer advised that the Village Green project is almost complete. 23-25 trees were removed due to either a bad location, dead, too large, or owners request. Sidewalks will be done shortly. Trees will not be replanted in the public right-of-way, but might be offered to the homeowners for planting in front yards.

Trees will be planted in areas throughout the city where the streets were recently paved. No planting will take place in Elston Grove until the infrastructure improvements are completed.

Mr. Bolton asked how many trees will be planted.

Mr. Seilheimer replied that at least 70 would be planted.

Mr. Meyer asked about a City tree on Tilden Avenue, on the west side north of Coolspring Avenue.

Mr. Morlan acknowledged the tree is dead and will be removed.

Mr. Bolton asked about his inquiry into the right-of-way by Ames Field.

Mr. Morlan replied that it was determined the City right-of-way is about a foot back from the sidewalk and therefore the trees would be owned by the school system.

Education: Ms. Ceperich asked if there would be any interest in a tree give-away as some sort of outreach.

After discussion it was decided that the Tree Board would participate in “Boo at the Zoo” by handing out candy and having a drawing to give away a tree. The event will be held on Saturday, October 25th from 5:00 – 8:00.

Mr. Meyer made a motion to allocate an amount not to exceed \$200 to purchase candy and print cards for the give-away. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Boy. Upon voice vote the motion was unanimously APPROVED.

Grant Application and Maintenance: Mr. Seilheimer reported that the Pullman Park grant has been closed out.

Mr. Seilheimer stated that he is working with Al Walus from Sanitation on another grant they received in conjunction with the Lake Michigan Coastal Program for a Trail Creek corridor improvement trailer. The trailer will be housing specialized equipment needed to perform streambank stabilization and other habitat improvements in connection with the Trail Creek watershed maintenance plan. This is a 50/50 matching grant in the amount of \$16,000. The City would do projects which would be examples for other communities within the coastal zone and use them as a visual working demonstration to then do similar projects in other areas along the Great Lakes basin. The equipment would stay with the trailer and over time would be used to maintain the structures built.

Purchasing and Tree Planting: Mr. Seilheimer advised that there will be no large tree purchases this fall as there still is a lot in stock.

Planning Department: Mrs. Boy announced that the City is in the process of contracting with the firm of LSL Associates out of Indianapolis to rewrite the codes for the new County-wide zoning ordinance.

The Board agreed to start holding workshops in January to begin discussing ideas for a green space ordinance to present to them.

Urban Forest Plan Maintenance: Mr. Seilheimer stated that he did not attend the workshop in Indianapolis due to the flooding situation a couple of weeks ago. He did receive the packet of information and the workshop will be available to be viewed at a later date.

Ms. Ceperich asked how the new inventory equipment is working.

Mr. Seilheimer replied that it is set up. It works well independently; it is just a matter of getting it to work together. There is the issue of administrative rights which should be remedied soon.

Tree City Designation: The application should be received sometime next month for submittal in December.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

None

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

None

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

NEXT MEETING DATE

November 5, 2008

ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. Boy moved to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Ms. Ceperich. The Chair declared the meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

/s/ Kathy Ceperich, Secretary