

**VILLAGE OF RIVER FOREST
SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2021**

A regular meeting of the Village of River Forest Sustainability Commission was held on Tuesday, September 14, 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 Jeff Veazie, Commissioner Cary McLean, Student Commissioner Eleanor Raidt, Student Commissioner Charlotte Meyer
Absent: Commissioner Maggie Clancy, Commissioner Shannon Roberts
Also Present: Management Analyst Sara Phyfer

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

3. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Commissioner Charrette made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Cheng, to approve the August 17, 2021 meeting minutes.

Commissioner Cheng noted her name was misspelled in a few spots.

Roll call:

Ayes: Chairperson Eric Simon, Commissioner Susan Charrette, Commissioner Beth Cheng, Commissioner Jeff Veazie, Commissioner Cary McLean
Absent: Commissioner Maggie Clancy, Commissioner Shannon Roberts
Nays: None
Motion Passes.

4. COMMISSIONER REPORTS

Commissioner Cheng provided a report about the D90 Green4Good Committees, noting Lincoln is offering zero waste and waste management programs, as well as other events and support they are offering to native gardens and the kids' club. She reported similar programs at Roosevelt and that they are collaborating with Cory Kadlec on garden projects, and that they are planning the 4th Annual Pumpkin Smash in November. She stating they are also seeking to broaden communication efforts.

Commissioner Charrette reported on the August PlanItGreen meeting, noting they are getting more participation outside OPRF. She also reported the Oak Park Park District received a grant for a net zero recreation center building on Madison. She also discussed the native garden at Lincoln and the Commission reached a consensus to offer a donation.

Commissioner McLean noted she has not done anything more on VegOut, and the Commission discussed the Healthy Lawn Healthy Family program. Chairperson Simon suggested they take the winter to determine how to best roll it out in the spring.

Commissioner Veazie offered to assist with energy efforts and in digesting recently passed Illinois Clean Energy Jobs Act (CEJA).

Student Commissioner Raidt stated she has not done much outside of working on Tree Trails.

Student Commissioner Meyer stated they are working on getting composting up again at OPRF. She also noted she will be going to Glasgow as part of "It's Out Future." Chairperson Simon asked the students keep them posted on what the Commission can do to support these efforts.

Chairperson Charrette stated Chairperson Roberts' update is that the SEC is coming close to requiring companies to reveal their carbon emissions.

5. NEXT STEPS ON LAKESHORE RECYCLING/STROM DISCUSSION

Management Analyst Phyfer provided an update about the Commission's waste survey, noting possible due dates.

Commissioner Cheng stated it was not clear whether in the survey they will get answers to questions to guide negotiations.

Commissioner McLean made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Cheng, to launch the survey with incorporated feedback.

Roll call:

Ayes: Chairperson Eric Simon, Commissioner Susan Charrette, Commissioner Beth Cheng, Commissioner Jeff Veazie, Commissioner Cary McLean

Absent: Commissioner Maggie Clancy, Commissioner Shannon Roberts

Nays: None

Motion Passes.

The Commission reached a consensus to have the survey due October 8 to prepare for a recommendation to the Board at the Commission's October 12 meeting.

6. UPDATE ON COMMUNITY SOLAR

Chairperson Simon noted the Village Board passed the resolution to endorse the Community Solar program. He reviewed the next steps and stated the goal is to have it ready by the first of the new year.

Commissioner Cheng suggested setting goals in terms of how many residents to sign up.

The Commission discussed how best to explain the different energy options to residents, and there was a discussion about being in both programs. Chairperson Simon asked the Commission to look carefully at the messaging.

7. TREE TRAILS

Student Commissioner Raidt stated she has been in touch with Cory Kadlec at Roosevelt, noting he is interested in bringing it back to his students. She stated he has asked her to submit hype videos.

Commissioner Cheng suggested running it until October 31 and noted the composting prize was approved by the Village.

8. DISCUSSION ON COMMUNICATIONS/EDUCATION STRATEGY

The Commissioner discussed communications strategies. Commissioner Cheng suggested making the Sustainability website page more action-oriented. She reviewed her ideas and suggestions. It was determined she and Management Analyst Phyfer would work together to get the website updated.

9. OTHER BUSINESS

Management Analyst Phyfer provided an update about this project, noting the grant from ComEd was received and the rest of the project can be paid with the revenue from the civic contribution funds from the green aggregation program. She also stated staff is recommending moving forward with one station.

The Commission discussed the need to ensure there are time limits on the station and they are reserved for electric vehicles only. Management Analyst Phyfer confirmed signs can be made by Public Works. It was also noted the spaces should be on the ChargePoint map.

Chairperson Simon made a motion, seconded by Commissioner McLean, to recommend the purchase of an electric vehicle charging station using civic contribution funds and grant funding.

Roll call:

Ayes: Chairperson Eric Simon, Commissioner Susan Charrette, Commissioner Beth Cheng, Commissioner Jeff Veazie, Commissioner Cary McLean

Absent: Commissioner Maggie Clancy, Commissioner Shannon Roberts

Nays: None

Motion Passes.

10. SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING – OCTOBER 12

The Committee reached a consensus to hold its next meeting Tuesday, October 12 at 7PM.

11. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner McLean made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Charrette, to adjourn the meeting at 8:41 PM.

Roll call:

Ayes: Chairperson Eric Simon, Commissioner Susan Charrette, Commissioner Beth Cheng, Commissioner Jeff Veazie, Commissioner Cary McLean

Absent: Commissioner Maggie Clancy, Commissioner Shannon Roberts

Nays: None

Motion Passes.

Sara Phyfer, Secretary