



**VILLAGE OF RIVER FOREST
SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, July 10 – 7:00 PM**

A regular meeting of the River Forest Sustainability Commission was held on Tuesday, July 10th, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. The meeting was conducted in the Community Room at the River Forest Forest Village Hall, 400 Park Ave., River Forest. Chair and secretary were present.

Roll call. (all present)

No Public comment

Minutes adopted

April 10: No changes:

May 8 adopted with typo corrections.

Commission President, Katie Brennan welcomed to Andy Basney

Reports:

Commissioner Simon:

Attended the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus Energy Sub Committee meeting in Will County.

Commissioner Simon reported on speakers at the meeting:

John Novak, Romeoville Mayor spoke about how Romeoville incentivized companies to install clean energy in their community by waving permit fees for solar as incentive.

Will County has large roof top arrays in region and all kinds of community solar projects. They have aggressively supported community solar on municipality buildings and all municipality building rehabs will be LEED gold certified by 2020. The Court House will be LEED gold and Solar.

Mr Pruit, Energy consultant for MMC. Discussed Community solar opportunities that would be relevant to River Forest and residential solar which could also be relevant to River Forest.

A law firm representative gave a legislation update. ComEd has challenged items within FEJA.

Wayne Lavey from University of Illinois reported on a community solar guide on their website to offer information support to village attorneys, zoning boards etc: Commission Simon said that this was a great resource for RF and would share the website link with the other commissioners.

Bill Foster, congressman. Offered updates on what is happening on the federal level. Commissioner Simon's big take away: We need to have break out subcommittee to work with the village to manage how subscriptions to solar are sold to residents. He said that there are a lot of "bad player's" selling solar subscriptions. This is a big problem as they are not always ethical. This is hard to manage as it is difficult to pass local ordinance and laws to protect residents. John Anderson mentioned it had came up at the VBOT meeting on Monday, July 9th. These companies were already selling in RF in an unethical manner and residents could end up paying more.

Commission Moller stated that she had received some complaints from residents and shared an email she had received. The resident shared that a company called Star Energy had come to their door. They had a badge of some sort so residents are confused.

Commissioner Simon stated that this is a downstream problem for us as when we do want to implement solar programs the residents will have a lack of trust.

Commissioner Basney asked if there is an approved list of contractor to which Commissioner Simon responded that these are developers selling solar farms selling the racks for power not contractors.

It was decided that Commissioner Simon will take the lead on this and work with the village to address this issue and discuss Best Practice local ordinance. ICC, SCC ISEA

Commission President, Brennan suggested asking President Adduci to issue a warning at the top of her next resident newsletter. John Anderson said that the Police Chief was going to place poster on website. Commission President Brennan suggested that the Village place the information on top of website and on village Facebook page, plus create a SC statement so that we are all informing residents correctly. Commissioner Simon to prepare this.

Commissioner Chen

Working on volunteer spreadsheet for community events. Upcoming Party in the Park July 19th 6-7:30pm, hosted by the Park District expects approximately 400 people. Commissioner Chen is looking for my volunteers. Commissioner Crothers, offered to volunteer.

Concordia Makin' Tracks race on Sep15th also needed volunteers. Commissioner Chen has sent out an email request to residents who are on our volunteer list.

Commissioner Chen asked for an inventory check on the Sort it Out stations.

John Anderson mentioned that 2 entire sets were missing from Jul 8th block party.

Commissioner Crothers said she would send the email contact for the 8th July block party to Commissioner Chen so that she could follow up with the resident to find the

missing stations. Note: there is a fee charged to the residents to cover the costs of replacing the stations if the stations cannot be found.

Inventory: We should have 5 plus an incomplete set. John Anderson doubled checked and we only have 2 stations. Com Pres, Brennan, mentioned that PD has its own Sort it Out stations to which Commissioner Moller corrected that these are not real Sort it Out, but regular trash cans with signs. Com Pres, Brennan suggested lending the SC sets. Therefore finding missing stations is necessary. Commissioner Moller said that event may be ok with just two, but we must be sure to confirm PD does not put out other trash bins as this causes confusion. It was also noted that the PD has recycle service but not compost. Commissioner Chen to ask Karen Stille at the PD to coordinate compost to various Commissioners own bins.

Commissioner Moller:

SWANO. (acronym to be confirmed)

Will attend a task force for recycle to prevent contamination on July 16th in Springfield via call in. This is because of the China ban on US recycled materials because of too much contamination. A new updated list is being created by SWANO to provide state wide information of what is accepted in recycle.

Commission President Brennan:

Attended the MMC Environmental Sub Committee meeting on June 19th, Greenest Regent Compact; tracking and reporting. They are forming a taskforce. Tracking metrics for all categories of GRC. Our reporting for RF will not be difficult as the SC is already doing much that we can check. This will assist in our own tracking and could assist with future certification. We now have GRC badge, Tree City USA. Climate Charter Signatory. These are all now listed on our website.

PC Brennan resented turf report to Parks Foundation and attended the planting of the first Parkway Pollinator garden at a Green Block Party on Bonnie Brae. She is also working on a garden collaboration with Concordia.

Commissioner Cheng

Attended Illinois Green Alliance. (former US Green Council) Energy Efficiency Ambassador meeting. Commissioner Cheng is trying work on outreach to change behavior. She says that we should use the AIGA EFA PowerPoint, but she still doesn't see a compelling way to change behavior. Still needs to work on this, but she

is keeping the group on her radar. They will share information and they have grant opportunities.

360 Energy Group has a carbon drawdown goal to reach 1000s of households to change energy behavior. John Anderson mentioned that they were intermediary to get LED street lights in RF. Commissioner Cheng will continue to find connections such as this.

Commissioner Cheng is still compiling report from Roosevelt Sustainability Tour, so we have a reference for next year. CP Brennan mentioned that the SC received thank you notes from teacher. Commissioners Cheng and Chen mentioned that they had received some form students too.

Com Cheng reported that a Sustainability Club was formed by D90 as part of its strategic plan. Teacher Sponsor will be Anna Daly, plus students.

Items:

Commissioner Crothers:

Green Block Parties:

The first Parkway Pollinator Garden was planted at a GBP on Bonnie Brae. Com Pres, Brennan attended and reported that it was a great event. It was hot by many participated and enjoyed it. She felt that ownership of the project was achieved. Trustee Henek who lives on that block took the sod compost along with the host of the garden.

Comm Pres, Brennan for Ex-Commissioner Masella

Community Gardens:

Ex-Commissioner Masella attended the Community Garden kick off event. Com Pres, Brennan said that Ex-Com Masella reported that the gardens are growing and it has been a huge success. Mary Masella is going to continue to work on the projects despite no longer being on the Commission. Mary is still handling some small complaints.

We need a new commissioner for next season to take this on.

Official ribbon cutting: Com Chen to follow up with Mary Masella to ensure it is on the schedule.

Com Simon:

Still need to gather energy usage information from providers from past two years. ComEd and Nicor.

Com Simon and John Anderson will obtain by next meeting. If we are to do any energy projects we need historical data.

Com Pres, Brennan reported that MMC said that we should get the info and offered a contact. Com Simon took the contact information and promised to follow up.

It was noted again that the Village doesn't pay anything for its energy usage and that we need to understand how much the village is using and how much are residents paying to compensate. Com Simon to work with John Anderson to collect this information by next meeting.

Com Cheng

Website.

Will like to update the Healthy Lawn Healthy Family page. Com Crothers to get info to Com Cheng for the update.

Com Cheng asked commissioners to share what new information that should go up and to share with her. Deadline to share is July 17th.

Com Cheng reported that we now have sustainability email address:

Beth will work on details of how best to operate the email address. She will be the monitor and investigate creating folders so commissioners can access emails pertinent to them and respond.

Address is: sustainability@vrfs.us

Com Pres, Brennan

Artificial Turf.

PD has set aside 1.2M for turf. Com Pres, Brennan presented recommendation to the Parks Foundation. Asked PF to confirm by July 19th if they would like to collaborate with us. Com Pres Brennan said one more draft is needed to clean it up. Idea is to present to Village board then PD board per village board request. Board had not enough info on their last decision and would like to be informed to make better decisions in the future.

John Anderson suggested that it may have to go through Development Review Board process like the Fenwick project.

Com Moller suggested presenting to Development Review Board first. John Anderson to confirm with Eric Palm if this is the protocol.

Com Crothers

Deep roots Inspirational Project.

First garden to be installed at the Trailside Museum July 29th. Com Crothers invited commissioners to attend.

Need to follow up with Dominican as the planned garden is in question and we are not sure why.

Com Pres Brennan to follow up with River Forest Temple with regard to their interest in an IG.

Com Crothers to send information to commissioners on the Edible Inspirational Gardens and asked them to promote/inform residents.

Com Crothers to send information to commissioners on Trailside garden event details.

Com Cheng

SC Survey update: We currently have 135 responses. Need to do another push. Will utilize the upcoming events, IE: Inspirational Garden event at trailside, to give out information slips with link to survey.

Com Crothers/Brennan

Com Pres, Brennan shared a pamphlet on DVMAD's lavaesiding. The issue of Mosquito abatement is still one we need to address.

Mosquitoes john to follow up on website information.

Com Chen

Reported that the Sort It Out stations will be at the Library's upcoming Touch a Truck event, Aug 15th 10-12am and SC is sponsoring the Sugar Beet School House Smoothie Bike for the event.

Other event: Cougar Palooza Home coming, Oct 5-7 Sort it out bins.

Com Chen reaching out to Concordia contacts to engage them in waste diversion: IE: Sort it Out and compost etc:

Com Chen will be the SC Ambassador to them.

Com Moller

Plastic bags:

Still working on this issue. Because we are not Home Rule there would need to be a referendum to tax plastic bags, so we are looking at plan B. Com Basney asked if there was a reason not to pursue a referendum. Com Moller stated that with the Tiff being front and center that she did not feel that this was a good idea to go that route right now. She is looking into other ideas.

Com Crothers

Reported that HLHF still promoting through GBP.

Com Simon

Solsmart:

Com Simon did not have the update on the challenge.

Com Pres, Brennan

Table Banner

Com Pres Brennan showcased our new table banner created by resident: Gina Latinovich. Gina offered credit for overpayment. To be credited for next project.

Roosevelt Student presentation: Com Pres Brennan reported that students were honored at the VBOT meeting on July 9th. She suggested that the donation the students gave to SC from their reusable sandwich wraps sales of \$83.00 should be used for a SC high profile project. Perhaps 5th grade poster traveling exhibit. Com Moller suggested placing a poster in Jewel cart next year

Com Crothers Suggested doing a yearly event to honor the Charlotte and McKenzie Day which is July 9th,

Com Cheng

PlanItGreen

Collaboration and communication with PlanItGreen. Community Solar Project. It's a Complex project and Com Cheng suggested accepting request from Gary Cuneen to come and present to SC to discuss energy and how we can support.

It was mentioned that Letters of interest we sent by PlanItGreen to River Forest community, but we are unclear as to who? And if there was any response. Gary has invited us to be signatory so we would like him to present. It was suggested he should be invited to our Oct meeting.

Additional Item:

Com Pres Brennan

Oak Park Environmental and Energy Committee together with RF SC social hour to get to know each other. Suggested dates: Aug 27th- 30th Com Brennan will send an email/doodle.

Meeting adjourned

Respectfully Submitted:

Signature Line

John Anderson, Secretary

Signature Line

Kathleen Brennan, Chairman
Sustainability Commission

Date: -----