MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
MICHIGAN CITY TREE BOARD
APRIL 3, 2019

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, April 3, 2019, at 6:00 p.m. local time; the date, hour, and place duly established for the holding of said meeting.

CALL TO ORDER
President Mick Wulff called the meeting to order at approximately 6:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL
Members present: Connie Anderson, Barbara Ginther, William Ginther, Laura Henderson, Laura Kalk, Johnny Stimley, Mick Wulff

Members absent:
None

Staff present:
Planning Department Administrative Assistant Debbie Wilson

Staff absent:
City Forester Adam Garza

APPROVAL OF MINUTES
The chair entertained a motion for approval of the March 6, 2019 minutes.

Motion by Mrs. Ginther – seconded by Ms. Henderson approving the minutes of March 6, 2019 as submitted. Voice vote was as follows: (Ayes) Connie Anderson, Barbara Ginther, William Ginther, Laura Henderson, Laura Kalk, Johnny Stimley, Mick Wulff – 7; (Nays) None – 0. With a vote of 7 ayes and 0 nays, the MOTION CARRIED.

SECRETARY/TREASURER’S REPORT
The chair entertained a motion for approval of the financial report ended 03/31/19.

Motion by Mr. Ginther – seconded by Ms. Kalk approving the financial report ended 03/31/19 as submitted. Voice vote was as follows: (Ayes) Connie Anderson, Barbara Ginther, William Ginther, Laura Henderson, Laura Kalk, Johnny Stimley, Mick Wulff – 7; (Nays) None – 0. With a vote of 7 ayes and 0 nays, the MOTION CARRIED.
CLAIMS
The chair entertained a motion for approval of the claims for April.

Motion by Mrs. Ginther – seconded by Mr. Ginther approving the claims for April as submitted. Voice vote was as follows: (Ayes) Connie Anderson, Barbara Ginther, William Ginther, Laura Henderson, Laura Kalk, Johnny Stimley, Mick Wulff – 7; (Nays) None – 0. With a vote of 7 ayes and 0 nays, the MOTION CARRIED.

COMMUNICATIONS
(No communications)

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Outreach
(Gardening/Landscaping)
Mr. Wulff stated that some plants can be pruned at this time. He cautioned not to prune plants that are budding for spring; those plants can be pruned afterwards. He recommended fertilizing all plants including evergreens at this time. He stated that insects are not an issue at this time.

Ms. Kalk stated that although insects are not an issue at this time, it is a good time to apply systemic preventers because it takes several weeks to get into the system of the plant. This will prevent issues in the future.

Mr. Wulff recommended not pruning any oaks or maples at this time.

Ms. Kalk mentioned that a lot of people have come into the garden center with concerns about broadleaf evergreens being burnt/dry. She said this winter season had a lot of freezing rain and high wind, but not a lot of protective snow. If protective sprays or burlap was not used to protect the plant from the harsh winter elements, the leaves can get very dried out. Ms. Kalk said this does not necessarily mean the plant is dead; they were very stressed. As Mr. Wulff recommended, she also suggested fertilizing the plants to see if they bounce back. She recommended waiting until later in the season when it warms up a little bit more to prune evergreens. If they are pruned now, the new growth pushes out too soon and is susceptible to frost. Ms. Kalk stated that by fertilizing now it strengthens the core of the plant making them less susceptible to fungal and insect issues as well as stress for the rest of the season.

(Arbor Day)
Mr. Wulff mentioned that Arbor Day is coming up at the end of the month. He asked if there were any updates for the upcoming event on May 4th at the Farmer's Market.
Ms. Henderson stated that she has not heard if there are any tables reserved and she
has not heard if Pat Boy would be providing seedlings.

Ms. Kalk stated that Andrea from NIPSCO has indicated there will be seventy-five 3-5-
gallon trees reserved for on-line special ordering and those will be able to be picked up
at the Farmer’s Market on May 4th. Ms. Kalk is hoping there will be three tables
because NIPSCO will be at the event with the Tree Board; the trees would be placed
behind the tables and a separate table will be used for the seedling giveaways.
Regarding the seedlings, Ms. Kalk stated that Andrea from NIPSCO indicated they
would be donating 100 seedlings for the Tree Board’s seedling giveaway (most likely
white pine). Ms. Kalk said she would follow-up with the City’s Event Coordinator
(Abigale Thayer) about reserving the tables.

Mr. Stimley stated that he talked to Pat Boy who indicated that the trees she will be
providing will be split between Michigan City and Chesterton. He said he would follow-
up with Pat and email the Board.

Ms. Kalk announced to the public that the Board is hoping to be at the Farmer’s Market
on May 4th with seedling giveaways and specialty pick-up for anyone who orders trees
on the website for the NIPSCO tree giveaway. The information she received from
Andrea at NIPSCO is that 1-gallon trees can be delivered to your home or the larger 3-
gallon trees can be picked up at the event on May 4th at the Farmer’s Market. To order
trees, the website is http://energysavingtrees.arborday.org/#home. Ms. Kalk stated that
any reserved trees not picked up on that day will be taken to Beachside Gardens for
pick-up one day only on the next day (Sunday). If they are not picked up on Sunday,
the trees will be donated to the City.

Ms. Henderson asked about publicity for the event.

Ms. Kalk said NIPSCO will be providing their own, but the Tree Board will need to work
on a press release.

City Park Trees
(No report)

City Street Trees
Mr. Wulff reported that as far as he knows the City is working toward a window of
getting the Old Grand Beach Road tree project wrapped up.

Grant Application and Maintenance
(No report)
Purchasing and Tree Planting
Mr. Wulff recalled that the City was in the process of working with Mr. Woodruff to get trees for the City.

Planning Department
(Plan Commission, Board of Zoning Appeals, and Redevelopment Commission minutes are provided to the Tree Board via email from the Planning Department to keep Board members informed of upcoming projects)

Mr. Wulff said he read through the minutes but there wasn't anything pertaining to the Tree Board.

Urban Forest Plan Maintenance
(No report)

Tree City Designation Maintenance
Mr. Wulff reported that award letters should be coming out soon, prior to Arbor Day.

Goals
Mrs. Anderson asked when the Board would receive their designated money for projects.

Mr. Stimley replied that the money should be available now since it was appropriated a couple months ago.

Mr. Wulff said a lot of that money was to go toward purchasing materials for the trees donated from Woodruff's.

OLD BUSINESS
(Workman's comp for insurance)
Mr. Wulff reported that he still has not yet heard anything back from the City Attorney. He stated that Ms. Kalk will email the City Attorney for an update. Mr. Wulff stated that the language for the Arborists would be the same as other contractors.

(Application for planting in tree lawn)
Ms. Kalk reported that she received an email back from the City Attorney indicating that the permits required was removed per the forester at the time (Frank Seilheimer) because the permits and permit fees were never collected or enforced, and those planning trees would already be bound by Section 102-36 through 102-38 as to the type of tree planted, spacing, and distance from curb or sidewalk.

Ms. Kalk explained that the committee for this task wants to make sure all the language is the same when they put it into the application for planting in a tree lawn. The permit and permit fees are no longer a valid part of it. She said this information helps them to
move forward with drafting the application, although they want the City Forester to have a final look at it before it is sent onto the Tree Board for approval.

**NEW BUSINESS**
Mr. Wulff referred to a letter sent by City Planner Craig Phillips to the Garber’s regarding fines for tree clearing at the corner of Highway 12 and Martin Luther King Drive. Mr. Wulff said it concerns him that fines totaled $51,000 but the maximum fine allowed is only $25,000. He explained that this was a result of work being done next to a conservatory.

Ms. Kalk noted that payment of the fine is due no later than 8/30/19. She said she talked to Mr. Phillips who indicated that there has been no response as of this date.

In another matter, Mr. Wulff recalled an issue last year on property in Shoreland Hills owned by Mickey Gallas. He said the Board needs to follow up on that matter to see if she planted the trees that the Board required to replace the ones removed. Mr. Wulff said he would inspect the property to see if it was done and report back.

**BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**
(No comments)

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**
Danny Loggins introduced himself stating that he was in attendance just to observe. He also stated that he is the contractor who took the trees down along Old Grand Beach Road and he was wondering what was going on with the project.

Mr. Wulff said as far as he knows the City was going to do the final removal under their insurance and he was going to help supervise the dropping of the trees. Mr. Wulff said he wished Mr. Loggins would have moved along quicker with the project and the City might not be in the situation they are in now.

Mr. Loggins said it is a heavily traveled road and trees just can’t be taken down like that. He said they could not accomplish it the way Mr. Wulff said he could have accomplished it. Mr. Loggins said the weather was also an issue with snow, ice, and wind.

Mr. Wulff said there was some decent weather in between. He said Mr. Loggins was on site a day here and there over a three-month period, but he felt the project should have been completed sooner.

Mr. Loggins apologized for running his business differently than Mr. Wulff does and he said he was sorry that Mr. Wulff felt the effort to talk about it this way. He explained that the City Forester expressed to him that there was no hurry on the job, that it was a winter job which could be done on his time when he could do it. He again pointed out that this is a main thoroughfare with constant traffic. He said he had to get flaggers out
there and when there weren't flaggers the police would come out there because it was an issue. He again apologized for not getting it done faster so the City would not get caught.

Ms. Kalk acknowledged that in the future better communication between the City and the contractors is essential. She believes this was just a communication issue. Ms. Kalk agrees that safety is huge when it comes to tree work, and she agreed that the weather was bad at times. Ms. Kalk said this a good lesson for everyone to learn about communication on the jobs.

Mr. Wulff said he lives in Michiana Shores and is President of the Tree Board, so he feels like “pin the tail on the donkey” out there and he does not like it.

Mr. Loggins said he wanted to take the brush out of it first then eliminate the logs later but got held up.

Ms. Kalk thanked Mr. Loggins for coming to the Board and clarifying the situation. She again stated that communication is a huge thing. Ms. Kalk stated that every year the Board is improving and trying to educate everybody a little bit more because that is what the Board is all about. She said all this can be a learning experience as well.

**NEXT MEETING DATE**
President Wulff announced that the next regular meeting is scheduled for May 1, 2019. He said at that time the Board can finalize everything for Arbor Day on May 4th.

**ADJOURNMENT**
The chair entertained a motion to adjourn.

Motion to adjourn by Ms. Henderson – seconded by Mrs. Anderson and unanimously approved.

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

[Signature]
Barbara Ginther, Secretary