



VILLAGE OF RIVER FOREST SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES Tuesday Sept 12, 2017 – 7:00 PM

A regular meeting of the River Forest Sustainability Commission was held on Tuesday, September 12th, 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 Moller, Commissioner Simon, Commissioner Chen, Commissioner Crothers, and Commissioner Credi and Commissioner Masella.

Public Comment

No public comment during the designated time. Two members of the beekeeping community stepped forward later in the meeting. See #9 below.

Discussion: Commission Goals & Projects

2. Adoption of Meeting Minutes from the 7/11/17 Sustainability Commission Meeting: motion to accept by Kathleen Brennan, 2nd by Sue Crothers, yes by all 7 commissioners.
3. Public Comment: no comment during this time.
4. Report on PlanItGreen “Report Card” Presentation to RF Parks Board/Village Board: Gary Cuneen of Seven generations Ahead presented on 8/14/17 to RF Parks and at RF Trustee meeting 9/11/17: MSC reports Gary presented Trends & Metrics from 2017 report card (page 4.) JM adds - Waste diversion #s are not moving. Applauded RF for initiating Sustainability Commission. SGA is willing to help w grant writing re: Solar energy. Water leaks – check on individual water bills.
5. Report on Mayor’s Caucus Meeting: Julie Moller attended at University Club. Present were mayors & city officials. Urgency to act now. Tom Skilling meteorologist: we cannot make predications based on past facts. UofC scientist emphasized solar. Power Point will be on their website soon.
6. Report on Goals for Commission: Mindy Crede submitted goals. John A reports new site is months away. Discussion on how we will be able to use the site: make changes, what features will we have? Add functionality, photos, content, ‘comps’, calendar, and public comments.
7. Report on Green News You Can Use: written by Julie Moller and part of Village’s email, includes meeting dates, promote composting. Residents sign up for electronic newsletter. Commissioners can make submissions to Julie.

8. Report on SC Presentation to the RF Civic Association: (previously known as Service Club) would like RFSC presentation in October. JM & SC will present.

9. Report on Draft Bee Ordinance: was emailed to commissioners. SC presents - Language grandfathered Dominican Univ with 4 hives providing they continue educational projects. Sue has been using Marston from Garfield Park Conservatory as a consultant. SC & MM visited Maureen Huston's hives. Sue has become aware of "nuke", a small colony to prevent swarming; would this count as a 3rd hive? Discussion on "adjacent property notification" - concern about paragraph 2, new resident notification within 30 days; how would a resident know that a new neighbor moved in? Comment that Oak Park has a bee allergy registry. Committee will review this part of the ordinance.

Public comment: Bruce Faland concern that commissioners did not contact beekeeper or complaining neighbor. Did commissioners feel threatened when near hive?

Maureen Huston 631 Edgewood Pl. expressed invitation to visit her hives.

10. Report on Solar Issues/PSEE – Eric Simon - Public Sector Energy Efficiency, via mayor's caucus, underwritten by gas companies. Apply for grants by Nov 1; project to be completed by Dec 31. Ideas discussed: lights in village hall, library, streetlights, HVAC equipment, and other village sites.

11. Report on Sort It Out Waste station Program: MSC re-wrote instructions for use, and a form for public use of Stations (outside of block party rentals.) Form & instructions will be placed on website. Instructions will also be laminated and attached to Stations. Submitted to Joan Espanza (in Dawn Haney's absence.)

12. Report on Village Native Planting Program: MM reports village will be planting natives at Waller gates on Lake St (existing plants were trampled) & along train tracks at Hawthorn just west of Franklin.

13. Other Business:

Many green block parties this summer, TY to Sugar Beet Schoolhouse, 36 additional Healthy Lawn signs have been added this summer.

9/11 Lemon Aid on Bonnie Brae: Commissioners (& others) volunteered as 'waste diversion engineers.' 93% diversion rate, 70% compost, only 7% landfill.

Foam – MC is working to engage OP &/or OPRF HS to collaborate.

Artificial Turf: MSC reports at 8/14/17 RF Parks Board Mtg, Greg White of RFYBS requested consideration of replacing a girl's softball infield w artificial turf. Asking park district for 50% of cost; total \$100,000 to install. Board will be contacting MWRD re: drainage, & report at meeting 9/11/17. Product is Tarkett, Field Turf. Sue Crothers reports that history is previous Sustainability Committee expressed concerns about health effects, long tem maintenance costs, need to water artificial turf when temp is high. MSC & SC will communicate on this.

14. Schedule Next Meeting – Tuesday Oct 10th, 2017, 7 PM – agreed.

15. Motion to adjourn by KB, 2nd MSC.

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 P.M. All commissioners voted in favor of the motion. Motion passed.

Respectfully Submitted:

Signature Line

John Anderson, Secretary

Signature Line

----- Date: -----
Kathleen Brennan, Chairman
Sustainability Commission

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