

**VILLAGE OF RIVER FOREST  
SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION  
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2021**

A regular meeting of the Village of River Forest Sustainability Commission was held on Tuesday, October 12, 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 7:00p.m. Upon roll call, the following persons were:

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

Absent: Commissioner Shannon Roberts

Also Present: Management Analyst Sara Phyfer

**2. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Nathan Palmer, PCs for People. Mr. Palmer introduced his organization and offered services to anyone interested. He stated they receive and redistribute recycled PCs to promote digital equity.

Ms. Phyfer stated Laura Stamp emailed public comment over weekend requesting to ban gas powered leaf blowers.

Chairperson Simon stated the Commission reviewed this item and made its recommendation to the Board, noting one of their conclusions was that it was not so much a sustainability thing and may be better suited for Public Works generally.

**3. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES**

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

Roll call:

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

Absent: Commissioner Shannon Roberts

Nays: None

Motion Passes.

#### **4. COMMISSIONER REPORTS**

Commissioner Charrette reported she attended a PlanItGreen meeting. She stated Oak Park has a new hire and they now have three people in the sustainability office. She also reported about Oak Park's waste hauling contract status, noting Roy Strom bid \$11/household for opt out composting.

Commissioner Cheng stated Tree Trails is being promoted and that she, Commissioner Clancy and Ms. Phyfer would be meeting to discuss communications.

Commissioner Clancy announced details about the Interfaith Community Breakfast.

Commissioner Veazie provided an update reading through the Climate and Equitable Jobs Act. He reviewed some of what it contains, including the phasing out of coal and natural gas and incentives for solar and wind energy.

The Commission discussed some of the other information contained within the CEJA.

Student Commissioner Raidt stated she would start working on the video for Tree Trails once she gets the results from Mr. Kadlec's class.

Student Commissioner Meyer stated she has been preparing for the UN climate summit. She stated they are hoping to get clearance into the blue zone, which is where delegates would be. She also stated she will be sharing daily updates on the discussions.

#### **5. UPDATE ON GREEN ELECTRIC AGGREGATION PROGRAM**

Commissioner Charrette reviewed MCSquared's report on renewable energy credits through the green electric aggregation program. Ms. Phyfer reviewed the revenue received so far and the anticipated total.

The Commissioners discussed how Community Solar might impact the aggregation program. It was noted Community Solar is almost like a transfer of savings directly to the participating residents. The Commissioners also discussed how best to communicate and publicize the revenue received from the aggregation program. There was also a discussion about using the puts to complete a feasibility study for installing solar panels on municipal buildings, as well as for an AmeriCorps member if possible.

#### **6. DISCUSSION OF WASTE SURVEY RESULTS AND RECOMMENDATION REGARDING WASTE HAULING CONTRACT**

The Commission discussed the results from their waste survey. They discussed ways to incentivize reducing waste and increasing participation in the composting program.

Ms. Phyfer stated the Village will be meeting with George Strom to discuss some of the complaints and concerns received about waste service.

It was determined that the Commission would put together their formal recommendation for the waste hauling contract at the November meeting.

**7. OTHER BUSINESS**

The Commissioners briefly discussed a reminder about the Interfaith Green Networks annual breakfast, which will be Thursday from 8am-9:30.

**9. SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING – NOVEMBER 9**

The Committee reached a consensus to hold its next meeting Tuesday, November 9 at 7PM.

**10. ADJOURNMENT**

Commissioner Charrette made a motion, seconded by Commissioner McLean to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 PM.

Roll call:

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

Absent: Commissioner Shannon Roberts

Nays: None

Motion Passes.

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Sara Phyfer, Secretary