



Regular Meeting of the Michigan City Tree Board
Wednesday January 7, 2026 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 December 3, 2025 meeting

5) Comments– Public (3 minute limit)

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:

- IDNR Community & Urban Forestry Program will be hosting a forum for recipients of the Arbor Day Foundations Tree City; 3/11 Terre Haute
- IDNR Rachel Stenger - [2025 Indiana Community and Urban Forestry Symposium Day 2](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fG_L8QERV5c) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fG_L8QERV5c and grants attachment

b) Conflict of Interest Disclosure Form and Board & Commission Form

c) Facebook: Friends of Michigan City Tree Board

8) Committee Reports

a) Outreach & Engagement

9) City Forester's Report

- a) Update on IRA grant progress
- b) Other projects

10) Old Business

a) Mayor's Community Activation Grant: Tree Signage mapping proposal by Jen

b) Updates from the running to-do list

c) Arbor Day Tree City application approved by State Forester 12/15; awaiting Foundation

11) New Business

a) Public Works Director Wendy Vachet: Tree Ordinance progress

b) Election of Board Officers

c) Welcome City Council liaison (if new)

12) Comments—Council Liaisons

13) Comments--Board Members

14) Next Meeting February 4, 2026 at 5:30 pm, IBEW Building, ALCO

15) Adjournment