



VILLAGE OF RIVER FOREST MEETING OF THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

Wednesday, December 3, 2025 – 6:00 PM
Village Hall – Community Room, 400 Park Ave., River Forest, IL

AGENDA

You may submit written public comments in advance of the meeting by emailing them to jspencer@vrf.us. Public comments and any responses will be shared with the Commission. If you wish to speak during Public Comments, please email jspencer@vrf.us by 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, December 3, 2025. Please note that only those attending the meeting in person will be able to provide Public Comments. The meeting will be available for listening only through Zoom at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89153263474> or by phone at 312-626-6799 using Meeting ID: 891 5326 3474.

1. Call to Order/Roll Call
2. Public Comment
3. Introduction of Commissioners
4. Approval of Minutes – October 29, 2025 and Executive Session Minutes of October 29, 2025
5. Continued Discussion Regarding Business Community Retention/Support Strategies and Communication
 - a. North Ave Marketing Strategy Discussion
6. Other Business
7. 2026 Schedule of Meetings
8. Executive Session
9. Adjournment

ADA Compliance: Any individual with a disability requesting a reasonable accommodation in order to participate in a public meeting should contact the Village at least 24 hours in advance of the scheduled meeting by telephone at 708.366.8500 or by email: mwalsh@vrf.us. Every effort will be made to allow for meeting participation.

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE
VILLAGE OF RIVER FOREST
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION**

October 29, 2025

A special meeting of the Village of River Forest Economic Development Commission was held on Wednesday, October 29, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. in the Community Room of Village Hall, 400 Park Avenue, River Forest, Illinois.

1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

Chairman Brown called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Meeting started by calling roll. Upon roll call, the following people were:

Present: Chairman Cuyler Brown and Commissioners Scott Elza, Tim Brangle, Raj Chiplunkar and Elizabeth Muhr

Absent: Commissioners Matt Carolan and Carr Preston

Also Present: Administrator Matt Walsh, Assistant Village Administrator Jessica Spencer, and Deputy Clerk Luke Masella

Chairman Brown updated the Board that Commissioner Preston has resigned from the Commission. He expressed his appreciation for his longtime service on this commission.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was none.

3. INTRODUCTION OF COMMISSIONERS

Chairman Brown invited each commissioner to introduce themselves. Each of the commissioners present, as well as the staff members, explained their background and how it is related to what they hope to contribute to the Commission.

**4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – SEPTEMBER 3, 2025 AND EXECUTIVE SESSION
MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 3, 2025**

A **MOTION** was made by Commissioner Brangle and seconded by Commissioner Chiplunkar to approve the minutes from September 3, 2025 and Executive Session Minutes of September 3, 2025. By a voice vote, the motion passed.

**5. CONTINUED DISCUSSION REGARDING BUSINESS COMMUNITY
RETENTION/SUPPORT STRATEGIES AND COMMUNICATION**

Chairman Brown noted that Darion Marion-Burton has stepped down as Executive Director of the Chamber, and the loss that will be to this commission.

Assistant Administrator Spencer spoke about the Wednesday Journal article that she and Chairman Brown had contributed to recently, regarding the Façade Grant program, thanks to former Commissioner Preston's suggestion. He suggested having a one-year anniversary review of the program. Assistant Administrator Spencer said that having this discussion in February would work well for staff and the budget, if changes were needed.

Administrator Walsh updated the Commission on the Lake and Lathrop lawsuit, specifically the settlement conference that is set for December 15th and the Village's optimism to make progress on that date. Discussion ensued regarding the legal strategy of the bank at this point.

6. OTHER BUSINESS

Commissioner Elza asked why the Village didn't pursue the property at 7756 Madison. Chairman Brown responded that the Village wasn't seeking to purchase additional land when this property came up for sale. Commissioner Elza clarified, why not secure the land on both sides for development? Commissioner Brangle also noted that this acquisition didn't appear to be aligned with the Comprehensive Plan. Administrator Walsh noted that 7756 Madison is still an active business, in fact the business owner had recently met with staff to discuss improvements to the site. Commissioner Chiplunkar asked about the property located at 7618 Madison Street, Administrator Walsh stated that the Village is not in discussions with that business owner.

7. EXECUTIVE SESSION

A MOTION was made by Commissioner Brangle and seconded by Commissioner Elza to move into Executive Session pursuant to 5 ILCS 120-2 (c) 6 to discuss the setting of a price for sale or lease of property owned by a public body and the Commission will not return to Open Session.

8. ADJOURNMENT

A MOTION was made by Commissioner Brangle and seconded by Commissioner Elza to adjourn the meeting of the Economic Development Commission at 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Jessica Spencer, Assistant Village Administrator

Date: _____



Village of River Forest

Village Administrator's Office

400 Park Avenue
River Forest, IL 60305
Tel: 708-366-8500

MEMORANDUM

Date: December 3, 2025

To: Economic Development Commission

From: Jessica Spencer, Assistant Village Administrator

Subj: 2026 Schedule of Meetings

The Economic Development Commission is scheduled to meet on the first Wednesday of each month at 6:00pm in the Village Hall Community Room.

January 7
February 4
March 4
April 1
May 6
June 3
July 1
August 5
September 2
October 7
November 4
December 2