

**VILLAGE OF RIVER FOREST
SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION
TUESDAY, AUGUST 17, 2021**

A regular meeting of the Village of River Forest Sustainability Commission was held on Tuesday, August 17 11, 2021 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 7:05p.m. Upon roll call, the following persons were:

Present: Chairperson Eric Simon, Commissioner Susan Charrette, Commissioner Beth Cheng, Commissioner Maggie Clancy, Commissioner Jeff Veazie, Student Commissioner Eleanor Raidt

Absent: Commissioner Cary McLean, Commissioner Shannon Roberts

Also Present: Director of Public Works and Development Services Jeff Loster

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

3. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Commissioner Cheng made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Charrette, to approve the July 13, 2021 meeting minutes.

Roll call:

Ayes: Chairperson Eric Simon, Commissioner Susan Charrette, Commissioner Beth Cheng, Commissioner Maggie Clancy, Commissioner Jeff Veazie

Absent: Commissioner Cary McLean, Commissioner Shannon Roberts

Nays: None

Motion Passes.

4. VILLAGE STAFF UPDATE

Director Loster introduced the staffing changes. Commissioner Veazie introduced himself.

5. COMMISSIONER REPORTS

Commissioner Cheng reported she is continuing to work on a strategy for communications and public education. She noted two elements with regard to E-News communications: one related to greenhouse gas inventory and actions, and the second being for other green programs. She suggested “choose your own green adventure.”

Commissioner Charrette provided an overview of PlanIt Green and noted they are planning to expand beyond the OPRF borders as they reach their 10 year mark. She suggested an E-News blurb about CleanEnergy solicitations, which is not endorsed by the Village.

Commissioner Clancy asked about the status of the grant application for the electric charging station. Director Loster stated the grant was awarded and noted the aggregation money coming in would cover the Village's matching portion. There was a brief discussion about whether the civic contribution funds were allocated to anything else. Chairperson Simon and Commissioner Clancy stated they would look into whether there were additional maintenance costs for the station.

Commissioner Raidt stated she would be restarting the Tree Trails program this fall. She also stated it was cool to see VegOut stickers in windows of restaurants. She also stated she would like to reach out to schools regarding alternatives to dairy milk due to the high emissions it produces. Commissioner Cheng noted she works with a green parent group and suggested they coordinate.

Chairperson Simon shared an update from Commissioner Roberts regarding the ComEd data being incorrect.

6. NEXT STEPS ON LAKESHORE RECYCLING/STROM DISCUSSION

Director Loster provided an overview of his conversation with George Strom. He noted the current contract ends in April 2022.

There was a discussion about trading certain services in the contract to keep it cost neutral, with defraying or eliminating costs for composting being ideal or rewarding residents who recycle and compost by not charging for it.

There was a discussion about the benefits of going out for RFP, with some considerations being the distance trucks need to travel to sorting centers, as well as electrified fleets.

There was a brief discussion about the community survey.

7. METROPOLITAN MAYORS CAUCUS CLIMATE PLAN

Chairperson Simon reported on the meeting, noting they were asking municipalities how they would like to engage with the plan. He noted they are seeking grant money to help municipalities engage with the plan and have the resources needed to support it. The Commission discussed how to engage with other communities. There was also a brief discussion regarding applying for an AmeriCorps position.

8. OTHER BUSINESS

Chairperson Simon provided a brief update on the status of community solar. Director Loster stated the intention is to have the resolution on the Village Board's September 13 agenda for their consideration.

Commissioner Cheng suggested reorganizing and structuring the Sustainability page on the Village website.

The Commission also briefly discussed the process for student commissioners.

9. SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING – SEPTEMBER 14

The Committee reached a consensus to hold its next meeting Tuesday, September 14 at 7PM.

10. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Cheng made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Charrette, to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 PM.

Roll call:

Ayes: Chairperson Eric Simon, Commissioner Susan Charrette, Commissioner Beth Cheng, Commissioner Maggie Clancy, Commissioner Jeff Veazie

Absent: Commissioner Cary McLean, Commissioner Shannon Roberts

Nays: None

Motion Passes.

Sara Phyfer, Secretary