

## MINUTES OF THE TREE PRESERVATION COMMISSION

JUNE 10, 2014

A Tree Preservation Commission (TPC) meeting was held on Tuesday, June 10, 2014.

The meeting was called to order at 7:11 P.M.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Chairperson Cheryl Kiesel, Samantha Lewerenz and Linda Suwalski

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Tessie Zaretsky

**ALSO PRESENT:** Eric Richard, Village Planner, Zoe Heidorn, Village Planner, Joe Lauro, Director of Public Works, Andy Smolen, Deputy Director of Public Works – Village of Franklin Park

**MOTION TO ACCEPT** minutes from last official meeting held on March 11, 2013, as presented by Eric Richard, was made by Chairperson Cheryl Kiesel. Member Samantha Lewerenz **SECONDED** the motion. **VOICE VOTE CARRIED.**

**Public Comment:** None

### **New Business:**

Mr. Smolen opened by reporting tree activity that took place in spring of 2014. A total of 96 trees were planted, more than Mr. Smolen has ever planted in one season. Mr. Smolen reported that the Department of Public Works is waiting on the delivery of 8 more trees for planting because harsh winter conditions have delayed tree processing at nurseries. Mr. Smolen proceeded to discuss plans for future tree plantings. Members discussed the present and future locations of tree plantings as relating to the defined planting areas, requests from residents and locations identified by TPC members.

Mr. Smolen reported that the private nursery used by the Village, Spring Grove Trees, has agreed to give Franklin Park priority in ordering trees due to the long-term relationship held by the Village and business. Nurseries in the region are running out of trees due to high demand caused by mass tree removals associated with the emerald ash borer infestation. The nursery has been operated by the same family for four generations.

Mr. Smolen provided a quote for the cost of spring and summer trees provided by Spring Grove Trees.

Mr. Smolen reported that the State of Illinois paid for the replacement of 19 trees on Elm Street removed for construction. Ginkgo trees and elm trees were selected by Mr. Smolen and have already been planted. Members discussed the benefits of the selected species.

Ms. Lewerenz inquired about the response received from the letter sent on March 18, 2014, to property owners whose properties were selected for trees to be planted on the adjacent parkway. Mr. Smolen responded that a few residents contacted him to request removal from the list of properties. Ms. Lewerenz suggested that the TPC send a letter out to residents informing them of their ability to contact the Village to request a tree on an adjacent parkway.

Mr. Smolen reported that the area near Grand Avenue and 25<sup>th</sup> Street saw a high loss of trees due to the emerald ash borer infestation.

Mr. Lauro and Mr. Smolen reported on tree trimming in the Village. Mr. Lauro indicated that the Department of Public Works is faced with a high demand for tree trimmings.

Mr. Lauro reported that work was recently completed on the Metra station landscaping project.

Discussion took place on the TPC's presence at future Village events. Mr. Lauro suggested that the TPC assemble educational materials to be distributed at future events. Members discussed the options for educational materials. Mr. Lauro indicated that the Department of Public Works is required by the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District (MWRD) to appropriate funds for educational materials. The educational materials are not required to be tree-related.

Discussion took place on various craft items that could be distributed at future Village events. Mr. Richard indicated that Members of the TPC are encouraged to follow through with creative initiatives.

Discussion took place on various educational activities the TPC could feature at future Village events. Mr. Lauro discussed the popularity of a performer in the region who uses a chainsaw to carve trees for entertainment. Ms. Kiesel expressed her interest in putting together a tree-themed scavenger hunt for children. She expressed that she is interested in placing tags on trees to indicate adoption by TPC Members and Village staff.

Ms. Heidorn asked if the TPC has interest in pursuing a community garden on Village property. Ms. Lewerenz indicated that the TPC had discussed that possibility of a community garden in past meetings. She indicated that she is still strong interested in establishing a community garden. Ms. Lewerenz discussed her relevant work in other local community gardens. Discussion took place on the popularity of other community gardens in the area, including one in Veteran's Park.

Discussion took place on the potential timeline for a establishing a community garden. Mr. Smolen indicated that raised planter boxes could be constructed in the coming winter for planting in spring of 2015.

Discussion took place on holding a Special Meeting before the next quarterly meeting to plan for the educational activities and materials for future Village events. Mr. Richard announced three upcoming summer festival dates: August 14, August 28 and September 4 of 2014. Mr. Richard reminded the Members that he and Ms. Heidorn are available to meet one or two members at a time during work hours at Village Hall.

Being no further business before the Commission, Chairperson Cheryl Kiesel **MADE A MOTION** to adjourn. Member Samantha Lewerenz **SECONDED** the motion. **VOICE VOTE - MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Meeting adjourned at 8:25 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Zoe Heidorn