



Regular Meeting of the Michigan City Tree Board
Wednesday February 4, 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	
Nancy Moldenhauer	Council Liaison			

3) Approval of Agenda

4) Approval of Minutes for January 7, 2026 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: City Clerk asking for meeting dates, status of Dr. Kora
- b) Facebook: Friends of Michigan City Tree Board. Posts on DNR 5th Grade Poster Contest; CommuniTree planting program; MLK Jr quotes on trees; Arbor Day Foundation podcast called “Unearthing Optimism”; online opportunities on tree planting training, pear removal

8) Committee Reports

- a) Outreach & Engagement
 - 1/13 email: CommuniTree spring planting application due 2/16
 - 4/25 Earth Day Extravaganza & tree giveaway
 - 5/02 Farmers Market & tree giveaway

9) City Forester’s Report

- a) Congratulations to Phil Graf for receiving the Meritorious Service Award from the Indiana Arborist Association at their annual meeting in January!
- b) Update on IRA grant progress
- c) City’s online list of Tree Services
- d) Other projects

10) Old Business

- a) 3/11 Terre Haute forum by IN DNR for Arbor Day Foundations Tree City groups
- b) Mayor’s Community Activation Grant: Tree Signage mapping proposal by Jen
- c) Arbor Day Tree City application awaiting National Foundation approval; Mayor’s office sent Arbor Day Proclamation for April 25, 2026.

11) New Business

- a) Clarification of seven-member board; City Clerk confirmed Council Liaison is a voting member

12) Comments—Council Liaisons

13) Comments--Board Members

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

15) Adjournment