

**VILLAGE OF RIVER FOREST
SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION
TUESDAY, APRIL 9, 2024**

A regular meeting of the Village of River Forest Sustainability Commission was held on Tuesday, April 9, 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 7:00 PM. Upon roll call, the following persons were:

Present: Co-Chair Charrette, Commissioners Hayley, Lennon, Mezzatesta, Drury (arriving at 7:02), Veazie (arriving at 7:04) and Student Commissioner Avalos.
Absent: Co-Chair Simon; Student Commissioner Stierwalt
Also Present: Management Analyst Seth Jansen

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

3. ADOPTION OF MEETING MINUTES

Commissioner Lennon made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Mezzatesta to approve the meeting minutes from March 12, 2024.

Roll Call:

Ayes: Co-Chair Charrette, Commissioners Drury, Hayley, Lennon, Mezzatesta, and Veazie
Absent: Co-Chair Simon; Commissioner Veazie
Nays: None
Motion Passes.

4. COMMISSIONER UPDATES

Commissioner Charrette shared that she had been seeing posts on social media with individuals frustrated with the community electric aggregation program. Mr. Jansen indicated he had been receiving inquiries about the program from Village residents. The Commission discussed the program and potential reasons for resident concerns over the program.

Commissioner Hayley stated she had received inquiries from residents inquiring about what can and cannot be recycled and asked where residents can get the sticker placed onto newer recycling containers. The Commission discussed recycling and compost cart informational stickers and how to share the information resources with residents. Mr. Jansen has discussed the various types of carts and containers used by LRS and residents and what materials can

go into which containers. The Commission revived discussion of a Village-wide mailer through LRS, which was first discussed at the January 2024 meeting. Mr. Jansen indicated he would contact LRS to begin the process. Commissioner Hayley also inquired about the Commissioners being able to take a visit to an LRS facility.

Student Commissioner Avalos raised general questions about the structure of the Commission and the role of Village trustees with regard to the Commission.

5. WORKING GROUP REPORTS

Commissioner Mezzatesta discussed having a specific registration for HVAC contractors who work with heat pumps, indicating the issue may be that some contractors may not renew their license until they get a project to work on within the community. Commission Mezzatesta discussed some of the benefits and limitations to adding such a question to the annual contractor registration application. She indicated that the number of contractors who work with geothermal heat pumps is extremely limited. Mr. Jansen indicated a similar change would be implemented for the electrician registration for those who are state-certified electric vehicle charging station installers.

Commissioner Mezzatesta discussed the sustainability group that has formed among condominium residents in River Forest and Oak Park that will be meeting quarterly to discuss issues specific to multi-unit condominium residents. Commissioner Mezzatesta discussed some of the challenges with installing heat pumps to the common areas of some condo buildings.

6. COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Jansen shared updates made to the website, including a directly link from the Village homepage to the Sustainable Living Guide and the various text and link changes that were made. Mr. Jansen indicated the proposed functionality and navigation changes may not be feasible with the website's current limitations. Commissioner Mezzatesta further discussed incorporating events into some calendar model, possibly within the Sustainable Living Guide or as part of the broader Village calendar.

Mr. Jansen outlined the potential articles for upcoming newsletters and the Commissioners provided their thoughts and input.

7. OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Jansen outlined the analysis he provided the Commission on the usage and charging session lengths for the electric vehicle charging station at Village Hall prior to and after the new fee ordinance went into effect. The Commission discussed the effects of the ordinance, concerning the charging lengths and total utilization.

Commissioner Veazie inquired how the EV study the Village had conducted related to the cohort. Mr. Jansen provided the Commission with an update on the Metropolitan Mayors

Caucus EV Readiness Cohort, including what has been achieved thus far, the process going forward, and the potential designation the Village may achieve. Commissioner Mezzatesta inquired about existing programs that could benefit multi-family residential buildings with regards to EV charging infrastructure; Mr. Jansen noted the Com-Ed make-ready reimbursement program that can help with the costs for any pre-installation work. Mr. Jansen provided an update on the process for EV-related zoning changes. Commissioner Lennon inquired about how other proposed zoning text amendments may impact the EV changes the Commission had previously recommended.

Mr. Jansen then briefly outlined a project to update the remainder of Village Hall lighting to LED; this would come at no cost to the Village through ComEd rebate incentives.

Tobin Greenwald, a graduate student with the UIC Climate Planning project was in attendance and provided a brief update for his section's progress. He inquired about the reasoning behind the recent EV Charging Fee Ordinance. Mr. Greenwald asked a general zoning question about parking minimums as relating to EV charging and for other potential zoning changes. Mr. Jansen highlight what changes the Commission has proposed in relation to the recommended zoning changes from the EV Readiness Cohort. Mr. Greenwald asked about previous bike route programs the Village had done. Co-Chair Charrette and Commissioner Veazie had briefly shared the previous work the Village had done regarding a bike plan. Commissioner Haley inquired about how the bike plan related to schools and Mr. Jansen noted that the safe routes to school plan was also conducted at that time. The Commission discussed issues of bike and pedestrian safety and how such programs and projects can relate to the Sustainability Commission's goals and mission. Mr. Greenwald also inquired if the EV Study mentioned by Commissioner Veazie is publicly available. Mr. Jansen noted that the UIC courses will be presenting their final presentations on April 30th and that the final plans would be available for the Commission's review at the May Commission meeting.

Commissioner Charrette discussed the pending community solar anchor property contract for the Village's pump station and street lighting electricity accounts. Mr. Jansen briefly discussed the history of getting the Village's accounts onto a community solar program. Co-Chair Charrette had indicated this project and the LED lighting project could be highlighted in upcoming newsletters to share Village successes. The Commission discussed ways to increase participation in the Village's community solar program and obstacles that may prevent individual residents from signing up.

Commissioner Lennon inquired about the usage of gas-leaf blowers in the Village and Oak Park's ordinance to phase out leaf blowers. The Commission decided to review the issue as an agenda item at the next month's meeting.

8. SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING – MAY 14, 2024

The Commission reached a consensus to hold its next meeting Tuesday, May 14, 2024.

9. ADJOURNMENT

Co-Chair Charrette made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Veazie, to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 PM.

Roll Call:

Ayes: Co-Chair Charrette, Commissioners Drury, Hayley, Lennon, Mezzatesta, and Veazie

Absent: Co-Chair Simon

Nays: None

Motion Passes.



Seth Jansen, Secretary