



VILLAGE OF RIVER FOREST SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION

Tuesday, January 14, 2020 – 7:00 PM
Village Hall – Community Room, 400 Park Ave.,
River Forest, IL

AGENDA

1. Call to Order/Roll Call
2. Public Comment
3. Adoption of Meeting Minutes from 10/8/19 Sustainability Commission Meeting
4. Adoption of Meeting Minutes from 12/10/19 Sustainability Commission Meeting
5. Commissioner Reports and Updates
6. Metric Update
7. Goals for 2020-Matrix
8. Schedule Next Meeting – February 11, 2020
9. Adjournment



VILLAGE OF RIVER FOREST
SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, October 8, 2019 – 7:00 PM

A regular meeting of the River Forest Sustainability Commission (RFSC) was held on Tuesday October 8 at 7:00 P.M. The meeting was conducted in the Community Room at the Village of River Forest (VRF) Village Hall, 400 Park Ave. River Forest.

1. Call to Order/Roll Call

- The RFSC meeting was called to order at 7pm. Roll call was taken by John Anderson and in attendance were Julie Moller (Chair), Lisa Gillis (Commissioner), Beth Cheng (Commissioner), Susan Charette (Commissioner) and Ellie Raidt (Student Commissioner).

2. Public Comment

- No public comment
- The following residents were in the audience:
 - Student from Fenwick High School fulfilling an academic requirement for her civics class

3. Commissioner Report Updates

Commissioner Cheng

- Helped plant a Pollinators for Parkways (P4P) Garden at 550 Thatcher Drive with her son, Ben
- Was asked by Chair Moller to continue looking at local and state ordinances focused on driving the adoption of more energy efficient behaviors and best practices amongst residents and businesses
- Has engaged with the Dominican University green student group called Sustain DU (<https://engagedu.dom.edu/organization/ecoclub>)

Commissioner Gillis

- Planted two P4P Gardens as a sub for David Murphy from The Deep Roots Project in an effort to get all twenty (20) 2019 gardens planted before the fall
 - 550 Thatcher (a big thank you to Commissioner Cheng for helping!)
 - 1500 Block of William (a big thank you to Trustee Brennan for helping!)
- All twenty (20) 2019 Pollinators for Parkways Gardens are now in the ground!

Commissioner Charrette

- Attended her first PlanIt Green meeting; see meeting notes in the appendix

Chair Moller

- Met with Student Commissioner Raidt on her plans for driving sustainable practices at Roosevelt Middle School and Oak Park River Forest High School
- Worked with Sue Quinn, Director of the River Forest Public Library, on the installation of the SCARCE display focused on waste diversion through reduction, reuse and recycling
 - Display will be at the River Forest Public Library through the month of November 2019
 - RFSC would love to do more educational programs with the Village of River Forest Library
- Presented about Microplastics at the Euclid Methodist Church in Oak Park
- Presented at Dominican University's annual Veritas Caritas Symposium about Sustainability; see link here:
https://www.dom.edu/sites/default/files/pdfs/about/CVSymposium/2019_program_v6_8.19.19.pdf
 - Program Details:
 - Title: "Caritas as Care for Creation for All: Sustainability at Sinsinawa, Dominican University, and Beyond"
 - Presenters: Kathryn Brien, Monica Halloran, Julie Moller, Mary Sadofsky, Sr. Christin Tomy, OP
 - Program Summary: The Sinsinawa Sisters have given Dominican a powerful legacy not only in their ongoing struggles for social justice but also in their 2016 Land Stewardship Plan, their 2018 Corporate Stance on Climate Change, and their ongoing Care for Creation initiatives. The audience will be invited to discuss what they think it means to Care for Creation and what future actions can be collectively taken.
 - About 10 to 15 students were in the audience
 - Focus of Chair Moller's remarks were VRF sustainability practices
- RFSC commissioners were invited to the Dominican University Farm to Table Event taking place on October 24 from 11am to 2pm
- News about the VRF Community Garden as received from resident volunteer, Mary Masella:
 - There will be no Community Garden fall event; instead, there will be a gathering of gardeners sometime in the winter
 - There should have been a sign for the River Forest Community Garden in place throughout the spring, summer and fall; for some reason, it was never installed; this will be rectified in spring 2020
- Met with David Frank from the VRF Historic Commission to eliminate any overlap between the RFSC and the VRF Historic Commission; they found no overlap to eliminate!
- Asked for a RFSC Commissioner to update the "*Beyond the Bin*" document now on the VRF website focused on recycling and reuse
- Attended the Major's Caucus Conference on the Climate Resilience Plan for the Region on October 8
 - Evanston as well as other major US cities are part of the plan including New York, Chicago, Kansas City and DC

- CMAP completes an ongoing greenhouse gas emissions study for the Chicagoland area; they produce a report available to anyone upon request
- Mayor's Caucus is trying to figure out how to take action on these findings
- Other attendees included Gary Cuneen (PlanIt Green), an EPA representative, a policy person from the Shedd Aquarium, Water Reclamation District, etc.

Student Commissioner Raidt

- Attended the first It's Our Future meeting on September 25
 - 6 students are on the core team
 - There were many students in the first meeting beyond the core team
- Participated in the OPRF Climate Strike on September 20; only about 100 kids from OPRF attended
 - It was not very well organized
 - Commissioner Raidt's teacher gave her extra homework for attending
- Working with Laura Maychruk from Green4Good at Roosevelt Middle School on improving the sustainability of the School Supply Box that is sold to students across all grades (K-8) each year
 - Goal is to put less in the individual student School Supply Box and more in the classroom for use by all in the class
 - Also looking for green suppliers for both items in the individual student School Supply Box as well as items to be kept in the classroom

John Anderson

- 4 green alleys are being constructed in 2019: 2 are complete, 2 are under construction
 - This brings the total number of water permeable alleys installed across the village to 10 (or maybe 12)
 - There are 25 or so alleys in River Forest, so we are excited to say that we are half-way through our goal of making all alleys water permeable

4. Go Green – Oak Park – Pre-Emption Resolutions

- Pushed to next meeting because Commissioner Basney was not in attendance

5. Review New Goal Matrix with Village Greenhouse Gas Emissions

- Feedback = great way to organize the efforts of the RFSC but need to make the matrix visually clearer
- What the matrix does:
 - Defines our goals
 - Better communicates how our programs and resident action contribute to the reduction of greenhouse gases
 - Sets the stage for ideation
- Some initial ideas:
 - Let's "talk up" the small things that the VRF and D90 are doing to make a difference on environmental issues (e.g. water cooler counts of plastic water bottles not used by refilling a reusable container)
 - How do we incent behavior change (e.g., lower the price of car stickers for electric cars)?

- Let's push for more involvement from the VRF places of worship (e.g., St. Luke's, St. Vincent's, First Presbyterian Church, etc.) in the Interfaith Green Network
- Let's push for VRF designation as a Municipal Arboretum
 - Designation comes from the Morten Arboretum
 - Other towns and villages have gotten the designation
 - Is this the higher-level objective for the VRF Tree Map and Annual Tree Tour?

6. Commission Assignments in Goal Area

- None made at this time; more discussion required.

7. Announcements

- a) Working with GreenSchools on Food Waste Awareness
- b) Waste Exhibit at VRF Library
- c) Beyond the Bin Update
- d) Clean Energy Lobby Day – October 29th
- e) October 17th Interfaith Green Network Breakfast
 - Commissioners Charrette and Simon are going to this event
- f) Pumpkin Smash November 2nd at Roosevelt Middle School
- g) November 7th Green America Article Published – YAY!
<https://greenamerica.org/story/pollinator-home-sites-available>
- h) December 10th PlanItGreen Institutional Forum Breakfast

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8. Schedule Next Meeting

- The next Sustainability Commission meeting is scheduled for Tuesday November 12, 2019.

9. Adjournment

- At 8:10pm, Chair Moller motioned to adjourn, 2nd motion by Commissioner Cheng and all in favor.

Appendix:

PlanItGreen September 17th meeting

Submitted by Susan Charrette

It's Our Future update

- Launch September 17th at the OPPL with a shortened version of "Youth Unstoppable" from the One Earth Film Festival
- Media workshops coming up September 21st and 28th
- There will be a forum at the Buzz Cafe on October 28th, 6:30-8:30
- Other upcoming events include film screenings, podcast screenings
- Adult Core Meeting September 30th, 5-6 pm

Solar Update

- September 28th the Illinois Solar Tour will feature several houses and commercial sites in Oak Park
- Mark Burger gave an update of legislative activity
- Discussion on October 13th, 3-5 pm at Unity Temple on Renewable Energy and Climate Change. There will be some state legislators there.
- On-sight solar installations are moving forward
- Community solar is stalling, largely because it is a complicated issue
- Demand for community solar exceeds supply in Illinois, which is the 5th largest energy user.
- Recommends we focus our efforts on aggregation and push to have all of our energy be renewable

December Leaders Forum

- The new venue will be Cheney Mansion
- A greater effort will be made to have the breakfast served in a more timely manner to be respectful of participant's time
- An overview of the Report Card will be presented
- Updates on what's happening with respect to sustainability in the two villages
- Focus on one issue - possibly energy
- Jan Arnold would like to see a Q&A included

Pollinators for Parkways

I gave an update on the P4P gardens, the Inspirational Edible Gardens, the mapping on Green America's Garden Map. And that RF has planted 27,000 sq ft of native plants.

Respectfully Submitted:

Signature Line

John Anderson, Secretary

Signature Line

Julie Moller, Chairman
Sustainability Commission

Date: -----



VILLAGE OF RIVER FOREST
SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, December 10, 2019 – 7:00 PM

Minutes from December 10, 2019 Village of River Forest Sustainability Commission Meeting

DRAFT, 1/1/2020

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

1. Call to Order/Roll Call

The RFSC meeting was called to order at 7pm. Roll call was taken by John Anderson and in attendance were Commissioners Basney, Cheng, Gillis and Simon. Commissioner Gillis ran the meeting on behalf of RFSC Chair Julie Moller.

2. Public Comment

None

3. Commissioner Reports and Updates

- **Commissioner Simon.** Attended the *PlanIt Green Institutional Leaders Breakfast* at Cheney Mansion. RFSC Chair Julie Moller spoke on behalf of the Village of River Forest (VRF) in place of VRF President Cathy Adduci who was out of town. Julie Moller shared information about the RFSC initiatives. John Anderson (VRF Public Works Director), Eric Palm (VRF Village Administrator), Dr. Edward Condon (D90 Superintendent) and Commissioner Charette were also in attendance. Overall, the Breakfast was very focused on young people with participants in *It's Our Future* presenting the *PlanIt Green 2018 Report Card*. They also shared that a student from

It's Our Future went to Madrid for the *U.N. Climate Conference* and got invited to be on a panel while there.

- **Commissioner Cheng.** She and Village Trustee Katie Brennan attended a celebration of the winners of ComEd's Green Region, Powering the Arts and Powering Safe Communities programs, hosted by ComEd CEO, Joe Dominguez. The event took place on December 10 from 4pm to 6pm at Brookfield Zoo. River Forest received a Green Region grant for the Parkways for Pollinators (P4) program.
- **Commissioner Charette.** She and Commissioner Gillis attended a *One Earth Film Festival* event at Beye School on Tuesday December 3 from 6pm to 8pm. The program focused on plastic pollution and the need to be cognizant of waste during the holiday season when the amount of waste generated by each household dramatically increases. During the event, two films were aired: "Clean Bin Project" and "A Plastic Ocean." After both films aired, Commissioner Gillis participated on a panel to discuss what each of us can do (e.g., refuse, reduce, reuse, recycle). The crowd was intimate but very engaged in the content of the films, the post-film dialogue, and seeking ways to take action.
- **Commissioner Gillis.**
 - Identified the need to update RFSC tabling materials to meet our various information sharing needs (e.g., IPM, Waste Diversion, Composting, etc.). She volunteered to complete this task.
 - Shared an update from RFSC Chair Julie Moller that the village attorney has confirmed that River Forest cannot put a tax on plastic bags because the village is not a home rule municipality. As a result, the RFSC focus to reduce the preponderance of single-use plastics will continue on building relationships with retailers. Commissioner Gillis will write a project plan for single use plastics. Commissioner Cheng suggested creating a fun, rewarding activity to show residents that they are moving towards a community goal from a baseline of single use plastics usage.
- **Commissioner Basney.** Had no report. He volunteered to register for and attend the Active Transportation Alliance Bike Walk Webinar entitled "Complete Streets 101" on December 12.

4. Metric Update

Commissioner Roberts and Commissioner Cheng are setting up a time to meet and discuss. To start, the focus will be on Key Performance Indicators to track our success in executing the following strategies:

- Sequester carbon & enhance support for eco-systems
- Replace fossil fuel sources with renewable energy
- Reduce waste & increase waste diversion

5. Goals for 2020 Matrix

Goal is to finish drafts of each project summary by the next RFSC meeting on Tuesday January 14. Then, we will discuss and finalize in order to present to the Village of River Forest Trustees at their meeting on Monday February 10. To complete the matrix:

- Commissioner Simon will write up project summaries for Energy
- Commissioner Basney will write up project summaries for the tree tour, tree map and related initiatives
- Commissioner Gillis will write up a project summary for Single-use Plastic Reduction.
- Commissioner Cheng will contact Mary Masella about drafting a project summary for Community Gardens

Some things to consider:

- Regarding rainwater reclamation, Commissioner Simon will contact Jim Babcock from the Interfaith Green Network as this group is doing much on this front.
- With regard to IPM: Can the RFSC apply for a Patagonia grant working in partnership with Midwest Grows Green?
- For institutions, we need to get a better understanding of what Dominican and Concordia are doing in the area of sustainability as well as better connect with houses of worship working through the Interfaith Green Network.

8. Schedule Next Meeting

- The next Sustainability Commission meeting is scheduled for Tuesday January 14, 2020 at 7pm.

9. Adjournment

- The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Signature Line

John Anderson, Secretary

Signature Line

Julie Moller, Chairman Sustainability Commission

Date:
