



VILLAGE OF RIVER FOREST SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION

Tuesday, October 13, 2020 – 7:00 PM
Village Hall – Via Remote Meeting, 400 Park Ave.,
River Forest, IL

Physical attendance at this public meeting is limited to 20 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: 897 4046 5673 or by clicking here: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89740465673>. If you would like to speak during public comment, please email janderson@vrf.us by 4:00 PM on Tuesday, October 13, 2020.

AGENDA

1. Call to Order/Roll Call
2. Public Comment
3. Adoption of Meeting Minutes
4. Commissioner Reports
5. River Forest Tree Trails in the News
6. RFSC Budget Recommendation
7. RFSC Student Commissioners
8. RFSC Meeting Cadence
9. Schedule Next Meeting – November 17, 2020
10. Adjournment



VILLAGE OF RIVER FOREST

SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION

MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday September 15, 2020 – 7:00 PM

In Attendance:

- Lisa Gillis
- Eric Simon
- Beth Cheng
- Cary McLean
- Susan Charrette
- Shannon Roberts
- Lauren Behan
- Ellie Raidt

Meeting minutes adopted with the removal of one sentence within the description of item 5 in the aggregation update.

Commissioner reports - Lauren will be reporting on community composting in Illinois. Cary has been looking into the need to acquire more healthy lawn healthy family signs. The Midwest Goes Green newsletter may be something that we can include in our sustainability updates. There will be an email update on this topic soon.

Susan participated in the PlanItGreen meeting and it was brought up to include Maywood in future PlanItGreen initiatives. The parkway for pollinators program was brought up as well since it is now winding down for the year.

Ellie has been finishing up the Tree Trails program.

Shannon has been working on the Village's carbon data inventory collection. Shannon has been working with Beth to bring this data together and obtain the information from trees to demonstrate the benefits of trees in offsetting the carbon footprint.

Lisa has been working on the award from the MWRD sustainability initiatives. Placed an advertisement for student

John stated that the Julie Moller composting station will be completed in front of Village Hall by the end of the week or next week. There will also be composting stations in the Police Dept. breakroom and the Fire house.

John will be getting an update from MC squared on the community aggregation numbers for the program. Lisa is curious what the Village thinks is the hope for this program in the

future? Susan stated that this could be an intermediate step since these are energy credits and that there are further steps that need to be taken.

River Forest Tree Trails update from Beth and Ellie explained that this program was well promoted, but there have not been any submissions to the email address at this time. Beth will be trying to send it to the school contacts to try to promote it in other ways. Ellie will be contacting the middle school to have it promoted there as well. John will make sure there are a few copies printed out at the Village Hall front counter. The deadline for submitting will be extended to October 31st.

Best use of the funds from the community aggregation program will be summarized and Lisa will send it out for review. The use of funds will need to be approved by the Village Board.

The RFSC editorial calendar was explained by Lisa. She explained that this calendar can be used for future planning for sustainability programs/events. If everyone is comfortable with the editorial calendar, then it can be reused each year. The topic of meatless Mondays as an idea to incorporate to this calendar was discussed as being a part of the promotional effort.

The possibility of spreading the word on social media of getting others to complete the tree trails project.

Next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 13th

Meeting Adjourned at 8:20pm

Respectfully Submitted:

Signature Line

John Anderson, Secretary

Signature Line

Lisa Gillis, Chairman
Sustainability Commission

Date: -----

Summary of RFSC “Top Five” Budget Line Items & Recommended Action

October 2020

Feedback:

Rank	Commissioner #1	Commissioner #2	Commissioner #3	Commissioner #4	Commissioner #5	Commissioner #6	Commissioner #7
#1	Fund VRF Tree Trails incentive @ cost of \$60 (e.g., \$20 per month).	Fix the inequities associated with the current waste contract (e.g., white glove is not available for residents with alleys).	Fund VRF Tree Trails incentive @ cost of \$60 (e.g., \$20 per month)	Fund VRF Tree Trails incentive @ cost of \$60 (e.g., \$20 per month).	Subsidize Green Energy Initiatives @ Local Institutions through Grants.		
#2	Educate residents on composting.	Fund one more year of the Pollinators for Parkways Program @ \$15K (est.)	Subsidize residential curbside composting	Hire one of the GRCorps members to work with the RFSC @ \$18,000 per year.	Subsidize residential curbside composting		
#3	Incentivize residents to install permeable pavers instead of concrete or asphalt driveways.	Fund VRF Tree Trails incentive @ cost of \$60 (e.g., \$20 per month).	Create an outdoor education program on sustainability.	Create an outdoor education program on sustainability.	Drive enthusiasm for reducing red meat consumption across VRF (e.g., Meatless Mondays)		
#4			Fund an RFSC internship program	Create resident education programs.	Fund VRF Tree Trails incentive @ cost of \$60 (e.g., \$20 per month)		
#5			Encourage flood control measures (i.e., planting more rain gardens / bioswales in appropriate places) <OR> Implement aspects of the bike plan? A trail to connect Thatcher Woods to North Ave?				

Considerations:

- VRF Tree Trails incentive (2 awards of three months of free compost @ \$60 each = \$120 in total) -- already paid for from existing budget.
- Action should drive long term benefit for the village overall, while also helping to fulfill our mission (e.g., reduce greenhouse gas emissions).
- “Give a person a fish, s/he eats for a day. Teach a person to fish, s/he eats for a lifetime.” – Education is better use of funds than subsidies.
- Do not use funds as a surrogate for grant revenue.
- VRF fiscal year is May 1 through April 30.
- Expect that VRF will receive funds from MC2 for two years as follows:
 - 2020 = \$36,000
 - 2021 = \$36,000
- Funds do not have to be used in the year received; they can be used at the village’s discretion

Recommendation:

- Focus on education – composting (e.g., backyard, curbside), Meatless Mondays, brown energy vs. green energy, ComEd and Nicor energy reduction services
- Consider hiring a GRCorps member to do the ‘heavy lifting’ with regard to our education programming, volunteer coordination, etc.
- Use funds for other expenses only as absolutely necessary.