

Minutes

Village of Kirkland Tree Advisory Commission

09-10-2025

I. Call to Order- at 7:05 PM

II. Roll Call-Present were Jim Stark, Brian Benes, Dawn Darling, Matt Felix and Jeff Miller; absent were Mindy Quigley and Michelle Chambers.

III. Old Business

A. The minutes of 08-12-2025 were read and approved.

B. Urban Forest Plan-- there were no new updates.

C. Rain Barrel in Behnke Park- Dawn and her husband are working on the installation.

D. 50/50 Plantings-There will be no plantings this Fall due to financial constraints; we will try for plantings in the Spring; St. Aubin has agreed to replace the sweetgum but has not responded to our request to replace two other dead trees.

E. School Partnership--we will go ahead with our plan to propose a tree growing program to high school/ middle school agriculture teacher Joshua Dodge.

IV. New Business

A. Prospects for Getting Trees Without Village Funding- Brian said The Tree Commission needs to get creative. Ideas:

1. Donations of trees/seeds- A few residents have offered saplings they are growing on their property; Jeff suggested we put out the word on Facebook for residents to consider growing and donating saplings; Matt asked if we might be able to collaborate with 4-H on doing a seed collection.

2. Grants--Dawn will consult with Kris Aves about grant funding opportunities through the DeKalb County Community Foundation and/or the Kirkland Fund.

3. Fundraiser suggestions/ideas:

- a. "Park Day"--fun family activities in the parks
- b. fundraisers for a specific tree in a specific spot.
- c. a fun run
- d. a fall estival

B. Our Tree City Status-the application window for renewing Tree City status is opening soon. Brian said the current financial constraints should not affect our ability to renew.

V. Next Meeting--Tuesday, November 18 at 7 PM.

VI. Adjournment at 7:46 PM

Minutes respectfully submitted by Jeff Miller