



VILLAGE OF RIVER FOREST SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday Oct 10, 2017 – 7:00 PM

A regular meeting of the River Forest Sustainability Commission was held on Tuesday, October 10, 2017 at 7:00 P.M. The meeting was conducted in the Community Room at the River Forest Village Hall, 400 Park Ave. River Forest.

Roll Call and Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM. Present at this meeting were Commissioner Brennan, Commissioner Moller, Commissioner Simon via phone, Commissioner Chen, Commissioner Crothers, and Commissioner Masella. Commissioner Brennan announced the resignation of Commissioner Credi

Public Comment

No public comment

Adoption of Meeting Minutes from the 8/8/17 & 9/12/17

Sustainability Commission Meeting minutes approved

Update on Native Planting

Commissioner Masella met with Patrick from the Yard Crew and John Anderson on a plan, timeframe and budget for native plants around the Waller Gates on Lake Street and along the railroad tracks. The Yard Crew submitted a proposal but it was not broken out by area. A new proposal was requested. At the Waller gates Commissioner Masella did the design and public works crew prepped the beds since there was work to be done at the site anyway. The first section that will be planted along the railroad tracks is at Hawthorne and Franklin and should take place next week. A discussion on payment will take place later in the agenda when the budget is discussed. Commissioner Masella also arranged for a painting by resident, Jean Bacom, to be painted on the wall of the track to announce project. There was also a discussion of the possibility of another herb garden or flower cutting garden for future plantings.

Report on Energy Goals

Commissioner Simon reported that the first overall goal is encourage use of renewables and cut usage. The education piece of the Village's new website will be instrumental in helping get the word out about options for residents. It was reported that there are a lot of documents out there that are useful for residents and that we should be sharing.

2nd piece of the goal strategy is education. The commission would like to see a collaboration with the schools regarding curriculum on renewable. Commissioner Simon is looking for contacts at any clubs, the high school, Green4Good etc. Commissioner Moller said that Anthony Cozzi is the contact for G4G at D90 and helped with the solar project there. Commissioner Brennan suggested the 7th grade science teacher, Cory Kadlec, who has expressed interest in working with the commission too. Commissioner Moller and Simon will discuss other contacts offline.

Following the stated goals there was a discussion on how to make change. Commissioner Simon continued that it is important to lead by example with our public municipal buildings. We need to figure out a strategy on where we can have impact. Commissioner Brennan asked how we could work with Park District for renewable energy installations. John Anderson commented that the Village has nothing to do with Park

District energy use. Commissioner Simon said that he needs more information on how to work with institutions. For example he is working with Sue Quinn to get the library to change out lighting seemed simple but there are hoops to jump through. They are now looking at a spring cycle with ComEd to change out the lighting. Commissioner Brennan confirmed that the Village doesn't pay for electric costs for Village Hall but that not every building is part of this agreement with ComEd. Commissioner Simon said it would be helpful to meet with Public Works regarding what would be realistic for goals and which buildings are comp'd and which are not based on the local government.

John Anderson said that Public Works garage is comp'd but the pumping station is not comp'd. The library we do not know. Don't know about park district.

Comm. Brennan said that she knows from a Metropolitan Mayor's Caucus meeting she attended that some municipalities receive a set number of therms from Nicor. Maybe we could set the number of watts from ComEd so that there is an incentive to save electricity.

The discussion ended stating the renewable energy goal for the federal government is 25% by 2025 and by 2020 PlanItGreen's goal is 25%. We are currently at 3%. We need to consider a goal for River Forest and measure where who is using renewable and where can they be installed.

Report on ComEd LED Lighting Conversion

John Anderson reported that there are 68 lights that are owned by ComEd in the Village but the Village pays the electricity costs. The Village has asked ComEd to convert to LED for a while now. John Anderson received news that they are finally going to convert them to LED this fall. This will lower the wattage per fixture by 60% bring down monthly cost by 40%. Once these fixtures are changed all lights in Village will be LED. The project will be finished by end of calendar year. John Anderson reported this has a big impact on wattage use and cost. Commission Moller stated she would like to share with PlanItGreen for the snapshots they are putting together for the December Institutional Leaders Breakfast.

Proposed Bee Keeping Ordinance

Commissioner Crothers reviewed the latest draft of the ordinance. The definition of a nuc was included and that nucs are considered maintenance and not a separate hive. There were also adjustments made to permit transferability, the definition of a frame and comb. The list of changes was included in the materials distributed with the meeting packet.

In order to move forward sending the ordinance to the Village Board for the Nov. 13 meeting the commission reached consensus on 2 issues:

1. Should permits be granted to all residents (even if they rent) or just property owners?
2. Should condos and multi unit buildings be allowed to keep bees

After discussion it was agreed that if a resident who wants to keep bees meets all the requirements of the ordinance there should be no reason why they have to own property and therefore can keep bees. Secondly if condos and multi unit buildings agree that residents can keep bees and all the requirements are met then condos and multi unit buildings should be included as well.

The commission will send the ordinance to the Village Board for their review. Commissioners Masella and Crothers will provide John Anderson educational and informational documentation that he can send along with the ordinance to the Board. Commissioner Crothers will prepare supplementary documents for John Anderson, such as permit and documentation letter to neighbors. All commissioners are encouraged to attend the Nov. 13 and support Commissioners Crothers and Masella as they present the ordinance.

Commissioner Masella mentioned that Dominican offered to hold regular workshops to River Forest residents so that people can learn about bees...and pollinators in general.

Commissioner Crothers pointed out, and Commissioner Masella concurred, that a committee of 3 was difficult due to the open meetings act. Moving forward committees should be just 2 commissioners.

Commissioner Brennan shared a flyer from Anderson Pest Control about ridding your yard of bees. Commissioner Masella was going to look into what message they were communicating.

Commissioner Reports on Meetings/Presentations

Commissioner Brennan stated that she would like meeting reports to be standard on the agenda every month.

Commissioner Chen began the report-she is monitoring the Park District meeting schedule regarding artificial turf discussions but as of yet there have been no further meetings.

Commissioner Moller shared that she attended the Interfaith Green Network breakfast, Commissioner Simon attended as well. Interfaith is implementing a zero waste program for PADS sites and have set energy reduction and renewables as a high priority for their congregations. She also attended a meeting at the OPRF high school with Commissioner Credi, Nick Bridge from Oak Park Energy and Environmental Commission and Jen Nelson and Susan Casey from Seven Generations Ahead regarding waste reduction and Styrofoam use in the cafeteria.

Commissioner Brennan attended the Mayor's Caucus meeting last month. CMAP, Go Green Illinois, Fox Valley Sustainability Network were among the panelists sharing information. Lots of municipalities are implementing the same programs and priorities as River Forest. Comm. Brennan also mentioned that Go Green Illinois has a walking audit expert for municipalities –Mark Fenton. He can identify obstacles and suggest ways to make a town more walkable. He received a grant from the Institute of Health.

She also shared that Commissioners Brennan, Crothers and Moller presented at the River Forest Civic Association (formerly known as the Service Club) the group shared the commission's-history current goals and how it was formed. Commissioner Chen attended the event as well. 5 attendees expressed interest in more information from the committee and a \$50 anonymous donation was made to the Sustainability Commission.

Commissioner Crothers-no meetings but invited commissioners to attend and Land and Lawn Forum on November 13. She will be serving on the panel with Midwest Pesticide on writing IPMs. She added that the native planting being done by Comm. Masella could be one of the snapshots for PlanItGreen and possibly Healthy Lawn, Healthy Family and Green Block party sign ups.

Commissioner Chen added that the LemonAid waste diversion could be a snapshot, it used the SortItOut stations.

Commissioner Masella reported she will be attending, ILCA forum which will include speakers regarding natives, and IPMs.

She added that she also spoke to Patrick at the Yard Crew about developing an organic pesticide program so that landscapers working in RF would have to meet a minimum requirement. It would help educate residents and landscapers. Discussion ensued. Comm. Crothers asked how to ensure that companies are permitted, John Anderson said they have to have a sticker on their vehicle; if they are caught they get a violation. Comm. Masella asked if the permit for landscaping also required a landscaper to have a license to apply chemicals. She reported that landscapers have to demonstrate that a certain number of their

employees are trained in chemicals by law. The commission would like to know if we could review the permit process and make sure that companies have the permit for chemical application. John Anderson will get back to the commission after he speaks to the building department, which handles the permits.

Budget and Procedures

John Anderson reported that the planting along the railroad area would be come out of sustainability commission's budget. Commissioner Masella will get the final numbers to John.

Commissioner Crothers shared estimates for the Green Block party program which includes the Healthy Lawn, Healthy Family campaign. The expenses were \$2,862.50. Comm. Crothers asked how the procedure will work when commissioners have bills to pay. John Anderson said that bills should be submitted to him. He is authorized to pay any bill up to \$5,000, which is the budget for the SC.

In in the past we have had grant funding to help offset costs. Comm. Crothers mentioned she working with Green Community Connections on a possible grant. Potential funding could be \$1,000. Moving forward for next fiscal year each commissioner should think of expenses that they may incur for programs they want to do such as marketing, plantings, green block parties, recycling events. The commission can then have a rough idea how much money they need and what money has to be raised via grants etc. The commission will also work on a protocol to distinguish from making it a village expense versus sustainability

Right now the expenditures include:

Green Block parties \$2,862.50

Bags for Sort it out \$350

Native plant material \$198.78 plus tax and installation

We will need clarification on how to distinguish expenses that are Village versus sustainability commission

Estimated total spent: \$3,600

Other Business

Commissioner Chen reported that 2 SortItOut stands were lost at a block party. The resident offered to pay but since the program is new and the return policy was not clear the commission thought it would be unfair for the resident to incur the cost. Comm. Chen said that the replacement cost was \$99 for one stand or \$249 for all 3. It was agree we should replace the stations and order more but we will wait until the end of the fiscal year (April 30) to determine if there is money left to spend or should it the expense be moved to next fiscal year. There is no need for the stations over the winter and there may be other expenses to incur for the current year.

It was also reported that we need to return the 4 stations we borrowed from Seven generations Ahead. Comm. Chen said that she would make sure they get returned.

Schedule Next Meeting – Tuesday, November 14, 2017 – 7:00 PM

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:33pm.