

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
TREE PRESERVATION COMMISSION ON
August 19th, 2025**

The regular meeting of the Tree Preservation Commission was called to order at 6:03 pm at the Village of Franklin Park Police Station, community room, located at 9451 W. Belmont Avenue, Franklin Park, IL 60131

Member Michael led the Pledge of Allegiance at 6:03 pm

ROLL CALL:

Tree Preservation Members Joan Ambo, Les Grahn, Ramona Michael

Bee Committee members Mary Ellen Smolen, Monika Suryovich

Also Present Trustee Karen Special; Village Clerk April Arellano; and resident Violet Pamintuan

Absent: SFFPD Andy Smolen

Approval and signing of June 24th, 2025, MINUTES

June 24th, 2025 meeting minutes approved

BUSINESS

1. Mayor Pedersen reappointed board members and approved the addition of Violet Pamintun as a Tree Preservation Commission member. Village Clerk Arellano swore in Pamintuan as a new member of the Tree Board.
2. Village attorney Montana said the Tree Board can function with a 6 member board and a quorum of 4 until additional 2 members are added in.
3. Discussion ensued regarding methods to recruit new members to the Board as well as qualities the Tree Board is looking for.
4. Saturday, November 15th date was tentatively set for the invasive species removal workday. The designated area to be immediately southwest of Masur arboretum. Varak Bosonian from Morton Arboretum, and possibly students from Triton College and East Leyden will volunteer at the event. Once the area is cleared of invasive species, trees may be planted.
5. Tree Board webpage updates: A Buckthorn informational website could not be linked on the Tree Board page since it accepted donations and was substituted with another.
6. Back to school event: The Tree Board obtained and gave away donated booklets, crayons, and stickers to attendees, and seed packets. Violet Pamintuan donated 16 Marigold plants. West Leyden Dean, present at the event, was very receptive to future events with the Tree Board.
7. Trustee Special stated that the Village does not have a plan in place for native parkway planting. The concerns include responsibility if a planted parkway requires utility work and the plantings are dug up since the Village cannot take on the monetary responsibility of replacement. Member Michael discussed proposing a future pilot program for two residential native planting parkways

that would be monitored by the village for 1 year. Guest speakers from other villages with successful native parkway planting programs may be invited to a future Tree Board meeting in order to learn more regarding the process and answer questions and concerns.

8. Member Ambo created the library presentation flyer, pending speaker subject matter details will be added in.
9. A Bee Board Presentation will be held in the spring regarding native plants. Members Suryovich and Ambo will create a 30 minute presentation. Xerces will be contacted requesting a speaker to present for an additional 30 minutes. The date is tentatively set for the end of April, 2026.
10. The Tree Board voted to have a Brown Bag winter sowing presentation event on September 21st. Location will be at the Franklin Park Arboretum, 9229 W Grand Ave. Member Ambo will create the flyer, and event details will be shared via social media. Village Clerk Arellano will have it added to the village newsletter.
11. Member Ambo shared with the Board regarding multiple police visits to her home because of a neighbor's complaint regarding her Illinois Native garden plantings in her backyard. She was told she might receive a Citation. It necessitated explaining the value of her Illinois Native garden benefits, and explaining that Illinois law protects native gardens. The Homeowners' Native Landscaping Act (765 ILCS 167/), which became law in Illinois on July 19, 2024 provides robust legal backing for residents planting native species. In addition, as a Bee City USA affiliate, Franklin Park made a commitment to promote native planting, educate residents, and avoid penalizing ecologically beneficial landscapes.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned at At 7:26 pm by Member Michael, seconded by Ambo

Roll Call:

Joan Ambo

Les Grahm

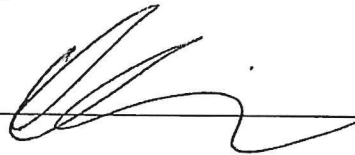
Ramona Michael

Mary Ellen Smolen

Monika Suryovich

Approval

Signature: _____



Date: _____

9/18/25