Regular Meeting of the Michigan City Tree Board
Wednesday November 4, 2026 at 5:30 pm Central Time.
IBEW Building, ALCO

Agenda

1) Call to Order

2) Roll Call – needs signatures for October meeting

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 and October meetings

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:

- ?

a) Facebook: Friends of Michigan City Tree Board (246 followers)

- 10/07 Volunteer request for school planting events
- 10/10 DNR Black Walnuts seed purchase opportunity
- 10/12 Walker Street Park Community Garden 6th annual Harvest Festival 10/24
- 10/14: Arbor Foundation online seminar: Money Does Grow on Trees, At Least For Municipalities
- 10/29 Indiana DNR Tree Species Selection Guide

8) Committee Reports
   a) Outreach & Engagement
      - CommuniTree grant for fall planting; volunteers
      - April 3 LaPorte Masters Gardener event. Vote for 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 following update by Dr. Dominique Edwards, the Director of the Planning Department, at the October 7 Tree Board meeting
   b) DNR Tree Seedling selection for 2027 tree giveaway
   c) National Wildlife Habitat certification

11) New Business

12) Comments—Council Liaison

13) Comments--Board Members

14) Next Meeting December 2, 2026 at 5:30 pm, IBEW Building, ALCO

15) Adjournment