



VILLAGE OF RIVER FOREST SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION

Tuesday, September 15, 2020 – 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 Committee members, staff and consultants having priority over members of the public. Public comments will be shared with the Committee. You may submit written your 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: 899 5219 5977 or by clicking here: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89952195977>. If you would like to speak during public comment, please email janderson@vrf.us by 4:00 PM on Tuesday, September 15, 2020.

AGENDA

1. Call to Order/Roll Call
2. Public Comment
3. Adoption of Meeting Minutes
4. Commissioner Reports
5. Tribute to Julie Moller Update
6. Community Aggregation Update
7. Resident Permeable Surface Regulation Enforcement
8. River Forest Tree Trails Update
9. Discussion: Best Use of \$30k RFSC Budget Sourced from Community Aggregation
10. Discussion: Editorial Calendar for RFSC
11. Schedule Next Meeting – October 13, 2020
12. Adjournment



VILLAGE OF RIVER FOREST

SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION

MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday August 11, 2020 – 7:00 PM

In Attendance:

- Lisa Gillis
- Eric Simon
- Beth Cheng
- Cary McLean
- Susan Charrette
- Lauren Behan

1. Call to Order/Roll Call

2. Public Comment

- None

3. Adoption of Meeting Minutes

- Approved

4. Commissioner Reports

- Cary -- Healthy Lawn / Healthy Family
 - Email to confirm program participation and commitment amongst those already signed up in April with follow-up every six weeks or so to optimize response. Discussion of a potential survey to understand the best practices/lessons learned, possibly at the end of the season.
- Susan -- Parkway for Pollinators
 - Started last weekend, 6 installed so far. Discussion of disconnection vs connection of the Healthy Lawn / Healthy Family with the Parkway for Pollinators programs. Social media has been beneficial for enhancing interest. Grants will be important going forward for funding.
- Beth
 - River Forest Tree Trails Program. Team is finalizing graphic design for the flyer. Roll out in VRF e-newsletter and social media. Goal is to get 30 families to participate
 - Continuing to work on the GHG inventory with Shannon. Work with Eric on how to translate the impact to the community.
- Lauren

- Composting. Connected with John about the waste contract and he provided more materials, will review and reach out to George Strom shortly.
- RFSC Publicity and Editorial Calendar, Discussion of publicity schedule to avoid overlapping posts.
- Eric
 - Green Energy. Continues to participate in monthly renewal energy meetings
- Lisa
 - Mayor's Caucus. Recruiting people to be sustainability experts, working with Americorps.
 - Community Outreach. Meeting with Amy Bartucci, Sustainability Program Associate, Seven Generations Ahead this Friday.
 - Composting delivery program. Several on the VRF Board of Trustees are supportive of continuing to do this going forward, John recommends that there is a cap on what residents can request.
 - Stormwater management. VRF is developing an RFP focused on understanding the issue and developing a plan for better management.

5. Community Aggregation Update

- Letters were distributed from the Village and ComEd sent out a separate letter. Only 6% have opted out as of Friday. 1,998 would need to opt out, so 120 of those opted out. John to ask MC2 if they survey their customers and if so what the survey program looks like.

6. RFSC Budget Sourced from Community Aggregation

- Review of list - see notes on list.

7. Schedule Next Meeting – September 15, 2020

Respectfully Submitted:

Signature Line

John Anderson, Secretary

Signature Line

Lisa Gillis, Chairman
Sustainability Commission

Date: -----

River Forest Sustainability Commission
Budget Planning ideas and Input
August 2020

RFSC goals for reducing GHGs by source:

Sources	MT CO2e	
	Generated	Diverted
Natural Gas - Residential	62,863.89	
Electricity	49,683.85	(25,000)
Passenger vehicle use - gasoline	8,375.84	
Freight train		
Waste - MSW	955.84	
Water and wastewater energy use		
Waste - Recyclables		(2,189.35)
Waste - Compost		(349.72)
Forests Lands		
<i>Inventory</i>	<i>121,879.42</i>	<i>(2,539.07)</i>
Total		119,340.35

Future Food for Thought:

- One time cost that benefits all across the village?
- Are ongoing subsidies a bad thing?
- How can we measure the impact of education?

Ideas and Input:

Idea	Description as Submitted	INITIAL CONVO WITH JOHN ANDERSON	Commissioner Input							
			Lauren Behan	Susan Charette	Beth Cheng	Lisa Gillis	Cary McLean	Ellie Raidt	Shannon Roberts	Eric Simon
Subsidize Green Energy Initiatives @ Local Institutions through Grants	Grant to local institutions to help defray cost of energy audit <OR> to defray cost of the required projects (lighting projects as the primary example - a church might want to change all their lighting to be much more energy efficient but the cost, even with ComEd grants and rebates, might still be too high).	COMED AND NICOR ALREADY PROVIDE SUCH SERVICE AT NO CHARGE.								
Eliminate Permit Fee for Solar Panels	Eliminate permit fees for home solar installations.	PERMIT FEES ARE NOT NECESSARILY A DISINCENTIVE FOR PROCEEDING WITH A SOLAR INITIATIVE. ALSO, WE COULD HAVE A PROBLEM WHEN WE NEED TO PULL BACK THE SUBSIDIZATION.								
Complete VRF Energy Initiatives	Complete any energy saving projects the Village hasn't done - although they've been pretty good with this and seem to be well funded. Install LED lighting on all indoor lights at Village Hall, Police, Fire, and Public Works and motion activated ones where appropriate. Install LED lighting for all outdoor lights at Village properties and for streetlights, where appropriate. Install energy-saving programmable thermostats at Village Hall (if they don't already have them). Longer term - look into installing solar panels at Village Hall.	VRF SHOULD BE WELL COVERED GIVEN OUR EFFORTS THUS FAR WITH SOLAR, LED LIGHTS AND THERMOSTATS. NOTE THAT THE BOILER AT THE PUMPING STATION WAS CONVERTED FROM NATURAL GAS TO AN HVAC UNIT ON THE ROOFTOP POWERED BY ELECTRICITY AND SOME NATURAL GAS. LED CONVERSION IS MOSTLY DONE -- EXTERIOR AROUND VILLAGE HALL IS DONE AS WELL AS THE COMMUNITY ROOM. NEED TO DO THE REST OF THE VILLAGE HALL INTERIOR; PROJECTED DELAY CAUSED BY BUDGET CONSTRAINTS BROUGHT ON BY COVID. ALREADY IN THE PLAN TO BE COMPLETED. NO FUNDING REQUIRED. THE VILLAGE HAS ALREADY INSTALLED ENERGY-SAVING PROGRAMMABLE THERMOSTATS WHERE IT MAKES SENSE. FOR EXAMPLE: IT IS ALREADY DONE AT THE PUMPING STATION AND AT THE PUBLIC WORKS GARAGE. NOT INSTALLED AT VILLAGE HALL / POLICE / FIRE BECAUSE IT IS A 24 HOUR BUILDING. BEST LOCATION FOR SOLAR IS AT THE PUMPING STATION WHERE WE PAY FOR ELECTRICITY. WE COULD PUT IT AT THE PUBLIC WORKS GARAGE AND VILLAGE HALL, BUT THE VILLAGE DOES NOT PAY FOR ENERGY AT THESE LOCATIONS; HENCE, THERE IS NO ROI. JOHN ANDERSON IS LOOKING AT INCENTIVES FOR MOVING FORWARD ON THE PUMPING STATION. THIS COST COULD BE COVERED BY VRF BUILDING IMPROVEMENT FUNDS WITH GRANTS TO HELP OFFSET THE COST (E.G., ILLINOIS STATE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY PAID FOR THE LED LIGHT CONVERSION).								
Subsidize Park District energy efficiency initiatives	Partner with Park District to put solar on some of their buildings - we can pay part of the cap-ex cost with some of the funds. Perhaps a match.					The RF PARK DISTRICT is well funded. A better course of action it to influence their spending and investments.				
Drive down VRF use of petroleum products.	Replace the diesel back-up generator at the VRF Pumping Station.									
Drive down VRF use of natural gas.	Increase use of solar or other electricity (now renewables) to reduce village natural gas use.	THE VILLAGE CURRENTLY IS NOT A BIG USER OF NATURAL GAS. WE GET A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF THERMS AT THE PUBLIC WORKS GARAGE AND VILLAGE HALL FROM NICOR AND THE VRF DOES NOT PAY FOR IT. VILLAGE HALL GENERATOR IS NATURAL GAS				Is there a "Aggregation Program" for Natural Gas?				
Convert wood burning fireplaces & firepits to natural gas.	May we look at possibly incenting the conversion of wood burning fireplaces to natural gas for outdoor fire pits or indoor fireplaces. Wood fires generate a ton of carbon					Question: Is natural gas better than wood with regard to CO2 emissions?				

Install electric car charging stations.		<p>USE AS MATCHING FUNDS TO SECURE A GRANT.</p> <p>Possible locations?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• BEHIND BYLINE BANK SO THAT FOLKS CAN CHARGE AND SHOP -- Parking Lot might not be the right one ... not in an obvious spot• By Metra Station• OtherTBD <p>Usually free for a few hours and then you have to pay ... way to keep folks that park from staying too long</p> <p>Potential Use Cases:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Residents – Coming home from work and you need to shop before going home• Guests of Residents – Visiting folks that do not have a charging stations								
Pay the cost for recycling	There is no secondary market at present for recyclables; Roy Strom is currently paying to have an entity take VRF recyclables.	PAY FOR STROM’S RECYCLING COSTS WHEN PASSED THROUGH TO THE VILLAGE IF NOT COVERED IN THE NEGOTIATION OF THE NEW CONTRACT.								
Subsidize the cost of residential curb side composting						We have one of the highest opt-in rates in the state for curb side composting. I do not think that cost is an issue.				
Subsidize residential curb side composting	My main idea is around using the funds to subsidize composting so we can make it opt-out.					This is something that we should address as part of our Roy Strong Contract Recommendations to the VRF Board of Trustees.				
Offer low cost backyard composting stations for those who want to compost in their backyard						I personally do not think that we should be paying for a resident’s personal property. Another option could be paying for a class where individuals build their own composting bin.				
Fix the inequities associated with the current waste contract	Residents with alleys do not get white glove treatment but pay for it. Perhaps we subsidize their composting to even out this inequity.					This is something that we should address as part of our Roy Strong Contract Recommendations to the VRF Board of Trustees.				
Generate enthusiasm for reducing the eating of red meat across the VRF	RFSC Village Event -- “Meatless Mondays” – to curb greenhouse gases tied to cattle.					THIS DOESN’T COST THAT MUCH. LET’S CREATE A PROGRAM. Could this be a focus of the Student Commissioners?				
Fund VRF Tree Trails incentive @ cost of \$60 (e.g., \$20 per month)	Fund incentives to completion of the River Forest Tree Trails (e.g., entry into a raffle for THREE MONTHS of composting paid for by the village)					THIS GETS ONE OF MY VOTES. IT IS A “NO BRAINER” GIVEN THE LOW COST.				
Fund one more year of the						ONLY IF WE CANNOT FIND A				

Pollinators for Parkways Program @ approximately \$15,000						GRANT FOR THIS. NEED TO EXPLORE GRANTS TO SUPPORT THIS PROGRAM AS HAS BEEN DONE IN THE PAST.				
Work with the RF Park District to install bottle-fill drinking fountains at Keystone Park.		VRF AND THE RF PARK DISTRICT AND SHARE COSTS FOR A PROJECT. WE HAVE HISTORICALLY NOT PAID FOR THEIR EXPENSES IN FULL.				The RF PARK DISTRICT is well funded. A better course of action it to influence their spending and investments.				
Subsidize beekeeping permit fees.	Eliminate beekeeping permit fee - it's only \$25 but the principal pissed off some of our local beekeepers and they've stopped.	DO NOT WANT TO ARTIFICIALLY SUBSIDIZE VILLAGE FEES AS IT WILL BE TOUGH TO TAKE AWAY.								
Expedite the conversion of alleys from concrete to concrete + permeable pavers.		THIS IS AN ONGOING VRF INITIATIVE THROUGH THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND. THE GOAL IS TO COMPLETE THIS OVER A TEN-YEAR PERIOD. THE TYPICAL ALLEY COSTS \$300,000 TO UPGRADE.				Our small budget will not have the desired impact.				
Create an outdoor education program on sustainability.	Create an outdoor sustainability education exhibit, activities and/or programs, leveraging the Park District for their programming expertise.					I like this as long as we can make it evergreen. My questions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Who would develop it? Who would maintain it? What would the focus be? Could we tap into the Mortem Arboretum? Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum? Chicago Botanical Garden? 				
Distribute grants / scholarships to D90 Teachers and Students	There is a lot we could do around education... grants for sustainability programs to district teachers is an example. We'd all love to see more and more meaningful sustainability content at our schools, and this could provide some funding for supplies etc. Annual scholarship for RF student who is going to major in sustainability or related major.					I am not sure that the VRF should get into the scholarship business. Need to get more guidance from Village Administration.				
Fund an RFSC internship program	Fund a RFSC paid internship in sustainability - this is a big reason why students don't go into sustainability because the internships are unpaid, and they can't afford that. I have experience with this as we set a similar thing up at our alma mater.					Who would direct this student during their internship? What would they work on?				
Provide the Matching Funds @ \$3,500 to \$20,000 for a grant focused on mgmt. / maintenance of the VRF tree canopy	The Morton Arboretum is administering an Urban and Community Forestry Grant program with funding provided by the United States Department of Agriculture Forest Service through the direction of the Illinois Department of Natural Resources. This grant provides funds for an inventory of public trees and an accompanying urban forestry management plan. Complete both an inventory and a management plan; or complete a management plan based on an existing, digital inventory that was updated in the last 4 years . For this cycle, there are no funds available for tree planting.					We could double our money! A good ROI if we can get the funds.				
Hire one of the GRCorps members to work with the	The Greenest Region Corps (GRCorps) is a partnership between the Caucus and AmeriCorps to find enthusiastic professionals to lead sustainability projects in several communities in the region.					This would most certainly help the RFSC to complete				

RFSC @ \$18,000 per year	GRCorps members work directly for a Greenest Region Compact (GRC) community on projects that will result in greater environmental awareness and stewardship.					one of our bigger initiatives. The challenge will be to whom does this person report in VRF Administration. This team is pretty stretched at present.				
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Summary of Ideas for Expanded RFSC Budget
(as of July 11, 2020)

Objective:

Determine how best to allocate the \$30k RFSC Budget sourced from Community Aggregation

Approach:

Look to our overarching goal of reducing GHGs to prioritize spend.

Sources	MT CO2e	
	Generated	Diverted
Natural Gas - Residential	62,863.89	
Electricity	49,683.85	(25,000)
Passenger vehicle use - gasoline	8,375.84	
Freight train		
Waste - MSW	955.84	
Water and wastewater energy use		
Waste - Recyclables		(2,189.35)
Waste - Compost		(349.72)
Forests Lands		
Inventory	121,879.42	(2,539.07)
Total		119,340.35

Priorities:

Further reduce use of brown energy

- Grant to local institutions to help defray cost of energy audit OR defray cost of the projects (lighting projects as the primary example - a church might want to change all their lighting to much more energy efficient but the cost, even with ComEd grants and rebates, might still be too high). COMED AND NICOR ALREADY PROVIDE SUCH SERVICE.
- Eliminate permit fees for home solar installations. PERMIT FEES ARE NOT NECESSARILY A DISINCENTIVE FOR PROCEEDING WITH A SOLAR INITIATIVE. ALSO, WE COULD HAVE A PROBLEM WHEN WE NEED TO PULL BACK THE SUBSIDIZATION.
- Complete any energy saving projects the Village hasn't done - although they've been pretty good with this and seem to be well funded. WE SHOULD BE WELL COVERED GIVEN OUR EFFORTS WITH SOLAR, LED LIGHTS AND THERMOSTATS. NOTE THAT THE BOILER AT THE PUMPING STATION WAS CONVERTED FROM NATURAL GAS TO HVAC UNIT ON THE ROOFTOP POWERED BY ELECTRICITY AND SOME NATURAL GAS. NO FURTHER ACTION REQUIRED AT THIS TIME.
- Partner with Park District to put solar on some of their buildings - we can pay part of the cap-ex cost with some of the funds. Perhaps a match. Longer term - look into installing solar panels at Village Hall. BEST LOCATION IS AT THE PUMPING STATION WHERE WE PAY FOR ELECTRICITY. WE COULD PUT IT AT THE PUBLIC WORKS GARAGE AND VILLAGE HALL, BUT THE VILLAGE DOES NOT PAY FOR ENERGY AT THOSE LOCATIONS. JOHN ANDERSON IS LOOKING AT INCENTIVES FOR MOVING FORWARD ON THE PUMPING STATION. THIS COST COULD BE COVERED BY THE VRF BUILDING IMPROVEMENT FUNDS WITH GRANTS TO HELP OFFSET THE COST (E.G., ILLINOIS STATE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY PAID FOR THE LED LIGHT CONVERSION).
- Install LED lighting on all indoor lights at Village Hall, Police, Fire, and Public Works and motion activated ones where appropriate – MOSTLY DONE; NEED TO CONVERT ALL LIGHTS IN VILLAGE HALL DUE TO BUDGET CONSTRAINTS BROUGHT ON BY COVID. ALREADY IN THE PLAN TO BE COMPLETED. NO FUNDING REQUIRED. EXTERIOR AROUND VILLAGE HALL IS DONE AS WELL AS THE COMMUNITY ROOM. NEED TO DO THE INTERIOR.

- Install LED lighting for all outdoor lights at Village properties and for streetlights, where appropriate. SEE ABOVE.
- Install energy-saving programmable thermostats at Village Hall (if they don't already have them). WHERE IT MAKE SENSE, THE VILLAGE HAS AREADY DONE IT. FOR EXAMPLE: IT IS ALREADY DONE AT THE PUMPING STATION AND AT THE PUBLIC WORKS GARAGE. NOT INSTALLED AT VILLAGE HALL / POLICE / FIRE BECAUSE IT IS A 24 HOUR BUILDING.
- Opportunity – Diesel Back-Up Generator at Pumping Stations

With our offsetting electricity through Community Aggregation, our next biggest GHG source is natural gas.

- Increase use of solar or other electricity (now renewables) to reduce village natural gas use. THE VILLAGE CURRENTLY IS NOT A BIG USER OF NATURAL GAS. WE GET A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF THERMS AT THE PUBLIC WORKS GARAGE AND VILLAGE HALL FROM NICOR AND THE VRF DOES NOT PAY FOR IT.
- Are there major generators or other sources the village might have we might want to consider? VILLAGE HALL GENERATOR IS NATURAL GAS; GENERATOR AT THE PUMPING STATIONS IS DIESEL.
- Is there a similar “Aggregation Program” for Natural Gas?
- Can we look at the conversion of wood burning fireplaces to natural gas for outdoor fire pits or indoor fireplaces. Wood fires generate a ton of carbon!

Our next biggest source is passenger gasoline usage:

- Electric Car Charging Stations. USE AS MATCHING FUNDS TO SECURE A GRANT. CAN WE GET A GRANT FOR THIS? DOES COMED HAVE FUNDING FOR THIS?
- Possible locations?
 - PUT BEHIND BYLINE BANK SO THAT FOLKS CAN CHARGE AND SHOP -- Parking Lot might not be the right one ... not in an obvious spot
 - By Metra Station
 - Other TBD
- Usually free for a few hours and then you have to pay ... way to keep folks that park from staying too long
- Potential Use Cases:
 - Residents – Coming home from work and you need to shop before going home
 - Guests of Residents – Visiting folks that do not have a charging stations

And lastly, COMPOSTING.

- Subsidize lower cost or offer free composting
- My main idea is around using the funds to subsidize composting so we can make it opt-out.
- Offer low cost backyard composting stations (similar to the rain barrel program through the MWRD)
- How do we fix the inequities related to white glove treatment of folks with alleys vs. without alleys?
- Composting referral program to incentivize residents to join the program.

PAY FOR STROM’S RECYCLING COSTS WHEN PASSED THROUGH TO THE VILLAGE IF NOT COVERED IN THE NEGOTIATION OF THE NEW CONTRACT.

Other Ideas:

- RFSC Village Event -- “Meatless Mondays” – to curb greenhouse gases tied to cattle. SURE THING. THIS DOESN’T COST THAT MUCH. LET’S CREATE A PROGRAM. Could this be a focus of the Student Commissioners?
- Fund incentives to completion of the River Forest Tree Trails (e.g., entry into a raffle for THREE MONTHS of composting paid for by the village)
- Fund one more year of the Pollinators for Parkways Program @ approximately \$15k. ONLY IF WE CANNOT FIND A GRANT FOR THIS. NEED TO EXPLORE GRANTS TO SUPPORT THIS PROGRAM AS HAS BEEN DONE IN THE PAST.

- Work with the RF Park District to install bottle-fill drinking fountains at Keystone Park. VRF AND THE RF PARK DISTRICT AND SHARE COSTS FOR A PROJECT. WE HAVE HISTORICALLY NOT PAID FOR THEIR EXPENSES IN FULL.
- There is a lot we could do around education... grants for sustainability programs to district teachers is an example. We'd all love to see more and more meaningful sustainability content at our schools, and this could provide some funding for supplies etc. RECOMMEND NOT GETTING INTO THE SCHOLARSHIP OR GRANT BUSINESS AS A GOVERNMENTAL BODY.
- Annual scholarship for RF student who is going to major in sustainability or related major. RECOMMEND NOT GETTING INTO THE SCHOLARSHIP BIZ AS A GOVERNMENTAL BODY.. NEED TO ASK CATHY ADDUCI.
- Grant for RF student doing an unpaid internship in sustainability - this is a big reason why students don't go into sustainability because the internships are unpaid, and they can't afford that. I have experience with this as we set a similar thing up at our alma mater. RECOMMEND NOT GETTING INTO THE SCHOLARSHIP BIZ. NEED TO ASK CATHY ADDUCI.
- Eliminate beekeeping permit fee - it's only \$25 but the principal pissed off some of our local beekeepers and they've stopped. DO NOT WANT TO ARTIFICIALLY SUBSIDIZE VILLAGE FEES AS IT WILL BE TOUGH TO TAKE AWAY.
- Another idea might be to do more permeable paving in alleys. THIS IS AN ONGOING INITIATIVE FROM THE VRF THROUGH THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND. THE GOAL IS TO COMPLETE THIS OVER A TEN-YEAR PERIOD. THE TYPICAL ALLEY COSTS \$300,000 TO UPGRADE.
- Outdoor sustainability education exhibit, activities and/or programs? Leverage the Park District for their programming expertise? Who would develop it? Who would maintain it? What would the focus be? Could we tap into the Morton Arboretum? Peggy Notebaert Museum? Chicago Botanical Garden?

Future Food for Thought:

- One time cost that benefits all across the village?
- Are ongoing subsidies a bad thing?
- How can we measure the impact of education?

Shannon Roberts

Hi Lisa,

I have been thinking about this one... and thought I would revisit GHGs to determine if we could use that as a way to prioritize spend. With offsetting electricity, our next biggest GHG source is natural gas. One idea would be to think of ways to use potentially solar or other electricity (now renewables) to reduce village natural gas use. Are there major generators or other sources the village might have we might want to consider?

Our next biggest source is passenger gasoline usage and therefore i recommend using the funds for charging stations.

And lastly, I would love to see the funds go towards subsidizing composting.

Heres the table again for reference.... thanks Lisa!

Sources	MT CO2e	
	Generated	Diverted
Natural Gas - Residential	62,863.89	
Electricity	49,683.85	
Passenger vehicle use - gasoline	8,375.84	
Freight train		
Waste - MSW	955.84	
Water and wastewater energy use		
Waste - Recyclables		(2,189.35)
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Forests Lands		
Inventory	121,879.42	(2,539.07)
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Susan Charrette

Hi Lisa,

Here are my suggestions:

1. Install LED lighting on all indoor lights at Village Hall, Police, Fire, and Public Works and motion activated ones where appropriate
2. Install LED lighting for all outdoor lights at Village properties and street lights where appropriate
3. Install energy-saving programmable thermostats at Village Hall (if they don't already have them)
4. Work with the RF Park District to install bottle-fill drinking fountains at Keystone Park
5. longer term - look into installing solar panels at Village Hall

Looking forward to hearing other suggestions!

-Susan

Beth Cheng

Lisa, I thought I answered this...but can't find in my sent email.

My main idea is around using the funds to subsidize composting so we can make it opt-out. The key will be communicating to residents what the funds are making possible, and also that it is potentially time limited. I can't remember how many years the aggregation contract is for but we could renew it after on a continuing basis. Also I haven't tried to calculate how far \$30K would go towards lowering individual households costs for composting -- John is that something you can calculate before we meet?

Another idea might be to do more permeable paving in alleys -- mine really needs it! But I don't know how far \$30K a year would go towards that.

Beth

Eric Simon

Here is just a short list with no regard to whether some of these are possible. I think we really need to find things that are the most impactful and provide the best value:

- Subsidize lower cost or offer free composting
- Eliminate permit fees for home solar installations
- Partner with Park District to put solar on some of their buildings - we can pay part of the capx cost with some of the funds. Perhaps a match.
- There is a lot we could do around education... grants for sustainability programs to district teachers is an example. We'd all love to see more and more meaningful sustainability content at our schools and this could provide some funding for supplies etc.
- Annual scholarship for RF student who is going to major in sustainability or related major.
- Grant for RF student doing an unpaid internship in sustainability - this is a big reason why students don't go into sustainability because the internships are unpaid and they can't afford that. I have experience with this as we set a similar thing up at our alma mater.
- Eliminate beekeeping permit fee - it's only \$25 but the principal pissed off some of our local beekeepers and they've stopped.
- Complete any energy saving projects the Village hasn't done - although they've been pretty good with this and seem to be well funded.
- Grant to local institutions to help defray cost of energy audit OR defray cost of the projects (lighting projects as the primary example - a church might want to change all their lighting to much more energy efficient but the cost, even with ComEd grants and rebates, might still be too high)

I'm sure I'll think of more :)

Eric