

**VILLAGE OF RIVER FOREST
SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2021**

A regular meeting of the Village of River Forest Sustainability Commission was held on Tuesday, November 9, 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, Commissioner Shannon Roberts, Student Commissioner Charlotte Meyer

Absent: None

Also Present: Management Analyst Sara Phyfer

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

3. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Commissioner Cheng made a motion, seconded by Commissioner McLean, to approve the October 12, 2021 meeting minutes.

Roll call:

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

Absent: None

Nays: None

Motion Passes.

4. COMMISSIONER REPORTS

Commissioner Cheng reported on behalf of Student Commissioner Ellie Raidt regarding the Tree Trails contest, noting that many entries came from Mr. Kadlec's class. She stated that Patrick Nix won the drawing for 3 months of free composting, and it will be posted on social. She stated Ellie did a great job getting participation from students and they will work on how to engage the general public more.

Commissioner Veazie stated he did not have much to report and that he and Chairperson Simon would pick up SolSmart next week.

Commissioner McLean stated she had a winner for the Healthy Lawn, Healthy Family program.

Commissioner Clancy stated she did not have a report.

Commissioner Charrette stated she attended the Interfaith Green Network Breakfast and heard a PlanItGreen presentation and an update on the Oak Park's Climate Plan.

Commissioner Roberts stated she would share the update on the greenhouse gas inventory later in the meeting and that ComEd came through with some data. She stated she and Trustee Gillis met with CMAP to better understand the work they are doing as part of their inventories and analysis work at the County level. She stated they are looking by jurisdiction next to determine the calculations and support individual communities. She stated there will be more to come with them regarding traffic emissions and climate risk analyses.

Trustee Gillis explained that her role as liaison is to advocate for the Sustainability Commission on the Village Board. She stated she supports Chairperson Simon as well as the remaining commissioners, for example by pushing for the CMAP meeting and attending in Chairperson Simon's place when he could not attend. She also stated she will attend meetings when she can and she is available for questions and anything she can do to support the Commission.

5. DISCUSSION AND RECOMMENDATION REGARDING WASTE HAULING CONTRACT

The Commission reviewed the results from the waste survey. The Commission discussed the different items they would like to see in the contract relative to sustainability, including specific goals and how to achieve them. The items discussed included increasing the number of participants in and reducing the cost of the composting program, focusing on diverting waste from landfills, creating a specialty hazardous waste program, and paying commensurate to trash generated.

Chairperson Simon made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Clancy, to recommend to the Village Board of Trustees that the waste contract negotiation be guided by the goals of reducing landfill waste, increasing composting and increasing appropriate disposal of specialty/electronics hazardous waste. Specifically, the Commission recommends including opt-out composting and a drop off or pick up program for specialty/electronic/hazardous waste at an affordable rate.

Roll call:

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

Absent: None

Nays: None
Motion Passes.

6. UPDATES

a. Communications

Commissioner Cheng stated she met with Ms. Phyfer and Commissioner Clancy to discuss communications, and she reviewed the Commission's responsibilities for content to be featured in the Village's communications. She stated for the upcoming monthly newsletters, she would like to feature an article by Charlotte discussing her experience in Glasgow and Commissioner Roberts' report on greenhouse gas inventory. She reviewed the weekly newsletter and social post guidelines, and she asked commissioners to send her ideas of what they want to share, noting they will be responsible for writing content based on the guidelines.

The Commission briefly discussed having separate resident forums for sustainability items. It was noted this initial request has been discussed and led to the spotlighting Sustainability content in the communication channels the Village is already using.

b. Community Solar

Chairperson Simon stated all the items have been submitted to MMC. Commissioner Charette inquired about the status of the postcard and website. It was noted the postcard is a standard mailer with the Village's logo and webpage and that the webpage is drafted. The Commission discussed the timing of launching the program.

c. Climate Summit

Student Commissioner Meyer shared her experience at the UN Climate Summit in Glasgow. She stated a lot of countries signed onto a deforestation pledge, as well as a methane pledge. She stated she had the opportunity to speak with Governor Pritzker about the impact of climate change on Illinois farmers. The commissioners also asked her questions about her experience.

d. 2020 Carbon Inventory

Commissioner Roberts walked through a presentation about the greenhouse gas inventory framework, reporting, and action plans. She reviewed the main sources of emissions and the approximations and calculations. She noted the areas CMAP could help fill in some gaps, such as freight rail emissions, as well as water delivery services and waste treatment. She also reviewed the carbon sequestration of the Village trees and noted the ComEd data was received and included. Commissioner Roberts stated the Village has steadily reduced its greenhouse gas emissions over the years and is able to make a dent in it with the purchase of renewable energy credits through the electric aggregation program.

The commissioners also discussed the impact of the pandemic on the numbers, as well as the impact of the aggregation and community solar programs.

Trustee Gillis suggested presenting this information to the Board prior to the community at large. Commissioner Roberts stated she could be available for the December 13 Village Board meeting.

7. OTHER BUSINESS

None.

9. SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING - DECEMBER 14

The Committee reached a consensus to hold its next meeting Tuesday, December 14, 2021.

10. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Charrette made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Cheng, to adjourn the meeting at 8:58 PM.

Roll call:

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

Absent: None

Nays: None

Motion Passes.

Sara Phyfer, Secretary