



Regular Meeting of the Michigan City Tree Board
Wednesday September 3, 2025 at 5:30 pm Central Time.
IBEW Building, ALCO
Agenda

1) Call to Order

2) Roll Call

| Member Name | Type | Term start | End | Role |
|---------------------|--|------------|----------|----------------|
| Jennifer Birchfield | Mayor Appointment | 8/19/2024 | 8/01/28 | President |
| Mary Nell Murphy | Mayor Appointment | 1/1/2024 | 12/31/27 | Secretary |
| Denise Blau | Mayor Appointment | 08/01/25 | 8/1/28 | |
| Dennis Brittain | Mayor Appointment | 7/1/2024 | 7/1/2027 | |
| Betsy Elsaesser | Mayor Appointment | 7/1/2024 | 07/01/27 | Vice President |
| Laura Henderson | Council Appointment representing Elston Grove Neighborhood Association | 02/15/25 | 02/16/26 | |
| Harshini Ratnayaka | Mayor Appointment | 7/1/24 | 07/01/27 | |

3) Approval of Agenda

4) Approval of Minutes for August 7, 2025 meeting

5) Comments– Public

6) Secretary Treasurer’s Report and Claims

a) Monthly Reports to be requested:

- General Fund #1101 and Grant Fund #4500: Budget Performance Report
- Donation Fund #2308: Statement of Cash Position

b) Submit receipts for supplies along with minutes noting Tree Board approval by vote.

7) Communications

a) Emails:

b) Facebook: Friends of Michigan City Tree Board

8) Committee Reports

a) Outreach & Engagement

- Grant application to NIRPC/CommuniTree: Tree planting project at MC schools
- Farmers Market: 10/4

b) Arbor Day Foundation activities – nothing to report at this time

9) City Forester's Report

a) Update on IRA grant progress

10) Old Business

a) Mayor's Community Activation Grant: Phil to demo Tree Signage mapping

b) Order seedlings from DNR: decide which species, determine who places order online

c) Boys & Girls Club trees

d) Leslie Shad's tree conservancy proposal

e) Moore Street development (ordinance, fines?)

f) Oktoberfest 8/28-9/1

11) New Business

a) DNR Big Tree tour 9/6 and Tree Stewards workshop 9/11-12 Goshen

b) Per City Hall IT's Steve Tyler > *You'll need to send the agendas and minutes to boardagendas@emichigancity.com and boardminutes@emichigancity.com*

12) Comments—Council Liaisons

13) Comments--Board Members

14) Next Meeting: October 1, 2025 at 5:30 pm, IBEW Building, ALCO

15) Adjournment