



## VILLAGE OF RIVER FOREST SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION

Tuesday, March 10, 2026 – 7:00 PM  
Village Hall – 400 Park Ave., River Forest, IL

You may submit your written public comments via email in advance of the meeting to: [sjansen@vrf.us](mailto:sjansen@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: 816 4491 8569 or by clicking [here](#). If you would like to speak during public comment, please email [sjansen@vrf.us](mailto:sjansen@vrf.us) by 4:00 PM on Tuesday, March 10, 2026.

### AGENDA

1. Call to Order/Roll Call
2. Public Comment
3. Adoption of Meeting Minutes for February 10, 2026
4. Commissioner Updates
5. Bird City Illinois and Migratory Birds
  - a. World Migratory Bird Day Proclamation
  - b. Lights Out Proclamation
  - c. World Migratory Bird Day Events
6. River Forest Municipal Aggregation Program
7. Green Building Guide
8. Communications and Staff Reports
  - a. Village Project Updates
  - b. Communications
9. Schedule Next Meeting – April 14, 2026
10. Adjournment

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

A regular meeting of the Village of River Forest Sustainability Commission was held on Tuesday, February 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 7:00 PM. Upon roll call, the following persons were:

Present: Co-Chair Charrette, Co-Chair Lennon, Commissioners Avalos, Hoyt, and Student Commissioner Stierwalt (arriving at 7:02)

Absent: Commissioner Kadlec

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 January 13, 2026.

Roll Call:

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

Nays: None

Absent: Commissioner Kadlec

Motion Passes.

**4. COMMISSIONER UPDATES**

All Commissioner updates were directly related to Commission Projects.

**5. COMMISSION PROJECTS**

Commissioner Hoyt shared a document created by a Roosevelt Middle School Student to raise awareness on ways to reduce bird window collisions. Commissioner Hoyt also shared the dates of the World Migratory Bird Day events. On Thursday, May 28th at 7:00 PM, there will be a book discussion hosted at the River Forest Library to discuss *The Field Guide to Citizen Science* by Caren Cooper. Co-Chair Charrette and Commissioner Hoyt shared that the Forest Preserve and Trailside Museum will host a Big Sit bird watching event on Saturday May 9<sup>th</sup> to coincide with World Migratory Bird Day. Commissioner Hoyt also suggested there may be further coordination with the Chicago Audubon for the event. Commissioner Hoyt further noted that District 90 is working to allow rooftop observation for potential common nighthawk nesting sites over the summer and that the Roosevelt Environmental Club has offered to fundraise for anything, such as a potential trail cam for this observation project.

Commissioner Avalos suggested an art display at the Library as a potential future collaboration for Bird City designation. Co-Chair Lennon suggested sharing the document

produced by the Roosevelt student with the Lights Out proclamation to raise additional awareness. The Commission discussed working with the Roosevelt Environmental Club to produce additional graphics and documents to help promote the project. Student Commission Stierwalt also noted the OPRFHS Environmental Club contacted the high school to inquire about rooftop observation of nesting sites there as well. He further noted there is strong interest among the high school Environmental Club members for participation in the nighthawk observation project.

Commissioner Hoyt stated he has been working on developing protocols for the common nighthawk observation process. He anticipated the project would run approximately from early June through mid-July. Rooftop observations would be focused on identifying nesting sites. For bird monitoring beyond that, specific sites would be developed, and volunteers would conduct observations for approximately 45 minutes to 1 hour beginning at sunset to note the presence of common nighthawks. A report sheet would be developed, including instructions and ask for observers to note any calls, sightings, and bird behavior. Commissioner Hoyt further developed his plan to develop instructions. The Commission discussed the rooftop observation process.

Commissioner Hoyt noted that former Commissioner Marti had shared some documents for the Commission with regards to the Bird City efforts prior to his resignation from the Commission. Mr. Jansen noted that he had utilized those materials and the general language from the Bird City Network and the City of Chicago when developing the draft proclamations for World Migratory Bird Day and the Lights Out campaign. Mr. Jansen outlined the draft proclamations for the Commission. The Commission discussed the proclamation. Commissioner Hoyt stated he would review and provide feedback prior to next month's meeting. The Commission discussed incorporating actions taken by the Village. Mr. Jansen shared a recent meeting with the Sustainability Coordinator with the Village of Oak Park which included discussion on potential ways to collaborate with regards to the Bird City efforts.

Mr. Jansen stated he was still working on a grant application for the ComEd/Openlands grant. Mr. Jansen shared that the grant application was submitted for the Missouri Prairie Foundation grant. Both grants are focused on the planting sites along Hawthorne Ave. and Central Ave., with the Missouri Prairie Foundation grant limited to acquiring plants to be planted along Hawthorne, while the ComEd/Openlands grant would look for full restoration of the existing native plant site on Hawthorne and butterfly garden on Central. Mr. Jansen and Commissioner Hoyt discussed the plan to apply for these sites this year and then apply for the Village lots along Park Ave. next year, once a more complete design has been developed for that site. Mr. Jansen provided a general update on the status of Park Ave. lot project.

## **6. COMMUNICATIONS AND STAFF REPORTS**

Mr. Jansen provided a summary of the quarterly waste report, noting that there continues to be little to no correlation between tonnage rates of waste, recycling, and compost. Mr. Jansen provided a status update on the charging station installation projects, noting the Level 2 Chargers are fully operational at the Thatcher lot, the Fast Chargers at the Franklin lot should

be operational in the coming week, and the North Ave. lot remains stalled with final paperwork approvals. Co-Chair Charrette inquired about promotion of the opening of these charging stations. Mr. Jansen provided brief updates on the permeable paver parking lot project and rooftop solar projects that are progressing at Village Hall and the Public Works garage, respectively. Co-Chair Charrette inquired about sustainability related projects in the Capital Improvement Plan; Mr. Jansen noted future planned conversions to Electric Vehicles and expanding EV charging capacity. Mr. Jansen outlined upcoming social media and newsletter plans. The Commission discussed upcoming communications. The Commission discussed the forthcoming ban on gas-powered leaf blowers and how contractors are being notified; Co-Chair Lennon suggested additional information with contractors' license renewals.

**7. SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING – MARCH 10, 2026**

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

**9. ADJOURNMENT**

Commissioner Avalos made a motion, seconded by Co-Chair Charrette, to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 PM.

Roll Call:

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

Nays: None

Absent: Commissioner Kadlec

Motion Passes.

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Seth Jansen, Secretary



**Village of River Forest  
Public Works and Engineering**

400 Park Avenue  
River Forest, IL 60305  
Tel: 708-366-8500

**MEMORANDUM**

Date: March 10, 2026  
To: Sustainability Commission  
From: Seth Jansen, Assistant to the Director of Public Works  
Subj: Bird City Illinois Memo

At the February meeting of the Village of River Forest Sustainability Commission, the Commission was introduced to and began discussion on two proclamations. The proposed World Migratory Bird Day proclamation is modeled after proclamations adopted by other Bird City communities. Adoption of a proclamation recognizing World Migratory Bird Day is a required action, which all communities seeking designation must achieve. World Migratory Bird Day is officially celebrated the second Saturday of May.

The proposed Lights Out proclamation is modeled after information provided by the City of Chicago. Following feedback provided by the Commission at the February meeting, the proclamation has been updated to include an example of an action the Village has taken to reduce light pollution. On a continual basis, as issues arise with streetlights, Village Public Works Staff have taken the opportunity to install light diffusers on streetlights. While it has not been implemented universally, it has been done in conjunction with necessary repairs to streetlights at various locations throughout the Village. The Superintendent of Operations also indicated that Public Works is further exploring additional street lighting technologies to further reduce light pollution, including demonstrations and cost estimates for components with dimming capabilities which may be applied to some streetlights.

Commission feedback is sought for any further edits to these proclamations prior to going to the Village Board for approval.

**Recommendations:**

- Motion to Recommend the Village Board approve a Proclamation recognizing May 9, 2026 as World Migratory Bird Day in the Village of River Forest
- Motion to Recommend the Village Board approve a Proclamation supporting Lights Out for Birds During Peak Migration in the Village of River Forest

**Attachments:**

- World Migratory Bird Day Proclamation
- Lights Out for Birds During Peak Migration Proclamation



**PROCLAMATION  
WORLD MIGRATORY  
BIRD DAY  
May 9, 2026**

**WHEREAS**, migratory birds are some of the most beautiful and easily observed wildlife that share our communities; and

**WHEREAS**, many citizens recognize and welcome migratory songbirds as symbolic harbingers of spring; and

**WHEREAS**, these migrant species also play an important economic role in our community, controlling insect pests and generating millions in recreational dollars statewide; and

**WHEREAS**, migratory birds and their habitats are declining throughout the Americas, facing a growing number of threats on their migration routes and in both their summer and winter home; and

**WHEREAS**, public awareness and concern are crucial components of migratory bird conservation; and

**WHEREAS**, citizens enthusiastic about birds, informed about the threats they face, and empowered to help address those threats can directly contribute to maintaining health bird populations; and

**WHEREAS**, since 1993 World Migratory Bird Day (formerly International Migratory Bird Day) has become a primary vehicle for focusing public attention on the nearly 350 species that travel between nesting habitats in our communities and throughout North America and their wintering grounds in South and Central America, Mexico, the Caribbean, and the southern U.S.; and

**WHEREAS**, hundreds of thousands of people will observe WMBD, gathering in town squares, community centers, schools, parks, nature centers, and wildlife refuges to learn about birds, take action to conserve them, and simply to have fun; and

**WHEREAS**, while World Migratory Bird Day officially is held each year on the second Saturday in May, its observance is not limited to a single day, and planners are encouraged to schedule activities on the dates best suited to the presence of both migrants and celebrants; and

**WHEREAS**, World Migratory Bird Day is not only a day to foster appreciation for wild birds and to celebrate and support migratory bird conservation, but also a call to action.

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, CATHERINE ADDUCI**, President of the Village of River Forest, do hereby proclaim May 9, 2026 as World Migratory Bird Day in the Village of River Forest, and I encourage all residents, businesses, and organizations to celebrate this observance and to support efforts to protect and conserve migratory birds and their habitats in our community and the world at large.

**IN WITNESS, THEREOF**, I have hereto set my hand officially and caused to be affixed the seal of the Village of River Forest, this \_ day of \_\_, 2026.

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Catherine M. Adduci,  
Village President



**PROCLAMATION  
LIGHTS OUT DURING PEAK BIRD  
MIGRATION  
MARCH 15-JUNE 15 AND AUGUST  
15-NOVEMBER 15, 2026**

**WHEREAS**, each spring and fall, approximately 8 million birds representing more than 250 species migrate through the greater Chicago region on their way to their summer or winter homes; and

**WHEREAS**, artificial light pollution disorients migratory birds, increasing the risks of exhaustion, predation, and collisions with buildings and other structures; and

**WHEREAS**, since 1995, Chicago's tall buildings in the Loop have participated in the National Audubon Society's Lights Out program—the first of its kind in the nation—saving an estimated 10,000 birds each year and serving as a national model for bird-friendly practice; and

**WHEREAS**, residents are encouraged to turn off unnecessary lights and close drapes and blinds after 11:00 p.m. during the migration seasons to help ensure safe passage for these birds; and

**WHEREAS**, reducing light pollution year-round, by turning off unnecessary lights, shielding outdoor fixtures, and directing light only where it is needed, protects migratory birds and improves community safety by reducing glare, conserves energy, and lower maintenance costs; and

**WHEREAS**, the Village continues its efforts to reduce light pollution, including installation of light diffusers on streetlights and exploring additional street lighting technologies to further reduce light pollution; and

**WHEREAS**, the Village and the Sustainability Commission will provide informational resources for residents, businesses, and institutions, on ways to reduce light pollution, contributing to both environmental sustainability and public safety.

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, CATHERINE ADDUCI**, President of the Village of River Forest, do hereby proclaim Lights Out for Birds During Peak Migration in the Village of River Forest, and encourage all residents, businesses, and institutions to join in protecting migratory birds during these critical seasons.

**IN WITNESS, THEREOF**, I have hereto set my hand officially and caused to be affixed the seal of the Village of River Forest, this \_ day of \_\_, 2026.

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Catherine M. Adduci,  
Village President



## Village of River Forest Public Works and Engineering

400 Park Avenue  
River Forest, IL 60305  
Tel: 708-366-8500

### MEMORANDUM

Date: March 10, 2026  
To: Sustainability Commission  
From: Seth Jansen, Assistant to the Director of Public Works  
Subj: Extension of the Municipal Aggregation Program

In March of 2012, River Forest voters approved a referendum giving the Village the authority to arrange an electric aggregation program. At the recommendation of the Sustainability Commission, the Village Board of Trustees approved an agreement with MCSquared for the green electric aggregation program at the May 26, 2020 meeting of the Village Board. At the time, MCSquared offered 5 potential contract options, ranging from 0% to 100% Renewable Energy Credits (RECs), with the Civic Contribution the Village would receive determined by percentage of RECs, with a higher REC percentage resulting in a lower Civic Contribution. The Sustainability Commission recommended choosing 100% RECs on the basis of providing the biggest offset of carbon emissions. The agreement was for 24-month term (September 2020 – September 2022) and allowed the Village to acquire Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs) that support clean, renewable energy development on wind farms in the Midwest, and to receive a civic contribution of \$36,000 per year. As a result of this program, the Village has been able to significantly offset its carbon emissions and has been designated an EPA Green Power Partner Community.

In 2022, due to the rising cost of energy prices and in order to match the ComEd Rate, MCSquared was only able to secure the 5% RECs needed to maintain the EPA designation with no civic contribution. This extension was approved by the Village Board of Trustees at their June 27, 2022 meeting and continued the program for another two years (September 2022 – September 2024). At their July 8, 2024 meeting, the Village Board voted to continue the program for another two years (September 2024 – September 2026) under the same 5% RECS provisions as the previous extension.

The Village has received an offer to extend the Municipal Aggregation program beyond its current expiration later this year. As of March 3, 2026, there are 2031 accounts within the Village that are enrolled in the aggregation program. As with all previous agreements, those in the program would continue to be billed by ComEd and charged the ComEd rate. They may opt out or leave at any time with no termination fees. There are two options and two term lengths which the Sustainability Commission is being asked to consider. The term lengths offered by MCSquared are 12 months (September 2026 – September 2027) or 24 months (September 2026 – September 2028). Additionally, MCSquared is offering two potential options for the

Village: 10% Green Wind RECs (based on the annual residential power load within River Forest) or \$1,250 per month Civic Grant (\$15,000 Annually).

Under Illinois, utilities operating in the State, including ComEd, must adhere to Renewable Portfolio Standards (RPS) which require a certain percentage of electricity come from renewable sources. This is currently 25% renewable energy and increases to 40% renewable energy in 2030. The 10% Green Wind RECs would mean purchase of Renewable Energy Credits (RECs) equivalent to 10% of the usage of those enrolled in the program on top of what's already required by the RPS. An argument in favor of this would state that this option ensures a higher volume of RECs are retired by the community. An argument against would state that the RECs don't necessarily drive new renewable generation; they just shift accounting credit of the renewable energy on the grid. Anecdotally, staff communication with sustainability staff in other communities has found that most other communities with existing aggregation programs do not take the RECs and instead opt for a Civic Contribution or Civic Grant.

**Motion:** Recommend that the Village Board approve an ordinance extending the term of the Master Power Supply Agreement with MC Squared Energy Services, LLC with the offer of \_\_\_\_ for a term length of \_\_ months.

**Attachments:**

- Village of River Forest Municipal Aggregation Program Renewal Offer



where **energy** comes from

500 West Madison Street, Suite 1470  
Chicago, IL 60661  
(877) 622-7697 toll free  
(877) 281-1279 fax  
[www.mc2energyservices.com](http://www.mc2energyservices.com)

Offer Date: February 20, 2026

**Village of River Forest Municipal Aggregation Program – Renewal Offer**

Price-To-Compare Rate (ComEd Tariff Match)

Available Terms:

- 12 Month Term (September 2026 – September 2027)
- 24 Month Term (September 2026 – September 2028)

Option 1: 10% Green Wind RECs (based on the annual residential power load within River Forest)

**OR**

Option 2: \$1,250 per month Civic Grant (\$15,000 Annual)

\*The Village of River Forest may accept either option but not both combined.