



# VILLAGE OF RIVER FOREST SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION

Tuesday, August 14, 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 6/5/2018 Sustainability Commission Meeting
4. Adoption of Meeting Minutes from the 7/10/2018 Sustainability Commission Meeting
5. Commissioner Reports on Meetings
6. Andy Basney taking lead on Landscaper/Chemical Spray permits, Pesticide-related pending bills, Beekeeping Ordinance follow up; and assisting SCG with RF Garden initiatives, and Mosquito/Larvacide issues.
7. Green Block Parties
8. GRC Reporting and Tracking Task Force
9. Community Garden and Native Planting Project
10. Village Energy Use/Cost Calculation
11. Artificial Turf Report and Recommendation
12. Deep Roots Inspirational Edible Garden Project
13. MidYear Review of SC Commissioner Goals: Education
14. Other Business:
  - a. RF Library Touch a Truck Event 8/15/18
  - b. Concordia Homecoming and Carnival Event
  - c. Social Hour with OP Environmental Commission, 8/28/18
  - d. Healthy Lawn Healthy Family Initiative
  - e. Solar Projects: Solsmart Application, Solar in your Community Challenge
  - f. Roosevelt Student Presentation: Dedicated Use for Donation, and 5th Grade Posters — Potentially Traveling Exhibit Project
  - g. Invitation to Gary Cuneen/PlanItGreen to speak at September meeting
15. Schedule Next Meeting – Tuesday September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2018 – 7:00pm
16. Adjournment



**VILLAGE OF RIVER FOREST  
SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION  
MEETING MINUTES  
Tuesday, June 5, 2018 – 7:00 PM**

A regular meeting of the River Forest Sustainability Commission was held on Tuesday, June 5, 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 7:03 PM. Present at this meeting were Commissioners Brennan, Moller, Simon Chen, and Masella. Commissioner Crothers was absent.

**Public Comment**

No Public Comment

**Commissioner Report on Meetings**

Commissioner Cheng reported that she attended PlanItGreen meeting, discussion included Community Solar, and she shared with Comm. Brennan a letter of intent from PlanItGreen asking OPRF organizations about their energy use, contracts etc. In addition, the Zero Waste group-is trying to communicate changes in recycling and presenting consistent signage. Green Community Connections reported at the meeting they are also doing Green Block Parties and working with Wild Ones, Deep Roots and Sugar Beet Schoolhouse.

Commissioner Masella reported the gardeners had their first meeting they are also planning to plant circle of flowers in the middle of the plots. Want to do some type of ribbon cutting when do the flower planting. There is room for 24 plots but 12 were cut for now. She also reported that the Streets, who were helping with the gardens, have purchased a summer home and will not participating as much with the RF gardens. One of the gardens was reserved a Girl Scout troop and another reserved by a boy and his grandmother.

Commissioner Simon provided notes in our packet regarding the MMC Environment-Energy Subcommittee meeting he attended. The challenge for all communities is the way the utility agreements are structured, the type of agreement we have is a FCA which makes solar projects have no return on solar and no incentive. MMC is working on changing the contracts to give communities incentives. Commission going to look at the 3.98% tax on our bills and energy usage by Village. Village does pay for electricity at pumping station.

Commissioner Chen volunteered at the Wild Ones Plant Sale and is preparing for the Leadership Lab graduation is this Friday, presentation at 4:15pm

Commissioner Moller reported she planted Herb Garden with Roosevelt students, which is on agenda and will report later on meeting with Trustee Corsini.

Commissioner Brennan attended Flamingo Friday, added Sort IT Out stations to Flamingo Friday web info. she attended the solar presentation as part of the Roosevelt Tour and met with Park Foundation member, Susan Charrette, regarding artificial turf.

### **Presentation on Waste Diversion Project by Roosevelt Students**

Mr. Kadlec of Roosevelt Middle School 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Science teacher introduced Charlotte Myer and McKenzie Lovell along with teacher, Amy Rains. The students then presented their waste diversion project as part of their Green4Good student project. They were inspired by the Sustainability Commission talk at the library and concern about the environment. They conducted a waste audit at school and made presentations to all 5<sup>th</sup> grade classes and tutored students during 5<sup>th</sup> grade on what can be composted and recycled. They even had the 5<sup>th</sup> grade students make posters. Lovell and Myers also made snack taxis from cloth that they sewed. The bags were sold during Earth Week at school to replace the use of single use zip-loc bags. The students then donated their earning to the Sustainability Commission.

Photo was taken with the students, teachers, and commission.

After the presentation the commissioners thank the students for their outstanding work and commitment to the environment. They are very inspiring. The discussion followed that the money should be specifically dedicated to one thing and that the posters should be shared with the community. Commissioner Chen shared the idea that maybe we should have a junior commissioner program. Commissioner Simon commented that many schools have student environmental clubs and is happy Roosevelt has one. The commission will think about how to use the posters, make sure to thank the students and think of ways to work more with the G4G student club at the schools.

### **Green Block Parties**

Commissioner Chen reported for Comm. Crothers that the theme is Parkway for Pollinators. Working on getting the website update. Will get an update/clarification on the process.

John Anderson reported that we ordered one more set of SortItOut stations. This makes 3 complete stations to replace the set that had one section missing. We have not ordered the 2 other stations yet, it was decided to go ahead and order 2 more sets. The Village already ordered bags.

### **Roosevelt Sustainability Tour**

Commission Cheng reported that Anna Daly, the teacher at Roosevelt in charge of the tour put the week together and created a context for the students. Students planted the community herb garden with Julie Moller. Ellen McMamus from Dominican University was also on site to share information about beekeeping at Dominican and Mary Susan Chen brought her worms and shared information on vermicomposting.

Village Manager, Eric Palm spoke to the students at Village Hall regarding permeable pavers, LED lights, prescription drop off and rain barrels.

Eric Simon spoke to the students at his home about solar energy-explained to the students how the solar is offsetting energy use in his home. President Adduci also attended as well as Katie Brennan. They explained how commission was started and explained how “things get done” at the Village.

George Strom from Roy Strom Company spoke at the school regarding waste, recycling and compost.

Commissioner Cheng will be putting together a report with notes so that it will be easier next year to organize the tours.

### **Update on Community Gardens**

Currently 11 beds cut, 1 bed was not cut not sure why. Requested from PD for them to cut the 12<sup>th</sup> space. Waiting to hear back. There will be several meetings over the summer so that group can have events to create community. Members will share emails to hear about events etc. Comm. Masella thinks that next

year we could come close to getting 24 gardens reserved. Comm. Masella explained that the beds are not raised garden beds, they are cut into the sod, since kids sled on the hill in the wintertime. There is a water source but no trash containers everything is carry in, carry out. It was suggested that during fall clean up that a couple of compost carts could be provided. The question was asked where does the fee money go? Money goes to Park District. Commissioner Masella also reported that the planting of natives have started at Franklin and Hawthorne.

### **Solar Projects**

Commissioner Simon reported that our SolSmart application would be in conjunction with MMC. SolSmart status can be bronze, silver or gold designation. Our goal will be to get bronze. The idea is Sol Smart provides information for residents to install solar. To earn a designation there are certain steps you take to earn a level. Sol Smart will help us to put together a streamlined plan to get information to residents so that they know how they can get solar. We will hear back in a couple of months and it doesn't cost anything. FYI we already have a permitting process for installing solar.

Commissioner Cheng reported OP is going for gold designation.

Solar in Your Community Challenge-Commissioner Cheng also reported at PlanItGreen has been sending letters to OPRF Community Fndn, Interfaith Green Network, and RF Institutions asking them to work together to meet the 2 MW energy minimum for a grant. Interfaith was thinking that 30 congregations could get together. RF applied for Solar in Your Community through PlanItGreen but our role is unclear. No one from PlanItGreen has contacted commission on what information they need or who they are contacting. The commission thought it was important to understand the initiatives that are being undertaken. We need our own strategy to be most effective and need to know who has they contacted. Moller reported that she shared D90 information with Seven Generations. Comm. Cheng will work on getting more information from Gary Cunneen.

### **Artificial Turf**

Commissioner Brennan met with Susan Charrette, Park District Foundation member to ask if they Park Foundation wanted to co-sponsor our turf report. Susan said that she was interested and would take it to the board, since they have been looking at the question of turn since 2014. Katie will ask Cal Davis, RF Park District board member, if we can be on June 14 meeting agenda. The commission would like to share a copy of our report and be on the agenda. Commissioner Brennan and Chen will attend next PD meeting

### **SC Survey**

Commissioner Cheng reported that the results were low last time she checked. John Anderson will check the current numbers and we will discuss at the next meeting.

### **Website**

Commissioner Chen presented the updates on the website. Information is now grouped under Guide to Sustainability. The menu was redone and the Green News content is updated each month after the report for the e-newsletter. Green Block parties has its own tab now. Want to include more photos to make more dynamic. Other 4 categories, relate to commission goals, open space is now landscaping, community initiatives are things that are not our programs. Thank you to Comm. Chen and to John Anderson and Village staff for helping us update site. Comm. Cheng reported that a week after our meeting she will send a web update to John Anderson so that information is only sent one time per month. The next step is for individual commissioners to look at their subject area and submit updates to Comm. Cheng. The priority this month is to get the Green Block Party information up and current.

### **Bike Path**

The project is important to participate in but it is inactive right now. Comm. Moller will be back up for meetings if Comm. Simon cannot attend and Comm. Cheng will also make herself available.

### **Other Business**

**Mosquito Abatement**-Sue will report at next meeting

**Plastic Bags**-Do we want to expand to straws and stir sticks asked Comm. Simon. Comm. Moller reported that she did meet with Trustee Corsini and contacted Eric Palm about the Village status of non-home rule and what that would mean for a bag fee. Turns out that a referendum would need to take place if there was any tax collected like OP, Evanston and City of Chicago (these communities are all home rule). Julie reported about non-home rule and what that means-not sure up for a referendum, Comm. Moller said commission should come up with a plan around incentives. Comm. Moller will come up with an education plan and how to reduce usage.

**Healthy Lawn**-moves forward

**RF Touch a Truck**-Sue and Mary Susan blender bike smoothies, August 15, Wednesday morning-we are paying for this, it is \$200 educational outreach...we will promote compost...etc.

**Deep Roots edible garden project**-Deep Roots offering 6 free Edible Gardens must be in highly visible area, apply on-line through Deep Roots. Grace Lutheran is interested, contacted Dominican and Presbyterian Church.

**Rain Ready Goal Review**-Proposal by Center for Neighborhood Technology gave us a proposal for Rain Ready. Commission Moller and Brennan have been working on this. The plan costs nothing, the group provides a community snapshot and provides tips for flood resiliency. A robust conversation followed by the questions from Commission Simon asking what goal does this fall under...is this already included in Village planning? Mary Susan Chen will ask John Houseal if we should use this. Beth agreed caution with the timetable; it will still require time for a quality report. Would the Village Board also need to approve the work to be done, how will they get all the information? Does board need to approve. What problem are we trying to solve. John Anderson attended a Rain Ready presentation and commented it was mostly tips for residents and we (the Village) already provide that, we are aware of these things.

It was decided we would not pursue the Rain Ready Proposal at this time.

Commissioner Brennan announced-Commissioner Chen is now our volunteer liaison and will track volunteer names and interests.

Commissioner Brennan reported she talked with Commissioner Dersk of OP and they discussed getting the 2 commissions together. The group agreed that is a good idea. Comm. Brennan will work on a date

Meeting adjourned 9:07 pm.

Respectfully Submitted:

*Signature Line*

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John Anderson, Secretary

*Signature Line*

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Kathleen Brennan, Chairman  
Sustainability Commission

Date: -----



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

A regular meeting of the River Forest Sustainability Commission was held on Tuesday, July 10<sup>th</sup>, 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.

Roll call. (all present)

No Public comment

Minutes adopted

April 10: No changes:

May 8 adopted with typo corrections.

Commission President, Katie Brennan welcomed to Andy Basney

**Reports:**

**Commissioner Simon:**

Attended the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus Energy Sub Committee meeting in Will County.

Commissioner Simon reported on speakers at the meeting:

John Novak, Romeoville Mayor spoke about how Romeoville incentivized companies to install clean energy in their community by waving permit fees for solar as incentive.

Will County has large roof top arrays in region and all kinds of community solar projects. They have aggressively supported community solar on municipality buildings and all municipality building rehabs will be LEED gold certified by 2020. The Court House will be LEED gold and Solar.

Mr Pruit, Energy consultant for MMC. Discussed Community solar opportunities that would be relevant to River Forest and residential solar which could also be relevant to River Forest.

A law firm representative gave a legislation update. ComEd has challenged items within FEJA.

Wayne Lavey from University of Illinois reported on a community solar guide on their website to offer information support to village attorneys, zoning boards etc: Commission Simon said that this was a great resource for RF and would share the website link with the other commissioners.

Bill Foster, congressman. Offered updates on what is happening on the federal level. Commissioner Simon's big take away: We need to have break out subcommittee to work with the village to manage how subscriptions to solar are sold to residents. He said that there are a lot of "bad player's" selling solar subscriptions. This is a big problem as they are not always ethical. This is hard to manage as it is difficult to pass local ordinance and laws to protect residents. John Anderson mentioned it had came up at the VBOT meeting on Monday, July 9<sup>th</sup>. These companies were already selling in RF in an unethical manner and residents could end up paying more.

Commission Moller stated that she had received some complaints from residents and shared an email she had received. The resident shared that a company called Star Energy had come to their door. They had a badge of some sort so residents are confused.

Commissioner Simon stated that this is a downstream problem for us as when we do want to implement solar programs the residents will have a lack of trust.

Commissioner Basney asked if there is an approved list of contractor to which Commissioner Simon responded that these are developers selling solar farms selling the racks for power not contractors.

It was decided that Commissioner Simon will take the lead on this and work with the village to address this issue and discuss Best Practice local ordinance. ICC, SCC ISEA

Commission President, Brennan suggested asking President Adduci to issue a warning at the top of her next resident newsletter. John Anderson said that the Police Chief was going to place poster on website. Commission President Brennan suggested that the Village place the information on top of website and on village Facebook page, plus create a SC statement so that we are all informing residents correctly. Commissioner Simon to prepare this.

## **Commissioner Chen**

Working on volunteer spreadsheet for community events. Upcoming Party in the Park July 19<sup>th</sup> 6-7:30pm, hosted by the Park District expects approximately 400 people. Commissioner Chen is looking for my volunteers. Commissioner Crothers, offered to volunteer.

Concordia Makin' Tracks race on Sep15<sup>th</sup> also needed volunteers. Commissioner Chen has sent out an email request to residents who are on our volunteer list.

Commissioner Chen asked for an inventory check on the Sort it Out stations.

John Anderson mentioned that 2 entire sets were missing from Jul 8<sup>th</sup> block party.

Commissioner Crothers said she would send the email contact for the 8<sup>th</sup> July block party to Commissioner Chen so that she could follow up with the resident to find the



missing stations. Note: there is a fee charged to the residents to cover the costs of replacing the stations if the stations cannot be found.

Inventory: We should have 5 plus an incomplete set. John Anderson doubled checked and we only have 2 stations. Com Pres, Brennan, mentioned that PD has its own Sort it Out stations to which Commissioner Moller corrected that these are not real Sort it Out, but regular trash cans with signs. Com Pres, Brennan suggested lending the SC sets. Therefore finding missing stations is necessary. Commissioner Moller said that event may be ok with just two, but we must be sure to confirm PD does not put out other trash bins as this causes confusion. It was also noted that the PD has recycle service but not compost. Commissioner Chen to ask Karen Stille at the PD to coordinate compost to various Commissioners own bins.

**Commissioner Moller:**

SWANO. (acronym to be confirmed)

Will attend a task force for recycle to prevent contamination on July 16<sup>th</sup> in Springfield via call in. This is because of the China ban on US recycled materials because of too much contamination. A new updated list is being created by SWANO to provide state wide information of what is accepted in recycle.

**Commission President Brennan:**

Attended the MMC Environmental Sub Committee meeting on June 19<sup>th</sup>, Greenest Regent Compact; tracking and reporting. They are forming a taskforce. Tracking metrics for all categories of GRC. Our reporting for RF will not be difficult as the SC is already doing much that we can check. This will assist in our own tracking and could assist with future certification. We now have GRC badge, Tree City USA. Climate Charter Signatory. These are all now listed on our website.

PC Brennan resented turf report to Parks Foundation and attended the planting of the first Parkway Pollinator garden at a Green Block Party on Bonnie Brae. She is also working on a garden collaboration with Concordia.

**Commissioner Cheng**

Attended Illinois Green Alliance. (former US Green Council) Energy Efficiency Ambassador meeting. Commissioner Cheng is trying work on outreach to change behavior. She says that we should use the AIGA EFA PowerPoint, but she still doesn't see a compelling way to change behavior. Still needs to work on this, but she

is keeping the group on her radar. They will share information and they have grant opportunities.

360 Energy Group has a carbon drawdown goal to reach 1000s of households to change energy behavior. John Anderson mentioned that they were intermediary to get LED street lights in RF. Commissioner Cheng will continue to find connections such as this.

Commissioner Cheng is still compiling report from Roosevelt Sustainability Tour, so we have a reference for next year. CP Brennan mentioned that the SC received thank you notes from teacher. Commissioners Cheng and Chen mentioned that they had received some form students too.

Com Cheng reported that a Sustainability Club was formed by D90 as part of its strategic plan. Teacher Sponsor will be Anna Daly, plus students.

### **Items:**

#### **Commissioner Crothers:**

Green Block Parties:

The first Parkway Pollinator Garden was planted at a GBP on Bonnie Brae. Com Pres, Brennan attended and reported that it was a great event. It was hot by many participated and enjoyed it. She felt that ownership of the project was achieved. Trustee Henek who lives on that block took the sod compost along with the host of the garden.

#### **Comm Pres, Brennan for Ex-Commissioner Masella**

Community Gardens:

Ex-Commissioner Masella attended the Community Garden kick off event. Com Pres, Brennan said that Ex-Com Masella reported that the gardens are growing and it has been a huge success. Mary Masella is going to continue to work on the projects despite no longer being on the Commission. Mary is still handling some small complaints.

We need a new commissioner for next season to take this on.

Official ribbon cutting: Com Chen to follow up with Mary Masella to ensure it is on the schedule.

#### **Com Simon:**

Still need to gather energy usage information from providers from past two years. ComEd and Nicor.

Com Simon and John Anderson will obtain by next meeting. If we are to do any energy projects we need historical data.

Com Pres, Brennan reported that MMC said that we should get the info and offered a contact. Com Simon took the contact information and promised to follow up.

It was noted again that the Village doesn't pay anything for its energy usage and that we need to understand how much the village is using and how much are residents paying to compensate. Com Simon to work with John Anderson to collect this information by next meeting.

### **Com Cheng**

Website.

Will like to update the Healthy Lawn Healthy Family page. Com Crothers to get info to Com Cheng for the update.

Com Cheng asked commissioners to share what new information that should go up and to share with her. Deadline to share is July 17<sup>th</sup>.

Com Cheng reported that we now have sustainability email address:

Beth will work on details of how best to operate the email address. She will be the monitor and investigate creating folders so commissioners can access emails pertinent to them and respond.

Address is: [sustainability@vrfs.us](mailto:sustainability@vrfs.us)

### **Com Pres, Brennan**

Artificial Turf.

PD has set aside 1.2M for turf. Com Pres, Brennan presented recommendation to the Parks Foundation. Asked PF to confirm by July 19<sup>th</sup> if they would like to collaborate with us. Com Pres Brennan said one more draft is needed to clean it up. Idea is to present to Village board then PD board per village board request. Board had not enough info on their last decision and would like to be informed to make better decisions in the future.

John Anderson suggested that it may have to go through Development Review Board process like the Fenwick project.

Com Moller suggested presenting to Development Review Board first. John Anderson to confirm with Eric Palm if this is the protocol.

### **Com Crothers**

Deep roots Inspirational Project.

First garden to be installed at the Trailside Museum July 29<sup>th</sup>. Com Crothers invited commissioners to attend.

Need to follow up with Dominican as the planned garden is in question and we are not sure why.

Com Pres Brennan to follow up with River Forest Temple with regard to their interest in an IG.

Com Crothers to send information to commissioners on the Edible Inspirational Gardens and asked them to promote/inform residents.

Com Crothers to send information to commissioners on Trailside garden event details.

### **Com Cheng**

SC Survey update: We currently have 135 responses. Need to do another push. Will utilize the upcoming events, IE: Inspirational Garden event at trailside, to give out information slips with link to survey.

### **Com Crothers/Brennan**

Com Pres, Brennan shared a pamphlet on DVMAD's lavae siding. The issue of Mosquito abatement is still one we need to address.

Mosquitoes john to follow up on website information.

### **Com Chen**

Reported that the Sort It Out stations will be at the Library's upcoming Touch a Truck event, Aug 15<sup>th</sup> 10-12am and SC is sponsoring the Sugar Beet School House Smoothie Bike for the event.

Other event: Cougar Palooza Home coming, Oct 5-7 Sort it out bins.

Com Chen reaching out to Concordia contacts to engage them in waste diversion: IE: Sort it Out and compost etc:

Com Chen will be the SC Ambassador to them.

### **Com Moller**

Plastic bags:

Still working on this issue. Because we are not Home Rule there would need to be a referendum to tax plastic bags, so we are looking at plan B. Com Basney asked if there was a reason not to pursue a referendum. Com Moller stated that with the Tiff being front and center that she did not feel that this was a good idea to go that route right now. She is looking into other ideas.

### **Com Crothers**

Reported that HLHF still promoting through GBP.

### **Com Simon**

Solsmart:

Com Simon did not have the update on the challenge.

Com Pres, Brennan

Table Banner

Com Pres Brennan showcased our new table banner created by resident: Gina Latinovich. Gina offered credit for overpayment. To be credited for next project.

Roosevelt Student presentation: Com Pres Brennan reported that students were honored at the VBOT meeting on July 9<sup>th</sup>. She suggested that the donation the students gave to SC from their reusable sandwich wraps sales of \$83.00 should be used for a SC high profile project. Perhaps 5<sup>th</sup> grade poster traveling exhibit. Com Moller suggested placing a poster in Jewel cart next year  
Com Crothers Suggested doing a yearly event to honor the Charlotte and McKenzie Day which is July 9<sup>th</sup>,

**Com Cheng**

PlanItGreen

Collaboration and communication with PlanItGreen. Community Solar Project. It's a Complex project and Com Cheng suggested accepting request from Gary Cuneen to come and present to SC to discuss energy and how we can support. It was mentioned that Letters of interest we sent by PlanItGreen to River Forest community, but we are unclear as to who? And if there was any response. Gary has invited us to be signatory so we would like him to present. It was suggested he should be invited to our Oct meeting.

**Additional Item:**

Com Pres Brennan

Oak Park Environmental and Energy Committee together with RF SC social hour to get to know each other. Suggested dates: Aug 27<sup>th</sup>- 30<sup>th</sup> Com Brennan will send an email/doodle.

Meeting adjourned

Respectfully Submitted:

*Signature Line*

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John Anderson, Secretary

*Signature Line*

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Kathleen Brennan, Chairman  
Sustainability Commission

Date: -----