

**VILLAGE OF RIVER FOREST
SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION
TUESDAY, JULY 8, 2025**

A regular meeting of the Village of River Forest Sustainability Commission was held on Tuesday, July 8, 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 Hayley, Kadlec, Avalos, and Hoyt, Student Commissioner Stierwalt
Absent: Commissioner Mezzatesta
Also Present: Management Analyst Seth Jansen

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

Sarah Hick of Forest Ave. spoke in support of the proposed gas leaf blower ban and encouraged a shorter timeframe for implementation of a full ban.

Peter Chien of Oak Ave. stated support for the previous comments and stated the Village has an opportunity to shorten the timeframe because of Oak Park's recently adopted full ban.

Prior to adoption of the meeting minutes, Mr. Jansen and Co-Chair Charrette introduced the newly appointed Commissioner Hoyt.

3. ADOPTION OF MEETING MINUTES

Commissioner Avalos made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Kadlec, to approve the meeting minutes from May 13, 2025 and June 10, 2025.

Roll Call:

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

Absent: Commissioner Mezzatesta

Nays: None

Motion Passes.

4. COMMISSIONER UPDATES

Commissioner Avalos encouraged participation in Plastic Free July, encouraging reusable bags to avoid contributing to the 1 billion bags begin thrown away. Commissioner Avalos stated that there are plastic bag collection points at the entrance of Oak Park and River Forest High School, any bags donated will be used to help make benches. Commissioner Avalos also shared upcoming clean up and planting events.

Commissioner Hoyt noted that plastic bag collection locations also accept plastic wrap and plastic mailing bags in addition to plastic grocery bags.

Co-Chair Charrette noted Commission attendance of the CN Railway and America In Bloom tree planting event with the Village.

Commissioner Hayley stated she is still working on a survey or information guide for businesses

5. RIVER FOREST SUSTAINABILITY SCORECARD DISCUSSION

Commissioner Hayley began creating a starburst graphic for the community scorecard as a design option. Instead of a grid format, the actions topics are color sorted in an inner ring with the actions in an outer ring. Commissioner Hayley indicated points could be added and the actions could include links to resource guides. Commissioner Hayley sought feedback from the Commission. Commissioner Kadlec stated that he liked the direction of the format and likes that it would be visually appealing when it is posted on the website. Commissioner Hoyt inquired about and Commissioner Kadlec explained the work that has been done developing the resource guide/scorecard. Co-Chair Lennon expressed desire for simplifying and narrowing the guide, removing the points, and making sure people remain engaged with the program/guide. Commissioner Avalos stated the points may not go with the new design but expressed support for the simplicity and the visual appeal of the starburst design. The Commission discussed the potential format and ways to refine the design.

6. SOLAR ENERGY COMMUNICATIONS AND RESOURCES FOR RESIDENTS

Commissioner Hayley began putting together a guide for residents or the community solar program. The current guide is a 6 slide PowerPoint, but Commissioner Hayley expressed the need to shorten and simplify it. Commissioner Hoyt recommended images and videos instead of text as much as possible. The Commission discussed making a short, social-media video or series of videos to promote the community solar program.

Mr. Jansen explained the direction the Board had provided about developing information to explain the difference of the various solar energy programs, as well as the community aggregation program. Mr. Jansen shared a draft webpage with table format for the guide, indicating he believed his draft is too wordy and solicited feedback from the Commission. Commissioner Kadlec suggested developing it into a flow chart to help guide residents through the various programs. The Commission suggested explaining the steps involved for each and the benefits to each program. The Commission had inquired about updating the website more broadly to consolidate and simplify the information already on the website relating to these programs. Commissioner Hoyt volunteered to provide feedback and suggested updates to the website and the draft solar guide. Commissioner Hoyt suggested developing some social media strategies to promote the various programs. The Commission discussed reaching out to ComEd to see if they have any metrics on residents enrolled in community solar programs. The Commission discussed posting metrics and savings for the Village's pump station and street lighting accounts and their participation in the community solar program.

7. EV CHARGING STATION FEE REVIEW AND DISCUSSION

Mr. Jansen outlined the memo he provided to the Commission for the new proposed EV charging rate. Mr. Jansen described some of the capabilities and limitations of the ChargePoint software. The Commission discussed ways to factor in a limited overstay fee and ways to ensure the fee captures the cost of electricity, anticipating rising cost of electricity. The Commission discussed how the rates will be adjusted in the future to ensure costs are being captured. Co-Chair Lennon suggested exploring a way to ensure the electricity rate is captured and allowing the Village's finance staff to adjust the charging rate with the changes to the electricity rate. Co-Chair Lennon also suggested clarifying the difference between parking spots and charging spots. The Commission discussed if there should be special consideration for the Level 2 chargers at the Metra Station. Co-Chair Lennon stated that they should also be considered charging spot, as opposed to a parking spots. Commissioner Kadlec stated he felt 10 hours was too long of a period prior to the overstay fee taking effect; Co-Chair Charrette raised concerns of a hypothetical case where an individual parks in one of these spots, getting very little charge but blocking the spot each day with no fee. Commissioner Hoyt stated that he anticipated it is unlikely that park and ride residents will need to utilize the charging stations while at work if they are also charging at home. The Commission came to an agreement that the spots at the Metra Station should be considered the same as any other charging spot and should not be given an extended period before an overstay fee takes effect. Mr. Jansen summarized the feedback provided by the Commission and stated he would bring back a revised draft for consideration at the next month's Commission meeting. The Commission discussed ways to share the information on the fee change to ensure residents and users are notified

8. CHEDULE NEXT MEETING – AUGUST 12, 2025

The Commission reached a consensus to hold its next meeting Tuesday, August 12, 2025.

9. ADJOURNMENT

Co-Chair Charrette made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Hoyt, to adjourn the meeting at 8:38 PM.


Roll Call:

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

Absent: Commissioner Mezzatesta

Nays: None

Motion Passes.


Seth Jansen, Secretary

