



Regular Meeting of the Michigan City Tree Board
Wednesday October 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	8/19/24	8/01/28	President
Mary Nell Murphy	Mayor Appointment	01/01/24	12/31/27	Secretary
Denise Blau	Mayor Appointment	08/01/25	08/01/28	
Dennis Brittain	Mayor Appointment	07/01/24	07/01/27	
Betsy Elsaesser	Mayor Appointment	07/01/24	07/01/27	Vice President
Harshini Ratnayaka	Mayor Appointment	07/01/24	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 September 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

Emails:

- 9/24 CommuniTree Planting and Maintenance Workshop
- National Wildlife Foundation: Happy Trees for Wildlife

a) Facebook: Friends of Michigan City Tree Board (243 followers)

- 9/04 DNR Arbor Day Poster Contest, deadline 4/2/27
- 9/04 Nat'l Wildlife Federation garden certification
- 9/08 President Jen Birchfield quoted in Post-Tribune: Trees offer benefits but require attention after recent storms: experts
- 9/10 City Forester's report on storm damage
- 9/14 NYT article: Saving Old Trees Might Save Lives
- 9/14 After the storm: Why a toppled tree can still have value
- 9/17 Two spare Oaks from CommuniTree need a home
- 9/29 Two school planting events 10/06 & 07

8) Committee Reports

a) Outreach & Engagement

- CommuniTree grant for fall planting; volunteers
- April 3 LaPorte Masters Gardener event. Betsy's reimbursement for registration fee

9) City Forester's Report

- a) Update on IRA grant progress
- b) Callery Pear *Pyrus calleryana* removal grant
- c) Other projects

10) Old Business

- a) Tree Ordinance progress: Dominique Edwards, the Director of the Planning Department, has agreed to be in attendance at the October 7 Tree Board meeting to discuss the Tree Ordinance
- b) DNR Tree Seedling selection for 2027 tree giveaway
- c) National Wildlife Habitat certification
- d) Tree Board online listing updated 9/03

11) New Business

- a) Annual application for Tree City designation from Arbor Foundation (due 12/31)

12) Comments—Council Liaison

13) Comments--Board Members

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

15) Adjournment