

**VILLAGE OF RIVER FOREST
SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION
TUESDAY, APRIL 14, 2026**

A regular meeting of the Village of River Forest Sustainability Commission was held on Tuesday, April 14, 2026, at 7:30 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 7:36 PM. Upon roll call, the following persons were:

Present: Co-Chair Charrette, Co-Chair Lennon, Commissioners Kadlec, Avalos, and Hoyt
Absent: Student Commissioner Stierwalt
Also Present: Staff Liaison Seth Jansen

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

3. ADOPTION OF MEETING MINUTES

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

Roll Call:

Ayes: Co-Chair Charrette, Co-Chair Lennon, Commissioners Kadlec, Avalos, and Hoyt
Nays: None
Absent: None
Motion Passes.

4. COMMISSIONER UPDATES

Co-Chair Lennon noted during a conversation with a local landscaper, regarding the leaf blower ordinance, that battery life has been a major issues landscapers are facing. He indicated the landscaper raised concern that many landscapers will throw the batteries away when they can no longer keep a charger. Co-Chair Lennon indicated that battery recycling is limited to drop off facilities at chain hardware stores. He suggested the Village look into participating in Battery Network and having a drop off location for medium format batteries at Village Hall.

Co-Chair Lennon mentioned that the Recycle Coach app was not working correctly, and Mr. Jansen indicated he would share the issue with his contact at Recycle Coach to work to address.

Commissioner Avalos reminded everyone it is Earth Month and there are a large number of sustainability related events, including screenings of films for the One Earth Film Festival.

5. BIRD CITY ILLINOIS AND MIGRATORY BIRDS

Mr. Jansen shared a map provided by Commissioner Hoyt noting observed locations of Nighthawks in the River Forest region. Commission Hoyt shared information on the World Migratory Bird Day events. Commissioner Hoyt inquired about, and Mr. Jansen outlined, the

promotional information that will be put out in the newsletters and on social media. Commissioner Hoyt shared that he may be able to have student observers at Dominican University as well as perform a rooftop observation for nesting sites. Commissioner Hoyt has also been in contact with an ornithologist from Bradley University who has offered his equipment, including camera traps, for the Nighthawk observation process, if the ornithologist is able to find time to travel to the region. If a camera could be utilized, it would be for rooftop nesting observation for institutions who would allow for rooftop observation.

Commissioner Hoyt outlined the map he provided to the Commission, which includes sites identified on eBird as having observed nighthawk activity. These are the locations which will be used for the focal species project, where volunteers will go at dusk to monitor any potential activity. The Commission discussed how the nighthawk observation process will work and which sites would be best for identifying calls and mating activity. Co-Chair Lennon suggested focusing on locations with more recently observed activities. The Commission discussed compiling and managing the data of the observations. Commissioner Avalos suggested having information on the Bird City webpage on the Village website.

Mr. Jansen outlined the draft Bird City webpage for the Village website. Commissioner Hoyt has suggested a separate subpage for the nighthawk observation project once that is ready. Commissioner Hoyt indicated he would write a letter to the Wednesday Journal to announce the nighthawk project. The Commission suggested incorporating more pictures into the webpage. Mr. Jansen further outlined the leaf blower ordinance webpage, and Co-Chair Charrette offered typo corrections for the page.

Mr. Jansen further outlined the action tracking and documentation for the various items relating to Bird City Illinois designation. Mr. Jansen also outlined the planned future actions, including bringing the required Resolution to the Board for their June meeting. Commissioner Hoyt indicated he would forward the information he has.

6. RIVER FOREST MUNICIPAL AGGREGATION PROGRAM

Mr. Jansen summarized the memo regarding the Community Aggregation Program, including the preliminary recommendation of the Commission and the response from MC2 to the question of how the civic contribution amount was determined. Mr. Jansen summarized the timeframe of when an ordinance would need to be formally adopted by the Board. The Commission discussed the Renewable Energy Credit vs Civic Contribution options and the reasoning for taking the civic contribution. Commissioner Kadlec inquired about the 12-month vs 24-month options offered. The Commission agreed with their preliminary recommendation to recommend the civic contribution for a term of 24 months.

Commissioner Avalos made a motion, seconded by Co-Chair Lennon, to recommend he Village Board approve an ordinance extending the term of the Master Power Supply Agreement with MC Squared Energy Services, LLC with the Civic Grant for a term length of 24 months and recommend to the Village Board that such funds raised through the Civic Grant go toward public-facing sustainability projects within the community.

Roll Call:

Ayes: Co-Chair Charrette, Co-Chair Lennon, Commissioners Avalos, Kadlec and Hoyt
Nays: None

Absent: None
Motion Passes.

7. INTERNATIONAL COMPOST AWARENESS WEEK

Mr. Jansen introduced the request from the Illinois Food Scrap and Compost Coalition asking all member communities to adopt the International Compost Awareness Week Proclamation. Mr. Jansen solicited edits from the Commission. Co-Chair Charrette asked that the Village's drop-off sites be incorporated. Commissioner Avalos asked that data regarding compost subscribers and organics tonnage be included in the proclamation. Co-Chair Lennon suggested that the proclamation also highlight how it comes back to the Village and results in finished compost for residents' gardens. The Commission discussed and came to a consensus on the information to incorporate the suggested information to highlight local efforts. Mr. Jansen provided a brief update on the finished compost delivery program.

Co-Chair Charrette made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Kadlec, to recommend the Village Board approve a Proclamation recognizing the first full week in May as Compost Awareness Week in the Village of River Forest, incorporating the pending information and statistics on the Village's compost program.

Roll Call:

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion Passes.

8. GREEN BUILDING GUIDE

Mr. Jansen provided the outline developed by Commissioner Avalos. Commissioner Avalos solicited input for the types of information to include in the guide. Commissioner Avalos stated his plan to envision the guide as a printout for residents. Commissioner Hoyt suggested recommendations of products and contractors who have expertise with heat pumps or electric appliances. The Commission discussed ways to identify contractors licensed with the Village who specialize in or have experience with heat pumps or other appliances such as electric or heat pump hot water heaters and induction ovens. Co-Chair Lennon suggested some language specifics for the guide. The Commission discussed an outline of the benefits of electrification, outlining both the financial and environmental benefits, and then providing information on where to find the best appliances and local contractors who work with these appliances. The Commission discussed potential for developing future guides for green building materials and weatherization if the electrification guide is successful.

9. COMMUNICATIONS AND STAFF REPORTS

Mr. Jansen summarized the Quarterly Electric Vehicle Report, specifically highlighting the increase in EV Charger Permits and the change in formation for tracking the public EV Charging Station Usage. The Commission discussed the report data. Mr. Jansen provided brief outlines for the ongoing Village projects and the planned Sustainability communications for the next month.

Commissioner Avalos raised an issue regarding pending federal legislation on the legality of lawsuits toward polluters and the contribution to climate change. Mr. Jansen indicated he would make sure to no any relevant state legislation as a summary for the June meeting, following the conclusion of the state legislative session.

10. SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING – MAY 12, 2026

The Commission reached a consensus to hold its next meeting at 7:30 pm on Tuesday, May 12, 2026.

11. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Kadlec made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Avalos, to adjourn the meeting at 8:57 PM.

Roll Call:

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion Passes.



Seth Jansen, Secretary