



VILLAGE OF RIVER FOREST SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION

Tuesday, August 17, 2021 – 7:00 PM
Village Hall – Via Remote Meeting, 400 Park Ave.,
River Forest, IL

You may submit your written public comments via email in advance of the meeting to: jloster@vrf.us. You may listen to the meeting by participating in a Zoom conference call as follows: dial-in number: 312-626-6799 with meeting ID: 858 6149 2994 or by clicking here: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85861492994>. If you would like to speak during public comment, please email jloster@vrf.us by 4:00 PM on Tuesday, August 17, 2021.

AGENDA

1. Call to Order/Roll Call
2. Public Comment
3. Adoption of Meeting Minutes
4. Village Staff Update
5. Commissioner Reports
6. Next Steps on Lakeshore Recycling/Strom Discussion
7. Metropolitan Mayors Caucus Climate Plan
8. Other Business
9. Schedule Next Meeting – September 14, 2021

10. Adjournment



VILLAGE OF RIVER FOREST

SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION

MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday July 13, 2021 – 7:00 PM

Call to Order/Roll Call

Eric Simon
Maggie Clancy
Shannon Roberts
Beth Cheng
Susan Charrette

Public Comment - none

Adoption of Meeting Minutes

Spelling corrections were submitted by Beth Cheng. June Meeting minutes were adopted.

Commissioner Reports

Eric spoke about the two new commissioners joining the commission, Maggie Clancy and Jeff Veazie. Maggie spoke about her reasons for joining the commission and the fact that she cares about the community and her position being a part of converting buses to electrification.

Susan spoke about the PlanItGreen meeting and the mayor of Broadview speaking about their initiatives. At Roosevelt school there have been educational opportunities about gardening and they went to the community garden to experience this area and learn about the benefits of gardening. The parkway for pollinator gardens were mulched by a landscape contractor. Beth listened to the Metro Mayors Caucus meeting. She was able to describe the ideas around communicating what residents can do that relate to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and be able to participate in green living activities. The Veg out and tree trails programs were great ideas and the implementation can be difficult since there can be participating members such as restaurants that are involved as well. Tree trails may be a project that can be implemented in the fall and Ellie continues to work on this program.

Eric spoke about the Regional Climate Plan meeting that took place today. There were many different speakers on the call that spoke about a comprehensive plan being needed to address climate change. The next step is how this plan is executed since there is a great deal of detail within the plan. Being a member of the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus, and we are therefore a part of this climate plan. Maggie brought up the different categories that were addressed as a part of this climate plan. She stated that this seems like it is an outline for which areas need to be addressed by individual groups. Lisa spoke about how we can focus on what we can let

residents know they can do to address these items brought up in the plan and other plans and initiatives to which the Village has already committed.

Solid Waste Discussion with Strom/Lake Shore Recycling

George Strom provided an overview of the items that Strom/LRS provides as a part of their service. He spoke about the composting program and how this program can continue to grow. There were initiatives that have happened in the past to promote this program. LRS is able to have the recycling center in Maywood up and running to keep the waste from hauling it to a far off location. Katie Neary from LRS spoke about the household hazardous waste program which was started about four years ago. This program picks up household hazardous waste at the door for residents. LRS uses third party companies that recycle the majority of the material collected. LRS is able to collect paint and recycle it as well. The collection program allows residents to have the ability to have this service at their home and not have to attend an in person event. This is known as an on-demand program when it is requested by residents.

E-waste is also a material that is collected via this method as well. Katie explained the process that a resident will go through in order to be able to use this program (their customer portal) and have the pickup scheduled. This is a program that would be built into the solid waste contract and be available to all residents. Beth Cheng said that she wanted to advocate for this to be included in the new contract. George was able to speak about the transfer station located in Maywood. LRS sells their recycled materials to domestic sources and are not sold overseas. There is a smaller footprint of the impact of transporting the material. Susan asked if the composting program could be opt-out and be offered with a 6-month option if desired by residents.

George described the cost of purchasing and using landscape waste stickers compared to using a composting bin to have additional users. The compost material gathered from the Village goes to a compost facility and the processor in Sheridan, IL and provides the finished material. Eric asked that information be sent to us about the details of the finished compost material. E-waste was brought up as a service that is also offered and LRS uses a certified recycler to dispose of this material. The LRS portal can be used to determine which items are considered E-waste. Susan asked about the top of driveway service and if they have other clients that have this type of service. Maggie asked about the pricing for the HHW program and if the costs had to be increased or modified due to the demand for services. Katie said that this has not had to be adjusted based on the nature of the pickup being more spread out than a large event. Eric spoke about how to provide the recommended items within the contract that the commission supports.

Other Business

Lisa Gillis spoke about a resident that is asking to have the recycling extravaganza brought back for a community event. It was explained that it wasn't feasible to operate since it requires a large amount of volunteers. The bike exchange that is done at local schools was brought up as a community event that could be promoted as well.

Schedule Next Meeting - August 17, 2021

Adjournment at 8:29pm

Respectfully Submitted:

Signature Line

John Anderson, Secretary

Signature Line

Eric Simon, Chairman
Sustainability Commission

Date: -----