



## VILLAGE OF RIVER FOREST SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION

Tuesday, February 9, 2021 – 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](mailto: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: 893 9704 5622 or by clicking here: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89397045622> If you would like to speak during public comment, please email [janderson@vrf.us](mailto:janderson@vrf.us) by 4:00 PM on Tuesday, February 9, 2021.

### AGENDA

1. Call to Order/Roll Call
2. Public Comment
3. Adoption of Meeting Minutes
4. Commissioner Reports
5. Clarifying RFSC Participation
  - a. **Commissioner** – appointed by the Village President and has voting rights
  - b. **Student Commissioner** – appointed by the Village President and do not have voting rights
  - c. **Resident Volunteers** – member of the public who generously offers their time and talent, partnering with a Commissioner
6. Grant Opportunities
  - a. Open Lands / ComEd – EV and P4P
  - b. Cook County Wild Ones – P4P
7. Opportunities to Participate in Sustainable Organization Meetings
  - a. PlanIt Green – Susan Charette
  - b. Green America – Susan Charette
  - c. Mid-West Grows Green – Cary McLean
  - d. Illinois Composts
  - e. Mayors' Caucus Committees
  - f. Environmental – Lisa Gillis
  - g. Energy – Eric Simon
  - h. Other?
8. Update: Meatless Mondays
9. Editorial Calendar – Copy Needs Outstanding
10. Final RFSC Gas Leaf Blower Ban Recommendation to the VRF Board

11. VRF Board Presentation for Village FY May 2020 – April 2021 (March or April 2021)

12. Schedule Next Meeting – March 9, 2021

13. Adjournment



# VILLAGE OF RIVER FOREST

## SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION

### MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday January 12, 2021 – 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

Meeting minutes were approved, with a change to reflect the climate action plan related to the Ann Arbor action plan

#### **Commissioner Reports**

Beth Cheng had a question about the Village Tree Map and if a specific tree species could be located throughout the Village.

Shannon asked if there were any questions about the greenhouse gas inventory, and if there were any other thoughts about next steps.

Susan Charrette spoke about PlanItGreen and explained that it is part of Seven Generations Ahead sustainability plan. The last meeting was to discuss where the next steps will go in the future. The Maywood covenant was brought up to see if there could be any opportunities to get Maywood involved in sustainability initiatives. The December forum was about the Ann Arbor Climate Action Plan.

Eric Simon spoke about Electrify America and the funds available to be spent and the Metropolitan Mayor's caucus role in distributing these funds. The environment committee community solar clearing house was a topic that was also addressed by the caucus. Eric explained that this is a non profit program that uses renewable energy to be potentially used by residents which is a community solar project. Community solar was discussed as it relates to potential future projects.

Lisa Gillis spoke about Roy Strom being purchased by Lake Shore Recycling. The Bike Plan was brought up and it is moving forward and will be done in the spring. The Illinois food composting coalition advocates for food composting, we are currently a silver level membership. The Mayor's caucus community roundtable conversation is upcoming. The current commissioners

whose terms are expiring will rollover to another term unless there is someone who would like to opt out. There will also be a need for a new chairperson for the commission should Lisa Gillis become a Village Trustee.

**VRF Resident Communications and Outreach**

If any changes are needed on each commissioner's topics on the website and contact Jon Pape [jpape@vrf.us](mailto:jpape@vrf.us) or Sara Phyfer [sphyfer@vrf.us](mailto:sphyfer@vrf.us) for any updates that are needed. Sustainability information was relayed to the Village through E-News that is emailed on a regular basis. Posts are regularly sent out on a variety of topics to keep residents informed.

**VRF Presentation to the Board of Trustees**

This presentation will be in March. This will allow us to provide an update on our successes and put forth the budget.

**Request for the sustainability commission to provide perspective on gas powered leaf blowers.**

Lisa has created a document as a response to the Board asking the sustainability commission to respond. The document was explained to the commissioners and feedback was solicited. The emissions from the use of gas leaf blowers is shown to have a significant impact, but there are challenges to restricting their use. This is planned to be presented to the Board in March.

**VRF Climate Action Plan**

Susan introduced this idea of a climate action plan as a strategic framework for measuring climatic impacts. A climate action plan is a proactive way of approaching issues related to climate change. The initial metrics will be displayed and the targeted metrics for future years will be listed as well. Shannon described the impacts of greenhouse gases to the community and the potential scenarios for changing climate conditions. This will be a "living document" that is adaptable and can be changed as new information becomes available.

Schedule Next Meeting - February 9, 2021

Meeting adjourned at 8:38pm

Respectfully Submitted:

*Signature Line*

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John Anderson, Secretary

*Signature Line*

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Lisa Gillis, Chairman  
Sustainability Commission

Date: -----