

Public participation is invited. When called upon, please approach the microphone and state your name. Kindly limit your remarks to 3 minutes.

VILLAGE OF VILLA PARK
Village Hall, Board Chambers
20 South Ardmore Avenue
Villa Park, IL 60181

Garden Village Commission

June 18, 2026

7:00 PM

Chairperson: Pete Soltesz
Commissioners: Patrice Gallagher, Lynn Smith, Christopher Diederich, and Jane Wycoff
Board Liaison: Trustee Tina Konstatos
Staff Liaison: Tim Howe

- 1. Call to Order - Roll Call**
- 2. Public Comments on Agenda Items**
- 3. Public Comments on Non-Agenda Items**
- 4. Amendments to the Agenda**
- 5. Consent Agenda**
 - a. Approval of Meeting Minutes from May 21, 2026
- 6. Business**
 - a. Discussion of Rain Barrel Initiative
 - b. Rotary Park Native Planting Process Discussion
 - c. Discussion of Sponsorship Levels for Picnic Table Initiative
 - d. Review of prospective name recommendation for new Village Park at S. Villa Ave. and Julia
 - e. Conversation on next steps for enhancement recommendations to Rotary Park and other areas of interest
 - f. Follow-up evaluation of interest level regarding Conservation Foundation and DuPage Monarch Project
- 7. Chairman Comments**
- 8. Commissioner Comments**
- 9. Village Board Liaison Comments**
- 10. Staff Liaison Comments**
- 11. Adjournment**

The Villa Park Village Hall is subject to the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. An elevator is operational at the north side entrance to the Village Hall during normal work hours and also during evenings. Individuals with special needs are requested to contact the Village's Compliance Officer at (630) 834-8500 so that reasonable accommodations can be made for those persons.

VILLAGE OF VILLA PARK

Village Hall, Board Chambers
20 South Ardmore Avenue
Villa Park, IL 60181

Garden Village Commission Meeting Minutes

May 21, 2026 7:00 PM

Chair Person: Pete Soltesz

Commissioners: Patrice Gallagher, Lynn Smith, Christopher Diederich, and Jane Wycoff

Board Liaison: Trustee Tina Konstatos

Staff Liaison: Tim Howe

1. Call to Order – Roll Call

Present: Pete Soltesz, Patrice Gallagher, Lynn Smith, Christopher Diederich

2. Public Comments on Agenda Items

None

3. Public Comments on Non-Agenda Items

None

4. Amendments to the Agenda

Remove 6a

5. Consent Agenda

a. Approval of meeting minutes from April 16, 2026 - Motion made by Commissioner Diederich and seconded by Commissioner Smith. Motion to approve passed.

6. Business

a. Recommendation to Board; Code Enforcement eased until Mother's Day

Removed from Agenda

b. Discussion on Spring Spruce recommendations for all parks

Discussion included obtaining bids and vendor information.

Director Tim Howe will:

- Obtain quotes/bids
- Research vendors and costs
- Coordinate with communication staff
- Determine sponsorship levels and interest

Discussion included:

- Sponsorship opportunities and levels
- Interest from local businesses
- Procurement process
- Purchases under \$25,000 do not require public bids
- Lynn discussed sponsorship levels.
- Commission discussed preparing a formal list of sponsorship opportunities for local businesses to later present to the Village Board with recommended dollar amounts.

- Also Reviewed prospective name recommendation for new Village Park at S. Villa Ave. and Julia:

Commissioner Gallagher suggested:

- Contacting Village Park residents
- Email feedback to Village officials including Manager Rivas, Public Works, Director Howe, and Director Salerno
- Chair Soltesz formally requested resident feedback.

Discussion included:

- Garden Commission email outreach
- Encouraging residents to attend future meetings
- Initiative to name the park on Facebook
- Pete read resident feedback

Liaison Tina Konstatos stated residents could email comments or attend meetings.

Timeline discussed:

- Next meeting: June 18
- June 19: compile submitted names
- Resident voting period: approximately two weeks
- Groundbreaking planning to follow
- Public participation to continue through design process
- Discussion included eventual natural park design and continued public involvement.

-
- Conversation on next steps for enhancement recommendations to Rotary Park; and other areas of interest

Commissioner Chris discussed:

- Seeding in October
- Native pollinator options
- Approximate cost of \$300 for seed alternatives
- Map references

Commissioner Lynn discussed:

- Incorporating Conservation Foundation and DuPage Monarch efforts
- Tick considerations

Chair Pete discussed:

- Challenges involved in converting turf grass into pollinator prairie areas
- Appropriate methods for removing existing turf

- Soil preparation and weed management

Commissioner Chris noted:

- State seed programs may be available, although quality may vary

Chair Pete stated Rotary Park improvements should align with broader plans and include:

- Appropriate native plants
- Appropriate tree selection
- Review of the Grand Plan

Chair Pete stated he would bring a copy of the plan to a future meeting.

Commissioner Chris will research and provide:

- Dollar amounts
- Tick considerations
- Two recommended organizations
- Donation opportunities
- Maps

To be presented at next meeting.

Follow-up evaluation of interest level regarding Conservation Foundation and DuPage Monarch Project:

- Commissioner Wycoff emailed to the Commission her research on rain barrel initiative research.
- She requested consideration of a formal recommendation to the Village Board regarding pursuing the initiative.
- Discussion was tabled until further communication.
- Chair Pete will ask Commissioner Wycoff to reach out individually to members.

Motion: Request Tim Howe obtain quotes and additional information.

Motion by Commissioner Chris Diederich; seconded by Commissioner Smith

7. Chairman Comments

Chair Pete stated calling him is often easier than using the Garden Commission email inbox.

Discussion included creating recognition initiatives:

Suggestions:

- Recognition Person of the Month
- Plaque or symbol of gratitude
- "Green Champion Award"

- Garden Village Award

Chairman Comments

Pete stated calling him is often easier than using the Garden Commission email inbox.

Discussion included creating recognition initiatives:

Suggestions:

- Recognition Person of the Month
- Plaque or symbol of gratitude
- "Green Champion Award"
- Garden Village Award

Commissioner Lynn highlighted volunteer efforts:

- Creek cleanup completed by Bob and volunteers
- 25 bags of biodegradable trash collected
- 14 volunteers from Yorkfield Presbyterian Church participated

Liason Tina Konstatos suggested:

- Certificates
- Invitations to future meetings
- Suggested Riley (Village social media coordinator) could use Facebook to identify community members performing notable service.

Suggested process:

1. Receive nomination
2. Contact individual
3. Confirm willingness to be recognized
4. Invite to meeting

Motion: Establish Garden Village Award

Motion by Commissioner Patrice; seconded by Commissioner Lynn.

Commissioner Chris discussed:

- Adopt-a-Tree initiative
- Potential Landscape Award program
- Quarterly recognition (4 awards per year)
- Presentation at Village Board meetings

Motion: Add Adopt-a-Tree program and Landscape Award discussion/rebranding to next agenda.

Motion by Commissioner Chris. **Can't remember who seconded**

•

8. Commissioner Comments

None

9. Village Board Liaison Comments

Liaison Tina shared positive comments regarding Commission work and thanked members.

10. Staff Liaison Comments

Director Tim Howe stated:

"Use me and abuse me. I'm here for you. Get the ball rolling."

11. Adjournment

Gaveled at 8:12pm