

**VILLAGE OF RIVER FOREST
SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION
TUESDAY, MARCH 14, 2023**

A regular meeting of the Village of River Forest Sustainability Commission was held on Tuesday, March 14, 2023 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 7:03 PM. Upon roll call, the following persons were:

Present: Chairperson Simon Commissioners Charrette, Cheng, Lennon, Veazie, Roberts
(Arriving via zoom at 7:06), and Student Commissioner Stierwalt
Absent: Student Commissioner Raidt
Also Present: Management Analyst Seth Jansen

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

3. ADOPTION OF MEETING MINUTES

Commissioner Charrette made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Lennon to approve the meeting minutes from January 10, 2023 and approve the meeting minutes from February 21, 2023 incorporating the updates from Commissioner Cheng.

Roll Call:

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

4. COMMISSIONER REPORTS

Commissioner Charrette stated that the community garden registration is open. Commissioner Charrette also noted that she had received the opt-out notice for the Electric Aggregation Program. Mr. Jansen noted that he had been receiving inquiries and working with MC Squared to address questions that residents may have. Commissioner Cheng noted the letter still noted the community contribution.

Commissioner Lennon shared his experience registering for the Community Solar Program and that he was now on the waitlist. He would report back when he is no longer on the waitlist. Commissioner Lennon also indicated he would be attending the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus zoom meeting on geothermal energy.

Chairperson Simon Commissioners Roberts, Cheng, Veazie, and Student Commissioner Stierwalt had nothing to report.

5. PRESENTATION FROM THE INTERNATIONAL DARK-SKIES ASSOCIATION

Chairperson Simon introduced David Barcus from the International Dark-Skies Association. Mr. Barcus provided a presentation, first outlining the history of the Association and information on the local Chicago chapter's efforts. Mr. Barcus outlined the various types of light pollution, the ecological impact, energy waste, and impact on human health. Mr. Barcus outlined the growth of light pollution and what steps can be taken to reduce light pollution through shielded lighting and use of warmer correlated color temperature lights.

Commissioner Simon asked about the process other local municipalities began. Mr. Barcus noted that the Village of Wheaton began with LED conversion of outdoor lighting and initially took action after some resident complaints. Mr. Barcus provide examples of local ordinances focusing on new construction and a complaint-driven approach to existing lighting, nothing that changes to existing lighting is generally more difficult unless it occurs with LED conversions. Commissioner Veazie asked about the benefit of warmer exterior lights; Mr. Barcus noted that wavelength of warmer light does not attract animals, minimizing the ecological impact. Commissioner Charrette shared that she had visited a rural town that had a full lights-off ordinance for dark skies. Commissioner Lennon asked if there were remedial actions individuals could take, such as swapping out bulbs; Mr. Barcus suggested swapping out bulbs for low temperature lights as a first step. Mr Barcus also recommended installing shielded lighting and motion sensor lights instead of lights that remain on at all times.

6. COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Jansen outlined what content is needed for newsletters for the next month. The Commissioners suggested information on electric aggregation for the coming Friday's newsletter. Mr. Jansen noted he was updating a webpage with aggregation and ensure the newsletter refers residents to that page. Commissioner Veazie suggested sharing information on the compost subscriber delivery for the following week. The Commissioners provided information on the compost delivery program. Commissioner Cheng noted she had not received any recent information on the bicycle exchange; Student Commissioner Stierwalt indicated he had not heard any update on the bicycle exchange but would seek information. Commissioner Cheng suggested providing an informational article on light pollution for the April monthly article. The Commissioners discussed the content a potential light pollution article. Mr. Jansen noted the weekly newsletter for the week of the April meeting is still open if any Commissioners had ideas or suggestions.

Mr. Jansen shared how the current draft webpages look in terms of content and layout. Mr. Jansen stated the Reduce Carbon Footprint page still needed to be edited down, specifically the subsection on switching to renewable resources. Commissioner Veazie had previously updated this section at the beginning of the webpage update process, and Commissioner Cheng requested if Commissioner Veazie could go back and further edit this section. Mr. Jansen noted that he had not yet incorporated Commissioner Charrette's updates to the

Regional Goals webpage but intended to do so. Commissioner Veazie said he would edit down the remaining section if it can be sent to him as a google doc. Student Commissioner Stierwalt asked about how quickly the new website will be live; Mr. Jansen indicated as soon as the remaining sections were live. Commissioner Cheng requested the homepage name be changed from "A Guide to Sustainability Programs" to "A Guide to Sustainable Living". Chairperson Simon noted the need to ensure a process is in place to ensure the new webpage stays up-to-date once launched.

7. 2023 COMMISSION INITIATIVES AND GOALS

Chairperson Simon stated that the Village should have a benchmark from a goal standpoint and go forward seeking to meet those objections. Commissioner Charrette noted that PlanIt Green's regional focus has shifted to C4 and how Oak Park has pursued their own Climate Action Plan. Commissioner Charrette stated that, because of this, the Village will need to develop more goals and actions on their own. Chairperson Simon shared that Trustees on the Village Board were interested in sustainability initiatives to curb greenhouse gasses, promote electrification within the Village, and continue effective communication to Village residents. Chairperson Simon asked if Commissioner Roberts could analyze the CMAP carbon emissions report and confirm the accuracy compared to the work she had previously done. Commissioner Roberts noted that the CMAP information had more data incorporated, but she would take a look and confirm what the Village's greenhouse gas emission baseline. Chairperson Simon also shared the desire of Trustee Gillis to better engage with the other taxing bodies and institutions within the Village. Chairperson Simon stated these priority areas should serve as a framework for discussion at the next meeting for what the Commission's comprehensive plan will be. Commissioner Roberts asked if the Oak Park Climate Action Plan is publicly available; Commissioner Charrette indicated she would share it with the Commission. Chairperson Simon also noted the local single use plastic ban and the State bill proposing a ban on Styrofoam as additional topics for discussion next meeting.

8. OTHER BUSINESS

No other business to discuss.

9. SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING – APRIL 11, 2023

The Commission reached a consensus to hold its next meeting Tuesday, April 11, 2023.

10. ADJOURNMENT

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

Roll Call:

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

Absent: None

Nays: None

Motion Passes.



Seth Jansen, Secretary