



VILLAGE OF RIVER FOREST SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION

Tuesday, April 9, 2019 – 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 the December and March Sustainability Commission Meetings
4. Commissioner Reports on Meetings
5. SolSmart Update
6. Tracking and Reporting
7. Green Block Parties
8. Budget
9. Commissioner Procedures
10. New Business
 - a. Roosevelt Middle School Sustainable Tour
 - b. Green Quality Achievement Award
 - c. OP Plastic Campaign
11. Old Business
 - a. Recycling Extravaganza
 - b. Artificial Turf Update
 - c. Tree Tour
 - d. Comp Plan Update
 - e. Bike Trail
12. Schedule Next Meeting – May 14, 2019
13. Adjournment



**VILLAGE OF RIVER FOREST
SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, December 11, 2018 – 7:00 PM**

A regular meeting of the River Forest Sustainability Commission was held on Tuesday, December 11, 2018 at 7:00 P.M. The meeting was conducted in the Community Room at the River Forest Village Hall, 400 Park Ave. River Forest.

Roll Call and Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 PM. All commissioners were present at this meeting including Commissioners Basney, Brennan, Cheng, Moller, Roberts and Simon.

Public Comment

No Public Comment

Commissioner Report on Meetings

Commissioner Moller reported that she presented at institutional leaders breakfast on micro-plastics. Asked to be on panel on same topic in April @ Triton. Attended MMC meeting on food waste.

Commissioner Brennan attended OPCF Sustainability Summit. President Adduci presented on River Forest which was very well received. Commissioner Moller did presentation on micro plastics, Commissioner Cheng on green block parties and collaboration with Deep Roots Project. Also in attendance were Eric Palm and John Anderson. Brennan also had breakfast with new ComEd CEO and Tiffany Ingram our ComEd primary contact.

Commissioner Cheng met Gary Cuneen and Mark Burger regarding the PlanItGreen proposal for 2019 community solar, also in attendance was Commissioner Simon.

Commissioner Brennan welcomed Shannon Roberts to the Commission. She moved to River Forest 1.5 years ago and has an impressive background in sustainability. She currently works at the E&Y climate change and sustainability services consulting practice. She is a chemical engineer by education. Roberts career started in environmental rumination with an oil and gas process engineer.

Commissioner Basney had Bike Task force meeting on Saturday with Friends of DesPlaines River and trail meeting. Discussion was around access, education and communication. This is a new group.

Agenda Item #4 – Draft Comprehensive Plan

John Houseal joined the meeting to discuss the Village's draft comprehensive plan. John is a 20+ year Village resident, he is a village planning and zoning consultant and has done over 300 of these plans across 17 states.

Notes from presentation:

- Trend is to integrate sustainability in comprehensive planning.

- Meeting with all boards and commissions in next few weeks / months.
- Environmental threads. Environmental features and open space pages 87-88.
- Commissioner Brennan asked: Does this dictate what the commission does? A: No, it drives what the village does.
- They want feedback from commissions so they can make changes in document / wording, goal or objective that is missing or another part of plan where we can inject sustainability practices.
- Brennan: Start at page 87 - that starts with parks and open space.
 - Look at intros to each section - take a look at landing page of each chapter and see, without forcing the issue, to see if it's appropriate to put sustainability language in.
 - Page 39 has permeable surface section.
- John: Comments in one document, they will incorporate as much as they can - won't be everything because they need to balance document.
- Will provide one comprehensive document by next meeting, January 8. Have comments in prior week. By Tuesday. Get to John as soon as after the 8th as possible.
- Basney: Time frame ok? John will come to meeting on 1/8
- Plan: Each commissioner will review draft. Sends revision suggestions by Tuesday 1/1/19 - Brennan will compile them all and send to John to put in agenda.
- Qualifiers from John: Not ready for general consumption. Don't share beyond commission. Maps, graphics, images, photos are works in progress - document will change.

Agenda Item #5 – Sustainability Annual Projects

Commissioner Brennan” Jan 28 save the date. On village board agenda to present our annual goals and work plan. We've had 2 commissioners come off and on - time to revisit what everyone wants to work on. Commissioners asked to send Brennan what they want to work on and anything they don't want to work on.

Preparation of 2019 goals. Those of us that worked on projects in 2018 should be working on the goals for 2019. Future goals, goals that carry over.

Agenda Item #6 – RF Bike/Walk Task Force

Commissioner Basney organized and hosted Bike River Forest task force. Separate bicycle plan in conjunction with comprehensive plan. Major initiative of village president.

Commissioner Brennan asked Basney to start talking to local community of bikers. Basney reported that on 12/10 he hosted 8 participants in brainstorming session and that it was a good, productive meeting. Survey stated that safe walking especially around schools and bike master plan were priorities.

Next steps Basney and Brennan to meet with John Houseal and Levine to share feedback on 12/19.

John asked if anything major came up: A lot of little things, bike lanes that only go a block, bump outs like Chicago might diminish the usability of that road for a path.

Agenda Item #7 – RF Energy Assessment

John Anderson worked with ComEd on comprehensive Energy audit. Did assessments, working with another consultant. Met with Sydney Fitch - looks at assessments and makes recommendations on what you can realistically do and how to implement it once it's budgeted.

Next week first public works capital plan budget meeting - plan on putting these in - ones the make sense. Exterior lighting of this building, pumping station interior lighting. Vending machine motion sensor. Commissioner Roberts will be working with John on this.

Agenda Item #8 – Old Business

Commissioner Cheng: Green block party grant application. They don't look at grants until March and need to confirm. Plan is to have multiyear application. \$8k - \$10k per year.

Commissioner Simon gave update on SolSmart. John talked about challenges with some of the permitting pieces.

Gift was presented to John Anderson.

Agenda Item #8 – New Business

Commissioner Cheng: PlanItGreen program for aggregated solar program / community solar, consensus to moving forward with PIG to hold forum in Feb or March. Challenge is to get people to a forum Cheng would like to have something interactive and not just another passive speaker event. Generate some kind of excitement.

Commissioner Moller: Should we wait until they've selected developer so people can get excited about it and sign up at that time. Agreement to get more information on who received letter, who showed interest and continue exploring this option.

Next meeting scheduled for Tuesday January 8th at 7PM

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted:

Signature Line

John Anderson, Secretary

Signature Line

Kathleen Brennan, Chairman
Sustainability Commission

Date: -----



**VILLAGE OF RIVER FOREST
SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, March 12, 2019 – 7:00 PM**

A regular meeting of the River Forest Sustainability Commission was held on Tuesday, March 12, 2019 at 7:00 P.M. The meeting was conducted in the Community Room at the River Forest Village Hall, 400 Park Ave. River Forest.

Roll Call and Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM. Present at this meeting including Commissioners Brennan, Gillis, Moller, Roberts and Simon. Commissioner Basney joined via phone.

Public Comment

No Public Comment.

2 students from Fenwick were in attendance fulfilling their community service project.

Commissioner Report on Meetings

Commissioner Gillis attended meeting on sustainability report card. This is the 8th year of the 10 year project. Began transition of responsibility for Deep Roots. Met with Dave Murphy and will meet with Sue Crothers to complete transition.

Commissioner Moller attended a green meeting that included Dr. Condon and Gary Cuneen for sun club grants. One Earth Film Festival was big success, table and information looked great.

Commissioner Roberts attended the MMC environmental committee in Feb, focused on air. Educational. Title V air permitting and how it works - hot topic in surrounding committees. We should think about monitoring air quality, we don't have industry here but we are effected by surrounding industry. Overall goal was to help communities understand how permitting, monitoring works and how they can provide input.

Commissioner Basney attended Intro to beekeeping at Sugar Beet community room - continuing education. Looking at summer schedule for bee educational events and education including harvest fest in October. Saw the Forest at the one earth film festival, had great conversations with people on composting programs, green block parties.

Agenda Item #5 – Proposed Update to Village Storm water Ordinance

Village engineer Jeff Loster presented the work that is being done to update the Village's storm water ordinance that was proposed to the Village Board the previous night.

Ordinance is from 1987 and has been updated 3 times, the latest being in 2012. It contains three major categories:

1. Floodplain / Floodway
2. Storm water Detention
3. Grading Plan (added in 2012)

It is being updated for 3 primary reasons:

- MMWRD updated their watershed management ordinance - complete re-do in 2014 with updates in 2018 and more to come.
- Maintain consistent with ordinance sections “housekeeping issue”
- Current ordinance is antiquated and makes larger developments more difficult

What’s new?

- MMWRD’s WMO language consistent with current RF standards that the WMO doesn’t address
- Grading plans requirements..
- Storm water detention - 2 categories: Runoff/detention and volume control.

Volume Control: Adopting WMRD standards with the addition of volume control property for all properties.

What triggers the new volume control standards?

- Any development that proposes to increase impervious area on-site by 1,000 sf or more.
- Volume control required on all impervious areas over 50%, which is greater.
- New construction - any development involving construction of a new building (not including garages if they are under 750 sf)

Cost implications - 1,000 sf would be \$1200 - \$1500 in increasing cost and increases from there.

Dry wells - easy, cheap but not too efficient (not a lot of void space)

Underground storage tanks - very efficient

Rain gardens - growing in popularity, more aesthetic.

Discussion afterwards - commission is generally in favor of these changes.

Agenda Item #6 – Powering Safe Communities – ComEd Grant

Commissioner Moller updated the commission on Power Safe Communities Grants - Came through Pres Adducci and Katie and require a very quick turnaround.

Commissioner Brennan: Just prepared grant for PIG. Could re-submit it for ComEd. Brennan asked how many hours it would take to tweak it, Moller: 5-6 hours to tweak it. At least. Will work together and give it a try.

Agenda Item #7 – PlanItGreen Grant Application

Commissioner Moller provided good news on grants - first grant from PIG - \$7k - 2019 from planet green this year. \$5k - 2020 next year. \$1600 in budget to use. Will use for green block parties native gardens - commission agreed.

Agenda Item #8 – SolSmart Update

John Anderson provided an update that although not official we believe we've achieved enough points for SolSmart Bronze accreditation.

Agenda Item #9 – Tracking and Reporting

Commissioner Roberts engaged the Commission in discussion around what we are currently tracking and what we would like to track in the future. Commissioner Gillis pointed out that some of the metrics are no longer relevant. There was a discussion on Roberts' question including a lot of the metrics we currently record. This was a good start and will be good for measuring performance and showing our impact.

Agenda Item #10 – Village Energy Efficiency

John Anderson provided an update on this project through consultant Sydney Fitch. Experts did walk through of Village Hall and the pump house. Exterior Village Hall - budgeted next fiscal year to LED's
Community room - budgeted next fiscal year (May 1) to LED's
Pump station exterior lighting to LED's
We have proposal, ready to be implemented after May 1 - total cost would have been \$11,003 - with Incentives \$3,996 = total cost \$7,007. Annual energy savings \$3300 every year.

Agenda Item #11 – Review of Comp Plan

Commissioner Moller started a conversation about the latest with the Comp Plan. John Anderson stated it was going to be discussed at the April 8 meeting by the Village Trustees. Will be on April 22 meeting agenda as well. John recommends that we review it at the next meeting to compare and see if there are changes we feel strongly about here in the late stages and submit those to the Board. Commissioner Brennan stated that it's important that we go correction by correction to make sure substantive corrections are in the re-draft. Commissioner Basney stated that he hasn't see anything on the bike plan.

Agenda Item #12 – Budget

Commissioner Moller discussed the current state of the budget. \$400 will be used for GBP. Printing costs will use most of the budget including the tree tour. Anything left can be used for sort it out bags as we always need more of those in stock. The budget is use it or loose it by May 1. John Anderson will provide inventory of sort it out stations.

Agenda Item #13 & 14 – Old Business / New Business

Commissioner Moller: Recycling Extravaganza May 4th, Lake and Thatcher Church grounds from 8AM – 1PM. Compost pickup the same day as the River cleanup.

John Anderson: Native plantings on lake street - John met with Mary Marsalla to better incorporate natives, Mary to come up with plan and John will have landscaper plant in spring.

Artificial Turf: Last night's meeting, 10 speakers, 7 anti, 3 pro. Public hearing meeting for April 4 at 6PM. Not required to do meeting but due to interest they will. Could vote that night but probably will vote April 8 at meeting. All documents are on their website.

Survey Response Follow Up will be provided upon Beth's return.

Commissioner Moller: Reusable bag day. Julie has contacted Jewel dir of community relations to see if they want to do something. Illinois government looking at \$.10 plastic bag tax. Tax is broken out on who it goes to - none goes to local municipality where store is located. Commissioner Brennan asked what happens in Oak Park and other places that already have a tax.

Commissioner Basney: May 19 tree tour. Met Emily at RF Library. Have date, more info at next meeting. Passive promotion thus far. Has been added to calendar. John Anderson added that the Village is working with GIS consortium to update tree map. Wants to add a couple of categories so you can see every tree species and you can sort by specific species. Can do that by size as well. Improvements coming.

Commissioner Moller: Roy Strohm has new notification for subscribers for compost.

Next meeting April 9

Meeting Adjourned

Respectfully Submitted:

Signature Line

John Anderson, Secretary

Signature Line

Kathleen Brennan, Chairman
Sustainability Commission

Date: -----