VILLAGE OF RIVER FOREST
SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2026

A regular meeting of the Village of River Forest Sustainability Commission was held on Tuesday, October 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-Chairs Charrette, Co-Chair Lennon, Commissioners Kadlec, Hoyt, Beckmann, and Student Commissioner Stierwalt
Absent: Commissioner Schaider
Also Present: Staff Liaison Seth Jansen

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

3. ADOPTION OF MEETING MINUTES

Co-Chair Charrette indicated the minutes did not accurately reflect her comments on the LRS propsal made at the previous meeting. Mr. Jansen requested that she send suggested edits. The Commission agreed to postpone approval of the September 8 meeting minutes until the November Commission meeting.

4. COMMISSIONER UPDATES

Co-Chair Lennon shared information on an event at Thatcher Woods regarding the impact of the proposed O'Hare Flyer train line on the Forest Preserve. Commissioner Hoyt expressed concern on the proposed trains' impact on the wildlife and habitats within Thatcher Woods. The Commission discussed the O'Hare Flyer project generally.

Commissioner Hoyt discussed Migratory Bird Day, peak October bird migration, and bird window collisions. Commissioner Hoyt shared window film that is used to prevent window collisions and indicated he would share the link for the product. Co-Chair Lennon suggested expanding on the Bird City webpage on the Village website to share these kinds of products and practices. The Commission agreed to incorporate the information into ongoing Commission communications.

Co-Chair Charrette discussed the Forest Preserve's previous use of Styrofoam takeout containers, the potential applicability of the Village ordinance the Forest Preserve as a part of county government, and the Forest Preserve's decision to voluntarily adhere to the ordinance.

Commissioner Kadlec shared information on the upcoming Village of Franklin Park Bee Board and Tree Board event as an opportunity to meet sustainability leaders in neighboring communities.

5. RIVER FOREST MILKWEED MAP

Commissioner Kadlec shared the map noting the milkweed locations throughout the Village, as identified by Roosevelt Middle School students in September. Commissioner Kadlec noted there are 40 total observations, including public locations the Commission was already ware of but also some backyards that are not publicly visible. Commissioner Kadlec noted the milkweed species, plant stage, and condition of the plants were noted in many instances. The Commission discussed the project, location coordinates entry errors, plans for the project to continue with future classes each year, and ways to share the information and expand the project to the general public.

6. NIGHTHAWK MONITORING PROJECT

Commissioner Hoyt is waiting to hear back from the Wild Things Conference if the project submission was accepted. Commissioner Hoyt indicated he would wait until he hears before taking any further action on further developing it in further detail on how the study can lay the grounds for future conservation action. Commissioner Hoyt explained that he has been in contact with D90 and is requesting that D90, in their reroofing project, solicit bids from gravel roof contractors along with other roofing contractors to at least get a cost comparison. Commissioner Hoyt indicated meeting the Sustainability Coordinator for the Village of Oak Park and stated Oak Park was beginning to develop a bird safe building ordinance. Commissioner Hoyt suggested further partnership with Oak Park as part of the nighthawk study going forward and suggested exploring other ways to expand the nighthawk study in the lead up to next spring's Migratory Bird Day. The Commission discussed Oak Park's and Chicago's proposed bird safe building ordinances and bird safe building materials generally.

7. SUSTAINABILITY GUIDES

Mr. Jansen introduced the google doc he had created and shared with the Commission to allow for Commissioners to make edits and additions to the proposed Energy Matrix and Green Building Guides. The Commission discussed aspects of the energy matrix and Commissioner Beckmann shared his draft proposals for the energy matrix. Mr. Jansen indicated he would share Commissioner Beckmann's pdf drafts with the Commission, and Commissioner Beckman indicated he could share it as a spreadsheet with track changes. The Commission discussed the Village's electric aggregation program. Mr. Jansen further outlined the Green Building Guide drafts and solicited Commissioner edits to the drafts. Mr. Jansen indicated the intention to have the guides as permanent resources on the Village website and to periodically promote them throughout the newsletter and social media. Commissioner Hoyt suggested a guide for native landscaping as well; Co-Chair Charrette suggested edits to the existing induction stove guide, as an example, to provide less expensive options.

8. COMMUNICATIONS AND STAFF REPORTS

Mr. Jansen summarized the quarterly electric vehicle report in the agenda packet and answered questions from the Commissioners regarding the EV charging information. The Commissioners discussed the varied usage by charging stations and ways to address the usage rate at the Metra parking lot. The Commission discussed the fees for EV charging and expressed intention to review the fee structure. The Commission discussed capabilities of the ChargePoint platform and the previously proposed charging stations at the Village lot on North Ave.

Mr. Jansen outlined upcoming planned communications. The commission agreed to have preliminary bird window collision information in a newsletter and social media post in November. The Commission discussed use of the community aggregation funds for purchase of bird-safe window film, potentially in a highly visible location like the Roosevelt Middle School gymnasium windows. Mr. Jansen summarized the ongoing sustainability-related projects throughout the Village and answered questions from the Commissioners regarding the projects.

Co-Chair Lennon stated that the Commission will discuss the Village's waste contract with LRS at the next meeting, stating the framework for the Commission's discussion will be ways to increase recycling, compost, and reuse. Co-Chair Lennon asked Commissioners to begin thinking about specific items that could be recommended to the Board in order to be incorporated into the contract to achieve those objectives. Co-Chair Lennon also suggested a community survey to gather general feedback from the community on potential gaps in recycling and reuse needs. Co-Chair Lennon also suggested developing information to encourage less consumption as an effective way to help reduce waste.

9. SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING

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

11. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Beckmann made a motion, seconded by Co-Chair Lennon, to adjourn the meeting at 8:39 PM.

Roll Call:
Ayes: Co-Chair Charrette, Co-Chair Lennon, Commissioners Kadlec, Hoyt and Beckmann
Nays: None
Absent: Commissioner Schaider
Motion Passes.

Seth Jansen, Secretary