

**VILLAGE OF RIVER FOREST
SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION
TUESDAY, JUNE 10, 2025**

A regular meeting of the Village of River Forest Sustainability Commission was held on Tuesday, June 10, 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 7:02 PM. Upon roll call, the following persons were:

Present: Co-Chair Charrette, Commissioners Hayley and Avalos, Student Commissioner Stierwalt (arriving at 7:04)
Absent: Co-Chair Lennon, Commissioners Mezzatesta, Kadlec, and Hoyt
Also Present: Management Analyst Seth Jansen

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

Peter Chien of Oak Ave. expressed support of a proposed leaf blower ban. Mr. Chien cited the impacts of noise quality, respiratory and public health factors, and quality of life. He noted the noise can affect not only the operator but others nearby. Mr. Chien stated that, in addition to emissions and pollution, there is also particulate matter that can impact respiratory health. Mr. Chien concluded that it is a quality of life issue in addition to a health issue and stated that the timing makes sense for the Village to act now given that the neighboring community of Oak Park has a ban on leaf blowers taking effect. Co-Chair Charrette responded to the resident explaining the steps the Commission has already taken and the current recommendation of Commission pending Board discussion. Mr. Jansen updated the Commission on the discussion that occurred at the most recent Board meeting regarding the topic

3. ADOPTION OF MEETING MINUTES

Approval of the previous meeting's minutes were not considered due to lack of a quorum.

4. COMMISSIONER UPDATES

Co-Chair Charrette discussed the Sustainability Commission-related items, including summary of the UIC Climate Plans, discussed at the recent Board meeting. Commissioner Avalos noted that the Park District of Oak Park now has EV chargers connected to light poles through a company called VoltPost.

Commissioner Hayley stated that she has drafted some ideas for a business-focused Sustainability survey similar to the one targeted toward residents that the Commission put out last fall. Co-Chair Charrette expressed support for the idea, and the Commission discussed finding ways to partner with local businesses. Commissioner Hayley specific cited

shoe collection and recycling programs, as covered in the most recent monthly newsletter draft, and believes there are similar opportunities for other types of businesses.

Commissioner Hayley inquired about the status of the EV Charging Station project. Mr. Jansen provided an update of project status and stated the Commission will need to consider potential charging rate fees, which will need to be in place prior to the stations going online. Co-Chair Charrette discussed the costs and having to factor in cost recovery for the Village's portion of the cost of the project. The Commission discussed kilowatt hour charging rates as well as keeping overstay fees in place. The Commission discussed the capabilities in establishing fees within the ChargePoint system.

5. RIVER FOREST SUSTAINABILITY SCORECARD DISCUSSION

Mr. Jansen noted that Commissioner Kadlec was unable to attend but is still working on the scorecard based on feedback provided, noting that Co-Chair Lennon had previously suggested moving it from a scorecard to an action list. Commissioner Hayley suggested designing it as a starburst graph and having the actions grouped by category and color-coded to make it easier and more visually appealing. Student Commissioner Stierwalt also indicated he would be willing to help design it.

6. ROOFTOP SOLAR PERMITS AND COMMUNITY SOLAR ENROLLMENT REPORT

Mr. Jansen briefly outlined the rooftop and community solar metrics included in his memo. The metrics provided for the community solar program are from April 30th, prior to the recent postcards going out, and will serve as an accurate baseline to measure enrollment following the new round of marketing the program. Mr. Jansen noted that dual billing for community solar causes resident confusion and MC2 administering both the Village's community solar program and electric aggregation causes further confusion. Co-Chair Charrette inquired if there was a way to find out the number of people who enrolled directly into other community solar programs.

7. DISCUSSION ON PROMOTION OF COMMUNITY SOLAR PROGRAM

Mr. Jansen discussed how single-billing for community solar has been approved by state regulators but never approved and community solar programs cannot be run as opt-out programs per the same state regulator. The Commission discussed ways to promote the program through the newsletter and Village social media. Mr. Jansen noted that the Board recommended the Village develop a graphic to show the different types of programs and how they differ from each other. The Commission reviewed what was included in the UIC Climate Plans regarding promotion of the community solar program. The Commission suggested making the educational material be social media-centered with a focus on developing a video or graphic while the text would serve as the caption. The Commission also discussed the forthcoming community solar anchor account for the Village's pump station and street lighting and how it could be used as an example to show savings for enrollment into community solar. Mr. Jansen indicated that he anticipated updated community solar metrics

enrollment by the August meeting. Co-Chair Charrette asked that the Village inquire about the wait time for enrollment in community solar.

8. STAFF UPDATES AND OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Jansen provided an update about the Commission request that Village Hall host a permanent EcoShip drop-off location or have another collection drive during the winter holidays. Mr. Jansen noted that permanent drop-off locations can only accept small volumes of materials and that EcoShip was temporarily pausing operations while they found a new headquarters location, but he indicated he would continue to monitor for a potential collection drive in December and January.

Mr. Jansen provided information for the CN Railway and America In Bloom tree planting event on June 23rd. Co-Chair Charrette requested the compost cart at the pump station be emptied by LRS and requested a recycling container for that location as well.

Mr. Jansen outlined the planned Sustainability communications for the coming month. The Commission suggested running the Plastic Free July communications in the final week of June in order to give residents advance notice of ways they can participate for the month.

9. SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING – JULY 8, 2025

The Commission reached a consensus to hold its next meeting Tuesday, July 8, 2025.

10. ADJOURNMENT

Co-Chair Charrette made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Avalos, to adjourn the meeting at 8:04 PM.

Roll Call:

Ayes: Co-Chair Charrette, Commissioners Hayley and Avalos.

Absent: Co-Chair Lennon, Commissioners Mezzatesta, Kadlec, and Hoyt

Nays: None

Motion Passes.


Seth Jansen, Secretary