

**VILLAGE OF RIVER FOREST
SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2025**

A regular meeting of the Village of River Forest Sustainability Commission was held on Tuesday, November 11, 2025, 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 7:01 PM. Upon roll call, the following persons were:

Present: Co-Chair Charrette, Co-Chair Lennon, Commissioners Avalos, Hoyt, and Marti.
Student Commissioner Stierwalt arrived at 7:03; Commissioner Kadlec arrived at 7:08

Absent: Commissioner Hayley

Also Present: Staff Liaison Seth Jansen

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

3. ADOPTION OF MEETING MINUTES

Commissioner Marti made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Avalos, to approve the meeting minutes from October 14, 2025.

Roll Call:

Ayes: Co-Chair Charrette, Co-Chair Lennon, Commissioners Avalos, Hoyt, and Marti

Absent: Commissioners Hayley and Kadlec

Motion Passes.

4. COMMISSIONER UPDATES

Commissioner Avalos noted the upcoming Triton Environmental Club discussion with the Illinois Environmental Council. Commissioner Hoyt met with an ornithologist who specializes in nighthawks and was interested in the Village's focal species project. Commissioner Charrette discussed comments she had submitted for the most recent Development Review Board in which she requested any lighting for the project under review adhere to Dark Sky standards; Commissioner Charrette summarized the discussion of the DRB meeting. Commissioner Marti suggested that future development review should more explicitly incorporate sustainability standards or environmental review. The Commission further discussed Dark Sky lighting standards

5. BIRD CITY ILLINOIS AND MIGRATORY BIRD UPDATE

The Commission reviewed the Letter of Intent from the Forest Preserve so that the Trailside Museum may formally be able to provide resources in assisting the Village with seeking the designation. Commissioner Hoyt indicated this will help facilitate any educational programming and further facilitate work with other local institutions.

Commissioner Marti presented the PowerPoint created with the purpose of organizing the actions of the Commission in seeking Bird City Illinois designation. The three required action items are an annual proclamation, an annual event to coincide with Migratory Bird Day, and a resolution adopted every 3 years with renewal of the designation. Mr. Jansen explained how the proclamation and event would be similar the Arbor Day Foundation Tree City USA designation and how a potential timeframe would work.

The Commission discussed how the designation could be achieved quickly but instead recommended undertaking a few actions with a long-term effect to truly make a difference. The Commission agreed the focus would be on the focal species action item and the outdoor lighting action item. Commissioner Hoyt suggested copying Chicago's Lights Out campaign to seek larger institutions and properties to voluntarily commit to reduced lighting usage during the major migratory bird seasons. Commissioner Hoyt suggests that a voluntary approach during the migratory seasons could be the most effective approach and a good first step toward any further discussions of reducing light pollution. The Commission discussed timing of the various actions in the Bird City designation, including an informational Lights Out notice. Any such notice could also ask if any of these institutions have suitable rooftops that could be nesting habitats for the common nighthawk. The Commission discussed the timeline for undertaking each action and which Commissioners would be interested in overseeing certain items.

6. NATIVE PLANTS DISCUSSION

Mr. Jansen briefly outlined the memo provided to the Commission on previous actions undertaken by the Commission related to Native Plants. Commissioner Hoyt outlined his proposed process for identifying planting sites and what would be required; he also outlined some potential grants to fund the project. The Commission discussed potential planting locations, factoring in visibility and size of different locations. The Commission discussed opportunities to incorporate native planting into proposed future Village property renovations, specifically repurposing of Village lots. The Commission discussed the need to having identifying signage for native plants at any location to inform residents who may be interested in planting the same plants on their own property. The Commission discussed how potential sights would be maintained.

7. COMMUNICATIONS AND STAFF REPORTS

Mr. Jansen outlined the quarterly waste report memo. The Commission discussed the annual changes show in the report, the overall waste and organics tonnage trends, and the number of compost subscribers. Following the yard waste and compost discussion, Co-Chair Charrette noted how residents have been placing other yard waste in the street with leaves; Mr. Jansen noted that all communication regarding leaf pickup instructs residents to not include yard waste with the leaves.

Mr. Jansen provided an update on the ongoing EV charging station installation projects and the Public Works Garage rooftop solar project. Mr. Jansen outlined upcoming planned communications and resource information going onto the Village website, newsletters, and social media. Student Commissioner Stierwalt indicated he may be able to find high school students who would be willing to help sort the EcoShip Material Collection.

8. SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING – DECEMBER 9, 2025

The Commission reached a consensus to hold its next meeting Tuesday, December 9, 2025.

9. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Marti made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Avalos, to adjourn the meeting at 8:39PM.

Roll Call:

Ayes: Co-Chair Charrette, Co-Chair Lennon, Commissioners Kadlec, Avalos, Hoyt, and Marti

Absent: Commissioner Hayley

Motion Passes.



Seth Jansen, Secretary