

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

A regular meeting of the Village of River Forest Sustainability Commission was held on Tuesday, December 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 7:04 PM. Upon roll call, the following persons were:

Present: Chairperson Simon, Commissioners Charrette, Cheng, Lennon, Veazie, and Student Commissioner Raidt (attending virtually until 8:00 PM)

Absent: Commissioner Roberts

Also Present: Management Analyst Seth Jansen

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

3. ADOPTION OF MEETING MINUTES

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

Roll Call:

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

Absent: Commissioner Roberts

Nays: None

Motion Passes.

4. COMMISSIONER REPORTS

Chairperson Simon introduced Commissioner Lennon to the Commission; Commissioner Lennon introduced himself and provided information on his background to the other Commissioners. Commissioner Charrette shared her experience attending the annual PlanIt Green Leaders Forum the previous week. Commissioner Veazie, Cheng, and Student Commissioner Raidt had no updates to report. Chairperson Simon shared information regarding the GreenTown event set to take place June 23rd, 2023 at Triton College.

5. STAFF UPDATES

Mr. Jansen provided a brief update on commencement of the Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Study. Mr. Jansen provided information on packet items regarding refuse collection and the Village electric vehicle charging station usage and then briefly outlined the C4 initiative.

6. COMMUNICATIONS

The Commissioners discussed the content and layout of the Sustainability webpage on the Village website. Commissioner Cheng outlined the changes she made and discussed how to highlight Village and regional sustainability goals and programs within the site. The Commissioners offered views on how to best highlight River Forest-specific items on the site. The Commissioners stated they intend to have their respective sections updated in the coming month.

Chairperson Simon outlined the newsletter process and Mr. Jansen provided an update on recent newsletter content. For the coming month, the Commissioner decide to utilize content that has already been drafted for the forthcoming weekly and monthly newsletters. The content highlights recent sustainability achievements and upcoming holiday-specific recycling programs.

7. COMMUNITY SOLAR

The Commissioners reviewed the current community solar subscription sign-up rates and discussed ways to increase participation in the program. Commissioner Charrette discussed reaching out to those on the waitlist who have been sent offers but not yet enrolled. Commissioner Lennon suggested that information be provided in a way that is digestible and easy to understand for the residents. Chairperson Simon indicated he would reach out to a consultant who had previously been involved in the community solar project. The Commissioners discussed ways to engage residents and what associations can assist with increasing the participation rate, potentially provided a further push through social media or resident postcard mailings. The Commissioners discussed see how River Forest compares to other communities with regards to community solar participation. The Commissioners discussed setting a goal to increase subscription rates by a specific number or percentage in 2023. Commissioner Veazie suggested having individuals at community events who can help draw attention to the program.

8. C4 INITIATIVE

Mr. Jansen provided an overview of the Cross Community Climate Collaborative (C4) and how C4 is wanting to know what goals communities are seeking to achieve. The Commissioners discussed potential goals of the Village and ways to contribute. The Commissioners discussed focusing on community solar and seeing how other communities are implementing such programs. The Commissioners discussed the equity component of the C4 Initiative and potentially working with the Diversity Equity and Inclusion Commission on the project.

9. OTHER BUSINESS

Chairperson Simon elaborated further on the GreenTown event as a call to action for all things sustainability and a way to engage local businesses and community members. Chairperson Simon has discussed filling the final vacant commission seat and seeking potential applicants. Chairperson Simon asked the Commissioners to identify potential applicants, particularly those whose skill sets and expertise would be beneficial to the Sustainability Commission.

10. SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING - JANUARY 10, 2023

The Commission reached a consensus to hold its next meeting Tuesday, January 10, 2023.

11. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Charrette made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Veazie, to adjourn the meeting at 8:27 PM.


Roll Call:

Ayes: Chairperson Simon, Commissioners Charrette, Cheng, Lennon, and Veazie

Absent: Commissioner Roberts

Nays: None

Motion Passes.



Seth Jansen, Secretary

