

**TREE PRESERVATION COMMISSION MINUTES  
VILLAGE OF FRANKLIN PARK, COOK COUNTY**

**May 21, 2024**

The regular meeting of the Tree Preservations was called to order at 6:01 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

**PRESENT** Tree Preservation Members Joan Ambo, Les Grahn, Ramona Michael and Sylvia Noth

Bee City Committee Members, Mary Smolen, Katarina Modrich

Absent: Monika Surovych

Also Present: Sustainability, Forestry, Parkways and Facilities Director (SFPFD)

Andrew Smolen and Trustee Karen Special:

**APPROVAL AND SIGNING OF APRIL 16<sup>th</sup> 2024 MINUTES**

Motion by Member Ambo; seconded by member Noth to approve April 2024 regular schedule meeting minutes

**BUSINESS**

- a. SFPFD Smolen announced that the Village of Franklin Park has been awarded the Urban and Community Forestry Grant for Government Entities a no-match \$109,770.00 grant. SFPFD Smolen discussed contacting the Illinois Arborists' Association and using some of the grant for classes to train Park District arborists and employees who will for our Villages' trees. The award is to be handed out on June 10th, and asked for two members to go with him: Member Michael and Ambo volunteered.
- b. Trustee Special said that in the future the Village will support and publicize the Pollinator Day event to bring wider and greater awareness to this event.
- c. It was discussed that we need to educate the public more on pollinators and come up with a new name for the event, also invite the local schools choirs to perform, include coloring contests and contact the PTA. Also discussed was changing the date and holding a baking contest where the contestants use honey as the main ingredient. Two new event names were suggested: "Birds, Bees and Trees" and "Bee Informed".
- d. The MWRD has Franklin Park on the front cover and on two pages in their calendar highlighting the rain garden on Pacific Ave.
- e. Earth Day with the Park District went well. Seed packets were distributed, and residents signed up requesting trees.
- f. Member Ambo related the need for artwork for the Villages' Bee City USA Sign and Bee Board Mission Statement for the web page to finalize Bee Page. SFPFD Smolen will provide the artwork link, and Michael will forward the mission statement.
- h. Community Hall has been confirmed the space for our seminar on October 12<sup>th</sup>, 2024. Member Michael mentioned we can get renowned expert Kelsey Shaw, owner of Possibility Place. He has a speaking engagement fee of \$150.00. It was mentioned that we might see if the Village can approve this fee. The Village Engineer was brought up to ask him to give a presentation on our rain garden. Xerces was also mentioned to give a talk about Franklin Park being a Tree city. Other possible speakers include the Tree Keepers

or the Wild Ones. We could set-up education tables, ask Triton College and Leyden High School to see if they have clubs to participate. It was also mentioned looking into a Zoom link, or recording the event.

Trustee Special said that Dawn and Diane, who write for the village website, might be able to do a brochure for the event, and include a paragraph regarding Kelsay Shaw Biography and other speakers. Having attendees pre-register will help planning for refreshments. The proposed time is 1:00 pm until 4:00 pm. It was mentioned to reach out to teachers now before school is over.

i. Ambo made a motion to vote on the proposed Tree Preservation Rules.

Ambo made the motion and 2 nd was Grahm

j. Reminder: July 15<sup>th</sup> at 4pm 'Bee' presentation childrens' event at the FP Public Library

k. RailRoad Days – Volunteer Kayla will assist with setting up a table and we need to talk to Lisa Anthony to see how much room we have. Set-up is at 9:00 am. SFPFD Smolen will be there and members are encouraged to filter in and out between 11 and 3 to help with the attendees.

l. Member Michael contacted Joe Montana regarding the possibility of future fundraising. Member Michael brought up past meeting discussion regarding protecting Mature Trees on private property. At this time the village is not ready to adopt this. However, in a few years time with greater community awareness and knowledge regarding tree importance, it may be possible.

**Other business**

A member of the community was present at the meeting, Kayla Fahey. Fahey contacted SFPFD Smolen after seeing the Tree Board village website and is interested in becoming a Tree Board member. Member Michael will forward her information to the Village for approval process.

**Public comment**

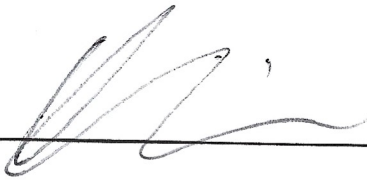
Kayla Fahey, new resident in Franklin Park, introduced herself to the Board and shared her resume. She will be volunteering during Railroad Days alongside Tree Board members.

**Adjournment**

7:30 P.M

**Approval**

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_



**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

6/18/2024