



VILLAGE OF RIVER FOREST SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION

Wednesday, September 4, 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 June 19, 2019 Sustainability Commission Meeting
4. Welcome Student Commissioner
5. Commissioner Reports on Meetings
6. Bike Plan Potential Funding Options
7. Go Green Oak Park-Preemption Resolution
8. Green Block Parties/Parkway for Pollinators/HLHF Report on Progress
9. Individual Commissioner Projects/Goals
10. New Business
 - a. LemonAid
 - b. Beekeeping Update
 - c. Illinois Municipal League Application
 - d. Interactive Mapping for Trees/Gardens
 - e. Food Waste Awareness Week
11. Old Business
 - a. Artificial Turf
12. Schedule Next Meeting – October 8, 2019
13. Adjournment



VILLAGE OF RIVER FOREST
SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, June 19, 2019 – 7:00 PM

A regular meeting of the River Forest Sustainability Commission was held on Wednesday, June 19, 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 7:02 p.m. Present at the meeting were Commissioners Moller, Cheng, Basney, Roberts and Basney.

Adoption of Meeting Minutes from May 20, 2019 Meeting

- Approval of minutes was postponed until next meeting since the minutes were just distributed today.

Public Comment

None

Commissioner Reports on Meetings

- Commissioner Cheng reported on attending the June Plan It Green meeting and shared a proposed letter of intent for local institutions to sign committing to a 100% renewable energy goal, for discussion at the next commission meeting. Initial reactions were that 100% is not a realistic goal, especially for small businesses, that there should be coordination with the NREL planning process that is underway, and that the approach also needs to include energy efficiency. See Appendix A for additional notes on the June meeting.
- Commissioner Simon did not have anything to report.
- Commissioner Basney did not have anything to report
- Commissioner Roberts did not have anything to report
- John Anderson reported that village meeting room and pumping station being converted to LED

Green Block Parties Update

- Six parties have been booked requesting pollinator garden; seven have requested sort it out stations. None scheduled for July; last year most parties were in August and September.
- A small sign for pollinator garden in progress has been developed
- Several signups for healthy lawn, healthy family pledge

- David Murphy is seeking help in August and September with pollinator gardens at green block parties.
- Commissioner Moller announced that the \$5000 grant request submitted by the River Forest Sustainability Commission to Openlands was approved for pollinator gardens for 2020.

July 9 Reusable Bag Day Meeting with Retailers

Plans for the a 10 a.m. meeting with retailers for an hour and a half at village hall are described in Commissioner Gillis' report in Appendix B to these minutes, attached. Besides reducing plastic use, one important goal is being a resource and demonstrating follow up action to the youth who have brought plastics issues to the commission's attention.

Commissioner Roberts has been working in the plastic waste space, and noted that everyone knows single use is the biggest problem. She also noted that not all plastic is bad; it was invented to solve different problems around aluminum and Styrofoam and is actually recyclable if handled correctly.

Energy Information for the Website

Commissioner Moller noted we should prioritize getting information about energy options on the website as residents are asking for it. Questions/topics include:

- Consumer alerts on how to respond to mail people receive about energy efficient options. See if ComEd has something ready to share. Because of FEJA there is a big influx of people trying to sell solar.
- Tips on how to procure your own solar.
- What it means for the village to have SolSmart Bronze designation and to be solar friendly.

Discussion on Student Commissioners

Ellie Raidt, graduating 8th grader, proposed the idea of students serving on the River Forest Sustainability Commission. Commissioner Moller said that President Adduci approves of the idea so it would just require a change in bylaws.

Ellie shared how she has been inspired by hearing about sustainability from Ms. Daly, Roosevelt teacher, and that she has always been passionate about sustainability issues but didn't know about the opportunities. She has signed up for the It's Our Future program being launched through Seven Generations Ahead. She also presented last Monday to the District 90 school board about introducing a new unit in the science curriculum about environmental awareness and education and felt she received a positive reception.

Commissioner Cheng asked whether the model for youth involvement would be having a student representative on the commission, or a youth arm of the commission.

Old Business

Artificial turf – Discussed again at Park District meeting. Public hearing on July 1 at 6 p.m. at Depot. Will vote that night or on July 8. New set of FAQs on website.

Community Gardens – No update. Planning more plants on Lake Street. Bumpouts on Chicago plants are doing well, because of all the rain but there won't be a lot of color.

Biking– Draft River Forest bike plan supplements village comprehensive plan and is ready for commission and village approval. Commissioner Basney will send a copy of the plan out. He reported that the village used a county transportation grant to hire KLOA, consultant, with oversight from John Houseal. The Bicycle Task force which Commissioner Basney organized for the Sustainability Commission is acknowledged at the beginning of the report. Coming up there will be a Des Plaines Bike Trail meeting to talk about connecting the Des Plaines River Trail to connect it from North Avenue to the Prairie Path.

Grants - MWRD has grants for green infrastructure. Green Mountain Energy Sun Club has funds for grants; need research on scope of types of projects Sun Club would support. Potential projects for which to apply for grants: more permeable paver areas; partner with Park District; solar projects for parks, concession stands.

John Anderson noted the village received MWRD grant for green alleys last year and could apply to do more alleys that are planned to be redone; MWRD likes to spread funds around to different villages and typically pays for implementation, not design.

Bee ordinance – There have not been a lot of applications. Permits held by Dominican, one residence, and another school. It was a rough year for bees so many may not have renewed interest. Commissioner Basney is working with Ellen McManus from Dominican on more bee programming, similar to the honey harvesting workshop held last year.

Deer population – IDNR is coming at 6 p.m. next Monday before the regular Board meeting to explain options. In certain areas, deer can be culled. Commissioner Simon commented that this is wildlife management, not necessarily sustainability, and falls under IDNR's jurisdiction. Questions include whether there are more deer now and if so, are they coming out because of flooding in the area.

Next meeting, Tuesday, July 9, 7 p.m.

APPENDIX A

River Forest Sustainability Commission

Notes from June PlanItGreen meeting submitted by Commissioner Cheng

1. Letter of intent proposed for local institutions to commit to a 100% renewable energy goal.
2. The Community Works Advisory Board of the Community Foundation, that provides financial support for Plan It Green of about \$90,000 per year, as well as Success of All Youth and the Learning Lab, will be reviewing how to make all the programs sustainable financially over the long term. Eric Palm and Jan Arnold (Executive Director of the Oak Park Park District) will co-chair the group working on Plan It Green. It originally had a 10 year plan that is nearing its end.
3. Gary Cuneen is doing Report Card presentations at the various local boards, including to the River Forest Village Board on July 22. Gary would like to present separately to the Sustainability Commission at its September meeting.
4. The new It's Our Future program that received a Big Idea award is being launched by Seven Generations Ahead. It provides opportunities for youth to get involved in media workshops and to form a youth arm of PlanItGreen. There are a number of applications from middle and high school students and the program is also taking applications to attend the UN Climate youth conference.
5. SUN Club grant to Oak Park Park District for the sustainability projects at the Conservatory had a ribbon cutting in June. They have more grant money available. Commissioner Cheng will be investigating types of projects they support.
6. Solar.
 - a. Under FEJA there is a program to train 17 to 24 year olds to be certified solar energy professionals but they are having a hard time attracting applicants
 - b. 1st workshop held with Citizens Utility Board re group buy for residential solar
 - c. Waiting for power market to put up online platform so can start community solar applications for nonresidential. Mark Burger wants to look at multi-year for municipal aggregations. Chris Lindgren from Park District of Oak Park noted that they made a commitment to buy over long term from one place but negotiated that the supplier had to match competitive rate each year.
7. The NREL (National Renewable Energy Lab) SEIN (Solar Energy Innovation Network) held a big meeting with local stakeholders to come up with a road map for renewable energy. There was an 84 page document that NREL came up with based on that. There was supposed to be a follow up on July 11 about how to move forward -- not sure if Eric attended food waste.
8. Illinois Green Alliance is having a solar forum on July 23. See information on website.
9. Green Community Connections is carrying on despite loss of its founder, Sally Stovall. Focusing on green block parties
10. July is plastic free month in Oak Park

APPENDIX B

River Forest Sustainability Commission Report submitted by Commissioner Lisa Gillis Commission Meeting Date: June 19, 2019

Meetings Report:

- Attended Midwest Grows Green (MGG) Webinar on Monday June 3. Topic = "Building Capacity for Natural Lawn Care." It was an in-depth review of how Go Green Park Ridge and Midwest Grows Green assisted Park Ridge - Niles School District 64 in their conversion to a natural lawn care program for all its properties (elementary and middle schools). This was part of the Chicago Grows Green event calendar.
- Tabled at a Chicago Grows Green Fundraising Event held at Dig Right In Landscaping in Westchester on Saturday June 8. I used all of our regular tabling materials and had my computer with our P4P Garden Presentation from the PlanItGreen Lunch & Learn running continuously in slideshow mode. It was awesome! Ryan Anderson from Midwest Grows Green was there along with David Murphy from Deep Roots Project and others. I spoke to a number of people about the work of the River Forest Sustainability Commission and invited them via email to come to one of our meetings to learn more. Folks that just might show up one day include:
 - Jean Dubach, Ph.D. (Molecular Geneticist who oversees the molecular genetics lab at Brookfield Zoo in the Conservation Biology Department. The lab provides analytical genetic services to zoos around the world for population management and taxonomic identification.)
 - Katie Kaluzny (Associate Director at Illinois Green Alliance, Village Trustee for the Village of Brookfield and former Conservation Commission for the Village of Brookfield, co-founder of Go Green Brookfield)
 - David Jakubiak (representative from Go Green Brookfield)

Commissioner Report:

Healthy Lawns / Healthy Families (HL/HF):

- I sent out an email to all those who have taken the HL/HF pledge from 2015 through 2018 to remind them to put their lawn signs on their lawn after a long, tough winter. I also offered to install new and/or replacement signs and requested that the email recipient get back to me if they have moved and/or if their lawn no longer meets the MGG requirements to be pesticide and herbicide free.
- We now have one spreadsheet with a list of all HL/HF pledges going back to 2015.
- We placed an order to an additional 75 signs since we were running low on signs for the 2019 program as well as for replacements
- Program statistics:

Category	Count
# of Unique Residential Households that Pledged since 2015	137
# of RF Institutions in Program (Schools & Parks)	13
# of Households Who Have Moved Out of Town	3
# of Households that Confirmed Their Ongoing Pledge	32
# of Households with No / Bad Email	23
# of Households Who Have Not Replied to Email	79

Green Block Parties

- The block party permit process has moved to an online form thanks to the hard work of Joan Espana! Joan is still working through a few bugs, but things are looking great.
- 2019 YTD block party permit counts: 9 Block Party permits approved including 8 SIO and 5 P4P Gardens. We also have 3 requests YTD in 2019 for SIO stations outside of the block party process.
- The planting of 2 P4P Gardens at Lincoln School working with the Green4Good Kids Club has been moved to the start of the 2019-2020 school year because the plants were too small to plant in early June.
- Our “coming soon” sign for the P4P Garden Program to be put on the prepared garden bed before planting has been printed. We will start using the sign with the next P4P Gardens to be planted. Again, the goal is to spark both curiosity and enthusiasm in the program.
- Roy Strom will help the Deep Roots Project to compost the P4P excess turf! David Murphy from the Deep Roots Project will simply bring it to their location and drop it off.

PlanItGreen May meeting

- Lunch & Learn featuring the West Cook Wild Ones and the River Forest Sustainability Commission took place on Wednesday, May 22. It was a great success!
- Next PlanItGreen Lunch & Learn (Pending Confirmation): Tuesday, June 25 at 12 noon – Field Maintenance and Turf vs. Grass
- Next PlanItGreen Core Team Meeting is on Tuesday June 18 with Beth Cheng attending on behalf of Lisa Gillis

Plastic Free Day on July 9

- There will be a meeting for River Forest businesses (e.g., restaurants, supermarkets and other food stores, other retailers) to discuss the reduction of plastic use across the Village of River Forest. This meeting will be held on Tuesday July 9, 2019 from 10am to 11:30am in the Community Room on the first floor of Village Hall.
- A letter signed by both Cathy Adduci and Julie Moller was sent to each business via USPS as well as via email on Wednesday June 12.
- Charlotte and McKenzie will be at the meeting to share their concerns about the use of plastic in our village; Ari Ortega is not able to make it but will share her request to not use plastics straws via video
- Julie Moller is writing the deck to lead the discussion

- Retailers invited are as follows:

Business Type	Business Name
Restaurant	Starbucks Noodles & Company Boston Market Panera Bread McDonald's Bertolli's Pizza La Parrillita Mexican Grill Good Earth Greenhouse Grandma Sally's
Supermarket & Other Food Stores	Jewel Whole Foods Fresh Thyme Walgreens CVS 7-11 Circle K (part of Shell gas station at Harlem and North) Mobile Mart (part of the Mobile gas stations at Harlem and Chicago) Frank's Deli Capri Italian Market River Forest Chocolate
Other Retailers	Ulta Beauty Rally House Men's Wearhouse Verizon PetCo DSW Ann Taylor Chico's The Children's Place Athletico Massage Envy LensCrafters Gunzo's Sports Briet & Johnson Sports

Respectfully Submitted:

Signature Line

John Anderson, Secretary

Signature Line

Date: -----

Julie Moller, Chairman

Sustainability Commission