

**VILLAGE OF RIVER FOREST
SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION
TUESDAY, AUGUST 22, 2023**

A regular meeting of the Village of River Forest Sustainability Commission was held on Tuesday, August 22, 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, Drury, Kopelow, Veazie, and Student Commissioner Stierwalt.
Absent: Commissioner Lennon
Also Present: Management Analyst Seth Jansen

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

3. ADOPTION OF MEETING MINUTES

Commissioner Charrette requested the Commission Reports section of the minutes be divided into shorter paragraphs, but no changes to the text of the minutes were made. Chairperson Charrette made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Veazie to approve the meeting minutes as amended from July 11, 2023.

Roll Call:

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

4. COMMISSIONER REPORTS

The Commission discussed the monthly LRS report and monthly ChargePoint report included in the meeting packet. Commissioner Kopelow asked if ChargePoint reports could be provided to show the rolling average usage over the course of the year.

Commissioner Drury raised the topic of creating waste reduction posters to shared in public settings and with partnering institutions, specifically sharing such posters at Library coffee talks.

The Commission discussed filling the vacant Student Commissioner seat. Student Commissioner Stierwalt said he would share the application with the Oak Park and River

Forest High School Environmental Club. The Commission also agreed the application should be shared with Fenwick High School and Trinity High School.

Commissioner Charrette discussed attending the Oak Park's 1st anniversary meeting of their Climate Ready Plan.

The Commission discussed the proposed working groups and finalized the topics and assignments: Commissioners Charrette and Kopelow would be the electrification working group, Commissioners Veazie and Lennon would be the renewable energy working group, and Commissioners Drury and Cheng would be the waste working group. Chairperson Simon would serve as the lead for any items assigned to the Commission by the Village Board of Trustees. Commissioner Cheng noted that the working groups could be used to bring in resident volunteers who may have an interest in a particular topic.

Commissioner Veazie noted that he and Commissioner Lennon had already met as the renewal energy and provided a brief overview of that discussion. They agreed the 3 priority projects would be community solar, rooftop solar, and local renewables. The local renewables focus would include finding opportunities to partner with the schools and park district in utilizing renewable energy as well as identifying any opportunities for geothermal.

5. PROPOSED POLYSTYRENE ORDINANCE

Chairperson Simon introduced the draft ordinance, summarized recent activities of the Commission on the topic, and outlined the process moving forward with the Village Board. Commissioner Kopelow noted that the reference to "gross income" should instead state "total income" to remain consistent with the terms used by the IRS.

Chairperson Simon made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Charrette to recommend to the Village Board of Trustees to approve an ordinance prohibiting the use of polystyrene foodware.

Roll Call:

Ayes: Chairperson Simon, Commissioners Charrette, Cheng, Drury, Kopelow, Veazie

Absent: Commissioner Lennon

Nays: None

Motion Passes.

6. COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Jansen outlined recent newsletter topics and solicited input for upcoming newsletters. Commissioner Charrette volunteered to write the September monthly newsletter article on light pollution. The Commission agreed to include a reminder for electronic waste pickup sign-up as a weekly newsletter item. Commissioner Drury volunteered to write an weekly newsletter article on preventing littering at River Forest Parks. The Commission discussed the Guide to Sustainable Living webpage on the Village website and inquired about getting information on visits to the webpage.

7. OTHER BUSINESS

None.

8. SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING – SEPTEMBER 12, 2023

The Commission reached a consensus to hold its next meeting Tuesday, September 12, 2023.

9. ADJOURNMENT

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


Roll Call:

Ayes: Chairperson Simon, Commissioners Charrette, Cheng, Drury, Kopelow, Veazie

Absent: Commissioner Lennon

Nays: None

Motion Passes.



Seth Jansen, Secretary

