

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
TREE PRESERVATION COMMISSION ON
JANUARY 21st, 2025**

The regular meeting of the Tree Preservation Commission was called to order at 6:02 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 6:00 pm

ROLL CALL

Tree Preservation Members Les Grahm, Ramona Michael, Joan Ambo

Absent: Kayla Fahey; Sylvia Noth

Bee Committee members Mary Ellen Smolen, Katarina Modrich

Absent: Monika Suryovich

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

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF DECEMBER 17th, 2025

No Quorum was present.

BUSINESS

1. Member Michael spoke to Viviana Martinez at East Leyden High School, followed by an email regarding extra credit for High School students attending Tree Commission seminars and participating in events. Reply forthcoming.
2. The library presentation will be May 8th at 6:00 pm. to 7:00 pm. Member Ambo requested a Master Naturalist speaker for the event to give a 20-minute presentation on behalf of the Bee committee. SFPFD Smolen, Arborist, will give a 20-minute presentation.
3. There are grants the Bee Board can present to schools/teachers that are specific to small native garden projects and education
Stanley Smith Horticulture Grant: member Ambo noted it is directed at non-profits therefore we do not qualify
4. ComEd 2025 Grant Planting site location possibilities: Mannheim North of the Auto Zone. The village owns this property, but there are high tension wires on this site. Member Smolen suggested that if we cannot plant trees, maybe we can plant native grasses to cover the parkways. Native plants will be less than 3 feet tall.
There is an "L" shaped property on Mannheim & Houston that is a candidate for trees, but an outside source has expressed an interest in purchasing this to build apartments. King Street location is an option if the "L" shaped property is sold. Member Ambo noted that locations do not have to be full sun; there are native plants suited for part sun/shade areas.

The village owns the retention ponds. These are suitable for planting native plants in fulfillment of Bee City USA requirements. Other locations discussed: Wolf, Addison and Copenhagen streets. The FAA does not allow tree plantings due to bird strike danger (collision between an aircraft and a bird). Member Smolen proposed planting native Grasses there. Member Michael suggested Mazur Arboretum on Grand Ave enhancement: native plantings and pathways. This complements SFPFD Smolen's ideas previously to have pathways and benches installed.

5. Bee City USA upcoming recertification in January, 2025 reporting date in February. SFPFD Smolen has access to forms. Photos will be submitted with recertification documents.
6. Discussion to add 2 more members to the Tree Commission to bring the number to 10 with a quorum of 6. Tree Board will request for two more members on the village webpage and our committee webpage as well. The online request for two more members will have a close-out date.
7. Earth day is at North Park on April 26th from 12 pm – 2:00 pm
Arbor Day is May 17th – time TBD; this will be in conjunction with April's Walk through the village with an end point of Mazur Arboretum
Seed Swap is on February 8th from 11-12:30pm. Members will arrive at 10:30 am to set-up

OTHER BUSINESS

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

Arbor Day is May 17th – time TBD; In conjunction with VOFP Clerk Arellano Grand Walk Through with an endpoint at Mazur Arboretum

Seed Swap is on February 8th from 11-12:30pm. Members will arrive at 10:30 am to set-up

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

ADJOURNMENT

At 6:33 pm a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Member Ambo seconded by Member Smolen

Approval

Signature: _____



Date: _____

4/16/25