

**VILLAGE OF RIVER FOREST  
SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION  
TUESDAY, AUGUST 12, 2025**

A regular meeting of the Village of River Forest Sustainability Commission was held on Tuesday, August 12, 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 Lennon, Commissioners Hayley, Kadlec, Avalos, and Hoyt (arriving at 7:03), Student Commissioner Stierwalt

Absent: None

Also Present: Co-Chair Charrette (attending virtually); Management Analyst Seth Jansen

**2. PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

**3. ADOPTION OF MEETING MINUTES**

Commissioner Kadlec made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Avalos, to approve the meeting minutes from July 8, 2025.

Roll Call:

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

Absent: Co-Chair Charrette, Commissioner Hoyt

Nays: None

Motion Passes.

**4. COMMISSIONER UPDATES**

Co-Chair Lennon indicated he recently installed a heat pump water heater in his home and indicated it has been a success so far.

Commissioner Avalos encouraged residents to bike whenever possible during the good weather and for residents to use the Village's dedicated bike lanes. Commissioner Avalos also stated he attended a recent meeting and learned that cities cannot adopt a version of the Paris Climate Agreement.

Commissioner Hoyt participated in the West Cook Wild Ones Garden Tour and met a landscape designer with McAdam Landscaping and discussed further promotion of native landscaping. Commissioner Hoyt suggested finding ways to partner with local landscapers who offer native landscaping services and connect them with interested residents. Commissioner Hoyt also suggested compiling a list of properties which could serve as demonstration projects for native landscaping within the Village. Commissioner Hoyt also suggested promoting ways to make the Village bird friendly with the forthcoming seasonal

bird migration, suggesting newsletter articles and social media posts to raise awareness of ways to improve bird habitats within and bird migration through the Village. Commissioner Hoyt also mentioned that he had another idea measuring water quality at the Des Plaines to Mr. Jansen; Mr. Jansen indicated he had discussed this with staff and is looking into potentially incorporating it into an existing Public Works project.

Co-Chair Charrette outlined the plan for placing Commissioner Hoyt's ideas into the agendas for the meetings in the coming months. Co-Chair Charrette also noted that Co-Chair Lennon suggested incorporating the information regarding landscapers who offer native landscaping services in with the on-going outreach regarding the leaf blower ordinance. The Commission discussed outreach to landscapers regarding native landscaping.

Co-Chair Lennon suggested, for both the native planting and migratory bird ideas, identifying what would be needed from the Village, any limitations, and any identifiable goals and actions. Commissioner Hoyt indicated he would be able to provide some specific action items for the municipal level and for sharing with residents when these are brought for full discussion to the Commission. Co-Chair Charrette and Commissioner Hoyt indicated they would work together prior to next month's meeting and would present to the Commission at that time. Commissioner Hayley suggested incorporating any recommendations related to Native Plants from the UIC Climate Plans. Commissioner Kadlec suggested developing a local registry of native gardens to help quantify the impact within the Village and suggested a yard sign from the Village for recognition. The Commission inquired about the status of the Chicago Ave bioswales. The Commission discussed previous designations and pledges as well as existing ordinance regulations as potential topics for future discussion.

## **5. EV CHARGING STATION FEE REVIEW AND DISCUSSION**

Mr. Jansen outlined the updates to the draft ordinance based on the feedback provided by the Commission last month. Mr. Jansen also indicated some changes suggested by Co-Chair Lennon prior to the meeting, including typo corrections. Mr. Jansen then introduced the topic of the overstay fee and solicited feedback from the Commission based on the limitations of the software system that operates the charging stations. The Commission discussed the overstay fees and how they relate to the charging fees. The Commission recommended the overstay fee begin to be incurred 15 minutes after receiving full charge for all charging stations. The Commission decided on a \$100 cap for the total session fee to start and would monitor usage and overstays to see if it needed to be revised in the future.

Co-Chair Lennon made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Hayley, to recommend the Village Board of Trustees to approve an ordinance revising the fee for the Village's Electric Vehicle Charging Stations.

Roll Call:

Ayes:	Co-Chair Lennon, Commissioners Hayley, Kadlec, Avalos, and Hoyt
Absent:	None
Nays:	None
Not Voting:	Co-Chair Charrette

Motion Passes.

## **6. SOLAR ENERGY COMMUNICATIONS AND RESOURCES FOR RESIDENTS**

Commissioner Hayley outlined a video she has begun working on for the Village website and social media explaining how the community solar program. Mr. Jansen solicited feedback and revisions from the Commissioners for the Guide to Solar Energy webpage for the Village website. Commissioner Hayley stated she would share other videos and resources explaining how community solar works. The Commission suggested making sure it is understandable and digestible for residents who are not familiar with the program and potentially using an analogy to explain it in a simple manner.

Commissioner Hayley noted that Concordia is in the process of signing up as a community solar anchor account; Co-Chair Charrette suggested highlighting that in future communications.

## **7. RIVER FOREST SUSTAINABILITY SCORECARD DISCUSSION**

Commissioner Kadlec indicated he would make some final revisions and send it over to Mr. Jansen to be posted on the Village website. Commissioner Avalos suggested also promoting the nomination form that the Commission had put out earlier.

## **8. OTHER BUSINESS**

Mr. Jansen outlined the upcoming communications plans for newsletters and social media and solicited input from the Commission for any upcoming newsletter articles. Commissioner Hoyt volunteered to write a newsletter article regarding migratory bird awareness and offered to write any further short newsletters on lawn care and native plants as well. The Commission discussed sending images in for social media posts as well. The Commission discussed upcoming dates for potential articles and requirements for the weekly and monthly articles. Commissioner Kadlec volunteered to write a newsletter article on light pollution, and Co-Chair Charrette volunteered to write a newsletter article on International Food Waste Awareness Day.

Mr. Jansen outlined the quarterly waste report included in the meeting packet. Mr. Jansen outlined data trends but indicated data from prior to the Village's current LRS contract was very inconsistent.

The Commission discussed sharing information from the UIC Climate Plans on the Village website and how to best utilize the recommendations from the plans.

## **9. SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING – SEPTEMBER 9, 2025**

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

## 10. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Avalos made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Hayley, to adjourn the meeting at 8:23 PM.

Roll Call:


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

Absent: None

Nays: None

Not Voting: Co-Chair Charrette

Motion Passes.

  
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Seth Jansen, Secretary