

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
TREE PRESERVATION COMMISSION ON  
OCTOBER 15, 2024**

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

**ROLL CALL**

Tree Preservation Members: Les Grahn, Kayla Fahey, Ramona Michael, Sylvia Noth, Joan Ambo

Bee Committee members: Mary Ellen Smolen

Absent: Katarina Modrich, Monika Surovych

Also Present: Andy Smolen Sustainability, Forestry, Parkways and Facilities Director (SFPFD); VOFP Trustee Karen Special

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 17<sup>th</sup>, 2024, MINUTES**

Motion by member Grahn, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Member Smolen to approve September 2024 regular meeting minutes.

**BUSINESS**

1. Franklin Park Tree Board/Bee Board with the support of the Village of Franklin Park held an IRA Grant tree planting community outreach grant kick-off event on Saturday October 5, 2024, at James Park. The event had village support and was well organized. Village Clerk Arellano was instrumental with her support going door-to-door with SFPFD Smolen on three separate occasions, informing residents of the upcoming event. For future events, it is necessary to check community calendars to see what other events are planned in order to have successful collaborations within the village.
2. Tree Planting event September 28<sup>th</sup>, 2024: 22 trees were planted (Franklin Avenue) with the assistance of Member Fahey, her husband and friends, and members and friends from CRTI. SFPFD Smolen reported that ComEd sent the grant check to Village Clerk April Arellano.
3. Tree & Bee Green Seminar October 12<sup>th</sup>, 2024 review and ideas: Trustee John Johnson represented the Village at the event. Trustee Johnson related that the seminar was informative and well put together. Presenters were Connor Shaw, owner of Possibility Place Nursery; Brandie Dunn, Xerces Ambassador; Colette Copic CRTI Community Manager; Steve Lane Past IAA board president and current ISA board member.
4. Reporting on events and discussed topics:  
Future Tree Board events similar to October 12<sup>th</sup>  
How to get village residents involved  
Approach Leyden H.S. to get students and class participation

Reaching out to Community Service Clubs.

Some ideas included: Creating a form for students to present to board members after a seminar to receive school credit for attending. Member Fahey said she can create a form. Member Michael will contact East Leyden principal to discuss the possibility of credit given to students in return for seminar attendance. Future events should have a manned reception desk to tell people where to go.

5. Library Bee Board presentation, October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2024: Member Surovych gave a presentation to Parents and children that was well received. Connie Meade, head of youth services at FPPL asked if the Tree/Bee board can have future hour-long adult presentations in 2025. Member Michael will follow up with Amelia and Colleen from the FPPL, once they return from vacation.
6. Tree/Bee Web Page Member Ambo will work on rotating images. If members have photos from past events, please forward via google drive.
7. Village attorney did not approve allowing the Tree/Bee boards social media accounts unless they are run/monitored by the village.
8. Grants and Deadlines: Bee grant information was given out at the September 17<sup>th</sup> meeting. ComEd grant opens again for 2025 and VOFP can re-apply if available. Bee board grant possibilities exist in conjunction with Districts 212 and 84. Grants can be proposed and assistance advanced in applying if needed. It was suggested that a member of the Tree/Bee board approach school principals and discuss collaborating or assisting in grant writing for a pollinator garden at Hester and/or Passow. It was mentioned that North and South Schools were successful in getting grants for their pollinator gardens.
9. Bee Board upcoming: Bee City USA upcoming recertification in 2025. Reporting due date is in Feb. SFPFD Smolen has access to the online forms.

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

Make a Difference Day is 10.28.2024. SFPFD Smolen said we have 21 donated trees from Morton Arboretum planted in the village. SFPFD Smolen will donate 1 tree to Triton College. 20 trees will be planted along Addison. The trees planted tally for this year is at 132.

SFPFD Smolen said that ComEd sent the grant check and it has been received by Village Clerk Arellano. Resident Scott Shannon presented SFPFD Smolen with a photo of one of the oldest trees in the village in what is now the North Park area from 1967's great snowstorm. SFPFD Smolen has a current photo of the tree, and it was suggested displaying both the 1967 and the 2024 tree photos side by side in the Tree website.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

### **ADJOURNMENT**

At 7:19 pm a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by member Fahey seconded Member Grahn

**Approval**

**Signature:**



**Date:**

12/17/24