

**VILLAGE OF RIVER FOREST
SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2022**

A regular meeting of the Village of River Forest Sustainability Commission was held on Tuesday, September 13, 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 Cheng, Veazie, Charrette (arrived at 7:06),
Student Commissioner Raidt (attended virtually, joining at 7:22)
Absent: Commissioners Clancy, McLean, Roberts, Student Commissioner Meyer
Also Present: Director of Public Works and Development Services Jeff Loster; Management
Analyst Seth Jansen

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

3. COMMISSIONER REPORTS

Commissioner Cheng noted that she will discuss communications updates during that time on the agenda.

Commissioner Veazie stated he wished discuss the SolSmart designation and recent ordinance. Chairperson Simon suggested discussing during the Other Business agenda item.

Chairperson Simon reported that he continues to attend the monthly GreenTown meetings and attended the September 13th meeting with President Adduci and Trustee Gillis. GreenTown event is expected to take place in June of next year and is expected to include Oak Park, River Forest, and many of the municipalities in Proviso Township. The meetings are beginning to seek sponsorship prior to developing content and booking speakers.

Commissioner Charrette asked about if leaf collection bags can be used for other compost materials. Director Loster indicated he would contact LRS to verify. Commissioner Charrette also reported that the compostable cups purchased for the LemonAid event were no longer being composted by LRS, stating that LRS has said the heat in the machines used in the composting process are not hot enough to compost the cups. Commissioner Charrette expressed need to communicate this to residents who may attempt to compost cups. The commissioners further discussed a potential visit to the composting site.

4. COMMUNICATIONS

Commissioner Cheng presented plan for commission members to contribute to the monthly and weekly Village newsletter articles. Commissioner Cheng has created a shared Spreadsheet to help coordinate who is responsible for what article and when it is due and created a shared Google Doc to be populated with recurring topic drafts. Commissioner Cheng discussed plan for assigning and coordinating article assignments. The Commission discussed need to find a new volunteer communication coordinator or co-leads for next year and planned to discuss at the next meeting. The Commissioners volunteered which entries they would contribute to in the coming weekly and monthly articles and which topics would be covered in each article.

The Commission discussed updates to the Sustainability webpage on the Village website. Commissioner Cheng stated goal is to have new webpage ready by the end of the year. The Commission discussed need to update introductory paragraph and have rotating date-specific upcoming events at top of page. The Commission discussed plan to fill-in additional needed information for some webpage items and edit further once populated with information. The Commission discussed linking to other resources and focusing content on local topics specific to the village.

5. OTHER BUSINESS

Commissioner Veazie discussed that the ordinance needed for SolSmart Silver Designation was adopted by the Village Board of Trustees on September 12. Commissioner Veazie asked what additional steps were needed prior to receiving the official Silver designation. The Commission discussed potential requirements needed to achieve Gold designation, including permitting costs and turnaround times. The Commission agreed to see if the Board of Trustees was interested in pursuing the Gold designation before taking any further steps.

Student Commissioner Raidt discussed the Oak Park and River Forest High School Environmental Club potentially hosting a roundtable event for students and their families to discuss sustainability practices.

Chairperson Simon stated that application for the next student commissioner would be going out to the schools in the coming weeks. The Commission discussed ensuring notice is also provided to Trinity High School students who live in the Village as an additional applicant pool.

Commissioner Charrette stated that community solar subscribers received a confusing notice of higher subscription fees that may need to be translating into something more digestible should residents have questions.

6. SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING – OCTOBER 11, 2022

The Commission reached a consensus to hold its next meeting Tuesday, October 11, 2022.

7. ADJOURNMENT

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Commissioner Cheng made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Veazie, to adjourn the meeting at 8:31 PM.

Roll Call:

Ayes: Chairperson Simon, Commissioners Charrette, Cheng, Veazie

Absent: Commissioners Clancy, McLean, Roberts

Nays: None

Motion Passes.



Seth Jansen, Secretary

