

**VILLAGE OF RIVER FOREST  
SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION  
TUESDAY, JUNE 13, 2023**

A regular meeting of the Village of River Forest Sustainability Commission was held on Tuesday, June 13, 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 7:02 PM. Upon roll call, the following persons were:

Present: Chairperson Simon, Commissioners Charrette, Cheng, Lennon, and Student Commissioner Stierwalt.

Absent: Commissioner Roberts, Commissioner Veazie, and Student Commissioners Raidt.

Also Present: Management Analyst Seth Jansen

**2. PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

**3. ADOPTION OF MEETING MINUTES**

Commissioner Cheng made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Lennon to approve the meeting minutes from April 11, 2023.

Roll Call:

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

Absent: Commissioner Roberts and Veazie

Nays: None

Motion Passes.

**4. COMMISSIONER REPORTS**

Chairperson Simon discussed the upcoming GreenTown Conference at Triton College on June 22nd, and the Commissioners discussed who would be able to attend the event and what topics were part of the program.

Commissioner Charrette noted that the community garden is up and running for the year and wanted to raise the issue of garden enclosures and suggested the possibility of using a larger enclosure rather than enclosures for each garden plot. Commissioner Charrette noted an upcoming town hall meeting for Sen. Harmon. Commissioner Charrette also provided an overview of a New York pilot program which has publicly-available, neighborhood compost bins which can only be opened via a phone application to prevent it from being contaminated with trash.

Commissioners Cheng, Lennon, and Student Commissioner Stierwalt had no reports.

## **5. COMMUNICATIONS**

Mr. Jansen provided overview of recent newsletter topics and solicited input for weekly and monthly newsletter items. Commissioner Cheng had suggested an announcement for the new webpage for the next weekly newsletter and a reminder on the single-use plastic ordinance. The Commission discussed how best to raise awareness of the single-use plastic ordinance. Chairperson Simon indicated he would draft a newsletter for the ordinance. Commissioner Charrette volunteered to write the July monthly newsletter on the benefits of trees. Commissioner Cheng suggested adding a line about the Village tree trail program. Commissioner Charrette also indicated she would also note that the Village is in the process of updating its inventory of parkway trees.

Mr. Jansen also sought input for events to add to the Green Dates and Deadlines page of the Sustainability webpage. Commissioner Charrette said she would sent info relating to pollinator week. Commissioner Cheng inquired if the Village was able to monitor the traffic to the Sustainability webpage and begin to track the use of the webpage.

The Commission discussed the disposal tonnage numbers in the LRS monthly reports. The Commissioners inquired about getting total number of households for the electronic waste and household hazardous waste events.

## **6. POLYSTYRENE BAN**

Chairperson Simon introduced the issue stating that the Commission has been directed to discuss a resolution supporting state-level legislation and a local ordinance. Mr. Jansen indicated that President Adduci indicated her wish for the Village Board to adopt the resolution during the June meeting. President Adduci also indicated she would like input on timeframe for a local ordinance and when such an ordinance should take effect. The Commission discussed how it would be codified in relations to the single-use plastic ordinance, so that businesses can find all the information in one place. Chairperson Simon suggested providing businesses with resources to effectively and inexpensively replace polystyrene. Commissioner Charrette suggested aligning the language as close to Oak Park as possible, removing the provisions specific to home rule communities but otherwise preserving the language. The Commission discussed the need to minimize the burden on small businesses in the community. The Commission asked if a survey could be given to businesses when they are notified of the proposed ordinance. The Commission discussed the timeframe for the adoption of the ordinance.

The Commission discussed the timeframe for adopting the resolution relating to supporting state polystyrene legislation and the drafting process. Commissioner Lennon asked what the alternatives were for businesses for polystyrene, and asked if the Commission was supporting the legislation specifically mandating the use of recyclable and compostable material in place of polystyrene foam. Chairperson Simon raised a concern about supporting

legislation that then may become significantly changed due to an amendment. Commissioner Lennon expressed reservations about legislation that could result in more harmful alternatives. Commissioner Cheng inquired about the impact of the Village passing the resolution, how it will help move the legislation, and who the audience for the resolution is. The Commission discussed the state legislative process and timeframe. Commissioner Cheng stated she wanted to also support and research sustainable alternatives to polystyrene, in addition to supporting the legislation which bans polystyrene. The Commission reached a consensus to adopt a resolution in support of Senate Bill 58, the bill that passed but was limited to state agencies and vendors but explicating mandates the use of recyclable and compostable materials in place of polystyrene foam. The Commission also agreed that, because Senate Bill 58 is still pending the Governor's signature, the resolution could then be presented to the Governor's Office.

Commissioner Charrette made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Lennon to instruct staff to draft a resolution in support of Senate Bill 58 and supporting future state efforts to replace the use of polystyrene with compostable and/or recyclable foodware.

Roll Call:

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

Absent: Commissioner Roberts and Veazie

Nays: None

Motion Passes.

## **7. 2023 COMMISSION INITIATIVES AND GOALS**

Mr. Jansen introduced the most recently updated spreadsheet workbook compiling all previous Sustainability goals and initiatives, and specifically introduced the sheet focusing on items relating to greenhouse gas emissions. Commissioner Cheng suggested changing the name of the greenhouse gas section to instead be titled energy, general engagement instead be titled community outreach, and nature instead be titled green ecosystems, to better match the topics on the Sustainability webpage. Commissioner Cheng suggested instead of going through each previous program to instead establish higher level measures of success. Commissioner Charrette suggested focusing on issues that the Commission feels will make the largest impact. Chairperson Simon suggested scoring the various initiatives on level of effort, cost, and impact. Commissioner Cheng suggested developing a one-page document with one or two goals in each focus area with a specified measure of success. Commissioner Charrette and Commissioner Lennon volunteered to meet with Mr. Jansen prior to the next meeting to bring an outline to the Commission for the strategic plan.

## **8. OTHER BUSINESS**

None.

## **9. SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING – JULY 11, 2023**

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

## 10. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Cheng made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Lennon to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 PM.

Roll Call:

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

Absent: Commissioner Roberts and Veazie

Nays: None

Motion Passes.

  

---

Seth Jansen, Secretary