

**VILLAGE OF RIVER FOREST  
SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION  
TUESDAY, JANUARY 13, 2026**

A regular meeting of the Village of River Forest Sustainability Commission was held on Tuesday, January 13, 2026, 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 (arriving at 7:02)

Absent: Commissioner Avalos

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 December 9, 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**

Commissioner Kadlec noted clean-up events at the Cook County Forest Preserve over Martin Luther King Jr. weekend, specifically noting the cleanup occurring at Evans Field in River Grove. Commissioner Kadlec also recapped the PlanIt Green Leadership Forum that occurred in December, specifically noting the breakout group discussion on the importance of promoting energy efficiency for those who are not yet engaged in the issue.

Co-Charrette recapped her meeting with the Sustainability Coordinator with the Forest Preserve of Cook County and the Director of the Trailside Museum about ongoing sustainability efforts with the Forest Preserve and ways the Village coordinate and collaborate with the Forest Preserve on sustainability efforts.

**5. COMMISSION PROJECTS**

Commissioner Marti shared the updated project plan and timeline for Bird City Illinois designation efforts. Commissioner Marti also shared the calendar he had created but noted it needs to be further refined and cleaned up so it is more readable. Commissioners Hoyt and Marti discussed creating a master list of action items to effectively track what has been

completed, what is being undertaken, and what still needs to be done. Co-Chair Charrette noted several other items the Village has likely already achieved. Commissioner Hoyt further noted the native plant garden at Roosevelt Middle School should also be included as an action promoting native plants. Co-Chair Lennon and Commissioner Marti discussed project timetable further, making sure the dates in which the Commission needs to undertake a specific action and when an item needs go before the Village Board are both clear. The Commission continued to discuss ways in which to organize the timetable of action items for the project.

Commissioner Hoyt indicated he has been rethinking the nighthawk conservation action item. Commissioner Hoyt indicated he would still like to raise awareness on the importance of rooftop habitats for the nighthawk but plans to shift focus to a nighthawk population monitoring project instead. The population monitoring project would align with the Bird City citizen science action item. Commissioner Hoyt approached the OPRF Sustainability Club and will be meeting with them in February; he also met with the Sustainability Club at Roosevelt Middle School that showed interest in the project. Over the course of the season, volunteer citizen scientists would try to monitor the nighthawk population in the area. The Commission would seek guidance from the Chicago Bird Alliance on standard protocol for observing and collecting data, and the collected data would then be shared with larger Chicago region population monitoring projects. Commissioner Hoyt also noted that the Roosevelt Middle School Sustainability Club raised issues of addressing bird collisions with glass, noting the desire to track, and hopefully reduce, bird collisions with the Middle School gym windows and share information with what students and their parents can do at home to reduce window collisions. The Commission discussed what can be done to reduce bird collisions and ways to partner with the School District to help reduce collisions at public buildings. Commissioner Kadlec inquired about the timeframe for the nighthawk monitoring and mentioned potential collaboration with Triton College on the project. The Commission discussed developing an announcement or kick-off of the Bird City efforts to raise community awareness

Commissioner Hoyt introduced the application shared by the Town of Normal for their recent Bird City Designation. Commissioner Marti noted that it was helpful to see the completed document as a guide for what needs to be done to achieve designation. Commissioner Hoyt noted the application shows that Normal's efforts heavily incorporated community participation. The Commission discussed partners in the community and broader region, including the Chicago Bird Alliance, Cook County Forest Preserve, and potentially the school district and library. Mr. Jansen noted the benefit of seeing an example of a community event. The Commission discussed potential partners for the event and agreed to discuss it in further detail at next month's meeting. The Commission also discussed potential timing and dates for the event.

Mr. Jansen noted that proclamations will be ready for next meeting for Migratory Bird Day and the Lights Out effort. Mr. Jansen also stated the next meeting the Commission would discuss the public event and the outreach strategy regarding the Lights Out effort.

Mr. Jansen outlined the information he had shared with the Commission with regards to available grants for Native Plants and the plans regarding the Village-owned lots located across from Village Hall. Mr. Jansen also indicated Public Works staff will be meeting with Commissioner Hoyt later in the week to further discuss potential options for the sites. Mr. Jansen indicated the smaller grant through the Missouri Prairie Foundation, which is limited to acquiring plants and seeds, would be limited to the Native Planting sites along Hawthorne and Central; Mr. Jansen noted the larger grant, through ComEd and Openlands, can be up to \$10,000 and could be utilized for a planting project that is larger in scope. Commissioner Hoyt and Mr. Jansen discussed coordinating directly to complete the Missouri Prairie Foundation grant prior to the submission deadline the next week.

## **6. COMMUNICATIONS AND STAFF REPORTS**

Mr. Jansen outlined the quarterly EV charging report, specifically highlighting growth in electric and hybrid vehicles within River Forest. With Regards to charging station usage, Mr. Jansen noted that the number of unique drivers has remained relatively constant while the number of charging sessions has gone down and the amount of energy used has gone up. This indicates that, previously, users had been charging for the two free hours before unplugging and charging a more frequent number of times to make use of the two free hours. The lower number of sessions but higher amount of energy used indicates that people are charging for longer periods of time but charging until their vehicle is more fully charged. Mr. Jansen noted this is further reflected in the session charging length histogram. The Commission discussed this change in charging behavior among users. The Commission discussed total usage time and charger availability as a metric which could be used to monitor overall usage.

Mr. Jansen provided a status update on the EV Charging Station installation project, outlining the next steps and when the charging stations are expected to be online. Co-Chair Lennon inquired about maintenance of the charging stations going forward. Mr. Jansen briefly provided status updates on the Public Works Garage Rooftop Solar Panel installation project, and the Village Hall Parking Lot Permeable Paver project. The Commission discussed if there were any stormwater issues following the recent storm, which Mr. Jansen reported was minimal. Co-Chair Lennon noted that alley flooding has completely disappeared in his alley since installation of the permeable pavers.

Mr. Jansen stated that the newsletter process was changing and there would no longer be a monthly newsletter, with additional weekly newsletters on the first Friday of each month set to replace it. This change will result in less advanced planning and shorter timeframes for when articles are needed prior to publication. Commissioner Hoyt stated he would draft a newsletter article on Bird City Illinois for a coming weekly newsletter.

Co-Chair Charrette inquired about a waste study done by the Village of Oak Park; Mr. Jansen indicated that was an independent study contracted and undertaken by the Village of Oak Park which included physical monitoring of waste, recycling, and compost materials collected throughout the community.

## **7. SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING – FEBRUARY 10, 2026**

The Commission reached a consensus to hold its next meeting Tuesday, February 10, 2026

**9. ADJOURNMENT**

Commissioner Marti made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Kadlec, to adjourn the meeting at 8:24 PM.

Roll Call:

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

Nays: None

Absent: Commissioner Avalos

Motion Passes.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Seth Jansen, Secretary