



VILLAGE OF RIVER FOREST MEETING OF THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

Wednesday, August 5, 2026 – 6:00 PM
Village Hall – Community Room, 400 Park Ave., River Forest, IL

AGENDA

You may submit written public comments in advance of the meeting by emailing them to publiccomment@vrf.us. Public comments and any responses will be shared with the Commission. If you wish to speak during Public Comments, please email publiccomment@vrf.us by 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, August 5, 2026. Please note that only those attending the meeting in person will be able to provide Public Comments. The meeting will be available for listening only through Zoom at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89153263474> or by phone at 312-626-6799 using Meeting ID: 891 5326 3474.

1. Call to Order/Roll Call
2. Public Comment
3. Approval of Minutes – June 3, 2026
4. Commercial Corridors Update
5. Chamber of Commerce Update
6. Other Business
7. Adjournment

ADA Compliance: Any individual with a disability requesting a reasonable accommodation in order to participate in a public meeting should contact the Village at least 24 hours in advance of the scheduled meeting by telephone at 708.366.8500 or by email: mwalsh@vrf.us. Every effort will be made to allow for meeting participation.

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
VILLAGE OF RIVER FOREST
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION**

June 3, 2026

A special meeting of the Village of River Forest Economic Development Commission was held on Wednesday, June 3, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. in the Community Room of Village Hall, 400 Park Avenue, River Forest, Illinois.

1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

Assistant Administrator Spencer called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m. Meeting started by calling roll. Upon roll call, the following people were:

Present: Chairman Cuyler Brown and Commissioners Raj Chiplunkar, Elizabeth Muhr, Matt Carolan, Ori Gottlieb, and Executive Director Melissa Mallinson

Absent: Commissioner Tim Brangle and Adam Wilde

Also Present: Assistant Village Administrator Jessica Spencer and Deputy Clerk Luke Masella

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

Margie Cekander noted that the minutes indicated the wrong year. She also noted that Commissioner Chiplunkar cannot be heard in the recording. She opined that the West Suburban Medical Center might be an opportunity for the Village to develop, given its recent troubles. She commented on previous statements made by this Commission regarding the Madison Street Development.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – MAY 6, 2026

A MOTION was made by Commissioner Ori and seconded by Commissioner Muhr to approve the minutes from May 6, 2026. By a voice vote, the motion passed.

4. INTRODUCTION OF COMMISSIONERS

Chairman Brown encouraged all the commissioners, staff, and Executive Director to introduce themselves. He started with the introductions by explaining his background, experience with this commission, and the others did the same.

5. CHAMBER OF COMMERCE UPDATE

Executive Director Mallison provided an update on the Memorial Day Business Bash including some final numbers: roughly 2000-2500 people attended; 27 different businesses were represented, 12 of which were River Forest - based. Of the 27, 5 businesses were student-run.

She noted that community engagement and business development has to be hand-in-hand. She further explained the mission and purpose of the OPRF Chamber of Commerce and the benefits for River Forest businesses to membership. She also spoke about the Business Networking events and encouraged the Commissioners to attend a yet-to-be finalized networking event, to be held in the early fall.

Chairman Brown stated that he felt the networking event last year was great and he looks forward to attending future networking events.

Assistant Administrator Spencer discussed participation from this commission to hold networking events or educational seminars.

Chairman Brown asked for any notes on the Business Bash – Executive Director Mallinson noted that there could have been a few more garbage cans spread around the event. Also, she pointed out that she is looking for additional sponsors next year. Chairman Brown encouraged all members to attend the Memorial Day Parade and the Business Bash next year.

Chairman Brown asked for an update on the Lake & Lathrop development. Assistant Administrator Spencer stated that Village President Adduci requested the Court to set a firm schedule so the case can move forward efficiently. The judge explained that no decisions can be made about the property — including a sale or demolition — until this matter (foreclosure) is resolved. The next court date is July 9, when we expect both the briefing schedule and a trial date to be established. The judge directed all parties to stop using delay tactics and to comply fully with required filings and subpoena responses. President Adduci will continue to attend hearings and advocate for a timely and fair resolution. She also invited residents who are available to attend the hearings as well.

Commissioner Gottlieb asked where he could get a history of the Lake & Lathrop project. Assistant Administrator Spencer pointed out the project website, and Chairman Brown offered to discuss the case with him as well.

Chairman Brown asked for an update on the Madison Street Development; Assistant Administrator Spencer responded that the application was under review by staff and various consultants. Once staff was confident the application met the standards set in the Village Code, the Development Review Board (DRB) meeting would be scheduled, but tentatively in July.

Commissioner Chiplunkar asked why would the Village hold the meeting in August if people were travelling in July? Assistant Administrator Spencer answered that the date wasn't completely set, as a quorum of the DRB must be determined. Chairman Brown acknowledged that this would be important meeting, and not the intent of the Village to purposefully delay the project. He also wants to be sure all concerns are voiced and heard. Assistant Administrator Spencer pointed out that public comments can be received now via the email (publiccomment@vrf.us) or survey found at vrf.us/Madison.

6. OTHER BUSINESS

Commissioner Muhr asked about a retail mall at 7756 Madison. Assistant Administrator Spencer responded that the owner has recently submitted an application for zoning relief which will be moving to the Zoning Board of Appeals soon.

Chairman Brown looks forward to supporting this business owner as he can.

Assistant Administrator Spencer mentioned that Joy Tea is looking forward to opening in the coming weeks.

Commissioner Gottlieb asked about doing a virtual walk through the streets in the Village, that he would like to see the businesses as the discussions going on and illustrate the conversations as they occur. Chairman Brown asked for this to be an item for future agendas.

Chairman Brown expressed his appreciation to Commissioner Gottlieb for attending the meeting and joining the commission.

7. ADJOURNMENT

A MOTION was made by Commissioner Gottlieb and seconded by Commissioner Carolan to adjourn the meeting of the Economic Development Commission at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Jessica Spencer, Assistant Village Administrator

Date: _____