



**VILLAGE OF RIVER FOREST
SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, August 14, 2018 – 7:00 PM**

A regular meeting of the River Forest Sustainability Commission was held on Tuesday, August 14, 2018 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 7:05 PM. Present at this meeting were Commissioners Brennan, Moller, Simon, Crothers, Cheng and Basney. Commissioner Chen was absent.

Meeting minutes from the 7/10/18 Sustainability Commission Meeting were adopted.

Public Comment

No Public Comment

Commissioner Report on Meetings

Commissioner Cheng reported that she attended PlanItGreen meeting, discussion included updates from Marc Burger that SREC's are delayed. The issue about questionable marketing tactics by Solar companies was also discussed. Zero waste was discussed including issues with school milk cartons (waxy paper cartons) not being accepted by many recycling companies. Commissioner Moller informed everyone that Strom is still accepting these however Waste Management which serves District 97 is not. Commission had a discussion about how people would need to be asked to take these out of their recycling when the time comes to not contaminate the recycling stream.

Commissioner Moller shared that she has great information about micro plastics from the program in Bali that she participated in, this information will be shared in detail at a later date.

Commissioner Basney provided updates on Party in the Park which was also attended by Mary Susan who both helped with Sort it Out stations. He was impressed with the behavior of attendees in sorting out waste. Commissioner Basney also attended the Trailside Museum edible garden event. He also reported on a call he had with Peggy McGrath with Go Green Oak Park. The conversation was about a resolution 3 communities have signed and what our options are as home rule, it is thought that it doesn't have an effect. Multiple bills are at the State level right now regarding pesticides and lawn signage. John Anderson updated the Commission that the RF Building Department is working on consolidating landscaping, snow removal and pesticide applicator permits.

Commissioner Brennan also attended the Trailside Museum event and reported that it went very well. She also presented at RF Parks Board meeting the previous night regarding artificial turf.

Landscaper/Chemical Permits, Pesticides, Mosquito Abatement

Commissioner Basney is taking the lead on Landscaper/Chemical spray permits, pesticide-related legislation, Beekeeping Ordinance an assisting SCG with RF Garden initiatives and mosquito/larvacide issues. In regards to pesticides, there are currently multiple bills with multiple stakeholders at this point.

Commissioner Basney will be working on beekping, he was introduced to Ellen McManus from Dominican and will be meeting with her. The goal s to coordinate educational events under the bee ordinance. Events will include honey harvesting and winterizing bees. Commissioner Brennan started discussion on how to publicize these events including the idea of having the local paper write article in advance of events.

Commissioner Basney will work with Commissioner Crothers on mosquito larvacide information and research including talking to other communities to see what they are doing. It was reported that Hinsdale does targeted spraying and works with a private firm.

Commissioner Brennan informed Commissioner Basney about Women in Green event where she met someone with Morton Arboretum that talked about a tree tour of RF. She will get Andy in touch with her. Commissioner Cheng brought up that it would be a good idea to do this as part of future Green Block Parties, show people what trees are on their block. John Anderson informed the commission of a tree inventory map that is accessible via the vrf.us website.

Green Block Parties

Commissioner Crothers led a short discussion about native gardens, Native gardens should be a multi-year project as people better understand it, see them and it catches on. Commissioner Basney had the idea of a mobile native garden, less permeant and a potential future option and demonstration of what it is and how to do it. Commissioner Crothers will talk about this subject more next month.

GRC Reporting & Tracking Task Force

Commisioner Brennan reported that she has signed up for the Mayors Metropolitan Caucus Environment subcommittee, GRC reporting and tracking task force. They have had 1 meeting. Task force is looking at demos of software platforms to track and report metrics and will make a recommendation to subcommittee. Brennan met RF resident, Shannon Roberts, who does this for her work as a sustainability office with a major company. She is willing to work with us and Brennan is putting her in touch with Edith Makra from MMC. She is going to try and come to the next task force meeting to help advise. This is potentially a very rich platform for communities, residents and municipal leaders.

Community Gardens & Native Planting Project

Commissioner Basney informed the commission that a new sign was created and installed due to the issue of stolen peppers from the community gardens. Commissioner Brennan called out Mary Massala for doing an amazing job on the gardens project.

Basney is working with the park district on planting natives at entrance of priory park. John Anderson informed the Commission that the Chicago Ave bump outs will be planted with natives and will let the Commission know the details. Brennan asked about the square footage of natives.

Village Energy Calculation

Commissioner Simon will work with John Anderson on getting the information required to calculate how much residents are paying to cover the Villages energy costs. This is part of a project to determine eventual ROI's on community solar or municipal solar projects.

Artificial Turf Report & Recommendation

Commissioner Brennan reported that there was a meeting last night with the park district, the information the Commission has provided was well received, it was a truncated summary of the full report. Soccer,

7205
softball and baseball representatives at meeting are in support of artificial turf. There was a discussion about whether teams want artificial turf or just improvements to existing surfaces. Park District not consider this until March due to other obligations. Private funds (\$50k) have been pledged to help with softball field conditions. Commissioner Simon asked what our role is from this point. Brennan answered that we will stay involved to provide advice and research. Park board asked for entire report and informed meeting participants that this was preliminary since we don't know any details of the project or products that will eventually be proposed. No response from Parks Foundation but they have been provided the report – it is felt they consider this a Parks Board matter. Brennan would like to improve report but not until we have more information on Park Districts plan. Park District made it clear that the first priority is indoor space for recreation and they can't do both right now. This will come off the regular agenda and an update will be provided every few months or as needed.

Deep Roots

Commissioner Brennan reported that the Trailside event was the first one and it went very well. A local congregation is interested and other conversations are also being had – more information will be provided when available.

SC Survey

Commissioner Chen reported that we are 179 respondents, the goal is 270 which is 10% of RF households.

Mid-Year Review of Goals - Education

Commissioner Brennan explained to Commissioner Basney the goal setting exercise that was held at the onset of the commission last year.

Commissioner Cheng provided an update on the education goals:

- About once a month communication with John/Village on updates.
- Tier 1 Goals
 - Revamped organization of RFSC page.
 - Looking to submit electronically certain forms like Healthy Lawn pledge.
 - Can we report on traffic to page. That way we can establish a baseline and figure out what content and changes are driving more traffic to page. Otherwise we are asking village staff to change pictures that no one is looking at.
 - Site is more dynamic in content.
 - For next year - More storytelling.
 - Waste section is next big update.
- Tier 2 Goals:
 - Example of library event with middle schoolers that led to publicity and more impact from 2 students.
 - Conversation on ideas for funds that girls donated.
 - 8th grade education was successful. Village, rooftop solar, Dominican / community garden.

Commissioner Moller asked if Cheng would change any goals? Cheng responded that they are just scratching the surface and felt the first year goals are appropriate. On the programming side a change would be place to create more hands on content such as a workshop series.

Commissioner Brennan reported that Dominican reached out to have commissioners on sustainability panel. Commissioner Moller will do presentation on micro plastics.

Other Business

Commissioner Brennan provided Commissioner Chen's update on Sort-it-Out stations. Volunteers are needed for touch a truck on Saturday September 15th, 10/6 Concordia Homecoming game and carnival, Lemonaid and making tracks.

Social hour with Oak Park Environment Committee is scheduled for 8/28 at commissioner Moller's home, will be confirmed by end of week.

Commissioner Simon provided update on SolSmart. Mindy Agnew is our OP contact for us to get more information on the program since they are a SolSmart Gold community.

Commission had conversation on Roosevelt Student donation on how to use the gift.

Gary Cuneen will be joining our October meeting to talk to us about PlanItGreen. Commissioner Cheng has reached out to Gary.

Next meeting has been changed to 9/13 up in the community room due to conflict with Lemonaid event on 9/11.

Meeting adjourned 8:56 pm.

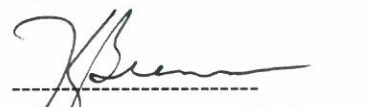
Respectfully Submitted:

Signature Line



John Anderson, Secretary

Signature Line



Kathleen Brennan, Chairman
Sustainability Commission

Date: 11/14/18
