



VILLAGE OF RIVER FOREST SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION

Tuesday, September 12, 2017 – 7:00 PM
Village Hall – Community Room, 400 Park Ave., River Forest, IL

AGENDA

1. Call to Order/Roll Call
2. Adoption of Meeting Minutes from the 7/11/17 Sustainability Commission Meeting
3. Public Comment
4. Report on PlanItGreen “Report Card” Presentation to RF Parks Board/Village Board
5. Report on Mayor’s Caucus Meeting
6. Report on Goals for Commission
7. Report on Green News You Can Use
8. Report on SC Presentation to the RF Civic Association
9. Report on Draft Bee Ordinance
10. Report on Solar Issues/PSEE
11. Report on Sort It Out Waste station Program
12. Report on Village Native Planting Program
13. Other Business
14. Schedule Next Meeting – Tuesday, October 10, 2017 – 7:00 PM
15. Adjournment



VILLAGE OF RIVER FOREST SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, July 11, 2017 – 7:00 PM

A regular meeting of the River Forest Sustainability Commission was held on Tuesday, July 11, 2017 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 were Commissioner Moller, Commissioner Simon, Commissioner Susan Chen, Commissioner Crothers, and Commissioner Credi and Commissioner Masella.

Public Comment

Scott Kreher, Dominican University, stated his concern about possible restrictions imposed if the Village were to implement an ordinance prohibiting bee keeping. He described his role as associate professor of biology and the success of the four bee hives located on the Dominican property.

Commissioner Credi asked Mr. Kreher how far off of the walkway the hives were located. Mr. Kreher stated that these are kept about twenty feet from the walkway. Commissioner Credi also asked at what point is a hive too big and what is the smoker for? Mr. Kreher stated that smokers are to make the bees more docile, many hives don't need a smoker and hopefully there would be a bee yard.

Ellen McManus, Dominican University, stated many bees don't survive the winter, the bee hives on Dominican are important for students to learn about ecology, and the environment.

Bill Gee, 807 Forest Avenue, stated the he is a part of the West side Apiary Exchange (WAX) and he applauds the idea of an ordinance. He said that there should be careful consideration of treating someone who is stung, that Epi pens are not appropriate for everyone.

Cheryl Munoz, 349 Ashland Avenue, stated that she had three hives on her business property and her son was with her there, she said she has chickens in Oak Park where she lives.

Commissioner Credi stated that they would like to get an idea as to how many people currently have beehives in river Forest.

Debbie Becker, 819 S. Euclid Avenue, Oak Park, stated that there are approximately six or seven bee keepers in Oak Park. Many of the bees do not survive the winter; there is a three percent survival rate. There is a neighbor in Oak Park that is allergic has to register with a doctor's note.

Bruce Faland stated that he has been bee keeping all his life and doesn't feel threatened by the bees.

Walter Wahlfells, 1414 Bonnie Brae, stated that he is not a bee keeper, but he wanted to say that he supports bee keeping as a resident.

Maureen Huston, 631 Edgewood Place, stated that she is severely allergic to bees, but she is a bee keeper.

Discussion: Commission Goals & Projects

There was discussion among the commissioners regarding when the report for beekeeping/chickens is due. It was confirmed that at the August 8th meeting a recommendation for bee keeping will be ready for discussion. Sue Crothers said that she has begun to create a draft ordinance on bees based on ordinances from Evanston, Oak Park, Riverside and Saint Charles and that includes addressing the points brought forward by the research of Mary and Mindy. Sue, Mindy, and Mary will continue to work on the draft ordinance recommendation and will email their recommendation by August 1st for the commission to review and discuss at the August 8th meeting with the goal that the commissioners will put a recommendation forward to the Village Board.

It was discussed that some members felt there was more urgency to the bee discussion. We all felt that deadlines should be reiterated after meetings so that members are clear about a plan and that we are being considerate of the time commissioners are putting in to other meetings and research. Moving forward when there are reports etc. due it was recommended that meeting notes be sent out so that everyone has a clear understanding of when and what information is needed.

Discussion of when it is proper to email other commissioners. John Anderson explained that documents can be shared via Dropbox and/or emailed as long as there is not a reply to the email. Individuals can reply to the sender but not the group. The reason for sharing documents is so that they can be reviewed before meetings but discussion by more than 2 members at a time should not take place.

Not all members had copies of all the goals that were submitted and some were brought to the meeting. Each was in a different format. It was decided that the goals should follow the format that Eric Simon used pulling the PlanItGreen goals and then applying them to a RF goal. Julie Moller will create a template and share it with Katie Brennan upon her return. She will work with Katie to format the goals and strategies and send them to everyone before the next meeting.

Sue Crothers shared that she attended the Mayor's Caucus Environmental Committee meeting downtown. She presented information on RF sustainable programs. She said it was a good meeting and was proud of the work RF has been doing.

Sue also shared a logo that RF resident, Gina Latinovich, created for the Commission. Members selected the one they liked. Sue will work with the Village on the proper way to get this implemented and will then work with Mindy to make sure she has it for any website/communication she is working on.

Mindy Credi shared the information she researched regarding keeping chickens. The chicken discussion will continue.

Mary Susan had a question on the proper way to handle residents who may approach her and ask her to look into something through her role as a commissioner. John Anderson commented that she should direct them to him with their concern or they should attend a meeting of the Village Board or Commission at which time they can make their concern/comment public. Other members asked that Village staff share any protocol that should be followed or guidelines that the Village has for commissioners.

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 P.M. All commissioners voted in favor of the motion. Motion passed.

Respectfully Submitted:

Signature Line

John Anderson, Secretary

Signature Line

Kathleen Brennan, Chairman
Sustainability Commission

Date: -----

SC Communication and Website Goals and Objectives

- 1) Develop Sustainability Page on VRF.us (see below)
- 2) Identify reporter local reporter to highlight activities and achievements
- 3) Incorporate Sustainability plug in VRF President's electronic newsletter
- 4) Establish strong working relationship with key VRF departments and commissions:
 - Public Works - water management, solar panels, permitting
 - Economic Development - LEED Initiatives
- 5) Engage Business Leaders and multi-family/use property owners/managers in Sustainability Efforts

Website

- VRF Sustainability mission, achievements, and commitment

- Program and Services links:
 - Curbside Composting
 - Healthy Lawn / Healthy Family
 - Sort it Out
 - Rain Barrel Program
 - Green Block Party
 - Holiday Light Recycling
 - Recycling and Garbage Collection

- Community Events and Celebration links:
 - Earth Day
 - One Earth Film Festival
 - Zero Waste Campout
 - Des Plaines River Clean up
 - Farmers Market

- Media Center
 - New Articles i.e.:
 - Butterfly Garden
 - Scooter Parking
 - Sustainable RF Tour
 - Bike Paths / Bike to School
 - Solar Energy
 - SBU Initiatives
 - News You Can Use links
 - Village Alerts for Mosquitoes
 - Link to Email account to answer specific questions

- VRF Infrastructure Projects i.e.:
 - Commuter Parking Lot
 - Pesticide Reduction

- Resource Links i.e.:
 - Utilities: Nicor, ComEd, Energy Star
 - Landscaping and lawn maintenance (alternative pesticides)
 - PlanItGreen Report

SC Communication and Website Goals and Objectives

- VRF Licensed Contractors "Green"
- LEED

RIVER FOREST PROPOSED BEEKEEPING ORDINANCE 9/4/17 DRAFT

DEFINITIONS:

- **APIARY:** The assembly of one or more hives or colonies of honeybees at a single location.
- **BEEKEEPER:** A person who owns or has charge of one or more colonies of honeybees.
- **BEEKEEPING EQUIPMENT:** Anything used in the operation of an apiary, such as hive bodies, supers, frames, top and bottom boards and extractors.
- **COLONY:** The entire honeybee family or social unit living together.
- **HIVE:** A frame or structure used or employed as a domicile for bees.
- **HONEYBEE:** The common domestic honeybee, limited to the *Apis mellifera* species, specifically excluding the African honeybee, *Apis mellifera scutellata* or “Africanized honeybees.”
- **LOT:** A contiguous parcel of land under common ownership.
- **APIARY INSPECTION:** For purposes of this ordinance, APIARY INSPECTION refers to site inspection of a beehive area for compliance with this ordinance.

ADJACENT PROPERTY BEE NOTIFICATION: To acquire a beekeeping permit an applicant must provide a written proof of written notice to all adjacent property residents of the applicant’s proposed, hives. The form for this written notice will be available for download from the Village’s website. Upon receipt of notice from the applicant, the adjacent resident may file a written objection to the applicant’s permit application if any member in their household suffers from anaphylaxis. If the adjacent resident can provide, documentation from a licensed physician that confirms a certified anaphylaxis reaction to bee stings by a member of the household, the application would be disqualified for consideration. All written objections, including physician’s documentation must be delivered to the Village of River Forest (Insert department who will be overseeing administration of the bee ordinance.)

Should a new resident move into an adjacent property of the hive location, the afore-mentioned written notification must be given to the new adjacent resident within thirty (30) days of move in. Should the new adjacent resident produce a

licensed physician certificate of anaphylaxis reaction per the criteria above, the hive must be removed by the beekeeper within thirty (30) days.

COLONY DENSITIES:

- A) Beekeepers shall not keep more than two (2) colonies on any residential commercial, school or municipality property, with the exception of Dominican University, as reference herein. Residential property includes single-family homes, multi family living and condominiums.

- B) Notwithstanding the limitations to bee colony densities herein, Dominican University may continue to keep up to four (4) colonies on its property, so long as the colonies continue to be an integral part of the University's educational program and the University adheres to all other requirements of this ordinance

- C) A maximum of twenty-two (22) permits will be issued each calendar year, with renewal applications taking priority over new applications. All new applications will be considered on a first come first serve basis. In the event of an excess of Twenty-two (22) permit applications being submitted, the remaining new applications will be placed on a waiting list.

BEEKEEPING PERMIT:

- A) PERMIT REQUIRED: Persons wishing to establish and maintain a honeybee apiary in the Village of River Forest shall first obtain a beekeeping permit from the Village. Applications shall be submitted to (insert Village department and contact) Beekeepers, who owned or operated a honeybee apiary within the Village prior to the effective date hereof and who wish to continue to do so after the effective date hereof, shall have thirty (30) days after such effective date to apply for a Village beekeeping permit. At the time of application for a Village beekeeping permit, the applicant shall:
 - 1. Demonstrate compliance with all requirements of this article; and
 - 2. Pay a twenty-five dollar (\$25.00) nonrefundable permit application fee.

- B) PERMIT EXPIRATION AND RENEWAL: Village beekeeping permits shall expire on November 30th of each calendar year. Permit-holding beekeepers must apply to renew their permit annually and will be subject to the same requirements and payment obligations as the original permit.

- C) **APIARY INSPECTION RIGHT OF ENTRY:** By applying for a beekeeping permit, the applicant authorizes the Village representative to enter onto the property that contains the apiary for the limited purpose of inspecting the apiary for compliance with this ordinance.
- D) **NONTRANSFERABILITY:** No Village beekeeping permit shall be assigned or transferred to any other person, or to any other location. No refund shall be granted for any unexpired period of a Village beekeeping permit.
- E) **STATE REGISTRATION:** All beekeepers must register their apiary with the State of Illinois Department of Agriculture and maintain their hives in accordance with the Illinois Bees and Apiaries Act, 510 ILCS 20/1 et seq.

MAINTENANCE:

- A) **Apiary Maintenance:** Beekeepers shall keep all beekeeping equipment in good condition and secure unused equipment from weather, potential theft or vandalism. Beekeepers shall ensure that no bee comb, wax or other materials are left upon the grounds of the apiary site, which might encourage disturbance or robbing by wildlife or domestic animals. Beekeepers shall promptly store or dispose of any bee comb, wax or other materials, which have been removed from the hive in a sealed container or within a building or other bee proof enclosure.
- B) All bee colonies must be kept in “inspect accessible” type hives with removable combs, which must be kept in sound and usable condition.
- C) **Water:** Each beekeeper shall ensure that a convenient source of water is available at all times within ten (10’) feet of the hive(s) as long as the colonies remain active outside the hive. The purpose of this requirement is to prevent bees from congregating at swimming pools, faucets, pet water bowls, birdbaths or other water sources where they may cause human, bird, or domestic pet contact. The water shall be maintained so as not to become stagnant.
- D) **Record Keeping:** Each licensee shall keep records providing at least the following information: dates of installation; inspections; brood pattern and health; whether a queen was observed; honey and pollen stores; whether a super was added or removed; presence of disease or pests; and interventions or actions by the beekeeper. Such beekeeping records should be updated at least twice per month and be made available to Village officials upon request.

HIVE LOCATION:

- A) Distance From Property Lines: Beehives shall be kept a minimum of five feet (5') from all property lines, and oriented so that flight patterns face away from the closest property fence line.

- B) Flyways: A hive shall be placed on a property so that the general flight pattern of the bees is in a direction and distance that will deter bee contact with humans and domesticated animals. If this cannot be achieved due to property constraints, the licensee shall install a fly-wall at least two (2) feet higher than the hive entrance, and no more than five (5) feet from said entrance. The fly-wall shall be made of vegetation or fencing material.

- C) Properties that accommodate beehives should be completely fenced in. If the actual property is not completely fenced in then the beekeeper shall erect a fence/barrier around the hives themselves that will be at least four feet (4) high and no closer than five (5) feet from the hive.

- D) Signage: A weatherproof sign at least ten inches by ten inches (10"X10") shall be installed by the beekeeper at either the entrance(s) of the yard or the entrance to the fence erected around a hive in a non-fenced in yard. Signage language should read "State Registered Beehive(s) on Property" or similar language that makes it clear that bees are on the premises. The River Forest Village permit number must be included and displayed clearly.

VIOLATIONS AND PENALTIES: No person may keep bees in the Village except as permitted in this article. Any person violating any provision of this article may be fined up to five hundred dollars (\$500.00). In addition to any penalty imposed, the Village may, in its discretion, revoke any beekeeping permit, and refuse issuance of a renewal for a minimum period of one year to any person found to be in violation of this code, or to any other person living on the property where the violation occurred.

Getting started with *SORT IT OUT*
From the River Forest Sustainability Commission
August, 2017

Congratulations on taking one more step in the direction of less waste, less landfill, and less pollution! River Forest's ***SORT IT OUT*** bins are designed to help you host an event that leaves less of an environmental 'footprint' on our planet. Introducing your family and guests to ***SORT IT OUT*** will help them to think a bit more carefully when purchasing non-recyclable and non-compostable items, and about the effects of accumulated waste in our landfills.

We hope this guide helps you to use the bins well. Any feedback is appreciated!

STEP 1: Announce ahead of time that your event will be a 'low waste' or 'green' party. Guests might think about bringing a dish in a reusable bowl instead of a throw-away. Choose to use reusable or compostable items. Tableware and cups made from corn is available, and compostable plates include those not treated with plastic lining.

STEP 2: Set it up. If you have space, set them up the long way, so that the instructions will be more visible. Place bags inside the frames: Loop the bag under (the innermost frame), then over (the outermost frame), and tug for a snug fit, as shown in the attached photo. Be sure to use COMPOSTABLE bag for the compost. Place a garden kneeler (or something else to absorb the impact of tossed bottles) under the recycling, especially if you are placing it over a hard surface like concrete.

STEP 3: Educate. You can choose to do a formal introduction at the start of your event. Taping samples of waste to the lids can help. For example, taping a paper cotton candy cone to the compost lid reminds users that paper is compostable (which is preferable over recyclable!). Or you might choose a few youngsters to kindly and gently guide guests in proper sorting throughout the event. Be patient and lighthearted. No one changes their habits well when they are embarrassed or shamed. And it's a party after all!

STEP 4: After the party: Don't be discouraged if your guests didn't sort very well. You may need to resort a few items. Dump recycling into your own bin. (Use the bag for your next week's garbage.) Dispose of the landfill waste in your own garbage bin. Compost: If you already are subscribed to RF's weekly compost pick up, place the compost bag in your compost bin. If not, ask a neighbor if you can add to their bin. Or add the compost to your backyard compost bin - just know that compostable forks and knives need industrial strength heat and enzymes to break down. If you need access to a RF compost bin, we can help! Contact MarySusan (RF Sustainability Commissioner, at MarySusanChen@gmail.com, [708-702-8987](tel:708-702-8987)).

STEP 5: Wipe the tops of the bins. Return them to Village Hall within 3 days. Watch your email inbox for a short survey - this will help us continue to improve this program.

Thank you so much for your participation!

Loop the bag under (the innermost frame), then over (the outermost frame), and tug for a snug fit.

