

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE
TREE PRESERVATION COMMISSION ON
JUNE 24th, 2025**

A SPECIAL meeting of the Tree Preservation Commission was called to order at 6:01pm on June 24th, 2025 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 6:00 pm

ROLL CALL

Tree Preservation Members Les Grahn, Ramona Michael, Joan Ambo, Sylvia Noth, Kayla Fahey
Bee Committee members Mary Ellen Smolen, Katarina Modrich (via phone)

Absent: Katarina Modrich, Monika Suryovich

Also Present Andy Smolen Sustainability, Forestry, Parkways and Facilities Director (SFPFD); Trustee Karen Special

APPROVAL AND SIGNING OF APRIL 15th, 2025, MINUTES

April 15th, 2025, minutes approved

BUSINESS

1. The Tree and Bee board library presentation on May 8th had 3 attendees.
Going forward, our presentations at the library may have greater attendance during weekends.
2. The Grand Avenue corridor walk on May 17th went well. The event had Tree and Bee board member representation. Member Suryovich tabled regarding bees. 15 people attended the walk, and multiple businesses provided refreshment. Village Clerk Arellano was pleased with the results of the walk.
3. FPPL Summer Reading Kickoff- Member Michael reported the summer reading kickoff at the library to which the Tree/Bee board was invited and attended had a large turnout. Tree and Bee board gave away many potted plants. This was a huge draw and great conversation starter regarding trees and pollinators, and tree sign-up.
The large attendance success was due to the library's planning for an inflatable bouncy house and slides, face painting, and free ice cream truck. Member Michael inquired if the Tree Board can have inflatable house future event. Trustee Special said a 'rider' may be needed, and would look into requirements. Member Michael suggested collaborating with the library next year during Arbour Day and Grand Avenue corridor walk in order to have a greater turn out, perhaps with the walk terminating at the library. A collaboration would have greater community attendance.

4. Trustee Special said giving away free plants at Railroad Days event was a huge draw, promoting goodwill and emphasized trees and plants for pollinators. Members Michael and Ambo donated over a hundred potted plants. Resident Violet donated 50 plants. There was great interest in Trees and Pollinator friendly plants, Tree informational pamphlets and plant lists.
5. Four Speakers are confirmed for the Fall Seminar presentation:
 - Nabeel Rasheed from Wings and Talons, a non-profit organization. The Tree Board received confirmation and approval from the Police Department to have Raptors as part of their presentation.
 - Brandi Dunn (2024 past presenter) Xerces Society ambassador regarding pollinators and plants.
 - Ben Nagy from Chicago Chapter's Healthy Forests team will present regarding urban forests
 - Dr. Jeremie Fant, Director of Conservation at Negaunee Institute of the Chicago Botanic Garden, regarding Growing Native plants.
6. A reminder was shared with Tree/Bee Board members to complete the internal survey, if they had not yet done so.
7. SFFPD Smolen commended the Tree and Bee Board for their efforts. A resident at 2445 Silver Creek requested 2 red Maple trees to be planted. Residents at 2422 Silver Creek and 2443 Calwagner requested trees to be planted. A resident on McNerney requested a red point maple. Member/Intern Modrich and SFFPD Smolen surveyed and reported that 18 trees planted last year had died, to be replaced in the Fall.

A total of 43 trees have been requested, and SFFPD would like 100 planted in the Fall. Of the 19 trees planted on Addison by East Leyden 8 have died and will be replanted using IRA grant funds. SFFPD Smolen is hoping to get 120 trees. Member Michael and SFFPD Smolen surveyed George street to Grand Avenue for Fall tree planting. Member Modrich created a form to go door to door and see if there is interest in having a tree planted. The trees planted by the library are thriving.
8. Franklin Park library requested a Tree/Bee board presentation either in October or November. Scheduling the Library presentation in November is best. If a High School presentation is scheduled, then the Tree and Bee board would have events in September (High School), October (Seminar) and November (Library). Member Michael will request a presenter from MWRD for the library presentation.

TRUSTEE REPORT

The addition to our events of giving plants away is a great draw. The door hangers are a great idea. Giving residents information helps spread the word and connects on a personal level. Member Michael suggested discussing getting a budget next year for the Tree and Bee board expenses.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

SFPFD Smolen: 83 trees were planted in the fall and another 63 will be planted through the IRA grant. He requested 44 more trees for the Village for people who have requested trees.

The Metropolitan Mayors forum reached out to the Tree board and held a zoom meeting with SFPFD Smolen and member Michael regarding Bee City USA and our experience. SFPFD Smolen attended an event at Morton Arboretum and the Tree/Bee Board team effort was remarked upon. CRTI is giving 90 trees SFPFD will be working with River Grove to get them planted. Raised bed boxes are all assigned. There are residents on the waiting list, and 4 more boxes may be added over the winter. The ComEd grant location has been potentially moved to Robinson Road.

OTHER BUSINESS

1. A motion to approve the Library presentation in November by Smolen, seconded by member Noth. Motion was approved
2. Fall seminar: Wings and Talons require \$150.00 donation. Funds are also needed for refreshments and for flyers. Resident Violet offered to prepare a charcuterie Board for the seminar. There is a line item in the Village budget for entertainment, and SFPFD Smolen will request funds from the village education budget for the seminar.
Trustee Special requested a copy of the flyer created by member Ambo, and a list of all upcoming events. These will be forwarded to Trustee Special.
3. Member Michael suggested designating Monarch Waystations in the village. This will be researched and discussed at a later date.
4. Pollinator gardens will be planted on Washington to Robinson Roads.
Member Michael suggested proposing to the Village Trustees the creation of a pilot program designating two (interested and willing) resident homes to have boulevard (hell strips) perennial/pollinator friendly planting in front of their home, and monitored by the Village for a year.
5. Member Michael proposed adding an additional 9th member to the Tree board and proposed resident Violet Pamintuan. Motion by Grahm seconded by all board members.
Trustee Special advised that the Mayor and village attorney must be notified of an available seat on the board, and the recommendation to be proposed by SFPFD Smolen. Potential members on the board undergo a vetting process.
6. Member Michael reported the Fall invasive tree removal date has not been confirmed as yet by Varak Bosonian, and that she would email again.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned at At 7:30pm

Approval

Signature:



Date:

8/19/25

