

**VILLAGE OF RIVER FOREST
SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2025**

A regular meeting of the Village of River Forest Sustainability Commission was held on Tuesday, December 9, 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 7:00 PM. Upon roll call, the following persons were:

Present: Co-Chair Charrette, Co-Chair Lennon, Commissioners Kadlec, Hoyt, Marti, and
Student Commissioner Stierwalt

Absent: Commissioner Avalos

Also Present: Staff Liaison Seth Jansen

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

One resident was attending via Zoom and inquired about snow removal. Mr. Jansen explained that was outside of the jurisdiction of the Sustainability Commission and briefly explained Public Works operations with regard to snow and ice removal.

3. ADOPTION OF MEETING MINUTES

Commissioner Marti made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Kadlec, to approve the meeting minutes from November 11, 2025, with the typo correction identified by Co-Chair Charrette.

Roll Call:

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

Nays: None

Absent: Commissioner Avalos

Motion Passes.

4. COMMISSIONER UPDATES

Co-Chair Lennon noted the new state law regarding paint disposal and recycling. Co-Chair Lennon summarized the law and stated that he had drafted a newsletter write-up that would be shared in a future newsletter.

Co-Chair Charrette noted that she and Commissioner Hoyt had met with Trinity High School regarding native planting on the school property and a potential rooftop nesting location at the school, relating to the Bird City Illinois efforts of the Commission around the Common Nighthawk. Co-Chair Charrette also noted they met with Adam Kessel of the Trailside Museum regarding the partnership with the Forest Preserve District of Cook County for the Bird City Illinois recognition efforts. Co-Chair Charrette noted they would meet again regarding potential collaborations between the Trailside Museum and the Commission as part of these efforts.

Student Commissioner Stierwalt attended the Oak Park and River Forest High School Environmental Club meeting and stated the Club expressed interest in volunteering for the nighthawk monitoring project and the EcoShip sorting. The Commission discussed the EcoShip collection drive.

5. FOREST PRESERVE PARTNERSHIPS

Co-Chair Charrette suggested the Commission and the Village could help promote and amplify what the Forest Preserve is doing locally. Commissioner Kadlec suggested promoting Forest Preserve events through the Sustainability page on the Village website. Mr. Jansen noted that the Trailside Museum and Forest Preserve events page is linked on the website. Co-Chair Charrette also noted the Forest Preserve intends to expand the Village's polystyrene food takeout container ban and apply it to all facilities throughout the county, beyond those located within River Forest

6. COMMISSION PROJECTS

Commissioner Marti outlined the process and timeframe for applying for the Bird City Designation. Commissioner Marti had created a chart timing out the various tasks and actions that need to be undertaken throughout the process. Commissioner Marti outlined the chart he had created to outline the actions and timeframe that will serve as a roadmap to earning the Bird City designation. The Commission discussed the layout of the chart and deadlines established in the chart. Co-Chair Charrette suggested that some actions may already be completed and documentation may be all that is needed. Co-Chair Lennon inquired about what requires Board approval and if anything needs to be approved by the Board prior to the Commission taking actions. Commissioner Hoyt suggested incorporating a Lights Out commitment from the Village; Mr. Jansen explained how this would require a resolution, rather than a proclamation similar to what Oak Park had passed.

Co-Chair Charrette noted that the Commission will be ten years old and suggested putting together something to recognize all the work the Commission has done over the past decade.

The Commission discussed putting together information on the Lights Out campaign, using Village communications to promote it to residents, and contacting larger institutions directly to see if they would be willing to voluntarily participate in the program. Co-Chair Lennon suggested adding outreach to the various institutions as part of the action items listed in the planning chart. Commissioner Hoyt discussed Trinity High Schools roof as a potential bird habitat and discussed other types of roofing styles and materials that are and are not suitable for rooftop nesting. Commissioner Hoyt also met with the Science Department Chair at Triton College about a potential opportunity for Triton to assist with monitoring birds as part of the project. Co-Chair Charrette and Commissioner Marti indicated they would contact each other directly regarding Bird City actions already achieved by the Community

Commissioner Hoyt discussed potential locations for the native planting project. The Commission agreed that the Hawthorne Ave. planting site and Central Ave. butterfly garden could serve as good small locations to start and gradually build from. The Commission also discussed incorporating native planting into the Village lots across from Village Hall along Park Ave. In discussing the Park Ave. locations, the Commission noted this location could

serve as an educational planting site with plant identifiers incorporated and serve as a portion of a town park with benches, tables, and walking paths as well. Co-Chair Lennon noted the value of the education component of the native planting and garden sites. The Commission discussed volunteer opportunities in developing and maintaining the site. The Commission discussed the Hawthorne planting site and jurisdictions of the railroad and the Village right-of-way. Co-Chair Lennon requested a status update on the previously listed pollinator and native gardens under the jurisdiction of the Village. Commissioner Kadlec suggested that an updated list could help the Village and Commission identify which locations need attention. Co-Chair Charrette had suggested an updated inventory of parkway pollinator gardens that the Village had previously installed.

7. COMMUNICATIONS AND STAFF REPORTS

Mr. Jansen outlined the upcoming planned newsletter and social media communications and general communications plan to promote the composting and community solar programs when there are not specific events or deadlines to share. Mr. Jansen provided updates on the Electric Vehicle Charging Station project, the Rooftop Solar project at the Public Works Garage, and the Permeable Paver project for the Village Hall parking lot

8. SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING – JANUARY 13, 2026

The Commission reached a consensus to hold its next meeting Tuesday, January 13, 2026

9. ADJOURNMENT

Co-Chair Charrette made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Marti, to adjourn the meeting at 8:01PM.

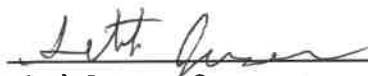
Roll Call:

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

Nays: None

Absent: Commissioner Avalos

Motion Passes.


Seth Jansen, Secretary