

**VILLAGE OF RIVER FOREST
SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION
TUESDAY, JANUARY 11, 2022**

A regular meeting of the Village of River Forest Sustainability Commission was held on Tuesday, January 11, 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 7:00p.m. Upon roll call, the following persons were:

Present: Chairperson Simon, Commissioners Charrette, Cheng, Veazie, Clancy, McLean, Roberts, Student Commissioners Meyer, Raidt

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 Clancy, to approve the December 14, 2021 meeting minutes.

Commissioner Charrette stated her comments about the PlanItGreen meeting should say “neighboring communities.”

Roll Call:

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

Absent: None

Nays: None

Motion Passes.

4. COMMISSIONER REPORTS

Student Commissioner Raidt stated she would be working on making River Forest schools members of the National Wildlife Federation with teacher Cory Kadlec.

Commissioner McLean stated she has a block winner for the Healthy Lawn, Healthy Family contest and stated they will need to figure out what to do for them.

Commissioner Roberts stated she had been contacted by someone in Oak Park to discuss the GHG inventory. She stated they would be working on tackling the 2021 numbers as quickly as they can.

Commissioner Charrette reported on the PlanItGreen meeting from December, stating they discussed goals for the year. She also stated she met with Commissioner Cheng to work out communications content.

Ms. Phyfer stated residents have begun to receive the Community Solar post cards. She noted there is limited availability into current projects, so the waitlist is not necessarily limited to River Forest residents. She stated she had been told by Metropolitan Mayors Caucus that another community solar project is anticipated to come online early this year and an additional project is expected to become active later this summer.

Chairperson Simon stated he would send out bullet points on Community Solar since neighbors have been reaching out.

Student Commissioner Meyer stated she was contacted by the OPRF Superintendent to discuss ideas about a climate policy for OPRF. She expressed her excitement about this, stating it is a way to keep the School Board accountable and pass on the torch.

Ms. Phyfer announced that through the green power generated from the Village's aggregation program, the Village has been designated a Green Power Community by the Environmental Protection Agency.

5. COMMUNICATIONS

a. January and February Content

Commissioner Cheng reviewed the content calendar, and the Commission discussed and identified upcoming communications items. The Commissioners also discussed the communication strategy for Community Solar, noting they should consider realistic benchmarks.

Commissioner Charrette suggested the Commission amplify their messaging on social media platforms by sharing the posts to the various River Forest groups.

b. Website

The Commission discussed defining communications objectives to help determine what kind of outside help may be needed to maintain the current level of communications. Commissioner Cheng noted the first priority is to make the Sustainability page on the Village website more usable. Chairperson Simon suggested reaching out to the Village's current website vendor to see what capabilities are available, and Ms. Phyfer stated she would need to know from the Commissioners what they are looking for.

c. VegOut Campaign Strategy

Commissioner McLean reviewed the VegOut campaign and discussed the issue of the capacity to support the program. The Commission discussed this issue and Commissioner Charrette suggested getting the schools involved. There was also discussion about evolving the message to be broader about eating less meat.

6. OTHER BUSINESS

Ms. Phyfer stated the Village is in a good position to obtain the silver designation with SolSmart. She stated the points are already secured, and there is a zoning letter that needs to be completed and submitted for consideration. She reviewed aspects of the gold designation, which include the codification of solar panels as allowed by right in all zoning districts and some kind of reasonable cap on building permit fees. She noted these will be undertaken as part of a broader evaluation of the Village's zoning code and the permit fee structure.

Chairperson Simon and Commissioner Veazie highlighted the importance of capping the fees.

Commissioner Charrette discussed tracking the number of electric vehicles in the Village and the possibility of reducing the vehicle license fee for electric vehicles.

7. DISCUSSION REGARDING MEETING SCHEDULE

Chairperson Simon stated the outcome of the Doodle poll was that not everyone could attend on the alternative dates, so the Commission's meeting schedule will stay the same.

8. SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING - FEBRUARY 8

The Committee reached a consensus to hold its next meeting Tuesday, February 8, 2022.

9. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Cheng made a motion, seconded by Commissioner McLean, to adjourn the meeting at 8:39 PM.

Roll call:

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

Absent: None

Nays: None

Motion Passes.

Sara Phyfer, Secretary