



## VILLAGE OF RIVER FOREST SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION

Tuesday, March 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: 873 6727 1386 or by clicking here: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87367271386> If you would like to speak during public comment, please email [janderson@vrf.us](mailto:janderson@vrf.us) by 4:00 PM on Tuesday, March 9, 2021.

### AGENDA

1. Call to Order/Roll Call
2. Public Comment
3. Adoption of Meeting Minutes
4. Resident Proposal — <https://www.nwf.org/CommunityWildlifeHabitat/>
5. VRF EV Charging Stations
6. Waste Diversion Education – Composting
7. Meatless Mondays Update
8. Strengthening the RFSC Strategic Plan for Climate Change
9. Updating the RFSC Strategic Plan for VRF for 2021
10. VBOT VRF YE 2020 Presentation
11. One Earth Film Festival has moved online for its 10<sup>th</sup> year from March 5 through March 14  
[https://static1.squarespace.com/static/57a0015e5016e13b82adaed6/t/603ec9333a62824b4c0feb0b/1614727478781/One+Earth+Film+Festival+Program+Guide+interactive-1.pdf?mc\\_cid=d5704d3b8b&mc\\_eid=e8ffaf1783](https://static1.squarespace.com/static/57a0015e5016e13b82adaed6/t/603ec9333a62824b4c0feb0b/1614727478781/One+Earth+Film+Festival+Program+Guide+interactive-1.pdf?mc_cid=d5704d3b8b&mc_eid=e8ffaf1783)
12. Schedule Next Meeting – April 13, 2021
13. Adjournment



# VILLAGE OF RIVER FOREST

## SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION

### MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday February 9, 2021 – 7:00 PM

#### Call to Order/Roll Call

Lisa Gillis

Eric Simon

Beth Cheng

Cary McLean

Susan Charrette

Shannon Roberts

Lauren Behan

Ellie Raidt

Charlotte Meyer

Luke Gilfillan

Charles Roeger

Kathryn Raeder is a member of the public assisting the commission

#### Public Comment

Lisa provided the commission with public comments that were submitted related to the leaf blower issue on the agenda. She read each of the emailed comments explaining their position on the issue. These were also emailed to each commissioner.

#### Adoption of Meeting Minutes approved

#### Commissioner Reports

Lauren stated that the educational composting waste reduction efforts are underway and will be completed soon.

Beth reported that the climate action plan from Ann Arbor was reviewed. She said that it helps put our own plan in context and the goals are similar across different communities. The Ann Arbor plan has in house staff and a substantial budget to implement programs. Environmental justice is also a component of their plan as well as metrics to reduce emissions are clearly presented.

Ellie spoke about Meatless Mondays as a program that can be implemented to promote having meatless dining in local restaurants. This would be a vegetarian menu for Monday options for this program. Cary spoke about some of the challenges related to this program if they are closed on Mondays. There is hope that restaurants will participate with the hope that it becomes a regular item on the menu. It could be a Friday option as well since restaurants may promote less meat options during lent as well.

Cary spoke about the healthy lawn healthy families program and the midwest goes green webinar that will speak about healthy lawn healthy family program and the Keystone Park project on April 10th.

Susan spoke about PlanitGreen and their focus on improving their outreach. Facility managers are being sought out to electrify their buildings, and a program to improve solid waste options was also a focus. Pollinator gardens are also a focus in the upcoming year as well. Mary Masella was involved in the upcoming signups for the community garden and any needed changes at the garden as well.

Shannon became aware of a digital resource for the greenhouse gas inventory. Lisa attended the mayor's caucus community roundtable. South Barrington is similar to River Forest in that they have a setup in the same manner as River Forest. They have a recycling program for styrofoam.

Luke and Charlotte reported that they were involved in the "It's Our Future" project and composting videos.

#### Clarifying RFSC Participation

Lisa explained the different roles commissioners, student commissioners, resident volunteers play as a part of the sustainability commission. The voting only takes place by commissioners. The open meetings act was also explained.

#### Grant Opportunities

##### Open Lands / Comed Powering Safe Communities

Eric spoke about the EV readiness program and it is still in the planning stages, but the funding isn't quite there at this point. We have registered interest in this program. Solar usage at Village facilities was discussed as well.

Cook County Wild Ones grant was discussed as it relates to having a pollinator program in Maywood through the Deep Roots projects.

#### Opportunities to Participate in Sustainable Organization Meetings

Lisa clarified who in the commission is the lead for each of the environmental groups in terms of attending various meetings and participating in working groups.

#### Editorial Calendar

Lisa spoke about making sure we have topics in the enews emails that are sent out regularly. She highlighted the solar promotion that Eric posted and the positive feedback that was received as well. She also spoke about the benefits of promoting programs/events through social media as well. The solar roof instagram post was highlighted and she spoke about the benefits of reaching people with this type of content. Lisa will contact commissioners that are needed for March content. There will also need to be more information needed about possible upcoming block parties.

Final RFSC Gas Leaf Blower Ban Recommendation

This will be information that will be provided to the Village Board. This document will include information related to the emissions of leaf blowers and the comments submitted to the commission by residents. Susan wanted to have additional environmental considerations added to the document sent to the Village Board.

Many issues related to this topic were discussed regarding the impact to residents and the process for taking the recommendation to the Village Board.

Schedule Next Meeting - March 9, 2021

Meeting adjourned at 8:54pm

Respectfully Submitted:

*Signature Line*

-----

John Anderson, Secretary

*Signature Line*

-----

Lisa Gillis, Chairman  
Sustainability Commission

Date: -----