

**VILLAGE OF RIVER FOREST
SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION
TUESDAY, MARCH 10, 2026**

A regular meeting of the Village of River Forest Sustainability Commission was held on Tuesday, March 10, 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 7:01 PM. Upon roll call, the following persons were:

Present: Co-Chair Charrette, Co-Chair Lennon, Commissioners Kadlec, Hoyt, and Student Commissioner Stierwalt (arriving at 7:04)

Absent: Commissioner Avalos

Also Present: Staff Liaison Seth Jansen

Co-Chair Charrette made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Kadlec, to allow Commissioner Avalos to participate remotely pursuant to Section 7 of the Open Meetings Act (5 ILCS 120/7).

Roll Call:

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

Absent: Commissioner Avalos

Nays: None

Motion Passes.

Commissioner Avalos added to the roll.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

3. ADOPTION OF MEETING MINUTES

Co-Chair Lennon made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Kadlec, to approve the meeting minutes from February 10, 2026.

Roll Call:

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion Passes.

4. COMMISSIONER UPDATES

Co-Chair Charrette inquired about the status of filling the two vacant positions.

5. COMMISSION PROJECTS

Mr. Jansen introduced the proposed proclamations and upcoming World Migratory Bird Day events. Commissioner Hoyt indicated there will be a second event with the Forest Preserve, a guided bird walk the morning of May 19th. In total, there will be 3 events within the Village to celebrate World Migratory Bird Day.

The Commission discussed the Proclamation drafts. Commissioner Hoyt offered to make edits prior to bringing to the Board. Co-Chair Charrette suggested edits and switches in order of the whereas provisions compared to how they were drafted in the sample template. Mr. Jansen did outline the revision made to the Lights Out proclamation to highlight the installation of street light diffusers and the Public Works Department's exploring into additional street lighting technology. The Commission discussed the technologies being implemented and explored by the Public Works Department. Commissioner Hoyt suggested adding language to the Lights Out proclamation encouraging other institutions to explore measures they could take to reduce light pollution. The Commission discussed developing a webpage specific to the Village's Bird City efforts and share various information, including the student-developed informational flyers, on the webpage. Co-Chair Lennon suggested the Roosevelt Environmental Club members create flyers for other sustainability efforts as well. The Commission agreed to incorporate Commissioner Hoyt's forthcoming edits into the Proclamations.

Co-Chair Lennon made a motion, seconded by Co-Chair Charrette, to approve recommend the Village Board approve Proclamations recognizing May 9, 2026 as World Migratory Bird Day and supporting Lights Out for Birds During Peak Migration, incorporating the pending edits from Commissioner Hoyt.

Roll Call:

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion Passes.

Commissioner Hoyt provided more information regarding the Bird Walk at Thatcher Woods occurring on May 19th. Commissioner Hoyt discussed other Thatcher Woods efforts that can be incorporated into the Bird City Illinois application. Commissioner Hoyt and Student Commissioner Stierwalt discussed the meeting of the OPRF Environmental Club on the topic and indicated high school student interest in the nighthawk monitoring project. Commissioner Hoyt also indicated there is a date to observe the rooftop at Roosevelt Middle School to look for nighthawk nests. The Commission discussed how the nighthawk observation process will work, observation will be at dusk to listen for nighthawk calls, which will be supplemented with limited rooftop observations looking for nesting sites. Co-Chair Lennon suggested observations occur at targeted locations that may be most suitable for nighthawks.

Commissioner Hoyt had requested assistance in recordkeeping for the Bird City designation process to ensure the proper documentation is being kept track of and what actions have been achieved or need to be completed prior to applying.

6. RIVER FOREST MUNICIPAL AGGREGATION PROGRAM

Mr. Jansen introduced and outlined the history of the Electric Aggregation Program, set to expire in September 2026 and summarized the extension offers from MC2 for the program. The Village may elect to extend the program by 12 or 24 months and may elect to receive Renewable Energy Credits ("RECs") equal to 10% of the total energy used by those within

the program or receive a civic contribution of \$1,250 per month for the length of the term. Co-Chair Lennon asked if the civic contribution could go toward sustainability efforts. Mr. Jansen indicated that, in discussion with sustainability staff members in other communities, most communities take the civic contribution, rather than the RECs. Co-Chair Charrette asked if there was a competitor to MC2 for aggregation programs; Mr. Jansen indicated that MC2 is the only provider in the Chicago region. Commissioner Hoyt asked about community solar vs community aggregation; Mr. Jansen indicated the two do not impact each other and residents may participate in both. Mr. Jansen discussed how the program operates and answered questions from the Commission on how the program works. The Commission discussed how RECs work. The Commission discussed the differences between an opt-in community solar program and the opt-out community aggregation program. Co-Chair Charrette also mentioned ComEd hourly pricing and the green benefits of utilizing hourly pricing.

The Commission weighed potential risks and benefits of the 12- and 24-month terms, agreeing the 24-month term would likely be more beneficial. The Commission discussed what the civic contribution could be applied toward. Co-Chair Lennon stated it should go toward public-facing sustainability projects based on recommendations of the Commission. Before making a formal recommendation to the Board, the Commission requested questions be asked of MC2. Co-Chair Charrette requested staff ask how the civic contribution amount is determined with regard to the enrollment in the program and the financial gain for MC2 relative to the civic contribution. The Commission also suggested a broader regional push for more transparent terms for community aggregation programs for communities in the region.

7. GREEN BUILDING GUIDE

Mr. Jansen indicated that Commissioner Avalos had reached out to Trustee Gillis suggesting a voluntary guidance document for green buildings and electrification. Trustee Gillis had requested this be added to the Commission Agenda. Commissioner Avalos briefly introduced his vision of what the guide would look like. Commissioner Avalos envisioned a one-page document focused on electrification of appliances and the financial and environmental benefits of converting to electric appliances. Commissioner Avalos had this suggested this be shared with residents when building permits are issued and volunteered to begin drafting a document. Commissioner Hoyt suggested a recommendation or guideline for sustainable building materials and incorporate health aspects of building materials and processes. The Commission agreed to further discuss the concepts and keep it as a discussion item over the next few months.

8. COMMUNICATIONS AND STAFF REPORTS

Mr. Jansen provided brief updates on the rooftop solar project at the Public Works Garage, the EV Charging Station Project, and the proposed native planting sites for the ComEd/Openlands Grant. Commissioner Hoyt requested the Commission have input on what may take place at the planting sites. Mr. Jansen indicated there will be another Earth Month collection through EcoShip. Mr. Jansen outlined the planned social media posts and newsletter articles and indicated there will be two weeks of corrugated plastic yard sign collections following the primary election.

9. SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING – APRIL 14, 2026

The Commission reached a consensus to hold its next meeting Tuesday, April 14, 2026

10. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Hoyt made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Kadlec, to adjourn the meeting at 8:32 PM.

Roll Call:

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion Passes.



Seth Jansen, Secretary