

**VILLAGE OF RIVER FOREST
SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION
TUESDAY, AUGUST 9, 2022**

A regular meeting of the Village of River Forest Sustainability Commission was held on Tuesday, August 9, 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 7:11p.m. Upon roll call, the following persons were:

Present: Commissioners Charrette, Cheng, McLean, Student Commissioner Raidt
Absent: Chairperson Simon, Commissioners Clancy, McLean, Roberts, Veazie Student
Commissioner Meyer
Also Present: Director of Public Works and Development Services Jeff Loster

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

3. COMMISSIONER REPORTS

Director Loster provided Chairperson Simon's report. Chairperson Simon intends for the Village to submit application for SolSmart Silver Designation upon approval of zoning amendment by the Village Board of Trustees. Report stated that the major requirements for Gold Designation are reduction in fees and limiting application turnaround time to 3 days, which he would like to be part of the discussions for the next budget. The Commission inquired to the current cost of solar fees. Chairperson Simon's report also noted the passage of the Inflation Reduction Act, stated the need to transition responsibility for managing e-news content to another commissioner, and stated he attended the monthly west suburban Green Town meeting.

Commissioners Cheng and McLean had nothing to report.

Commissioner Charrette attended a PlanItGreen meeting which discussed electric vehicles including the number in the area and the electric vehicle rebate program and discussed the cross community climate agreement.

Student Commissioner Raidt introduced her friend A.J. an incoming 8th Grader interest in becoming the next Student Commissioner. A.J. discussed activities he has participated in as part of the Roosevelt Middle School Environmental Club.

Director Loster provided update on incoming staff liaison for the Commission.

4. SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION – SPECIAL EVENT DISCUSSION

Commissioner Cheng provided update on a potential special sustainability event. She indicated she intends to call the library about cohosting the event and would like more input from Commissioners. Commissioner Cheng inquires if there is enough interest in the concept, either as a spring event or an indoor event during the winter. Commissioner Cheng stated her hopes are that it is intended to be an open roundtable discussion on sustainability practices among all attendees. Student Commissioner Raidt offered to help promote a potential event at Oak Park and River Forest High School, both through the student newspaper and potential providing meeting space. The Commission discussed potential locations, dates, and formats for such a meeting.

5. STAFF UPDATE – ARTIFICIAL TURF

Director Loster provided an updated regarding questions raised during the previous Commission meeting regarding artificial turf regulations in the Village. Director Loster stated that Village ordinances do not place any restrictions on artificial turf nor address turf installations in any way. The Commission discussed permeability of various artificial surfaces, including turf, and the impact on storm water runoff and drainage issues. Commissioner Charrette stated that the topic may be a way to promote rain gardens for any interested residents. The Commission discussed limits to impermeable surface regulations and storm water storage requirements and requested an update on the Stormwater Master Plan. Director Loster provided a brief update of how the study is currently progressing.

6. COMMUNICATIONS

Commissioner Cheng provided overview the draft sustainability webpage with goal of provided a simpler, cleaner page where constituents may easily navigate to content. The Commission discussed potential ways to highlight which topics are easier or encourage residents to try different sustainability activities. Commissioner Charrette discussed having the Commissioners add content to the draft page. The Commission discussed the various categories of sustainability practices.

Commissioner Cheng discussed the e-newsletter content submission schedule and deadlines for the weekly and monthly newsletters. The Commission discussed transferring responsibility of coordinating communication to another Commissioner or multiple Commissioners. The Commission discussed development of topics for each newsletter and utilizing recurring seasonal items while reserving some newsletters for new information. The Commission decided to discuss communications topics further at the next meeting.

7. OTHER BUSINESS


Commissioner Charrette discussed attending the West Cook Wild Ones garden tour and native gardens in River Forest. Commissioner Charrette stated one resident had a question on what the village policy on controlled burns is. Director Loster stated such inquiries should be direct to the Village Fire Marshall. The Commission discussed controlled burns within the Village, the effectiveness, and the process for conducting controlled burns.

8. SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING – SEPTEMBER 13, 2022

The Commission reached a consensus to hold its next meeting Tuesday, September 13, 2022.

9. ADJOURNMENT

No motion for adjournment was needed due to lack of quorum.


Seth Jansen, Secretary

