

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
TREE PRESERVATION COMMISSION ON
FEBRUARY 17th, 2026**

The regular meeting of the Tree Preservation Commission was called to order at 6:00pm 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 6:01 pm

ROLL CALL:

Tree Preservation Members: Joan Ambo, Les Grahn, Ramona Michael

Bee Committee members: Violet Pamintuan

Absent: Mary Ellen Smolen, Monika Surovych

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

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF JANUARY 20th, 2026

Approval and signing of January 20th, 2026 meeting minutes

Motion by Ambo, 2nd by Grahn

Motion carried

BUSINESS

1. Seed Swap Saturday, February 14, 2026: Appreciation is extended to members Pamintuan and ME Smolen for their assistance, and to Pamintuan for providing a hands-on Winter Sowing demonstration and giveaways. Member Grahn shared information about trees and secured a resident sign-up for a tree. Trustee Special emphasized the need for expanded and more consistent event advertising, recommending designating a point person responsible for outreach and coordinated messaging, including social-media communication, to strengthen visibility both within Franklin Park and in surrounding communities.
2. An Openlands Treekeepers planting project is scheduled for May 9th from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM. This project is through a grant acquired by member Michael. A virtual Zoom meeting between Leslie Leon-Aguilar Openlands Forestry Coordinator, SFPFD Smolen, Michael, and the Ecology Club sponsors outlined the neighborhood canvassing process and tree-planting that will be completed by high school students with Openlands guidance. Openlands will supply 1.5-inch caliper trees, approximately 5 to 6 feet tall, provide initial structural pruning, and mulch the trees for three years. Openlands requires a minimum of 10 confirmed planting locations. Member Michael and SFPFD Smolen inspected an area west of East Leyden and confirmed the need for tree plantings.
3. Samantha Chavez, Director of Restoration with Openlands, contacted member Michael stating that Openlands has 50 volunteers and would like to partner with the Tree Board to remove remaining buckthorn. A small area of buckthorn remains, the larger stands are located on private railroad land. To accommodate a large volunteer group—and in coordination with the CRTI/Morton Arboretum free tree giveaways—several potential planting locations were identified and the work day scheduled to accommodate Openlands. A site near Wolf and Addison was discussed as a possible option. SFPFD noted that the FAA imposes a 25' height restriction for

trees in certain areas near O'Hare. Planting sites will be pre-augered. Tree planting is scheduled for April 25th, from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

1. SFPFD Smolen reported that member Michael surveyed planting locations extending to Ivanhoe and south of Fullerton in Leyden Township. Pearl Street near North School has been canvassed, with seven potential planting sites identified. Dr. Hausman, Principal of North School, met with SFPFD and member Michael and agreed to planting up to fifteen trees on school property and parkway. Additional opportunities for planting were noted near Addison and Wolf. Village Crews are currently planting trees. SFPFD will proceed with the Bee City USA renewal. Congratulations were extended to member Grahn for securing a tree request at Nevada. One resident reported concern about two healthy trees that were removed. Approximately \$22,000 remains in the grant, and Modrich may return to work for the Village.

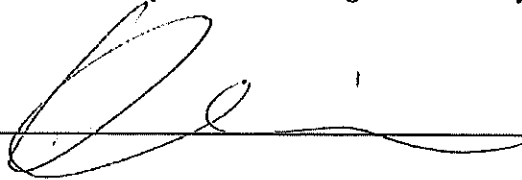
OTHER BUSINESS

1. Member Michael discussed securing a speaker to address municipal mosquito spraying in neighboring municipalities. Xerces stated that no ambassadors are available to travel for the October 17th seminar date, but earlier dates and online zoom presentations are possible. A potential virtual presentation will require confirmation from Village IT.

ADJOURNMENT

At 6:30 pm a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by member Grahn seconded by member Pamintuan

Approval
Signature: _____



Date: 3/17/2026