



VILLAGE OF RIVER FOREST SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION

Tuesday, May 11, 2021 – 7:00 PM
Village Hall – Via Remote Meeting, 400 Park Ave.,
River Forest, IL

Physical attendance at this public meeting is limited to 36 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: 812 5829 9640 or by clicking here: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81258299640> If you would like to speak during public comment, please email janderson@vrf.us by 4:00 PM on Tuesday, May 11, 2021.

AGENDA

1. Call to Order/Roll Call
2. Public Comment
3. Adoption of Meeting Minutes
4. Commissioner Reports
5. River Forest Tree Trails V2.0
6. Update on Community Education and Outreach
7. Lisa Gillis Role on VBOT Relayed to RFSC + Transition of RFSC Chair Responsibilities
8. Other Changes on the RFSC
9. Schedule Next Meeting – June 8, 2021
10. Adjournment



VILLAGE OF RIVER FOREST

SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION

MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday April 13, 2021 – 7:00 PM

Roll Call

Lisa Gillis
Eric Simon
Beth Cheng
Cary McLean
Susan Charrette
Shannon Roberts
Lauren Behan
Ellie Raidt
Charlotte Meyer
Luke Gilfillan
Charles Roeger

Beth moved to approve previous meeting minutes
Lisa seconded

Susan Charrette wanted the climate action plan changed to task force in the previous minutes
Meeting minutes were adopted with this change.

Commissioner Reports

Beth Cheng had a meeting with the Green for Good parents at District 90. They retained active during the year by doing warning messages. They also have curbside gardens at several locations. They promote several items including tree trails, and bike week among others. The schools do a green assembly as well. The bike exchange was also highlighted by Beth.

Cary McLean explained that the Healthy Lawns/Healthy Families program went very well. The seminar can be accessed by video through the Library or YouTube as well.

Eric Simon spoke about community solar and having a meeting setup with the consultant Mark Pruitt to review the general terms of the contract and the details of the Village Board will have to get approved.

Susan Charrette spoke at the Interfaith Green Network about several sustainability topics. She filed the openlands report for ComEd grant submission. The resolution was passed at the Village Board level. She met with David Murphy about the next steps in the parkway for

pollinators program. The rain gardens on Chicago Avenue were visited and the trees were seen to have root exposure which will be addressed by the landscaper who maintains these areas.

Lauren Behan has been focused on the flipgrid project and is looking for a short video that shows how anyone reduces waste in their daily life. These videos will be shared through the flipgrid platform.

Ellie Raidt spoke about the Tree Trails project since there will be another program this year. She also spoke about the community gardens and having plants that are less desired by deer to prevent deer from entering residential areas.

Lisa Gillis spoke about the addition to Trinity and that there will be solar panels installed on the addition to the building. These plans for solar can be shared with the commission as well. Electricity usage can be listed as diverted once these are installed. Lisa mentioned that the Brookfield Zoo will be doing their version of the recycling extravaganza. The refuse contract will need to be addressed soon based on Village Board feedback. There is more to come from energy solutions. We will need to find out exactly where the RECs are coming from, Illinois, the midwest, or where exactly.

Updated Process & Procedure for VRF Community Outreach via email

John Anderson spoke about the procedures for submitting requests for posting items to the website/e-news/social media.

Weekdays are preferred for postings the earlier the better.

Communicating RFSC Goals to Residents

Beth Cheng spoke about the communication plan to explain to residents why they should be interested in sustainability topics relevant to them. There is a focus on greenhouse gas emissions and the impact on the climate. There were questions about the goals that could be presented to residents and explained about the impact and their carbon footprint. Village initiatives can also be highlighted to residents that demonstrate the impact of energy reduction. Commissioners provided input on how to possibly improve the communications message. The student commissioners expressed feedback that it could be streamlined and made a simpler message that may be more effective.

RFSC GHG Metrics 2020 v. 2021

Shannon spoke about the metrics of energy usage. She shared data about gas, electricity, water, waste, and other items to display the greenhouse gas inventory.

She provided graphs that showed the differences from year to year based on overall usage.

Veg Out Update

Charles Roeger explained the Vegout promotion to have residents support local restaurants in terms of having a menu special that promotes meatless items. He displayed a poster which explains the benefits of eating less meat and the impact it has on the environment. There will be QR codes that will link back to the sustainability section of the Village website. Ellie

explained that there is also an effort to create a recipe for a meatless gyro that can be shared as well. Cary explained that this could be a way to get the Commission out in the community to highlight this program as well as other sustainability commission programs. The decal/poster of the promotion was displayed that showed the various benefits of less meat consumption through infographics.

Earth Day Communication

Lisa Gillis explained that the Earth Day celebration will be demonstrating how waste diversion works in various ways. Lauren Behan said that there are many different ways that stories can be told through the flipgrid video platform. This method of sharing videos can be a good community building exercise to share experiences in waste diversion throughout the Village. Videos can be uploaded and seen quickly with this setup.

TerraCycle

Susan introduced this program to recycle things that are not normally recycled. They have gotten companies to pay for getting items recycled that are not commonly recycled items. Susan wondered if one of the student commissioners would like to look into this to see if it is something that may be useful in a school setting.

Schedule Next Meeting - May 11, 2021

Meeting adjourned at 8:57pm

Respectfully Submitted:

Signature Line

John Anderson, Secretary

Signature Line

Lisa Gillis, Chairman
Sustainability Commission

Date: -----