

**VILLAGE OF RIVER FOREST  
SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION  
TUESDAY, MARCH 12, 2024**

A regular meeting of the Village of River Forest Sustainability Commission was held on Tuesday, March 12, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Conference 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, Lennon, and Mezzatesta, Student Commissioner Stierwalt and Student Commissioner Avalos.  
Absent: Commissioners Drury, Hayley, and Veazie  
Also Present: Management Analyst Seth Jansen

Commissioner Mezzatesta made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Charrette, to allow Commissioner Veazie to participate remotely pursuant to Section 7 of the Open Meetings Act (5 ILCS 120/7).

Roll Call:  
Ayes: Chairperson Simon, Commissioners Charrette, Lennon, and Mezzatesta  
Absent: Commissioners Drury, Hayley, and Veazie  
Nays: None  
Motion Passes.

Commissioner Veazie added to the roll.

**2. PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

**3. ADOPTION OF MEETING MINUTES**

Commissioner Charrette indicated one typo in the minutes that needs to be corrected. Commissioner Lennon made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Mezzatesta to approve the meeting minutes from February 13, 2024 with edits.

Roll Call:  
Ayes: Chairperson Simon, Commissioners Charrette, Lennon, Mezzatesta, and Veazie  
Absent: Commissioners Drury and Hayley  
Nays: None  
Motion Passes.

#### **4. ELECTRIC VEHICLE READINESS COHORT – ZONING ORDINANCE CONSIDERATION**

Mr. Jansen provided a brief summarized the zoning ordinance process and sought input from the Commission for any recommendations to the Village Board and the Zoning Board for what an electric vehicle charging station provisions in the Zoning Code. Chairperson Simon inquired if any items would be contentious or controversial. Mr. Jansen explained that the MMC standards give communities broad leeway to establish their own standards with regards to items such as aesthetics. Commissioner Lennon suggested that any charging in the public right-of-way be limited to commercial areas and not residential areas that have striped street parking. The Commission discussed this provision. Mr. Jansen raised the potential issue of parking minimums being changed to accommodate EV charging. The Commission discussed the issue and to how best accommodate parking minimums when space allows. Chairperson Simon raised the issue of impact on historic preservation and need to work with the Historic Preservation Commission with regards to any potential EVCS impacts. The Commission suggested that residential charging stations not be visible from the street to resolve any historic preservation aesthetic issues and applying it universally to all single family residential charging issues.

Mr. Jansen outlined the proposed changes concerning new construction and what is required by state law for single-family and multi-family residential new construction. Because there is no such requirement for state law for commercial new construction, the proposed changes offer a potential requirement for commercial new construction for parking spaces to be EV Ready. The Commission discussed communicating and enforcing the state law for residential new construction. Commissioner Lennon stated that any regulations should have clear guidelines as to what constitutes new construction, specifically with regard to significant reconstruction projects. The Commission discussed potential percentages or counts of parking spots that would need to be EV Ready for commercial new construction. The Commission suggested a minimum of the lower of 6 total charging spaces or 20% of all available parking spots. Mr. Jansen reviewed the feedback from the Commission and outlined the process moving forward.

Chairperson Simon made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Lennon to recommend to the Village Board of Trustees to proceed with a text amendment relating to electric vehicle charging station.

Roll Call:

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

Absent: Commissioners Drury and Hayley

Nays: None

Motion Passes.

#### **5. COMMISSIONER UPDATES**

Commissioner Mezzatesta shared that she was contacted to join a group of condominium residents to share how to improve sustainability amongst condo residents. She attended a

meeting via zoom in which the group discussed community solar. She stated the group hopes to meet quarterly and has condo residents from both Oak Park and River Forest.

Student Commissioner Avalos shared information for the OPRFHS Environmental Club Thrift Store on April 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>, with clothes being donated between April 17<sup>th</sup> and April 24<sup>th</sup>. Commissioner Charrette had inquired about the donation of any leftover clothes after the Thrift Store is held.

Students from the UIC Planning Course were in attendance and provided quick updates of both of their student sections' progress. Both student sections are breaking into smaller groups to develop specific action items.

Mr. Jansen shared that the Village is working on a contract to add the paid electricity accounts, the pump station and street lights, to a community solar program, and the Village is planning to install a solar installation at the pump station. Mr. Jansen outlined the plan for yard signs with recycling following the primary election day. Mr. Jansen also stated that the last round of opt-out notices for the electric aggregation program will be going out in the coming weeks.

## **6. WORKING GROUP REPORTS**

Commissioner Veazie did not have any update for the Energy Working Group but indicated receiving recent information for the working group and that he intended to meet with Commissioner Lennon soon. Mr. Jansen had noted that the previous meeting included a discussion on metrics and wanted to note that for the agenda even if no one had metrics ready for further discussion. Commissioner Charrette raised an issue with the screen/monitor limit for the electronic waste collection event and whether tablets and laptops count as screens like TVs and computer monitors. Commissioner Charrette shared an upcoming Forest Preserve disposal and recycling collection event the first weekend of April. Chairperson Simon shared an informational website from a nearby community on where to recycle hard-to-recycle community. Chairperson Simon also shared how he had used Earth Paint, a non-profit in Wooddale that accepts old latex paint for recycling and turns it into new paint programs.

## **7. COMMUNICATIONS**

Commissioner Mezzatesta inquired about her inquiry to submit regular letters to the editor on behalf of the Sustainability Commission. Commissioner Charrette had suggested framing it as being a Commissioner but not writing in on behalf of the Commission.

Mr. Jansen briefly outlined plans for upcoming newsletter items including a composting newsletter and the forthcoming car seat recycling, Styrofoam recycling, and bicycle exchange events. Mr. Jansen also indicated he would add the OPRFHS Thrift Shop event to the newsletter and provide info on Earth Day and Arbor Day.

Commissioner Mezzatesta outlined her plan for revising the Guide to Sustainable Living webpage. Commissioner Mezzatesta suggested a link on the front page of the Village website and to have the Commission and Guide being cross-linked to each other. Commissioner Mezzatesta also suggested that both the Commission and Guide pages should directly link to the Sustainability Commission document outlining the mission and organization of the Sustainability Commission. Commissioner further provided suggestions to improve navigation and readability of the sustainability pages, including reformatting links to subpages to include popup windows. The Commission discussed the limits of the website capabilities and standards for revisions to the website. Mr. Jansen stated he would make some of the simple text changes shortly then look into what else is capable with the website limitations. The Commission further discussed having events on the community calendar and sharing information via a social media account. Commissioner Mezzatesta indicated she would share her proposed changes with the other commissioners for any feedback they may have for website changes.

### **8. OTHER BUSINESS**

Mr. Jansen stated that he and Commissioner Lennon had attended the UIC Planning course's midterm presentations and that the final presentations will be Tuesday April 30<sup>th</sup>. The students in attendance offered brief updates and expressed appreciation for the feedback they have received thus far.

### **9. SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING - APRIL 9, 2024**

The Commission reached a consensus to hold its next meeting Tuesday, April 9, 2024.

### **10. ADJOURNMENT**

Commissioner Mezzatesta made a motion, seconded by Chairperson Simon, to adjourn the meeting at 8:33 PM.

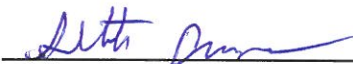
Roll Call:

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

Absent: Commissioners Drury and Hayley

Nays: None

Motion Passes.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Seth Jansen, Secretary