



VILLAGE OF RIVER FOREST SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION

Tuesday, June 8, 2021 – 7:00 PM
Village Hall – Via Remote Meeting, 400 Park Ave.,
River Forest, IL

Physical attendance at this public meeting is limited to 50 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: 857 5363 1724 or by clicking here: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85753631724> If you would like to speak during public comment, please email janderson@vrf.us by 4:00 PM on Tuesday, June 8, 2021.

AGENDA

1. Call to Order/Roll Call
2. Public Comment
3. Adoption of Meeting Minutes
4. Commissioner Reports
5. Solid Waste Survey
6. Community Solar Update
7. River Forest Tree Ordinance
8. Schedule Next Meeting – July 13, 2021
9. Adjournment



VILLAGE OF RIVER FOREST

SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION

MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday May 11, 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

No Public Comment

Adoption of Meeting Minutes

Beth Cheng sent an email with corrections to the meeting minutes and these will be included in the final version of the minutes.

Lisa Gillis shared her screen with the changes sent by Beth Cheng. Susan Charrette made a motion to approve, Cary McLean seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Reports

Lisa spoke about community solar on behalf of Eric Simon. Eric will be in contact with Edith Makra in order to learn about the next steps needed in the process to have the Village be a part of community solar. Green transportation and community solar are still his focus. Lisa went to the mayor's caucus meeting which focused on climate change. There were several speakers who spoke on a variety of topics related to climate change at this meeting. Lisa uploaded her video on her composting system to the flipgrid.

Ellie spoke about the VegOut program and she said that more restaurants are being added to the participation network. Cary said that Bertolli's is participating in the program. The restaurants seem to be enthused about it. Highlighting the restaurants that are involved will be an important part of this program.

Susan spoke about the National Wildlife Federation community habitat program and having River Forest be registered as a member. She is also working on moving up to the next level of ArbNet due to a higher number of species and educational components included in our community. One benefit of being in this program is a centennial tree planting program due to the 100th anniversary of the Morton Arboretum. David Murphy from Deep Roots is no longer available and there is a possibility the parkway for pollinators gardens will be ending.

Lisa mentioned that block parties are returning with green block parties as an option as well.

Shannon will be meeting with Gary Cuneen next week regarding the transportation metrics. She is also working on gathering the other energy metrics.

River Forest Tree Trails V2.0

Ellie said that there will be a relaunch of Tree Trails at the end of the summer/early fall. Charles spoke about the next version of Tree Trails that will implement environmental education and it will focus on younger students (2nd to 6th grade). It will still be open to everyone for participation. This could be something that is a part of summer camps that are run through the Park District. The Park District will need to approve this program to be included in their programming. There were discussions about the plans for the graphic design needs for this project.

Update on Community Education and Outreach

Beth spoke about the feedback about having residents see a simpler version of the sustainability commissions goals. There were items presented by Beth sharing her screen that demonstrated what could be communicated to residents. There could be different messages of how residents can engage in a green living activity. Messages can be targeted based on the impact a resident can have on topics such as energy usage and other energy sources. A personal greenhouse gas emission calculator could also be included for residents to access. Providing options to residents for different ways to reduce their energy usage or consumption in a variety of ways.

Lisa Gillis Role on VBOT Related to RFSC + Transition of RFSC Chair Responsibilities

Lisa spoke about a transition plan for possible new commissioners. Lisa will stay as a Village Board liaison on a going forward basis. Lisa will need to be backfilled as a member. Lauren Behan will no longer be a commissioner, but she will still be a resident volunteer. Cary spoke about how the next chairperson should be chosen by the entire group. Beth stated that she agrees with Cary about how the next chairperson should be chosen. Lisa stated the possibility of having a chairperson and a vice chair in the future as well.

Schedule Next Meeting - June 8, 2021

Adjournment at 8:43pm

Cary made a motion, Beth seconded

Respectfully Submitted:

Signature Line

John Anderson, Secretary

Signature Line

Lisa Gillis, Chairman
Sustainability Commission

Date: -----