

**Meeting Memorandum Minutes**  
**Town of Highland Tree Advisory Board**

1. Date, Time and Place of Meeting: Chair Bill Vargo called the meeting of the Board to order at 7:00 PM, on Thursday, March 21, 2019 in the Work Session Meeting Room at Town Hall.
2. Roll Call:
  - Board Members Present: Jim Colias, Ron Jackowski; Terry Krooswyk; Connie Sherbondy; Bill Vargo; Judy Vaughn. Richard Underkofler arrived late from another meeting at 7:25 PM.
  - Town Staff Present: Parks Director Trever Kinley
  - Town Staff Absent: Public Works Director John Bach
3. General substance of matters proposed, discussed, or decided - record of all votes taken, by individual members if there is a roll call:
  - Minutes. Krooswyk moved to approve minutes of the previous meeting held February 21, 2019; seconded by Vaughn. Approved by unanimous consent.
4. Old Business:
  - A. 2019 Arbor Day Event – Friday, April 26, 1:30 PM at Warren School. Connie Sherbondy updated the group on the status of event plans. The Board judged 300 posters submitted by the Warren students and selected 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place winning entries for which ribbons will be awarded.
  - B. Erie Lackawanna Trail Trees: Trever Kinley presented a handout showing memorial trees to be relocated or replaced along the trail, including species of replacement trees and aerial photos of the tree locations. A copy has been retained by Secretary Underkofler for future information and reference.
  - C. Facebook Site: Jim Colias presented a status report on work to create a Tree Board Facebook site.
  - D. Update to Highland’s Table of Unapproved/Approved Tree Species: Ron Jackowski led a discussion on this topic and volunteered to prepare a report with his recommendations for consideration at the next board meeting.
  - E. NIPSCO Grant: On March 17<sup>th</sup>, Underkofler applied on behalf of Highland Community Foundation for a NIPSCO 2019 Environmental Action Grant. Highland Community Foundation has pledged \$2,000 to match a potential \$2,500 NIPSCO grant for a 2nd Community Canopy / Energy Savings Trees Project to plant 100 trees in partnership with Arbor Day Foundation and Highland Homeowners. A decision on the status of the grant is expected by Earth Day, April 22, 2019.
  - F. Tree Steward Program: A 2-Day Session is scheduled for June 10 and 11 at the NIRPC Office / Purdue Training Center in Portage.
5. New Business:
  - A. Potential Scout Community Service: An inquiry was discussed whether Scout members would be willing to help water newly planted trees. Jim Colias volunteered to ask the Calumet Council, headquartered in Munster, that serves Scouts in 54 communities of the south suburbs of Chicago and Northwest Indiana.

- B. Tree Identification Seminar: Jim Colias distributed a handout giving notice of a “Tree Identification” Seminar to be led by Carrie Tauscher and held at the Purdue Extension Office, 2291 N. Main St., Crown Point, May 23, 2019. Sign-up at <http://tinyurl.com/TreeIDPE>
  - C. Tree Campaign, Blue Island, Illinois: Ron Jackowski distributed a news article “Blue Island Tree Campaign is Growing in 2019”, *the Forum, March 2019* - attached to these minutes. “The City of Blue Island, Illinois kicked off a Tree Campaign in 2018 and has a goal of planting 300 trees by the end of 2020. The funding, materials and labor comes from donations by residents, as well as Openlands and the Morton Arboretum.” 81 residents have donated \$4,725 of a \$6,000 goal in 16 months via <https://www.gofundme.com/Bltrees>.
  - D. Park Pride Day – April 27, 2019, 9 AM to Noon: Terry Krooswyk asked Trever Kinley how members of the Board could help the Parks & Recreation Department with this event. Trever said he would make some suggestions for consideration at the next board meeting.
  - E. Potential Little Calumet River Basin Development Commission Funding: Terry Krooswyk reported on a WJOB Radio program, Commission Executive Director Dan Repay reported the Commission may be willing to provide funding to the Town of Highland for tree acquisition and planting as it has done for Munster and Wicker Park. To mitigate Town departmental labor costs, Terry suggested asking Repay and Commission members to underwrite the expense of retaining Highland licensed landscape contractors for procurements valued less than \$5,000 to acquire trees, plant, care and warranty them for a one-year term.
6. Next Meeting. The next board meeting will be held Thursday, April 18, 2019, beginning at 7 PM in an available Town Hall meeting room.  
Topics for the Next Agenda:
- A. Sherbondy: Update on Final Arbor Day Event Plans
  - B. Kinley: Suggested ways for board members to help on Park Pride Day
  - C. Colias: Will Cub and Boy Scout members assume responsibility for watering newly planted trees on town and/or school owned property?
  - D. Colias: Update on Facebook Site
  - E. Jackowski: Report with Recommendations - Unapproved/Approved Tree Species
  - F. Underkofler: Spring Trees Received from the CommuniTree Grant Program
7. Adjournment. The meeting adjourned at 8:35 PM on approval of a motion by Colias; seconded by Vaughn and approved by unanimous consent.

Respectfully submitted,



Richard Underkofler, Secretary

# Blue Island Tree Campaign is Growing in 2019

*DDE students are joining the effort to 'green up' the city*



Students and staff from Eisenhower High School will dig into the Blue Island Tree Campaign this spring, joining local residents in planting more free trees around the city.

A community planting day is set for Saturday, April 13. The school and community members are scheduled to plant between 60 to 65 parkway trees at predetermined sites within an 8-block radius from Eisenhower.

Preceding the planting, there will be:

A presentation about the tree campaign on Wednesday, April 3 from 3:30–4:30 p.m. at the high school, 12700 Sacramento Ave, Blue Island; and

A training day on the Eisenhower campus to plant about 15 trees on Tuesday, April 9 from 1–4 p.m.

All of the spring planting events are happening in collaboration with Eisenhower, the U.S. Forestry Department, The Student Conservation Association-

tion, and Morton Arboretum. You can register for the events at <https://www.eventbrite.com>.

The Blue Island Tree Campaign was kicked off in 2018 and has a long-term goal of planting 300 trees by the end of 2020. Blue Island resident, and professional arborist, Val Kehoe spearheaded the campaign, along with city aldermen Bill Fahrenwald and Tom Hawley.

Last year, 97 trees were planted during the spring and fall. The funding, materials, and labor came from donations by local residents, as well as Openlands and the Morton Arboretum.

Kehoe says due to the combined support, the trees were purchased and planted at an average cost of less than \$50 each. If purchased from commercial sources, the cost of the trees and planting would have been over \$200 each.

Donations can continue to be made at <https://www.gofundme.com/Bltrees>.



**\$4,725** of \$6,000 goal

Raised by 81 people in 16 months

**Recent Donations** ▾

**AA** **\$20**  
 Anne Alt  
[https://www.gofundme.com/mvc.php?route=person\\_profile/byDid&d=IxxrVWpbeGQmD4rVWpbeGQmD4WV0YoEbraZpx9z%2FzDQn87y4tJNQCM%3D](https://www.gofundme.com/mvc.php?route=person_profile/byDid&d=IxxrVWpbeGQmD4rVWpbeGQmD4WV0YoEbraZpx9z%2FzDQn87y4tJNQCM%3D)  
 12 days ago

**IC** **\$100**  
 Thomas Cheattle  
[https://www.gofundme.com/mvc.php?route=person\\_profile/byDid&d=%2F81%2Bm31fRjtkl7dqrRRQhBmDjg9Dzk4Azv6vXt%2F7ZFM%3D](https://www.gofundme.com/mvc.php?route=person_profile/byDid&d=%2F81%2Bm31fRjtkl7dqrRRQhBmDjg9Dzk4Azv6vXt%2F7ZFM%3D)  
 7 months ago

**JJ** **\$10**  
 Jim Johanson  
[https://www.gofundme.com/mvc.php?route=person\\_profile/byDid&d=yYwskCJR3jwdiR2AYGNDnA8W8KMUMA%3D](https://www.gofundme.com/mvc.php?route=person_profile/byDid&d=yYwskCJR3jwdiR2AYGNDnA8W8KMUMA%3D)  
 7 months ago

**AS** **\$20**  
 Anna Stange  
 10 months ago (Offline Donation)

**WJ** **\$50**  
 Wanda Johnson  
[https://www.gofundme.com/mvc.php?route=person\\_profile/byDid&d=3A06Go6a0GPs%2BtyAdCEwPb%2BMY%2BzIpvPMiEwnkK5iqFk%3D](https://www.gofundme.com/mvc.php?route=person_profile/byDid&d=3A06Go6a0GPs%2BtyAdCEwPb%2BMY%2BzIpvPMiEwnkK5iqFk%3D)  
 10 months ago

**KF** **\$25**  
 Karen Kellerman  
[https://www.gofundme.com/mvc.php?route=person\\_profile/byDid&d=ICTYYqTr%2BTNNgUpoedjjuwdadJNnPA6Poz7Va4Rlhfl%3D](https://www.gofundme.com/mvc.php?route=person_profile/byDid&d=ICTYYqTr%2BTNNgUpoedjjuwdadJNnPA6Poz7Va4Rlhfl%3D)  
 11 months ago

**JC** **\$55**  
 Jennifer Crump  
[https://www.gofundme.com/mvc.php?route=person\\_profile/byDid&d=Io8o9lkmabHu3%2F](https://www.gofundme.com/mvc.php?route=person_profile/byDid&d=Io8o9lkmabHu3%2F)

## Restoring Blue Island's Tree Canopy

### Blue Island is a City of Trees.

**Let's keep this natural resource strong** for the future. Trees not only add tremendous beauty, but they are also an important economic asset to Blue Island. Trees help reduce flooding by trapping stormwater, they keep buildings cool and save energy, they reduce the damaging effects of sun on our streets, and they purify our most important asset -- the air we breathe.

**You, your children and their children** all will benefit from the Blue Island Trees Campaign.

By means of private donations, this campaign will be moving forward with a plan to plant 70 trees throughout the residential parkways in the Spring/Early Fall of 2018.

The intent is to plant a minimum of 10 trees per ward as every area has been hit by emerald ash borer infestation as well as the aging tree canopy.

**Raising at least \$6,000 by February 28 is the goal.**

Please make your donation right now. Any amount will help, but you can really help get this started with \$50 or \$100 or more.

Blue Island residents now—and for decades to come— will be grateful for the help you give.

### Who is Managing The Campaign?

This campaign is a collaboration of 4th Ward Aldermen Bill Fahrenwald and Tom Hawley along with Val Kehoe, community volunteer, certified arborist and a Horticulture Coordinator for the University of Illinois Extension - Urbana/Champaign.

### Why is Blue Island's Tree Canopy Disappearing?

Of the five varieties planted to replace trees lost to the Dutch Elm disease in the 1960s and '70s, many were white and green ash trees. These trees have either died, been removed or taken down as a preventative measure. The City of Blue Island has been unable to replace these trees for several years now.

### How Will Tree Locations Be Selected?

The biggest component of the campaign is community involvement. It starts with your donation, which will permit us to consider requests for trees to be planted in parkways at specific addresses.

City officials and volunteer coordinator will visit each site to determine feasibility and species selection, which will be based on the appropriate type of tree for street parkways, utility location, etc.