



VILLAGE OF RIVER FOREST SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION

Tuesday, October 11, 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: sjansen@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: 899 5144 5099 or by clicking [here](#). If you would like to speak during public comment, please email sjansen@vrf.us by 4:00 PM on Tuesday, October 11, 2022.

AGENDA

1. Call to Order/Roll Call
2. Public Comment
3. Adoption of Meeting Minutes for August 9, 2022 and September 13, 2022
4. Commissioner Reports
5. Communications
 - a. Draft Web Page
 - b. Monthly/Weekly E-News
6. Other Business
7. Schedule Next Meeting – November 8, 2022
8. Adjournment

**VILLAGE OF RIVER FOREST
SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION
TUESDAY, AUGUST 9, 2022**

A regular meeting of the Village of River Forest Sustainability Commission was held on Tuesday, August 9, 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 7:11p.m. Upon roll call, the following persons were:

Present: Commissioners Charrette, Cheng, McLean, Student Commissioner Raidt
Absent: Chairperson Simon, Commissioners Clancy, McLean, Roberts, Veazie Student
Commissioner Meyer
Also Present: Director of Public Works and Development Services Jeff Loster

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

3. COMMISSIONER REPORTS

Director Loster provided Chairperson Simon’s report. Chairperson Simon intends for the Village to submit application for SolSmart Silver Designation upon approval of zoning amendment by the Village Board of Trustees. Report stated that the major requirements for Gold Designation are reduction in fees and limiting application turnaround time to 3 days, which he would like to be part of the discussions for the next budget. The Commission inquired to the current cost of solar fees. Chairperson Simon’s report also noted the passage of the Inflation Reduction Act, stated the need to transition responsibility for managing e-news content to another commissioner, and stated he attended the monthly west suburban Green Town meeting.

Commissioners Cheng and McLean had nothing to report.

Commissioner Charrette attended a PlanItGreen meeting which discussed electric vehicles including the number in the area and the electric vehicle rebate program and discussed the cross community climate agreement.

Student Commissioner Raidt introduced her friend A.J. an incoming 8th Grader interest in becoming the next Student Commissioner. A.J. discussed activities he has participated in as part of the Roosevelt Middle School Environmental Club.

Director Loster provided update on incoming staff liaison for the Commission.

4. SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION – SPECIAL EVENT DISCUSSION

Commissioner Cheng provided update on a potential special sustainability event. She indicated she intends to call the library about cohosting the event and would like more input from Commissioners. Commissioner Cheng inquires if there is enough interest in the concept, either as a spring event or an indoor event during the winter. Commissioner Cheng stated her hopes are that it is intended to be an open roundtable discussion on sustainability practices among all attendees. Student Commissioner Raidt offered to help promote a potential event at Oak Park and River Forest High School, both through the student newspaper and potential providing meeting space. The Commission discussed potential locations, dates, and formats for such a meeting.

5. STAFF UPDATE – ARTIFICIAL TURF

Director Loster provided an updated regarding questions raised during the previous Commission meeting regarding artificial turf regulations in the Village. Director Loster stated that Village ordinances do not place any restrictions on artificial turf nor address turf installations in any way. The Commission discussed permeability of various artificial surfaces, including turf, and the impact on storm water runoff and drainage issues. Commissioner Charrette stated that the topic may be a way to promote rain gardens for any interested residents. The Commission discussed limits to impermeable surface regulations and storm water storage requirements and requested an update on the Stormwater Master Plan. Director Loster provided a brief update of how the study is currently progressing.

6. COMMUNICATIONS

Commissioner Cheng provided overview the draft sustainability webpage with goal of provided a simpler, cleaner page where constituents may easily navigate to content. The Commission discussed potential ways to highlight which topics are easier or encourage residents to try different sustainability activities. Commissioner Charrette discussed having the Commissioners add content to the draft page. The Commission discussed the various categories of sustainability practices.

Commissioner Cheng discussed the e-newsletter content submission schedule and deadlines for the weekly and monthly newsletters. The Commission discussed transferring responsibility of coordinating communication to another Commissioner or multiple Commissioners. The Commission discussed development of topics for each newsletter and utilizing recurring seasonal items while reserving some newsletters for new information. The Commission decided to discuss communications topics further at the next meeting.

7. OTHER BUSINESS

Commissioner Charrette discussed attending the West Cook Wild Ones garden tour and native gardens in River Forest. Commissioner Charrette stated one resident had a question on what the village policy on controlled burns is. Director Loster stated such inquiries should be direct to the Village Fire Marshall. The Commission discussed controlled burns within the Village, the effectiveness, and the process for conducting controlled burns.

8. SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING – SEPTEMBER 13, 2022

The Commission reached a consensus to hold its next meeting Tuesday, September 13, 2022.

9. ADJOURNMENT

No motion for adjournment was needed due to lack of quorum.

Seth Jansen, Secretary

**VILLAGE OF RIVER FOREST
SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2022**

A regular meeting of the Village of River Forest Sustainability Commission was held on Tuesday, September 13, 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 7:03p.m. Upon roll call, the following persons were:

Present: Chairperson Simon, Commissioners Cheng, Veazie, Charrette (arrived at 7:06), Student Commissioner Raidt (attended virtually, joining at 7:22)
Absent: Commissioners Clancy, McLean, Roberts, Student Commissioner Meyer
Also Present: Director of Public Works and Development Services Jeff Loster; Management Analyst Seth Jansen

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

3. COMMISSIONER REPORTS

Commissioner Cheng noted that she will discuss communications updates during that time on the agenda.

Commissioner Veazie stated he wished discuss the SolSmart designation and recent ordinance. Chairperson Simon suggested discussing during the Other Business agenda item.

Chairperson Simon reported that he continues to attend the monthly GreenTown meetings and attended the September 13th meeting with President Adduci and Trustee Gillis. GreenTown event is expected to take place in June of next year and is expected to include Oak Park, River Forest, and many of the municipalities in Proviso Township. The meetings are beginning to seek sponsorship prior to developing content and booking speakers.

Commissioner Charrette asked about if leaf collection bags can be used for other compost materials. Director Loster indicated he would contact LRS to verify. Commissioner Charrette also reported that the compostable cups purchased for the LemonAid event were no longer being composted by LRS, stating that LRS has said the heat in the machines used in the composting process are not hot enough to compost the cups. Commissioner Charrette expressed need to communicate this to residents who may attempt to compost cups. The commissioners further discussed a potential visit to the composting site.

4. COMMUNICATIONS

Commissioner Cheng presented plan for commission members to contribute to the monthly and weekly Village newsletter articles. Commissioner Cheng has created a shared Spreadsheet to help coordinate who is responsible for what article and when it is due and created a shared Google Doc to be populated with recurring topic drafts. Commissioner Cheng discussed plan for assigning and coordinating article assignments. The Commission discussed need to find a new volunteer communication coordinator or co-leads for next year and planned to discuss at the next meeting. The Commissioners volunteered which entries they would contribute to in the coming weekly and monthly articles and which topics would be covered in each article.

The Commission discussed updates to the Sustainability webpage on the Village website. Commissioner Cheng stated goal is to have new webpage ready by the end of the year. The Commission discussed need to update introductory paragraph and have rotating date-specific upcoming events at top of page. The Commission discussed plan to fill-in additional needed information for some webpage items and edit further once populated with information. The Commission discussed linking to other resources and focusing content on local topics specific to the village.

5. OTHER BUSINESS

Commissioner Veazie discussed that the ordinance needed for SolSmart Silver Designation was adopted by the Village Board of Trustees on September 12. Commissioner Veazie asked what additional steps were needed prior to receiving the official Silver designation. The Commission discussed potential requirements needed to achieve Gold designation, including permitting costs and turnaround times. The Commission agreed to see if the Board of Trustees was interested in pursuing the Gold designation before taking any further steps.

Student Commissioner Raidt discussed the Oak Park and River Forest High School Environmental Club potentially hosting a roundtable event for students and their families to discuss sustainability practices.

Chairperson Simon stated that application for the next student commissioner would be going out to the schools in the coming weeks. The Commission discussed ensuring notice is also provided to Trinity High School students who live in the Village as an additional applicant pool.

Commissioner Charrette stated that community solar subscribers received a confusing notice of higher subscription fees that may need to be translating into something more digestible should residents have questions.

6. SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING – OCTOBER 11, 2022

The Commission reached a consensus to hold its next meeting Tuesday, October 11, 2022.

7. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Cheng made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Veazie, to adjourn the meeting at 8:31 PM.

Roll Call:

Ayes: Chairperson Simon, Commissioners Charrette, Cheng, Veazie

Absent: Commissioners Clancy, McLean, Roberts

Nays: None

Motion Passes.

Seth Jansen, Secretary