



VILLAGE OF RIVER FOREST SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION

Tuesday, October 10, 2017 – 7:00 PM
Village Hall – Community Room, 400 Park Ave., River Forest, IL

AGENDA

1. Call to Order/Roll Call
2. Public Comment
3. Proposed Bee Keeping Ordinance
4. Adoption of Meeting Minutes from the 8/8/17 & 9/12/17 Sustainability Commission Meeting
5. Update on Native Plantings
6. Report on Energy Goals
7. Report on ComEd LED lighting conversion
8. Commissioner Reports on Meetings/Presentations
9. Budget and Procedures
10. Other Business
11. Schedule Next Meeting – Tuesday, November 14, 2017 – 7:00 PM
12. Adjournment

RIVER FOREST PROPOSED BEEKEEPING ORDINANCE 9/30/17 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.
- **NUCLEUS or NUC COLONIES:** Small honey bee colonies created from larger colonies. The term refers both to the smaller size box and the colony of honeybees within it.

ADJACENT PROPERTY BEE NOTIFICATION:

- A) 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.)

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 entity. No refund shall be granted for any unexpired period of a Village beekeeping permit. Should a Beekeeping Permit holder move to a new residence within the Village of River Forest, the existing permit may be transferred to this new address, provided compliance with all requirements of this article are satisfied and a new Adjacent Property Bee Notification form is submitted.
- 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 frames or comb, which must be kept in sound and usable condition.
- C) **Water:** Each beekeeper shall ensure that a convenient source of water is available on the property at all times 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:** Beekeepers shall maintain records of colony maintenance and monitoring of hive health. These records are to be made available to Village officials upon request.
- E) Beekeepers may create and maintain up to two Nucleus or Nuc colonies for purposes of managing their beehive population and queen bee health.

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) If the property where the beehives are located 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, at 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.



VILLAGE OF RIVER FOREST SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, August 8, 2017 – 7:00 PM

A regular meeting of the River Forest Sustainability Commission was held on Tuesday August 8, 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 7:01 PM. Present at this meeting were Commissioner Brennan, Commissioner Moller, Commissioner Simon, Commissioner Susan Chen, Commissioner Crothers, Commissioner Credi and Commissioner Masella.

Public Comment

Bruce Faland, local bee keeper, inquired whether the draft he saw of the regulation is the latest draft, this was confirmed. He stated that everyone in the room is here to support bees. He voiced concern over the regulations and compared it to the City of Chicago where all you need to do is register the hive. Believes ordinance draft is based on fear. Would like no ordinance.

Commissioner Brennan stated that the draft is being worked on and reiterated that the village board asked this commission to research and provide a recommendation. This commission does not have the ability to pass, not pass or vote on the ordinance.

Scott Kreher, Dominican University, specified changes he would like to see in the ordinance. He would like to see language that specifies the level of training and knowledge the village inspector should have. He has concerns about the limitations of how many hives per property, feels like Dominican needs at least 4 hives to have a legitimate bee program. He stated that the size shouldn't be a one size fits all but should be appropriate to the size and resources of the institution. Katie provided examples of the sources they used to determine this including Louisiana and University of Minnesota. Scott would like consideration that a neighboring home can't have sole veto ability but it should be because of allergy.

Ellen McManus, Dominican University, feels the tone of the ordinance is unnecessarily punitive and framing bee keepers as people who are doing something wrong but will be tolerated. She stated that beekeeping is a service to the community, and education opportunity for children and adults and would like to see recognition that it isn't a danger to be regulated but a service that the community treasures.

Discussion: Bees Ordinance

Commissioner Crothers stated that this is a draft ordinance and a lot of work went into this and that we won't be voting on anything but making a recommendation to the board of trustees who are the only ones who can vote.

Ordinance examples used to create draft ordinance came from Evanston, Oak Park, Riverside, St Charles and also included the community concerns, comments and feedback from local beekeepers.

Commissioner Simon asked about the 22 permits. Commissioner Crothers explained that some ordinances have this and some don't. She explained it is a formula based on the amount of food available minus the food needed for the native pollinators. The commissioner went on to explain that they took as much of a scientific approach to this as they could although the science isn't conclusive. They looked at the 2.5 sq/miles of River Forest, 1600 acres. Took in consideration non pollinating landscape, and thatcher woods (245 acres). Assumed 85% of our area consists of structures. 15% -205 acres forgeable land for pollinators + thatcher woods. 1 acre of rich, lush, diverse land can support 1 hive. The committee calculated this and came out with 45 hives for River Forest. We don't currently know how many hives are in River Forest. Commissioner Brennan asked Scott for feedback on density.

Julie (last name?) asked questions on training in the ordinance,

Committee clarified that inspection is only triggered for complaints.

Jennifer (last name?) a beekeeper from Oak Park commented that hive inspection is different than apiary inspection. Inspector more interested in fly aways and location of hives.

Commissioner Masella commented that failure to maintain bee hive effects those bees more than anything else.

Ellen McManus wouldn't be in favor of requiring classes but Dominican provisionally would offer Dominica space for such courses. Discussion around having someone from Garfield Park Conservatory or WAX teach classes.

Julie doesn't support required education, stated that it's in the beekeepers best interest and the most effective support is beekeeping community support.

Commissioner Masella received question from Commissioner Simon on what the community concerns are, she feels most concerns can be resolved with education. She stated that information and educational documentation would be developed and accompany ordinance and the would backup any proposal with fact and research. The committee would also communicate advantages - food, flowers, that list is being developed. The would also proactively reach out to known community members with concerns.

Commissioner Credi comments on the 3 things she hears; People with allergies, kids playing with hives and getting hurt and standing water. She commented that it's the same as dog in the yard.

Commissioner Masella commented that fencing helps with this. She doesn't feel like we need to train people. Not convinced we need to have an ordinance at all. She also commented that we need to be logical on immediate neighbors versus more complex ordinances with wide ranging notification rules.

Commissioner Susan Chen added that she is not sure we need an ordinance either and can we modify other existing ordinances? She feels that we shouldn't charge fees if they are giving a gift for the community.

Commissioner Crothers stated that the fees are meant to cover the administrative costs.

Maureen (last name) comments that the Chicago ordinance is very simple - it defers to Illinois since the state does regulate number of bees per size of property, based on size of urban areas, mandates state inspections to prevent disease and promote health of bees. She doesn't think 100' setback changes anything.

Commissioner Moller started a discussion on changes and verbalized that she would like to see registration once only, not annually.

Bruce Faland commented that registering with Illinois is solely for communication around disease and protecting the population and the regional inspectors are very knowledgeable, he feels like 44 hives is way too much and there isn't enough food for that. Commissioner Crothers stated she would check on the hive count.

Discussion: Other Business

Commissioner Simon reviewed SEIN & Sun Shot programs. Commissioners agreed to say no to Sun Shot to not over extend our renewable energy efforts.

A foam proposal was discussed to have a repository for foam similar to holiday lights. Commissioner Credi commented that it's recyclable and can be re-formed if its hard foam. Winnetka has a program and City of Chicago has a program through Dart, no hauler will take it. Idea was raised to have this as part of recycling extravaganza – commission voted to move forward exploring this option.

Discussion: Goals

Commission discussed waste goals and agreed PlanItGreen goals are well stated. Question arose on how to accomplish these goals. Recycling is lighter now which is making it harder to achieve weight based goal.

Recycling extravaganza was discussed - getting people to not throw things out by offering convenient option. Holiday lights and paint were discussed as integral parts of effort.

Commissioner Moller discussed composting and discussed that a barrier is that it has cost. Volume will drive down costs though. This is tougher message, will continue to work on this.

Commission discussed pay as you throw, cost of composting is impeding usage and that even through the Roy Strom contract is long they have been very cooperative and helpful.

Commissioner Moller needs help with recycling extravaganza as it takes a lot of volunteers. She will talk to high school environmental club as an idea to build volunteer core.

Due to time constraints Commissioner Brennan is deferring conversation around Mindy's goals to next meeting as well as budget discussion. Next meeting is 9/12/17.

A motion was made by Commissioner Mary Chen and seconded by Commissioner Moller to adjourn the meeting at 8:47 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: -----



VILLAGE OF RIVER FOREST SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday Sept 12, 2017 – 7:00 PM

A regular meeting of the River Forest Sustainability Commission was held on Tuesday, September 12th, 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 Chen, Commissioner Crothers, and Commissioner Credi and Commissioner Masella.

Public Comment

No public comment during the designated time. Two members of the beekeeping community stepped forward later in the meeting. See #9 below.

Discussion: Commission Goals & Projects

2. Adoption of Meeting Minutes from the 7/11/17 Sustainability Commission Meeting: motion to accept by Kathleen Brennan, 2nd by Sue Crothers, yes by all 7 commissioners.
3. Public Comment: no comment during this time.
4. Report on PlanItGreen “Report Card” Presentation to RF Parks Board/Village Board: Gary Cuneen of Seven generations Ahead presented on 8/14/17 to RF Parks and at RF Trustee meeting 9/11/17: MSC reports Gary presented Trends & Metrics from 2017 report card (page 4.) JM adds - Waste diversion #s are not moving. Applauded RF for initiating Sustainability Commission. SGA is willing to help w grant writing re: Solar energy. Water leaks – check on individual water bills.
5. Report on Mayor’s Caucus Meeting: Julie Moller attended at University Club. Present were mayors & city officials. Urgency to act now. Tom Skilling meteorologist: we cannot make predications based on past facts. UofC scientist emphasized solar. Power Point will be on their website soon.
6. Report on Goals for Commission: Mindy Crede submitted goals. John A reports new site is months away. Discussion on how we will be able to use the site: make changes, what features will we have? Add functionality, photos, content, ‘comps’, calendar, and public comments.
7. Report on Green News You Can Use: written by Julie Moller and part of Village’s email, includes meeting dates, promote composting. Residents sign up for electronic newsletter. Commissioners can make submissions to Julie.

8. Report on SC Presentation to the RF Civic Association: (previously known as Service Club) would like RFSC presentation in October. JM & SC will present.

9. Report on Draft Bee Ordinance: was emailed to commissioners. SC presents - Language grandfathered Dominican Univ with 4 hives providing they continue educational projects. Sue has been using Marston from Garfield Park Conservatory as a consultant. SC & MM visited Maureen Huston's hives. Sue has become aware of "nuke", a small colony to prevent swarming; would this count as a 3rd hive? Discussion on "adjacent property notification" - concern about paragraph 2, new resident notification within 30 days; how would a resident know that a new neighbor moved in? Comment that Oak Park has a bee allergy registry. Committee will review this part of the ordinance.

Public comment: Bruce Faland concern that commissioners did not contact beekeeper or complaining neighbor. Did commissioners feel threatened when near hive?

Maureen Huston 631 Edgewood Pl. expressed invitation to visit her hives.

10. Report on Solar Issues/PSEE – Eric Simon - Public Sector Energy Efficiency, via mayor's caucus, underwritten by gas companies. Apply for grants by Nov 1; project to be completed by Dec 31. Ideas discussed: lights in village hall, library, streetlights, HVAC equipment, and other village sites.

11. Report on Sort It Out Waste station Program: MSC re-wrote instructions for use, and a form for public use of Stations (outside of block party rentals.) Form & instructions will be placed on website. Instructions will also be laminated and attached to Stations. Submitted to Joan Espanza (in Dawn Haney's absence.)

12. Report on Village Native Planting Program: MM reports village will be planting natives at Waller gates on Lake St (existing plants were trampled) & along train tracks at Hawthorn just west of Franklin.

13. Other Business:

Many green block parties this summer, TY to Sugar Beet Schoolhouse, 36 additional Healthy Lawn signs have been added this summer.

9/11 Lemon Aid on Bonnie Brae: Commissioners (& others) volunteered as 'waste diversion engineers.' 93% diversion rate, 70% compost, only 7% landfill.

Foam – MC is working to engage OP &/or OPRF HS to collaborate.

Artificial Turf: MSC reports at 8/14/17 RF Parks Board Mtg, Greg White of RFYBS requested consideration of replacing a girl's softball infield w artificial turf. Asking park district for 50% of cost; total \$100,000 to install. Board will be contacting MWRD re: drainage, & report at meeting 9/11/17. Product is Tarkett, Field Turf. Sue Crothers reports that history is previous Sustainability Committee expressed concerns about health effects, long tem maintenance costs, need to water artificial turf when temp is high. MSC & SC will communicate on this.

14. Schedule Next Meeting – Tuesday Oct 10th, 2017, 7 PM – agreed.

15. Motion to adjourn by KB, 2nd MSC.

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: -----

10. Report on Solar Issues/PSEE – Eric Simon - Public Sector Energy Efficiency, via mayor’s caucus, underwritten by gas companies. Apply for grants by Nov 1; project to be completed by Dec 31. Ideas discussed: lights in village hall, library, streetlights, HVAC equipment, and other village sites.

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15. Motion to adjourn by KB, 2nd MSC.