

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
TREE PRESERVATION COMMISSION ON
APRIL 15th, 2025**

The regular meeting of the Tree Preservation Commission was called to order at 6:00 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 6:00 pm

ROLL CALL

Tree Preservation Members Les Grahn, Ramona Michael, Joan Ambo, Sylvia Noth, Kayla Fahey

Bee Committee members Mary Ellen Smolen, Monika Suryovich

Absent: Katarina Modrich

Also Present Andy Smolen Sustainability, Forestry, Parkways and Facilities Director (SFPFD); Trustee Karen Special; Village Clerk April Arellano; and resident Violet

APPROVAL AND SIGNING OF THE JANUARY 21st AND FEBRUARY 18th, 2025, MINUTES

January 21st and February 18th meeting minutes approved

BUSINESS

1. Planting donated trees from CRTI: Trustee Special stated that any utilization of Village manpower and equipment for planting requires prior approval from the Village Board.
2. We have yet to receive a response from East Leyden regarding academic extra credit for students attending the annual seminar. A follow-up with the high school is recommended. If no reply is received, the matter will be set aside for the time being. Member Michael addressed the Tree Board and Village offering a Scholarship to a resident High School student(s) pursuing Arborist studies, stating that this is not moving forward at this time.
3. ComEd 2025 Grant application will not be pursued since it lacks approval from the Village.
4. Library Presentation: the required non-discrimination form was signed and forwarded to the Master Naturalist program at the UIUC Extension for the May 8th library presentation.
5. Upcoming Earth Day event: SFPFD Smolen will request two tables for the Board. Member Suryovich will represent the village as the village beekeeper.
6. Grand Ave Corridor Walk: Member Michael will meet with Village Clerk Arellano to discuss the event. Village Clerk Arellano will request funding from the village board for a light luncheon or refreshments approval for the event. The walk is set to begin at the Plaza, and the route to be discussed. SFPFD Smolen will plant two trees at the Mazur Arboretum to commemorate the event.
7. Member Michael related Varak Bosonian said CRTI would assist with invasive tree removal in the Village by helping organize a workday in late summer or fall.
8. SFPFD Smolen shared a picture of an Ornamental Cherry tree he planted 13 years ago near the train station that is in bloom. SFPFD Smolen is considering having a link on the webpage for residents to submit information regarding their favorite tree. Members Grahn, Modrich, and SFPFD Smolen painted all the boxes at the FP Beehives. Member Suryovich reported that the bee hives were relocated from the extremely hot south facing side of the building to an east facing location in order to provide shade. Member Suryovich said it would help the colony's survival if

beneficial pollinator friendly plants were planted near the hives. VOFP resident Violet volunteered to donate plants.

9. IRA Grant: SFPFD Smolen related that there will be a remaining balance of \$20,000 to plant trees in the village. A flyer will be printed with information notifying neighbors regarding the opportunity to have a tree planted. Volunteer members and SFPFD Smolen will identify and target blocks in neighborhoods lacking sufficient tree coverage, hand flyers and ask residents' approval to plant trees in their parkways. Member Grahm recommended documenting areas visited and where flyers are handed out. SFPFD Smolen relayed that an order for 62 trees was recently placed with the grant money. SFPFD Smolen thanked the Village Board and the Tree and Bee teams for their efforts, saying that a total of 2000 trees have been planted.
10. A motion was made and approved to conduct an internal survey for the Tree Commission, providing members with an opportunity to share recommendations and suggestions. A motion was made and approved to submit to the Village Board a survey/questionnaire seeking feedback, suggestions and recommendations to the Tree Board.
11. Member Michael suggested having a school presentation in September before the October Seminar presentations.

OTHER BUSINESS

Upcoming:

Earth day is at North Park on April 26th from 12 pm to 2:00 pm

Library Presentation is on May 8th from 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm

Arbor Day is being held on May 17th in conjunction with Village Clerk Arellano's Walk through the village, terminating at Mazur Arboretum

ADJOURNMENT

At 7:08 pm a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Member Michael

Approval

Signature:



Date:

6/26/25

