



VILLAGE OF RIVER FOREST SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION

Tuesday, January 12, 2021 – 7:00 PM
Village Hall – Via Remote Meeting, 400 Park Ave.,
River Forest, IL

Physical attendance at this public meeting is limited to 10 individuals, with Commission members, staff and consultants having priority over members of the public. Public comments will be shared with the Commission members. You may submit your written public comments via email in advance of the meeting to: janderson@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: 885 0486 9109 or by clicking here: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88504869109> If you would like to speak during public comment, please email janderson@vrf.us by 4:00 PM on Tuesday, January 12, 2021.

AGENDA

1. Call to Order/Roll Call
2. Public Comment
3. Adoption of Meeting Minutes
4. Commissioner Reports
5. VRF Resident Communications and Outreach
 - a. RFSC website copy on the VRF website
 - b. RFSC 2021 Editorial Calendar – Request for Email/ FB/ IG Copy
6. RFSC Presentation to the VRF Board of Trustees — March 2021
 - a. FY20 Success
 - b. FY21 Focus
 - c. Annual Metrics
 - d. Budget
7. Request for RFSC POV on Gas-Powered Leaf Blowers
8. VRF Climate Action Plan
9. Schedule Next Meeting – February 9, 2021
10. Adjournment



VILLAGE OF RIVER FOREST

SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION

MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday November 17, 2020 – 7:00 PM

Call to Order/Roll Call

Lisa Gillis
Eric Simon
Beth Cheng
Cary McLean
Susan Charrette
Lauren Behan
Shannon Roberts
Ellie Raidt
Charlotte Meyer
Luke Gilfillan
Charles Roeger

Commissioner Reports

Beth Cheng spoke about the River Forest Tree Trails project. She spoke about Ellie Raidt's involvement in the program and the residents that were able to win the free composting.

Eric Simon spoke about attending the interfaith green network breakfast event. The keynote presentation spoke about environmental justice from a faith standpoint and the environment/climate change. There were workshops that were done remotely based on green projects. The MMC environment energy subcommittee met and it focused on the climate planning project which targets greenhouse gas reduction. Energy education and energy tactics for underserved communities were addressed at another MMC energy committee meeting Eric attended.

Susan Charrette spoke about the PlanItGreen meeting that met about renewable energy, waste reduction, water, racial equity, and expand support to neighbors. There will be a leader's forum coming up that will present a climate action plan.

Lisa Gillis spoke about a resident volunteer who is focusing on green buses in the area. Her knowledge is in how the green buses can be used to connect areas that need to be served. Green transportation is this resident's focus area. Lisa on boarded all student commissioners. Lisa spoke about the MWRD award that was received recently and the trophy that was received.

Lauren Behan spoke about the pumpkin smash event that occurred recently. There was a total of 8,260 pounds of pumpkins smashed and diverted from going into the landfill. The smash was sponsored by the Green4good club.

Student Commissioners Ellie Raidt, Charlotte Meyer, Luke Gilfillan, and Charles Roeger were introduced and all of the sustainability commissioners told each new student commissioners about their project areas and history within the commission.

Mayor's Caucus EV Readiness Program

Eric Simon spoke about the MMC and their environmental committee. The meeting that was held earlier today was focused on the EV readiness program. The community would have to be ready for EV infrastructure. Grants are available for these types of projects from the VW settlement. EV is something that may be budgeted in future years. The conversion of municipal vehicles to electric is a possibility in the future. The information about this program is located on the Sustainability google drive for everyone to access.

Moving the Needle in 2020 - Update on Metrics

Shannon shared an update on the metrics she compiled from the data she received over the past year. She explained the greenhouse gas scenario in River Forest. Shannon used a method of measuring the metrics that is an acceptable protocol. The data that was compiled was from past years and included waste, electricity, water, natural gas, passenger vehicle use, renewable energy credits, forest lands, etc. She shared a chart that displays the reduction in greenhouse gas emissions. It was discussed that there may be an increase in electricity usage if EV charging gains popularity, but the passenger vehicle emissions would be reduced. This information could be packaged up and shared with the Village Board and the rest of the community. There were different possible event/forum ideas that may be setup in order to share and educate the community on this information as well.

Meeting Coverage

Lisa will make sure there are commissioners assigned to any upcoming meetings.

The next update to the Village Board will likely be at the February meeting.

Next meeting is scheduled for January 12, 2021

Meeting adjourned at 8:31pm

Respectfully Submitted:

Signature Line

John Anderson, Secretary

Signature Line

Lisa Gillis, Chairman
Sustainability Commission

Date: -----