

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

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 6:01 pm

ROLL CALL:

Tree Preservation Members: Les Grahn, Ramona Michael,

Absent: Joan Ambo

Bee Committee members: Violet Pamintuan, Mary Ellen Smolen

Absent: Monika Surovych

Also Present: Trustee Karen Special

Absent: SFFPD Andy Smolen

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 17th, 2026

February 17th, 2026 minutes approved.

1st Pamintuan

2nd Grahn

BUSINESS

1. Leslie Leon-Aguilar, along with Todd Veltman and Emma Holli-Murphy, are scheduled to meet with Ecology Club students this Thursday for a one-hour canvassing session tutorial. This canvassing outreach will determine how many residents within a 1½-mile radius west of East Leyden are interested in receiving a tree. The final count is expected within one to two weeks.
The tree-planting event is scheduled for Saturday, May 9th, from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM, and everyone is welcome to participate in the planting.
Although not required by Openlands, it would be beneficial to create a flyer to bring awareness to residents of the collaboration between the Tree Board and the East and West Leyden Ecology Clubs and Openlands. All planted trees will be entered into the CRTI and Morton Arboretum database.
2. The Openlands volunteer tree-planting project, led by Samantha Chavez and Lupe Escarcega will take place on Saturday, April 25th, from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM. Up to 50 volunteers are expected to participate, and 70–85 trees will be planted in the Wolf/Addison area.
SFFPD Smolen will contact JULIE, and all planting sites will be pre-augered. An on-site Tree planting demonstration will be provided to show volunteers the proper method for planting a tree, after which volunteers will work in small groups. SFFPD will request funding for refreshments. A canopy and chairs will be set up at the Wolf/Addison location. A nearby address will be provided to volunteers as the designated meeting and parking point. Flyers will be printed and distributed to local businesses to inform the community.

All requested tree species comply with allowable/acceptable requirements due to proximity to O'Hare.

Tree Species:

- Speckled alder - 10
- River Birch - 7
- Northern Catalpa - 7
- Eastern redbud - 5 *Reduced*
- coffeetree - 4
- Ironwood - 6
- yellowwood - 3 *May need staking*
- London Planetree - 11
- Kindred Spirit oak - 8
- Princeton Elm - 8
- New Horizon Elm - 1

3. The library presentation has been rescheduled to May 16th at 10:00 AM.
Flyers will be posted

4. Village Clerk Arellano translated the West of Mannheim Residential Area (WMRA) paragraph into Spanish for inclusion in the signboard graphic design.

All information intended for the signboard was shared with Carl Hament during the meeting on Monday, March 9th, and received full approval. Member Pamintuan suggested installing explanatory or descriptive signage throughout the Village—particularly in downtown Franklin Park—to identify plantings and help spark interest among residents.

5. Member Michael discussed social-media outreach and the possible appointment of a designated point person from the Tree Board. This was proposed by Trustee Special at a previous meeting. The topic will be revisited and discussed further at a future meeting.

6. Carl Hament (Morton Arboretum/CRTI) confirmed any trees planted with Openlands in our upcoming projects may be added to the Franklin Park Tree canopy inventory from Morton/CRTI. Varak Bosonian (Morton Arboretum/CRTI) stated that the trees donated to the village may be planted on residents' private property and not just parkways. Bosonian stated that the 'model' of their grant for free tree giveaways to communities allows for planting on private property.

ADJOURNMENT

At 6:30 pm a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Member Grahn, seconded by Member Michael.

Motion to Adjourn Roll Call:

Les Grahn, Ramona Michael, Violet Pamintuan, Mary Ellen Smolen

Approval
Signature: _____

Date: _____

4/21/26

TreeCommision@vofp.com