

**VILLAGE OF RIVER FOREST
SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2024**

A regular meeting of the Village of River Forest Sustainability Commission was held on Tuesday, December 10, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. in the Community Room of Village Hall, 400 Park Avenue – River Forest, IL.

1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 PM. Upon roll call, the following persons were:

Present: Co-Chairs Charrette and Lennon, Commissioners Veazie, Hayley, Mezzatesta, Kadlec, Avalos, and Student Commissioner Stierwalt.

Absent: None

Also Present: Management Analyst Seth Jansen

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

3. ADOPTION OF MEETING MINUTES

Commissioner Mezzatesta made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Veazie to approve the meeting minutes from November 12, 2024, with clarifications and corrections indicated by Co-Chair Charrette and Commissioner Mezzatesta.

Roll Call:

Ayes: Co-Chairs Charrette and Lennon, Commissioners Veazie, Hayley, Mezzatesta, Kadlec, and Avalos

Absent: None

Nays: None

Motion Passes.

4. COMMISSIONER UPDATES

Commissioner Avalos recapped the PlanIt Green Annual Leadership Forum earlier in the afternoon. Commissioner Avalos also suggested promoting programs available through the Inflation Reduction Act while they are still available. Mr. Jansen also noted his remarks at the meeting and the topics of the breakout discussions at the end of the forum. Mr. Jansen specifically cited the green infrastructure breakout group and the discussion of finding ways to encourage individuals to adopt and install micro-green infrastructure projects such as rain gardens, bioswales, rain barrels, and cisterns to prevent stormwater runoff. Commissioner Kadlec inquired about a program Oak Park is implementing to promote similar projects; Mr. Jansen noted that Oak Park has some income-targeted grant programs and stated that Oak Park was also planning to complete a Village-wide impervious surface assessment over the

next year. Mr. Jansen also briefly outlined the planned Village parking lot permeable paver project. Commissioner Avalos discussed the items discussed in the education breakout group at the forum.

5. UIC PLAN RECOMMENDATIONS AND COMMUNITY SURVEY FEEDBACK

Mr. Jansen quickly summarized the transportation recommendations memo. Commissioner Kadlec indicated interest in the bike-share system recommendation for the Village, but inquired if there would be use for it within the Village. Commissioner Kadlec also suggested further information on bike safety, bike maintenance, and additional information to help residents with resources for maintenance and care of their bikes. Commissioner Kadlec also inquired about how frequently the Village bicycle plan is updated. Commissioner Hayley also suggested further information on maintenance, specifically information for the fix-it bike repair station at the Metra entrance along Keystone Ave. Co-Chair Charrette suggested building off of the Bicycle Exchange event in the Spring to offer further on-site repairs.

Commissioner Hayley expressed general interest in bike policy within the Village and ways to promote bike routes and bike safety. The Commission generally discussed bike safety, Village bicycling policy, and bike infrastructure best practices. With regards to bike share programs, the Commission suggested coordination with the local universities and potential use of the university as strategic locations for bike share facilities. The Commission discussed the need for bike parking facilities, and Co-Chair Charrette inquired if that was within the scope of the Commission to advocate for. Student Commissioner Stierwalt noted he has never had issues with finding bike parking but noted some bikers will still utilize things not designated for bike parking, such as trees, to lock their bike to. Co-Chair Lennon asked if the Village had explored designated bike lanes on Village streets. Mr. Jansen outlined the existing bike plan and the general operations of the Traffic and Safety Commission. Co-Chair Lennon further suggested exploring possible biking designations like the SolSmart or Tree City designations.

Commissioner Veazie inquired about EV permitting, the Illinois Stretch Codes, state EV requirements for construction, and the status of the Village implementing the EV Installer Certification designation for locally licensed electrical contractors. Mr. Jansen outlined the state EV new construction requirements, the status of the EV Installer Certification requirement, and the recently passed EV zoning requirements. Mr. Jansen briefly stated he would look into if the Stetch Codes had been considered.

Co-Chair Charrette raised the idea of proposing a reduced vehicle registration cost for electric and hybrid vehicles. Co-Chair Charrette proposed slightly lowering the registration cost of these vehicles and offsetting it by raising the cost for additional vehicles beyond the first one or two vehicles for a household. The Commission discussed the concept, including potential effectiveness and challenges to such a policy.

Commissioner Hayley inquired about the process and timeline for the new EV Charging Station installation and if the Commission can promote and publicize the chargers when they are installed. Mr. Jansen provided a general update of the process. Mr. Jansen also noted that

charging station fees are something that the Commission will need to address upon installation.

Co-Chair Lennon noted that Co-Chair Charrette's registration fee proposal is a way to recognize individuals in the Village for acting a more sustainable manner. He suggested finding a way to recognize individuals in the community, such as a Sustainable Household Status yard sign or window sticker. Co-Chair Lennon suggested that these types of recognition can be used as a way for the Village to recognize homeowners pushing for sustainability and a way for neighbors to see what sustainable practices are being adopted. The Commission expressed support for the concept. Commissioner Kadlec suggested it as a way to promote the composting program. Commissioner Mezzatesta also suggested block-wide recognition as well. Commissioners Hayley and Avalos agreed to touch base directly to develop some potential topics, parameters, and criteria by which to recognize individuals, blocks, and businesses within the Village.

Mr. Jansen briefly outlined the communications-related recommendations from the UIC Climate Plans and a tentative communications calendar for 2025. Commissioner Mezzatesta volunteered to draft some weekly newsletter posts to share existing resources on the Village website. The Commission discussed potential future articles, including the recent LRS visit. Co-Chair Lennon suggested the sustainability year in review that was presented to the PlanIt Green Leadership Forum be published in the next monthly newsletter. The Commission made further recommendations including community solar sign-up, recycling guidelines, special recycling drop-offs for items such as plastic bags, and any sustainability-related projects and events from community groups and taxing bodies.

Commissioner Kadlec suggested spotlighting residents and households to highlight their sustainable practices. The Commission discussed ways to find residents and for residents to nominate their neighbors for recognition and newsletter stories. Co-Chair Charrette suggested recognizing blocks with the highest percentage of compost subscribers as a starting place to recognize residents and groups.

6. TOPICS FOR 2025 AND OUTSTANDING ITEMS

Mr. Jansen outlined the pending items the Commission has been working on and the memo regarding UIC Climate Plan recommendations. Mr. Jansen recapped the recommendations and asks from the Commission from the current meeting.

Co-Chair Charrette suggested discussion the Resiliency recommendations from the UIC Climate Plans at the January meeting. Commissioner Veazie noted the highest-ranking interests of residents in the community survey were Urban Forestry & Green Spaces and Biodiversity & Local Wildlife and suggested the Commission think of ways to engage with experts on those topics.

7. SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING – JANUARY 14, 2025

The Commission reached a consensus to hold its next meeting Tuesday, January 14, 2025.

8. ADJOURNMENT

Co-Chair Charrette made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Kadlec, to adjourn the meeting at 8:39 PM.

Roll Call:

Ayes: Co-Chairs Charrette and Lennon, Commissioners Veazie, Hayley, Mezzatesta, Kadlec, and Avalos

Absent: None

Nays: None

Motion Passes.



Seth Jansen, Secretary