



# VILLAGE OF RIVER FOREST SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION

Tuesday, July 10, 2018 – 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 4/10/2018 Sustainability Commission Meeting
4. Adoption of Meeting Minutes from the 5/8/2018 Sustainability Commission Meeting
5. Commissioner Reports on Meetings
6. Green Block Parties
7. GRC Reporting Project, call for Task Force members, and RF Green Certification Project
8. Community Garden
9. Village Energy Use/Cost Calculation
10. Website: Review for Content, SC Email address
11. Artificial Turf Report and Recommendation
12. Deep Roots Inspirational Edible Garden Project
13. MidYear Review of SC Commissioner Goals
14. Other Business:
  - a. Mosquito Fogging/Larvacide
  - b. Plastic Bags
  - c. Bike Path
  - d. RF Library Touch a Truck Event 8/15/18
  - e. Concordia Homecoming and Carnival Event
  - f. Healthy Lawn Healthy Family Initiative
  - g. Solar Projects: Solsmart Application, Solar in your Community Challenge
  - h. Table Banner/Table Tents project
  - i. Roosevelt Student Presentation: Dedicated Use for Donation, and 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Posters – Potentially Traveling Exhibit Project
  - j. Invitation to Gary Cuneen/PlanItGreen to speak at September meeting
15. Schedule Next Meeting – Tuesday August 14<sup>th</sup>, 2018 – 7:00pm
16. Adjournment



**VILLAGE OF RIVER FOREST  
SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION  
MEETING MINUTES  
Tuesday, April 10 – 7:00 PM**

A regular meeting of the River Forest Sustainability Commission was held on Tuesday, April 10, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. The meeting was conducted in the Community Room at the River Forest Forest Village Hall, 400 Park Ave., River Forest.

**Roll Call and Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 7:06 p.m. Present at the meeting were Commissioners Brennan, Cheng, Chen, Crothers, Masella, and Moller. Absent: Commissioner Simon

**Public Comment**

None

**Adoption of Meeting Minutes from March 13, 2018 Meeting**

Minutes were approved with several corrections.

**Commissioner Reports on Meetings**

- Commissioner Brennan gave a presentation to the Chicago Bar Association Environmental Committee, along with the mayor of Oak Forest and Evanston Sustainability Coordinator. They are further advanced and funded. River Forest's efforts were well received.
- Commissioner Moller attended the Illinois Environmental Committee Commission on water at the University of Illinois.
- Commissioner Crothers attended the Volkswagen Mitigation Plan meeting on behalf of Eric. Illinois has \$108 million paid by VW for illegal car emissions that must be used.

**April 8 Sustainability Commission Event at River Forest Public Library**

*Report:* Each Commissioner spoke for several minutes about their areas of focus and how they became interested in serving on the Commission. About 40 people attended, nine of whom signed up for additional information or to help. Commissioner Cheng reported positive feedback from attendees.

Commissioner Cheng asked if it would be possible to have a sustainability commission email address to use to follow up on offers of help and communicate with residents in future. John

Anderson indicated staff would have to have access to the address. *To Do: John Anderson will look into feasibility of setting up sustainability commission email address.*

The Commissioners thanked Gina Latinovich for her work putting together the library lobby display. *To Do: Commissioner Crothers will take pictures of the display and put together a thank you for Gina Latinovick, to be covered by the Commission's budget.*

The Commissioners also thanked Sue Quinn and Francisca Arnold at the library; Ellen McManus from Dominican who brought beekeeping information and local honey samples to the event; and Village trustees Patty Henek and Tom Cargie for their attendance and support.

Commissioner Brennan shared feedback she received from the trustees. Trustee Cargie shared that all the Commissioners are compelling speakers with passion for the issues. Trustee Henek recommends the presentation be offered once a quarter or twice a year and noted the complementary interests among the Commissioners. She is willing to work with the Commission to further inform residents; she shared ideas such as having high school students make videos. She also said the passion of the commissioners is inspiring and appreciated reminders that even small steps make a difference.

Two commissioners shared discussion of issues with attendees. Sue Quinn, Director of the River Forest Library expressed to Commissioner Chen continuing interest in getting solar on top of library. Discussion ensued on feasibility issues of meeting June deadline for solar grants under Future Energy Jobs Act. Commissioner Crothers connected with Christy Hunt from First Presbyterian about helping them set up sorting for zero waste at their large block party; Christy Hunt mentioned Terra Cycle, a place that recycles items like toothpaste tubes, soap and deodorant packing and has dropoff available at the Sugar Beet Coop.

### **Community Garden at the Pumping Station**

*Report:* Commissioner Masella reported that work is moving ahead on the community garden near the pumping station, a joint project of the Park District of River Forest, the Commission, Public Works and residents Scott and Linda Street. The Park District will open registration for people to begin renting plots on May 15. Based on Commissioner Masella's discussions with Julie Samuels who runs a Chicago area community garden, the option of making the layout more homey and curvilinear is being investigated, and renters will be encouraged to hold social activities which are important for a community garden to thrive. Soil testing will be conducted to baseline of any chemicals.

Discussion ensued about pros and cons of doing a press release and coordination with Park District. *Consensus: Wait until some plots have been planted and then have a ribbon cutting type of event to which the media can be invited.*

There was also discussion of how to publicize to apartment and condo dwellers, including reaching management companies.

Commissioner Cheng asked for clarification of difference between this and the Augusta and Keystone community garden. It was explained that both are owned by the Park District but the

one at Augusta is a foraging herb garden open to any residents; maintenance is the Park District's responsibility but the Sustainability Commission has been involved in helping to plant it and this year Roosevelt 8<sup>th</sup> graders may do so as part of sustainability week tour.

### **Bee Ordinance**

*Report:* Commissioner Brennan reported that the ordinance is now on the website and residents can apply for permits.

### **Turf**

*Report:* Commissioner Brennan reported that turf was discussed at last night's Park District meeting. The Park District is interested in the Commission's research but hasn't identified any specific vendors or products to research. *To do: Commissioners Brennan and Chen will continue to work on the draft white paper and share for review.*

### **Chemical application initiatives**

*Report:* Commissioner Crothers has discussed licensing of lawn care providers to apply chemicals with Eric Palm and John Anderson. The village attorney has indicated that the EPA is responsible for enforcing chemical permits. A change in village code is required in order for the village to enforce requirement of having state license to apply chemicals. Commissioner Crothers indicated President Adduci is supportive of bringing this issue to the Village Board. John Anderson indicated staff needs to determine how to track and enforce such a requirement, and evaluate the impact on staff time. Commissioner Crothers concurred with keeping things as simple as possible in order to minimize impact on staff time. *To do: John Anderson will work with staff on determining how to revise form to track and enforce chemical application status; Commission can then determine what recommendation to make regarding changing the village code to require chemical application permits.*

Commissioner Crothers is researching two state laws, one that pre-empts municipalities regulating chemicals more stringently, and one that requires signs notifying of chemical application to be larger. *To Do: Commissioner Crothers will continue research before making recommendations on what positions Sustainability Commission should take.*

Commissioner Crothers reported that an athletic coach at the last IPM meeting raised issues about use of fogging. She asked for help researching whether the village can by law do larvicide instead of fogging, which is more effective and cost-efficient; options were discussed. John Anderson indicated that the Des Plaines Valley Mosquito Abatement District uses both methods and that spraying is a last resort when West Nile is detected. *To do: Commissioner Masella to find out how Hinsdale handles mosquito abatement from village manager whom she know.*

### **Roosevelt 8<sup>th</sup> grade Sustainability Week**

*Report:* Commissioner Cheng shared that Anna Daly, the Roosevelt teacher, has organized the week around topic areas which are the Commission's goal areas (energy, waste, water, open spaces/ecosystems). Related tour stops take place on different days rather than all on one day as they did last year. *Consensus:* Commissioners generally concurred with the tour stops set forth

in the plan (community garden, village hall, Eric Simon's home to see solar panels, speaker by Roy Strom, possibly stop at bocce ball courts; with Dominican joining one of these stops) developed by Ms. Daly and shared by Commissioner Cheng. Commissioner Moller noted that last year there were some timing issues. *To Do: Commissioners Moller and Cheng to discuss logistics of tour stops after meeting.*

### **Deep Roots**

*Report:* Commissioner Crothers reported Deep Roots did not win the ORPF Community Foundation Big Idea but the funders came up with \$10,000 to support the project. Discussion of how Deep Roots can help with River Forest block parties is underway. The concept is to offer free native gardens on the parkways that attract pollinators; Commissioner Crothers shared drawings of different native garden designs. Commissioner Crothers and Chen are investigating a grant with the mayors caucus to further support this idea.

### **New Business**

It was agreed to defer discussion of all the new business items except purchase of a new Sort It Out bin to replace one that was lost last year.

*Approval: Commissioner Brennan moved to approve purchase of an entire new set rather than just one bin. Commissioner Crothers seconded the motion. Approval was unanimous.*

### **Other Business**

Commissioner Moller reported that for the April 21 Recycling Extravaganza, thanks to Eric, Cathy and John, the village has agreed to cover cost of electronics recycling for residents. The River Forest Citizens Corp, OPRF Community Foundation Future Philanthropists, Roosevelt and Roy Strom will be helping. The Park District and Village will send out reminders.

Next meeting: Tuesday, May 8 at 7 p.m.

Adjourned: 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

*Signature Line*

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John Anderson, Secretary

*Signature Line*

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Date: -----

Kathleen Brennan, Chairman  
Sustainability Commission



**VILLAGE OF RIVER FOREST  
SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION  
MEETING MINUTES  
Tuesday, May 8 – 7:00 PM**

A regular meeting of the River Forest Sustainability Commission was held on Tuesday, May 8, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. The meeting was conducted in the Community Room at the River Forest Forest Village Hall, 400 Park Ave., River Forest.

Chair and secretary were present.

Quorum was present

Public Comment: Susan Charette from Parks Foundation brought to our attention that Jewel/Osco gave the park district a \$2,500 grant to be used to finance community gardens. Park District was going to use some of this money to pay for past purchases for herb garden. Going to research if this is allowed.

#### Commissioner Report on Meetings

Julie attended the Planet green meeting and a meeting regarding zero waste with 7 generations ahead.

Mary Susan - Attended Library Magnificent Mutts event to ask RF residents to take our survey. Attended Leadership Lab and will partner with Suncity Grant with a zero waste grant. Needs 250 to commit but have until December.

Eric - Attended seminar given by a geology professor at UIC regarding the effect of humans on Great Lakes. Would like to bring the Solar Car Race to River Forest Schools.

Mary -no meetings

Beth - Il Green Alliance. April 22nd ambassador table , Party for the Planet,

Recycling Extravaganza - Huge success. 329 residents, 36 non residents, George Strom on site was a huge help providing additional rolloffs. Location was too congested and traffic should line up going West.

Green Block Parties - Secured funding for Pollinators for Parkways with Deep Roots . Deep roots will work with resident on location of garden and come out and cut bed before block party. Resident will understand that the Village can remove garden if necessary. Budgeted for 30 block parties and our budget will cover the Deep Roots labor.

8th Grade sustainability Tour - May 23rd Community Garden AM/PM, May 24th, Roy Strom at school in am, children to visit village hall in PM. May 29th, Eric's house to view solar panels etc.

Artificial Turf - White paper with links regarding artificial turf will be sent to the Village and park district. also take to Parks Foundation for their input.

Community Vegetable Garden - Would like to do a photo event/ribbon cutting at first harvest.

Health Lawn Health Family - needs more stands and help delivering signs. all agreed to help deliver. Deep Roots will educate at green block parties and take pledges.

SC Survey - John fixed the link. 50 responses. will try to set up at Memorial Day parade, Party in the Park. Decided to keep survey open until next meeting June 5th.

Mosquito Fogging/Larvicide - Are we allowed to take tax dollars and change from fogging to larvicide. Still researching this issue.

Website - Changes have been made to structure but not content. Add block party to have its own section.

Deep Roots - Big Idea - First garden is at Dominican. Deep Roots will provide manpower and education. First Presbyterian and Grace Lutheran will be other possible garden locations. The remaining three gardens will be on resident properties and will be chosen by lottery.

Other business - Mary Susan discussed plastic bag fee and lead in our water.

Sue Crothers-Gee - discussed chemical license application by landscapers and chemical companies John is going to follow-up.

Julie - will begin plastic bag fee process

John and Eric will attend the bike path meeting.

Voted and agreed that next meeting should be Tuesday, June 5th.



Respectfully Submitted:

*Signature Line*

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John Anderson, Secretary

*Signature Line*

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Kathleen Brennan, Chairman  
Sustainability Commission

Date: -----