

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
TREE PRESERVATION COMMISSION ON
September 16, 2025**

The regular meeting of the Tree Preservation Commission was called to order at 6:02 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 6:02 pm

ROLL CALL:

Tree Preservation Members Joan Ambo, Les Grahn, Violet Pamintuan, Ramona Michael

Bee Committee members Mary Ellen Smolen

Absent Monika Suryovich

Also pAbsent: Trustee Special

Approval and signing of August 19th, 2025, MINUTES

Meeting minutes approved

BUSINESS

1. Seminar update: SFFPD Smolen will request a presenter's \$150 honorarium for Wings and Talons. A QR code will be added for the presentation, as well as a schedule flyer that will be shared via social media and emails.
2. Saturday, November 22, 1-2:30 pm Library Presentation: A flyer has been created and will be sent to members for social media sharing. The event is listed on the library calendar of events.
3. Brown Bag Series September 21st, 12PM: the first Brown Bag winter seed sowing series will be held. Meeting set at 11:00 am at the Arboretum on Grand Avenue.
4. Invasive species removal: Varak Bosonian from Morton Arboretum emailed they are unable to assist at the November 15th workshop due to scheduling. Discussion ensued regarding other organizations that may be able to assist. Buckthorn will have to be burned onsite. The Village and Franklin Park Fire Department will be contacted to see if this is possible and allowed. Cook County Forest Preserves will only accept CCFP debris.
5. The Bee committee is planning a spring presentation at the Franklin Park Public Library, tentative dates set for May 2nd or May 16th, 2026. Bee Board members will present.
6. Seed Swap : A reminder the Seed Swap will be in February 2026, and to save seeds.
7. The Tree Board for over a year has looked at neighboring villages' examples regarding Parkway plantings and ordinances in order to adopt native pollinator friendly parkway plantings at VOFP. A current VOFP complaint regarding the rain gardens/bioswales on Pacific is that sidewalks are overgrown or look messy. This needs to be addressed by putting up explanatory signs or planting smaller varieties of milkweed. SFFPD Smolen suggested planting 18" away from streets to lessen any overgrown look at future parkway plantings in VOFP.

SFPFD Smolen recommends homeowners maintain parkway planting regardless of work to be done by gas, electric companies or Village. The Tree Board will look into regulations further and make recommendations. The Village of Oak Park recommends their homeowners plant perennials that are moved easily if work is needed at their parkways. The Tree Board may have an Oak Park representative attend a future meeting to share their parkway plantings and ordinances experience.

Nelson Steel will be installing rain gardens similar to those on Pacific on an empty lot that was used for parking.

8. Member Ambo will email Village to add upcoming event flyers to the VOFP facebook, as well as a flyer to recruit a new VOFP member to Tree Board.
9. The Tree Preservation Commission has been assigned an email address, TreeCommision@vofp.com. Email address will have a password held by a Tree Board Chair and Co-Chair.
10. There was no response to the Tree Board's evaluation survey sent to Village Trustees. Survey results are inconclusive.

Directors Report: SFPFD Smolen reported the village Bee hives are thriving and active, but need feeding of sugar water every 5 days. The hives are adjacent to a northeast wall. There is further need to protect them with Arborvitae tree plantings. Member Grahm and SFPFD Smolen consider erecting a protective barrier, and installing pavers underneath the hives for winter protection.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned at At At 7:24 pm by member Michael, seconded by members Ambo and Smolen

Roll Call:

Joan Ambo

Les Grahm

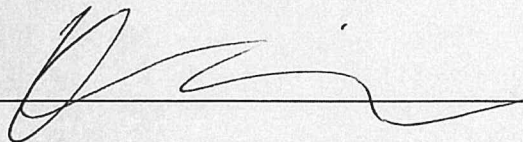
Ramona Michael

Violet Pamintuan

Mary Ellen Smolen

Approval

Signature:



Date:

10/22/25