

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
TREE PRESERVATION COMMISSION ON
FEBRUARY 18th, 2025**

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 6:00 pm

ROLL CALL

Tree Preservation Members:

Les Grahm

Ramona Michael

Joan Ambo

Sylvia Noth

Absent: Kayla Fahey

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

APPROVAL AND SIGNING OF JANUARY 21, 2025, MINUTES

At a later Date

BUSINESS

1. The original site for the ComEd grant was not approved. The property is for future use by the Village. Trustee Special mentioned that the site proposal was not officially brought before the Village Board by the Tree Commission for approval and there is no mention of the Tree Preservation Committee/Bee Board voting on the original proposed site by the old Police Station in past meeting minutes.
A new location by the community gardens for the ComEd grant was suggested.
Member Michael proposed that the Tree Preservation Committee/Bee Board apply for the 2025 ComEd grant for the retention pond area South of the Salvation Army/Vacant Store/Big Lots location.
2. The seed swap in February was a success, with a larger turnout compared to last year. The event generated a lot of enthusiasm, and the overall feedback has been positive.
3. Member Michael mentioned that the dates for the Village of Franklin Park's re-certification as a Bee City USA town is not until 2026.
4. Member Michael proposed setting up a Tree Commission Scholarship for High School seniors who are interested in arboriculture, and that applicants should be Village of Franklin Park residents.
5. Member Michael proposed a \$200 award for a 2 page essay report asking High School students what they would like to see the Tree Preservation Committee/Bee Board accomplish in the future.

6. SFPFD Smolen stated that CRTI will donate trees to the Village. The Tree Board will need approval from the Village to use its equipment, as this requires manpower for the initial digging. Mulching and planting will be carried out by volunteers. SFPFD noted that a planting event typically takes about one day to complete.
7. Additionally, SFPFD aims to see the Village of Franklin Park designated as a Bird City USA, which would require selecting the appropriate plants and trees to support local bird populations. Smolen also expressed interest in establishing certified gardens in the Village and suggested that a current resident's garden would be an excellent candidate for Franklin Park's first certified garden.

OTHER BUSINESS

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

Library Presentation is on May 8th from 6:00 pm - 7:00 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.

Updates to the Village website Completed and look good

PUBLIC COMMENT

Resident Violet suggested having more native seeds at the Seed Swap event. She is an avid gardener interested in planting the narrow space (hellstrip) between sidewalk and street with native plants. Trustee Special commented that a permit is required since it is Village property.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Approval

Signature: _____

Date: _____

4/16/25