



VILLAGE OF RIVER FOREST SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION

Tuesday, February 8, 2022 – 7:00 PM
Village Hall – 400 Park Ave.,
River Forest, IL

You may submit your written public comments via email in advance of the meeting to: sphyfer@vrf.us
You may listen to the meeting by participating in a Zoom conference call as follows: dial-in number:
312-626-6799 with meeting ID: 826 6219 2767 or by clicking here:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82662192767>. If you would like to speak during public comment, please email
sphyfer@vrf.us by 4:00 PM on Tuesday, February 8, 2022.

AGENDA

1. Call to Order/Roll Call
2. Public Comment
3. Adoption of Meeting Minutes
4. Commissioner Reports
5. Discussion Regarding Single Use Plastic Ordinance
6. Discussion Regarding Community Solar and Benchmark Enrollment
7. Update on EV Numbers
8. Communications
9. Other Business
10. Schedule Next Meeting – March 8, 2022
11. Adjournment

**VILLAGE OF RIVER FOREST
SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION
TUESDAY, JANUARY 11, 2022**

A regular meeting of the Village of River Forest Sustainability Commission was held on Tuesday, January 11, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. in the Community Room of Village Hall, 400 Park Avenue – River Forest, IL.

1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 7:00p.m. Upon roll call, the following persons were:

Present: Chairperson Simon, Commissioners Charrette, Cheng, Veazie, Clancy, McLean, Roberts, Student Commissioners Meyer, Raidt

Absent: None

Also Present: Management Analyst Sara Phyfer

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

3. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Commissioner Cheng made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Clancy, to approve the December 14, 2021 meeting minutes.

Commissioner Charrette stated her comments about the PlanItGreen meeting should say “neighboring communities.”

Roll Call:

Ayes: Chairperson Simon, Commissioners Charrette, Cheng, Veazie, Clancy, McLean, Roberts

Absent: None

Nays: None

Motion Passes.

4. COMMISSIONER REPORTS

Student Commissioner Raidt stated she would be working on making River Forest schools members of the National Wildlife Federation with teacher Cory Kadlec.

Commissioner McLean stated she has a block winner for the Healthy Lawn, Healthy Family contest and stated they will need to figure out what to do for them.

Commissioner Roberts stated she had been contacted by someone in Oak Park to discuss the GHG inventory. She stated they would be working on tackling the 2021 numbers as quickly as they can.

Commissioner Charrette reported on the PlanItGreen meeting from December, stating they discussed goals for the year. She also stated she met with Commissioner Cheng to work out communications content.

Ms. Phyfer stated residents have begun to receive the Community Solar post cards. She noted there is limited availability into current energized projects, so the waitlist is not necessarily limited to River Forest residents. She stated she had been told by MMC that another community solar project is anticipated to be energized early this year and an additional project is expected to become active later this summer.

Chairperson Simon stated he would send out bullet points on Community Solar since neighbors have been reaching out.

Student Commissioner Meyer stated she was contacted by the OPRF Superintendent to discuss ideas about a climate policy for OPRF. She expressed her excitement about this, stating it is a way to keep the School Board accountable and pass on the torch.

Ms. Phyfer announced that through the green power generated from the Village's aggregation program, the Village has been designated a Green Power Community by the Environmental Protection Agency.

5. COMMUNICATIONS

a. January and February Content

Commissioner Cheng reviewed the content calendar, and the Commission discussed and identified upcoming communications items. The Commissioners also discussed the communication strategy for Community Solar, noting they should consider realistic benchmarks.

Commissioner Charrette suggested the Commission amplify their messaging on social media platforms by sharing the posts to the various River Forest groups.

b. Website

The Commission discussed defining communications objectives to help determine what kind of outside help may be needed to maintain the current level of communications. Commissioner Cheng noted the first priority is to make the Sustainability page on the Village website more usable. Chairperson Simon suggested reaching out to the Village's current website vendor to see what capabilities are available, and Ms. Phyfer stated she would need to know from the Commissioners what they are looking for.

c. VegOut Campaign Strategy

Commissioner McLean reviewed the VegOut campaign and discussed the issue of the capacity to support the program. The Commission discussed this issue and Commissioner Charrette suggested getting the schools involved. There was also discussion about evolving the message to be broader about eating less meat.

6. OTHER BUSINESS

Ms. Phyfer stated the Village is in a good position to obtain the silver designation. She stated the points are already secured, and there is a zoning letter that needs to be completed and submitted for consideration. She reviewed aspects of the gold designation, which include the codification of solar panels as allowed by right in all zoning districts and some kind of reasonable cap on building permit fees. She noted these will be undertaken as part of a broader evaluation of the Village's zoning code and the permit fee structure.

Chairperson Simon and Commissioner Veazie highlighted the importance of capping the fees.

Commissioner Charrette discussed tracking the number of electric vehicles in the Village and the possibility of

7. DISCUSSION REGARDING MEETING SCHEDULE

Chairperson Simon stated the outcome of the Doodle poll was that not everyone could attend on the alternative dates, so the Commission's meeting schedule will stay the same.

8. SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING – FEBRUARY 8

The Committee reached a consensus to hold its next meeting Tuesday, February 8, 2022.

9. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Cheng made a motion, seconded by Commissioner McLean, to adjourn the meeting at 8:39 PM.

Roll call:

Ayes: Chairperson Simon, Commissioners Charrette, Cheng, Veazie, Clancy, McLean, Roberts

Absent: None

Nays: None

Motion Passes.

Sara Phyfer, Secretary



Village of River Forest
Public Works and Development Services
400 Park Avenue
River Forest, IL 60305
Tel: 708-366-8500

MEMORANDUM

Date: February 2, 2022

To: Sustainability Commission

From: Sara Phyfer, Management Analyst

Subj: Opt-In Single Use Plastic Ordinance

Inspired by an initiative through PlanItGreen, the Commission is asked to propose a local ordinance that would require places for eating only hand out single-use plastics for take-out and delivery orders at the customer's request, meaning customers would "opt-in" to receive them.

It is important to note the following about the ordinance:

- Could not prohibit places for eating from distributing single-use plastics, but rather would require customers to affirmatively request them when placing an order.
- Could not impose any taxes on single-use plastics.

The City of Chicago recently adopted a similar ordinance, which can be reviewed [here](#) (also attached).

Next steps/approximate timeline:

- At the February 8, 2022 meeting, Commissioners will be asked to brainstorm ideas or points for consideration to incorporate into a draft ordinance.
- The Village Attorney will prepare a draft ordinance, and Commissioners will have the opportunity to review and comment on it at the next Commission meeting (currently March 8).
- Once Commissioners are comfortable with the draft ordinance, a meeting date can be set to hear public input.
- Staff will notify affected businesses through a direct mailing, inviting them to provide input for the Commission's consideration. Staff will also provide public notice via the Village's communication channels.
- Commissioners are also asked to identify scientific studies that have found negative impacts from single-use plastics to support the ordinance. This process can run parallel to the ordinance work. PlanItGreen has offered the resources noted below.

- After hearing public input and finalizing the draft ordinance, the Commission will be asked to make a formal recommendation to the Village Board of Trustees, who will consider the ordinance for adoption. Staff will also communicate the meeting date the Board is set to consider the ordinance.

Attachments:

[Chicago Foodware Ordinance](#)

Resources:

- [Natural Resources Defense Council](#)
- [Nature Conservancy Canada](#)
- [Greenpeace](#)
- [Chicago Tribune](#)
- [Alliance for the Great Lakes](#)



City of Chicago



O2021-2869

Office of the City Clerk

Document Tracking Sheet

Meeting Date: 6/25/2021

Sponsor(s): Nugent (39)
Cardenas (12)
Rodriguez Sanchez (33)
Smith (43)

Type: Ordinance

Title: Amendment of Municipal Code Chapter 4-8 by modifying
Section 4-8-010 and adding new Section 4-8-065 regarding
requirements for single-use foodware

Committee(s) Assignment: Committee on Environmental Protection and Energy

Environment

ORDINANCE

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CHICAGO:

SECTION 1. Section 4-8-010 of the Municipal Code of the City of Chicago is hereby amended by inserting the underscored text, as follows:

4-8-010 Definitions.

(Omitted text is unaffected by this ordinance)

“Sealed” means free of cracks or other openings which permit the entry or passage of moisture.

“Self-service station” means an area dedicated to customers taking away single-use foodware and condiments.

(Omitted text is unaffected by this ordinance)

“Single-service articles” means cups, containers, lids or closures; plates, knives, forks, spoons, stirrers, paddles, straws, place mats, napkins, doilies, wrapping material, bags, and all similar articles which are constructed wholly or in part from paper, paper board, molded pulp, metal, wood, plastic, synthetic or other readily destructible materials, which are intended by the manufacturers and generally recognized as for one usage only, then to be discarded.

“Single-use foodware” means any eating utensil or other item to be used as part of food or beverage service that is designed and intended by the manufacturer for only one usage before being discarded, including forks, spoons, sporks, knives, chopsticks, other eating utensils, stirrers, drink stoppers, splash sticks, cocktail sticks, toothpicks, napkins, wet-wipes, cup sleeves, beverage trays, disposable plates, and condiment packets. “Single-use foodware” does not include straws, beverage lids, or items used to contain or package food or beverages for delivery or take-out orders.

(Omitted text is unaffected by this ordinance)

SECTION 2. Chapter 4-8 of the Municipal Code of the City of Chicago is hereby amended by adding a new Section 4-8-065, as follows:

4-8-065 Single-use Foodware.

(a) *Requirements.* In connection with any delivery or take-out order of food or beverage, a food dispensing establishment may only provide single-use foodware upon request from the customer or at a self-service station. Food dispensing establishments shall provide options for customers to affirmatively request single-use foodware when ordering food and beverages for delivery or take-out across all ordering or point of sale platforms, including internet enabled applications, digital platforms, phone orders, and in-person ordering. The Commissioner of Business Affairs and Consumer Protection is authorized to establish, by rule, a standard sign for use by food dispensing establishments in connection with this section, subject to the requirements of Chapter 2-40 of this Code. The requirements of this section are subject to any applicable public health order.

(b) *Exceptions.* This section shall not apply to:

(1) single-use foodware necessary to address safety concerns, such as lids, drink stoppers, beverage trays, and cup sleeves for beverages served at an average temperature in excess of 170 degrees Fahrenheit;

(2) an automatic food vending machine;

(3) any single-use foodware that is prepackaged with or attached to any food or beverage products by the manufacturer prior to receipt by the food dispensing establishment;

(4) any charitable food dispensing establishment;

(5) single-use foodware provided in connection with any food or beverage order fulfilled at a drive-through facility, as defined in Section 17-17-0247.5;

(6) any food dispensing establishment located at Chicago O'Hare International Airport or Chicago Midway International Airport; or

(7) a food dispensing establishment granted a waiver from the Department of Business Affairs and Consumer Protection, in accordance with rules promulgated by the Commissioner of Business Affairs and Consumer Protection.

SECTION 3. This ordinance shall take effect 120 days after passage and publication.

Electric Vehicle Total Numbers

		River Forest	Oak Park					
	12/21	110	453					
	9/21	100	420					
	6/21	100	380					
	3/21	95	355					
	12/20	90	339					
	9/20	84	317					
	6/20	83	297					
	3/20	75	286					
	12/19	68	265					
	9/19	63	239					
	6/19	57	216					
	3/19	57	209					
	12/18	55	178					
	9/18	46	156					
	6/18	46	139					
	3/18	42	130					
	12/17	38	118					