



Regular Meeting of the Michigan City Tree Board
Wednesday July 1, 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
Harshini Ratnayaka	Mayor Appointment	7/1/24	07/01/27	
Wendy Willis	Council Appointment representing Eastport Neighborhood Association	02/15/26	02/16/27	
Nancy Moldenhauer	Council Liaison			

3) Approval of Agenda

4) Approval of Minutes for June 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.
 - Mary Nell \$75.94 for Office Max paper and paper clips

7) Communications

a) Emails:

b) Facebook: Friends of Michigan City Tree Board (242 followers)

- 6/03 Water bags at newly-planted trees (link to city's page)
- 6/22 Arbor Foundation heat map link
- 6/22 Forest Service restructuring to close 2 research stations in UP
- 6/26: prevent Oak Wilt, do not prune in Spring, Summer, Fall

8) Committee Reports

a) Outreach & Engagement

- Update on programs

9) City Forester's Report

a) Update on IRA grant progress

b) Other projects

10) Old Business

a) CommuniTree grant for fall planting; volunteers

b) The board is considering the creation of a Fundraising Committee. Jen asked Nancy for advice on how to begin; Betsy volunteered to serve on the new committee.

c) Sustain Our Great Lakes grant opportunity for Callery Pear removal and native replacement; for up to \$200K with a 25% match.

d) Arbor Day Foundation packet located (at Parks Dept): 6/22 Streets Dept updated signs with "26 YEARS" stickers

e) Nancy – tree planting line in city budget? (from March meeting)

11) New Business

a) Conflict of Interest forms

b) Tornadoes in area; concerns about problem trees

12) Comments—Council Liaison

13) Comments--Board Members

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

15) Adjournment