

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
TREE PRESERVATION COMMISSION ON
JANUARY 20th, 2026**

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

ROLL CALL

Tree Preservation Members:

Joan Ambo, Les Grahn, Ramona Michael

Bee Committee members:

Mary Ellen Smolen, Violet Pamintuan

Absent: Monika Suryovich,

Also Present:

Trustee Karen Special

SFFPD Andy Smolen

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 18th, 2025

A motion was made by Member Pamintuan to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Member Grahn. All in favor. Minutes approved.

PRESIDENT REPORT (Co)

1. The Morton Arboretum tree distribution is underway, and an email has been sent to SFFPD Smolen and Member Michael from Varak Bosnoian (CRTI Stewardship Coordinator) regarding preferred tree species selections.
2. The awarded CRTI planting tool kit will be picked up and stored in the shed near the bee hives. Future potential use of the planting tool kit could be involving the High School Ecology Club or Girl Scouts in planting activities. The kit is comprised of 10 shovels, 5 hard rakes, 2 pickaxes, 10 pruners, 10 utility knives, 10 loppers, 5 soil knives, 10 tarps, 10 buckets, 2 soil probes, 23 pairs of gloves, 1 container for tools, along with supportive educational materials.
3. The Bee City USA renewal deadline has been extended to May 31st.
4. The Seed swap will take place on February 14th at the Franklin Park Community Center from 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Member Pamintuan will conduct a winter seed-sowing demonstration during the event.
5. An update was provided on the Bee Board spring presentation. The presentation rough draft will be emailed to Members Ambo and Michael.

6. Member Ambo delivered a PowerPoint presentation to the Village Board on December 1st, 2025, regarding the VOFP Buckthorn removal event held on November 15th, 2025, highlighting volunteer efforts, what buckthorn is, and emphasizing its invasive nature and the work done to remove it. Plans are underway for a future buckthorn removal event, tentatively scheduled for late March or sometime in April.
7. For future consideration: Member Michael noted that the railroad owned property behind the fencing running through the village is heavily infested with buckthorn. Trustee Special stated that according to Commissioner Weber the railroad is only willing to spray the buckthorn. Members Ambo and Michael noted that general spraying without cutting the trees prior to treating the stumps to allow herbicide absorption is ineffective for eradication. It was noted that the railroad has historically been difficult to work with. Securing action will require significant future effort.
8. Prior Tree Board member Katarina Modrich was welcomed back. A motion was made to reinstate Modrich to the Tree Board. The Tree and Bee Board voted in favor, with no opposition. Modrich's voting privileges resume at the February 17th Tree Board meeting.
9. Member Michael presented a detailed Tree Board budget proposal outlining funding needs. Trustee Special stated that the items should be discussed by the Tree Board prior to voting. Member Michael provided explanations for each item and the associated funding amounts. A motion to accept the budget was made and accepted. The budget proposal will be reviewed by Village Trustees for a final vote.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

SFFPD explained to visiting resident Nancy Spillo that member Suryovich serves as the Village's beekeeper. He noted that the Village's Christmas tree for Leyden Township was decorated with a 'Bee Kin' theme, featuring the Bee City USA sign, with every department contributing bee-themed decorations.

He also noted that the November 2025 buckthorn removal event in Franklin Park was the only one of its kind conducted within municipality border limits. SFFPD Smolen shared the 2025 tree planting numbers with Trustee Special for presentation at the Village Board meeting following the Tree Board meeting.

TRUSTEE REPORT

Trustee Special expressed appreciation for the Tree Board's continued efforts.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Resident Nancy Spillo thanked the Board for the information.

ADJOURNMENT

At 6:46 pm a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Member ME Smolen, seconded by Member Ambo.

The meeting adjourned at 6:46 p.m.

APPROVAL SIGNATURE: _____

TreeCommision@vofp.com

Date: 2/19/26

