



VILLAGE OF RIVER FOREST SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION

Tuesday, May 20, 2019 – 7:00 PM
Village Hall – Community Room, 400 Park Ave.,
River Forest, IL

AGENDA

1. Call to Order/Roll Call
2. Public Comment
3. Adoption of Meeting Minutes from the April 9, 2019 Sustainability Commission Meeting
4. Commissioner Reports on Meetings
5. NREL Meeting Report
6. Tracking and Reporting
7. Green Block Parties Update
8. Roosevelt Middle School Sustainable Tour
9. Recycling Extravaganza & Tree Tour Recap
10. New Business
 - a. Reusable Bag/Plastic Free July
11. Old Business
 - a. Artificial Turf Update
 - b. Comp Plan Update
 - c. Community Gardens
 - d. Bike Trail
12. Schedule Next Meeting – June 11, 2019 - Discussion
13. Adjournment



**VILLAGE OF RIVER FOREST
SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, April 9, 2019 – 7:00 PM**

A regular meeting of the River Forest Sustainability Commission was held on Tuesday, April 9, 2019 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 Brennan, Commissioner Moller, Commissioner Cheng, and Commissioner Gillis.

Public Comment

No public comment

Adoption of Meeting Minutes from 12/2018 and 3/2019

Commissioner Reports on Meetings/Presentations

Commissioner Cheng reported that she attended the last D90 meeting of the year, where Sustainability Club activities were discussed. District update: New D90 2020-2025 Comp Plan will incorporate sustainability issues.

Commissioner Moller congratulated Commissioner Brennan on Trustee election. She presented to Roosevelt Diversity club on Plastics yesterday and will be presenting to entire 7th grade later this week re: plastics and SC activities, and promoting Recycling Extravaganza and Des Plaines River Clean Up. Spoke with Future Philanthropist students re: volunteering at RE, spots are filling up.

Commissioner Gillis attended monthly PlanItGreen meeting. Finalized the Report Card fro 2018, 4th Report Card for 10 year plan. Final Report came out, most of the SC's comments were incorporated. GCuneen may want to come speak to SC and/or VBOT. Next meeting is next week, focus shifting to NREL event, and prep therefor. She will need some help in preparing this info for PIG. Julie Moller reported that Eric Simon will be attending NREL event. Lisa will include Eric S. and John A. in the prep work. Beth C. noted that NREL event moving forward despite some earlier RF concerns about need/prioritization. Beth raised question about funding for this event.

Commissioner Brennan reported on President Adduci's upcoming address to OPRF Garden Club on the SC's work over the past 2 years: 20 new pollinator and native and inspirational gardens, RE work and partnerships; year round curbside electronic pickups, beekeeping, lobbying work, PIG grant award (and other grants), WCCSW Green Quality Award, Solsmart. She will also advertise Tree Tour, RE, finished compost pickup, OEFF film fest, Roosevelt Sustainability Tour. She also reported that Candidate signs will be collected at the RE. Discussion was had re: Cook County Dept of Environmental and Sustainability report and stricter environmental goals/plans. Discussed Solarize Chicago initiative which may help RF proceed to next level in the Solsmart program. And, Cook County sponsoring Climate workshops, next one is May 15-16 in Chicago. Also, CDP (Carbon Disclosure Project) offered RF to join a reporting and tracking project from April to July, 2019. We want to do this, depends on time/resources.

Director of Public Works, John Anderson reported that the VBOT just approved RF's alignment of its storm water ordinance with the MWRD ordinance. Village Engineer presented to VBOT, the volume control part has been tabled, and will not be in this update of the Village's Ordinance.

Commissioner Moller and Brennan raised that a Willard student wrote to President Adduci with questions about what the Village is doing re: use of straws and plastic bags in RF. Commissioner Moller is working on a response, with proactive suggestions and invitation to a SC meeting.

Solsmart Update

John Anderson reported that our application is in the Committee Review, and MMC has reported that it looks good for a bronze designation. Announcement event scheduled for May 9. Discussion was had re: plan to aim for Silver level next, acknowledging that this level will be more challenging. Kudos to John and Eric S. for their work on this project.

Tracking and Reporting

Katie reported (on behalf of Shannon) that this is started but no substantive report. We might take advantage of CDP platform as well.

Green Block Parties

Lisa reported that she is transitioning with Sue/David, meeting scheduled tomorrow. Waiting to hear in June re: our grant application to OpenLands for GBPs. Julie mentioned that Lincoln Green Club wants a Parkway Pollinator garden, wants to apply under "block party" program. They will contact Lisa G. Julie also mentioned that website needs to be updated for BGP and HLHF. She will have face to face sessions with John A/Jon P., to be set up after the RE.

Budget

Discussion had re: end of fiscal year, with \$1,600 remaining in the Budget. Remaining expenses: RE expenses, Tree Tour flyers, SIO station bags and lamination of signs, GBP expenses. SC Budget approved by VBOT for next year.

Commissioner Procedures

Katie brought up:

- Open Meetings Act reminder: only reply to one other Commissioner at a time on substantive Commission work.
- Reminder that funnel communication on projects through the SC leads on that project (ex. Lisa for GBPs going forward).
- Recommendation to keep SC Ordinance handy: helpful to reread the SC intent and purpose as we conduct SC work.
- Succession discussion: discussed President Adduci's renewal of expiring Commissioner terms, Selection of new Commissioner, Selection of new SC Chair.

New Business

- Middle School Sustainability Tour: Julie confirming that students will plant the herb garden again with the PD; Teacher interested in Sugar Beet, visiting native gardens, etc.
- Green Quality Achievement Award: WCCSWA selected RF for this award, will be presented at a luncheon on April 22.
- OP Plastic Campaign: OP Commission initiative discussed. We will keep our eye on it for future collaboration. Currently a grass roots project.

Old Business

- RE: Plans are proceeding apace. We are hiring 2 SSI employees to work with 2 Village Public Works employees to collect electronics.

- AT update: Public hearing postponed. ED Sletten had promised a report on next steps, not received yet. Julie will follow up. Attendance at May PD meeting is encouraged.
- Tree Tour: May 19, 10-noon, registration requested. Keep publicizing it! Coordinated with RF PL. John will get SIO stations dropped off and picked up, possibly just left there after the Mini Film Fest.
- Comp Plan Update: Thank you Lisa for handling the follow up on incorporation of the SC's revisions! As of today, John Houseal agreed to incorporate the SC's last 2 crucial revisions.
- Bike Trail: Andy continues to follow up with Houseal/KLOA re: when the Bike Path plan will be presented to the VBOT.
- Community Garden: Mary Masalla has been working with PW and the PD. Rental agreements are coming in. She also ran a soil sample, slightly elevated (not dangerous) lead. Will re-test, and analyze whether from compost.
- Tabling for OEFF Mini Film Fest/Young Filmmaker event: SC will be tabling, 3 RF students to be honored, we have table partners.

Special Announcement

Julie thanked Katie for her leadership over past 2 years, and gave her a pansy plant arrangement as a token of thanks. Plan to celebrate later at usual spot. Katie expressed her gratitude and how gratifying it has been to work so well as a team, and accomplish so much together.

Schedule Next Meeting –Scheduled for Tuesday, May14 ,2019 – 7:00 PM, but discussion re: potential need to move that date.

Adjournment at 8:17 pm

Respectfully Submitted:

Signature Line

John Anderson, Secretary

Signature Line

Julie Moller, Chairman
Sustainability Commission

Date: -----