

**VILLAGE OF RIVER FOREST  
SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION  
TUESDAY, MARCH 8, 2022**

A regular meeting of the Village of River Forest Sustainability Commission was held on Tuesday, March 8, 2022 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 7:03p.m. Upon roll call, the following persons were:

Present: Chairperson Simon, Commissioners Charrette, Cheng, Veazie, Roberts, Student Commissioner Raidt  
Absent: Commissioners Clancy, McLean, Student Commissioner Meyer  
Also Present: Management Analyst Sara Phyfer

**2. PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

**3. ADOPTION OF MEETING MINUTES**

Commissioner Cheng made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Charrette, to approve the February 8, 2022 meeting minutes.

Roll Call:

Ayes: Chairperson Simon, Commissioners Charrette, Cheng, Veazie, Roberts  
Absent: Commissioners Clancy, McLean  
Nays: None  
Motion Passes.

**4. COMMISSIONER REPORTS**

Commissioner Charrette reported on the February PlanItGreen meeting, highlighting Mayor Thompson’s solar corridor in Broadview and D200’s new sustainability commission. She stated she has also been invited to be the community member on the Dominican University sustainability committee, noting they are working on similar issues as the Commission. She also reported that Public Works will help cut logs for seating at Lincoln School after they won a grant to create an outdoor learning space.

Chairperson Simon stated he spoke with Commissioner Clancy who reported about the increase in sales of electric school buses in Illinois. He suggested getting in touch with D200 to discuss further since there is no bussing in River Forest.

Ms. Phyfer reported that Staff met with SolSmart last month to discuss the Silver designation and are working through language on the zoning determination letter for resubmittal. She reported that the Village Board accepted the LRS waste hauling proposal without changes and noted the new composting options and HHW and e-waste collections. She stated the Board also heard an update on the Des Plaines River Biking Trail, which is planned to be extended through River Forest to reach the Illinois Prairie Path and Forest Park Transit Center. Ms. Phyfer also stated she spoke with Mindy Agnew from Oak Park about their single-use plastic ordinance, noting that Oak Park's process was postponed due to the pandemic but is now back in the queue.

The Commissioners briefly discussed the Des Plaines River Trail project. In response to a question about funding, Ms. Phyfer stated there will likely be a local match and that the funding allocated in the Capital Improvement Plan is for the Village's Bicycle Plan, which will try to be timed with the construction of the River Trail.

Chairperson Simon announced the Village has received an invitation to attend the SolSmart designation ceremony and stated it includes a tour of Argonne National Laboratory.

Commissioner Charrette shared her concerns about the waste hauling contract, stating the contract does not provide incentives to reduce waste in alignment with commitments made to the PlanItGreen sustainability plan. She noted she shared comments at the Board meeting, and she asked what is the point of signing onto this commitment if the Village is not going to make a concerted effort or have that conversation. She expressed a second concern that there was not much warning to the Commission that this would be discussed by the Board, asking that the Commission be given a head's up. She also expressed concern about the price increases, the inequity of the cost distribution, and asked whether opt-out composting would be in the final contract.

Chairperson Simon stated he appreciated Commissioner Charrette's comments. He apologized that the process for how the Commission was to be involved was not communicated well but that it happened the way it was supposed to in that the Commission was asked to provide their priorities to the Village and that was the end of their participation. He stated the Commission did get some wins, and they will have to be creative in thinking about ways to achieve reduction in waste.

Commissioner Cheng stated that she also appreciated Commissioner Charrette's comments, but noted that the Commission did not link its recommendations to specific PlanItGreen commitments. She stated that the proposal makes good progress in some key areas and while there could be more focus on waste reduction, the Commission is also trying to focus on multiple goals.

## **5. DISCUSSION REGARDING SINGLE-USE PLASTICS IN PLACES OF EATING ORDINANCE (DRAFT)**

Ms. Phyfer stated the draft ordinance was shared with the Village's health inspector, who did not have any concerns with it. The Commission discussed this item and the necessity of some items in the definition of single-use foodware. It was noted the ordinance is based on what Chicago had done. Ms. Phyfer noted Staff would invite affected businesses to a future Commission meeting to offer their input. The Commission also discussed whether university cafeterias should be called out in the ordinance. In response to a question about waivers, Ms. Phyfer stated there is no legal requirement to include parameters around the waiver process but that it could be included. The Commission also discussed the timeline for this process, the possibility of including plastic bags as part of the ordinance, and having conversations with the restaurant community to educate them on and encourage the use of recyclables.

The Commission agreed to invite the affected businesses to the April 12 meeting. Chairperson Simon and Commissioner Veazie volunteered to summarize key findings of the scientific articles for the ordinance.

## **6. DISCUSSION REGARDING COMMUNITY SOLAR AND BENCHMARK ENROLLMENT**

Commissioner Cheng commented about the enrollment statistics and suggested aiming for a percent of eligible households enrolled. The Commissioners discussed their experiences signing up and asked that a representative from MCSquared attend a meeting to discuss the program. In discussing other ways to increase enrollment, the Commissioners asked to add the program to the New Resident page on the website, to enroll non-residential accounts, as well as to continue communicating the program.

## **7. DISCUSSION REGARDING CEJA**

Commissioner Charrette commented the summary included in the packet is a resource for understanding CEJA. Chairperson Simon stated his understanding is that there are a lot of agencies still working through the legislation.

## **8. COMMUNICATIONS**

The Commission discussed the communications calendar and content options.

## **9. OTHER BUSINESS**

Chairperson Simon asked that the meetings be paperless going forward. It was noted agendas would still be printed for attendees. Commissioner Charrette reported about the Community Gardens, noting that all 31 gardens were taken within 48 hours.

## **10. SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING – APRIL 12, 2022**

The Commission reached a consensus to hold its next meeting Tuesday, April 12, 2022.

## **9. ADJOURNMENT**

Commissioner Charrette made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Cheng, to adjourn the meeting at 8:29 PM.

Roll Call:

Ayes: Chairperson Simon, Commissioners Charrette, Cheng, Veazie, Roberts

Absent: Commissioners Clancy, McLean

Nays: None

Motion Passes.

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Sara Phyfer, Secretary