

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

A regular meeting of the Village of River Forest Sustainability Commission was held on Tuesday, September 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, Avalos, Hoyt, and Marti

Absent: Commissioner Hayley, Student Commissioner Stierwalt

Also Present: Staff Liaison Seth Jansen

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

3. ADOPTION OF MEETING MINUTES

Commissioner Marti made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Kadlec, to approve the meeting minutes from August 12, 2025, with the Correction identified by Commissioner Kadlec.

Roll Call:

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

Absent: Commissioner Hayley

Nays: None

Motion Passes.

4. COMMISSIONER UPDATES

Commissioner Marti was introduced as the most recently appointed Commissioner. Commissioner Avalos noted the upcoming Illinois Environmental Council Gala event. Co-Chair Charrette mentioned the passage of the new EV Charging Station fees for the Village with the new fees to take effect soon. Co-Chair Charrette also suggested follow up outreach regarding the Styrofoam food ware ordinance, noting that Trinity High School just learned of the ordinance and made the switch and a food truck a Forest Preserve event was also using Styrofoam recently.

Commissioner Hoyt discussed the Roosevelt Middle School Native Plant Sale from 9 am to 11 am on Saturday October 4th. Commissioner Hoyt noted that the funds raised from the sale will go to Forest Preserve habitat restoration projects.

5. COMMUNICATIONS AND STAFF REPORTS

Mr. Jansen outlined the planned newsletter and social media posts for the coming weeks. Commissioner Hoyt offered to write a post on International Migratory Bird Day in October and suggested a Leave the Leaves article for a week in October as well.

Mr. Jansen outlined his memo on Community Solar enrollment. The Commission agreed that the program needs to be further promoted to residents in easy-to-understand ways.

Mr. Jansen summarized the recommendations provided to the Village through the Village's participation in the America In Bloom program as part of the grant from CN Railway.

6. MIGRATORY BIRD DISCUSSION

Mr. Jansen briefly summarized the Bird City Illinois Program and its requirements. Co-Chair Lennon suggested looking across various programs, including the Bird City Illinois Program, the America In Bloom recommendations, and other similar programs to identify actions that can be undertaken to achieve requirements for multiple programs.

Commissioner Hoyt outlined his plan to pursue Bird City Illinois designation, providing audio of the Common Nighthawk nesting in River Forest. Commissioner Hoyt outlined how a plan aimed at raising awareness of the bird and its habitat could be used to achieve Bird City designation while focusing on promoting bird habitats for a specific species, noting that Support of a Focal Species is an action item within the program. He noted the Common Nighthawk is a bird in steep decline in urban environments. The bird prefers flat gravel rooftops for nesting and that many larger properties within the Village, such as Dominican or Concordia, may be suitable nesting habitats. The Commission discussed the topic and ways to raise awareness for residents. The Commission agreed to continue to revisit the topic, and staff would provide support as needed. Commissioner Hoyt and Co-Chair Charrette indicated they would continue to work on the issue.

7. NATIVE PLANTS AND GREEN SPACES PRELIMINARY DISCUSSION

Mr. Jansen summarized the memo and UIC Climate Plan recommendations relating to native plants. Commissioner Hoyt suggested taking a comprehensive look at Village and Park District property which may be suitable. The Commission agreed to discuss the topic in further detail at the October meeting.

8. SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING – OCTOBER 14, 2025

The Commission reached a consensus to hold its next meeting Tuesday, October 14, 2025.

10. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Hoyt made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Kadlec, to adjourn the meeting at 8:22 PM.

Roll Call:

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

Absent: Commissioner Hayley

Nays: None

Motion Passes.


Seth Jansen, Secretary