

## **Riverwoods Sustainability & Climate Action Task Force**

Riverwoods Village Hall

2024-07-09 Meeting Minutes

### **CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**

The meeting began at 7:00pm. Attendees include: Laurie Breitkopf (Co-Lead), Julie Varvaro (Co-Lead), Michael Clayton, Jo Donley, Michael Lyons, Lisa Marshall, Lester Raff, Wendy Rosenholtz, Jeff Smith.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

No corrections were proposed to the draft meeting minutes. A motion was made and seconded to approve the June 25, 2024 meeting minutes. All attendees approved; there were no objections.

### **LEADERSHIP REPORT ON STATUS OF TASK FORCE**

- Village electric aggregation contract: Laurie Breitkopf previously shared in the last meeting that Nathan Whiteman (Riverwoods Preservation Council Intern) analyzed the Village's electric aggregation plan. Laurie and Nathan provided a summary of RPC's analysis to the Board of Trustees at its July 2 meeting. Laurie added at this Task Force meeting that she was disappointed in the Village's electric aggregation contract review process. Discussion points included the following:
  - Review process: Additional Trustee and resident preparation time, adequate analysis, and detailed discussions are needed for a thorough and thoughtful evaluation of such programs. The Village did not ask questions about the elements of Nordic Energy's Renewable Energy Option, which is based on biofuels that may be non-sustainable.
  - Responsibility: The in-depth analysis conducted by Nathan (under the direction of the RPC) was extremely helpful, but is more appropriate for the Board to handle through staff or consultant review. A nonprofit such as the RPC should not have had to carry out an analysis of a Village contract affecting residents.
  - Costs: Task Force members pointed out that electric rates in the new aggregation contract will be higher than the current ComEd rates, and some long-standing vendors tend to maintain higher rates for the Village of Riverwoods.

### **SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS**

- There are no updates from the Climate/Energy Subcommittee.
- Municipal Operations Subcommittee needs members; there are no members at this time.
- Land Subcommittee seeks additional subcommittee members.

### **DISCUSSION OF SUSTAINABILITY PLAN ELEMENTS**

- A. Next steps for Task Force:
  - a. The Task Force will complete the review of all objectives. Then, each subcommittee will prioritize actions within its subject area. Please also refer to additional discussion and details below in the "Discussion of Next Steps" section within the table.
  - b. Julie shared that many Task Force members remain committed to this initiative, but their schedules don't allow them to attend the regularly scheduled (Tuesday) Task Force meetings. They will be able to participate more during the subcommittee

meetings, however. So, our Task Force continues to have an active membership and participation!

B. Discussion of MOBILITY and LEADERSHIP Objectives: Refer to the table below.

Topic	Action/Outcome
<p><b>B. Discussion on MOBILITY objective:</b> The categories are underlined below along with the individual goals (M1 thru M39).</p> <p><u>Bike &amp; Pedestrian (M1-M5) - Support safe and effective active transportation:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <i>M1 - Identify gaps in pedestrian and the bicycle networks and barriers to active modes of travel.</i> Interested in pursuing. <b>Discussion:</b> Riverwoods Rd and Saunders Rd are county roads managed by Lake County, whereas Portwine Road is not. So, the Task Force will assess Portwine Road for this objective. A barrier to active modes of travel (i.e., walking and bicycle path) for Portwine Road are the swales along the road. The Village estimated a cost of \$1 million to add a path.</li> <li>● <i>M2 - Create a bicycle and pedestrian plan to improve connectivity in the community and beyond.</i> Interested in pursuing.</li> <li>● <i>M3 - Implement recommendations from the bicycle and pedestrian plan.</i> Interested in pursuing. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <i>M3a - &gt;Earn Bicycle Friendly Community designation.</i> Not planned.</li> <li>○ <i>M3b - &gt;Earn Walk Friendly Community designation.</i> Not planned.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● <i>M4 - Collaborate with regional partners to connect on-and off-road bicycle facilities with existing and planned regional trail networks.</i> Interested in pursuing. The Village should work with the County.</li> <li>● <i>M5 - Provide bicycle parking at municipal facilities, business districts and transit stations and in neighborhoods.</i> Interested in pursuing. Will need to check if bike racks are still present on the Village Hall grounds.</li> </ul> <p><u>Transportation Infrastructure (M6-M14) - Maintain a diverse, safe and efficient transportation network:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <i>M6 - Maintain streets and sidewalks for efficiency and safety without harming natural resources.</i> Interested in pursuing. <b>Comment:</b> Lake County is adding multi-use paths, which remove many trees and native plants. Many acknowledged and agreed that it's often a trade-off of one goal for another.</li> <li>● <i>M7 - Maintain efficient traffic flow within and around the community.</i> Interested in pursuing.</li> <li>● <i>M8 - Synchronize traffic signals to reduce vehicle idling.</i> Planned for next 12-18 months. <b>Discussion:</b> The stoplight for Thorngate entrance (at Saunders Road) is sporadically long, as is the light at Portwine and Deerfield Roads. This may be an easy item to check. Suggest having Nathan Whiteman (intern) check with our Village Engineer or contact Lake County about the timing of stoplights, when they were last checked, and whether a re-assessment is needed to address long wait times (which leads to long idling times).</li> <li>● <i>M9 - Incorporate sustainable roadways into capital improvement planning, proactively plan for major transportation infrastructure improvements.</i> Interested in pursuing. (Examples of sustainable roadways include permeable asphalt, asphalt that blocks UV rays, using more environmentally-friendly sealants for asphalt pavements, etc.)</li> <li>● <i>M10 - Collaborate to develop transportation infrastructure with context sensitivity.</i> To be determined - Must clarify the definition of "context sensitivity."</li> <li>● <i>M11 - Coordinate with regional transportation agencies to maximize bicycle, pedestrian, vehicular transit, and rail connectivity and mobility.</i> Interested in pursuing.</li> <li>● <i>M12 - Collaborate to provide alternative fuel infrastructure at public sites.</i> Planned for next 12-18 months. <b>Discussion:</b> This objective is linked to M17, which is to collaborate to <b>support</b> a network of alternative fueling infrastructure. Recommend to place electric charging/alternate fueling stations at the police and</li> </ul>	<p><b>ACTION:</b> For M5, check for bicycle racks on Village Hall grounds.</p> <p><b>ACTION:</b> For M8, Nathan Whiteman to follow-up with the Village Engineer about the stoplights at the Thorngate subdivision and intersection of Portwine &amp; Deerfield Roads.</p> <p><b>ACTION:</b> For M10, research the meaning of "context sensitivity".</p>

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<p>fire stations, especially if these departments eventually obtain either a hybrid- or electric- vehicles Research whether the Village would receive a percentage of charging fees from provider..</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <i>M13 - Incorporate trees and other green infrastructure elements into roadway design and maintenance for functionality and aesthetics.</i> In progress. <b>Discussion:</b> Ongoing, but needs more work. There has been some success with the County's planned expansion of Deerfield Road, which permitted wildlife pathways, and the County's understanding of need to preserve as many native trees and native plants as possible . Now, there may be further opportunity with Riverwoods Road by suggesting the use of native plants or sedges (for less frequent cutting and grows well in wet grounds).</li> <li>● <i>M+14 - +Use the Envision checklist and infrastructure sustainability rating system to guide project development.</i> Interested in pursuing. (NOTE: Envision is a framework document on sustainability and a rating system developed by a non-profit organization.)</li> </ul> <p><b>Stewardship (M15-M22) - Support efficient transportation that uses resources wisely:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <i>M15 - Support regional transportation innovation.</i> Interested in pursuing. <b>Discussion:</b> Task Force members felt it was possible to help educate and communicate about regional transportation innovation, but there is limited ability to influence or effect regional transportation innovation. Consider investigating whether this is addressed through the Mayor's Caucus.</li> <li>● <i>M16 - Support coordinated investment to improve efficiency in passenger and freight railroads.</i> Not relevant.</li> <li>● <i>M17 - Collaborate to support a network of alternate fueling infrastructure.</i> Planned for next 12-18 months. (Of note, this objective is linked to M12, which is to collaborate to <b>provide</b> alternative fuel infrastructure at public sites.)</li> <li>● <i>M18 - Advocate for broad adoption of clean fuel fleets (i.e utilities, businesses, other agencies etc.).</i> Planned for next 6 months. <b>Discussion:</b> The purchase of hybrid or electric vehicles will be assessed during budget reviews, so plan for 6 months as a target for this objective.</li> <li>● <i>M19 - Support strong national fuel efficiency standards.</i> Not planned.</li> <li>● <i>M20 - Seek both public and private partnership to finance transportation system improvements.</i> Not planned.</li> <li>● <i>M21 - Strategically manage parking policies and priorities to advance sustainability.</i> Not planned.</li> <li>● <i>M22 - Create Safe Routes to School.</i> Planned for next 12-18 months. <b>Discussion:</b> This is a need for our residents and community. This is an IDOT program with potential for grants.</li> </ul> <p><b>Policy (M23-M28) - Integrate sustainability into transportation policies, programs and regulations:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <i>M23 - Enact and enforce anti-idling policies for public fleet vehicles.</i> Planned for next 6 months.</li> <li>● <i>M24 - Designate no idling zones at schools, transit stations etc.</i> Not planned.</li> <li>● <i>M25 - Adapt engineering standards to incorporate sustainable practices into roadway construction and maintenance while assuring public safety.</i> Interested in pursuing. <b>Discussion:</b> Examine further since it is unclear if: (1) this will impact HOA roadwork, (2) the Village codes currently include such standards, and (3) there is a need to incorporate such standards into Village roadwork contracts.</li> <li>● <i>M26 - Adapt building codes to accommodate and encourage alternate fuel infrastructure.</i> Planned for next 6 months. <b>Discussion:</b> The draft Residential Planned Development Ordinance now under discussion by the Village Plan Commission includes a provision encouraging alternate fuel infrastructure.</li> <li>● <i>M27 - Adopt a Complete Streets policy to benefit all road users.</i> Interested in</li> </ul>	

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<p>pursuing. <b>Discussion:</b> A “complete street” is in reference to a roadway design for all users. Historically, the Village provided input for the development of Saunders Road.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <i>M28 - Revise subdivision code to promote active transportation, i.e., street sanctions that require bicycle facilities and sidewalks.</i> Interested in pursuing. <b>Discussion:</b> Must examine further to see if the draft Residential Planned Development Ordinance includes provisions about walking and bicycle paths and alternate mobility routes</li> </ul> <p><u>Shared-use Mobility (M29-M33) - Promote public and sustainable transportation choices:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <i>M29 - Collaborate to maintain and enhance transit facilities.</i> Not relevant.</li> <li>● <i>M30 - Collaborate to expand regional transit capacity and improve service.</i> Interested in pursuing.</li> <li>● <i>M31 - Expand local transit connections to meet identified needs.</i> Interested in pursuing. <b>Discussion:</b> Of note, the Village has an existing senior citizen program that provides funds for taxis. It is an ongoing program that is actively used by several residents.</li> <li>● <i>M32 - Collaborate to provide multi-modal transportation options to resolve the first and last mile barrier.</i> Not relevant.</li> <li>● <i>M33 - Encourage municipal employees to use alternative modes of transportation to commute to work.</i> Not planned.</li> </ul> <p><u>Education &amp; Outreach (M34-M39) - Promote public and sustainable transportation choices.</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <i>M34 - Encourage residents and visitors to walk and bike.</i> Planned for next 6 months. <b>Discussion:</b> Julie added that this could be easily achieved through the Riverwoods newsletter or through the RRA communications. This communication will be completed as part of the Education &amp; Outreach subcommittee efforts - a quick-win.</li> <li>● <i>M35 - Promote the availability of regional transit options.</i> Planned for next 12-18 months. <b>Discussion:</b> Include train, bus, vans, bikes, etc. This communication will be completed as part of the Education &amp; Outreach subcommittee efforts - a quick-win.</li> <li>● <i>M36 - Collaborate with the community's largest employers to offer flex scheduling, telecommuting, public and active transportation.</i> Not planned. Note: Discover is likely pursuing all of these options. It would be worthwhile to ask Discover what steps it's taking.</li> <li>● <i>M37 - Educate the community on the negative impacts of car idling.</i> Planned for next 6 months. This communication will be completed as part of the Education &amp; Outreach subcommittee efforts - a quick-win.</li> <li>● <i>M38 - Advocate for mass transit funding.</i> Not planned.</li> <li>● <i>M39 - Encourage active transportation and community building in an open streets event.</i> Not planned.</li> </ul>	<p><b>ACTION:</b> For M34, M35, and M37: communication to be completed by the Education &amp; Outreach subcommittee.</p> <p>Follow up with Kathia Benitez at Discover regarding M36.</p>
<p><b>B. Discussion on LEADERSHIP objective:</b> The categories are underlined below along with the individual goals (LP1 thru LP11).</p> <p><u>Leadership (LP1-LP5) - Enlist support for GRC2 goals through regional, state and national leadership:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <i>LP1 - Engage with academia and non-governmental organizations to support the GRC2.</i> In progress. <b>Comment:</b> Of note, this objective is ongoing through the support and efforts of Kathia Benitez and Nathan Whiteman (intern).</li> <li>● <i>LP2 - Engage with state and national municipal associations to align actions with GRC2.</i> In progress. <b>Comment:</b> Jeff Smith will meet with the Mayor's group on this project.</li> </ul>	

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <i>LP3 - Report local and regional environmental data to advance national and international collaborative efforts (e.g., GHG reporting, water supply planning).</i> Planned for next 6 months. <b>Discussion:</b> This objective is linked to E20, which is “Track and benchmark energy consumption through ENERGY STAR Portfolio Manager”. Nathan Whiteman (intern) will collect data for input into applicable databases, so this effort is already planned.</li> <li>● <i>LP4 - Share information about municipal leadership in sustainability broadly in the community and externally.</i> In progress. <b>Discussion:</b> This can easily be achieved by posting this information into our village website, which may include the GoGreen program and Regional Tree initiative.</li> <li>● <i>LP5 - Seek recognition for community sustainability achievements.</i> In progress. <b>Discussion:</b> Riverwoods’ status for “Tree City USA” has expired, but Nathan Whiteman has been assigned to submit and/or renew our status. Consider a presentation at the GoGreen meeting about our efforts.</li> </ul> <p><u>Advocacy (LP6-LP8) - Advocate for policies that align with and advance the GRC2:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <i>LP6 - Advocate for state policies and investment that support municipal advances in sustainability.</i> Not planned.</li> <li>● <i>LP7 - Advocate for federal policies and investment that support municipal advances in sustainability.</i> Not planned.</li> <li>● <i>LP8 - Seek collaboration with the business sector to support municipal sustainability (e.g., product stewardship).</i> In progress. <b>Discussion:</b> Businesses, such as Discover and others have their own “green” efforts and plans. Likewise, groups, such as the Mayor’s Caucus also meet for alignment. (Refer to LP2 also.)</li> </ul> <p><u>Collaboration (LP9-LP11) - Work collaboratively towards a sustainable region:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <i>LP9 - Partner with other local governments to achieve efficiency and sustainability.</i> In progress.</li> <li>● <i>LP10 - Participate with regional, state and federal initiatives to plan and achieve sustainability.</i> In progress.</li> <li>● <i>LP11 - Partner with non-governmental organization to advance sustainability in the community and regionally.</i> In progress.</li> </ul>	<p><b>ACTION:</b> For LP4, this is to be completed by the Education &amp; Outreach subcommittee.</p>
<p><b>Discussion of NEXT STEPS:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Complete the review of all objectives</li> <li>● Subcommittees: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Divide subcommittees into 4 general groups: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Energy and Climate</li> <li>■ Education and Outreach</li> <li>■ Codes and Policies</li> <li>■ Conservation/Preservation/Mobility/Transportation</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ The Task Force will sort all objectives by priority and timing (based on the Excel file). Then, each subcommittee will assess and sort all objectives according to their subcommittee groupings. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ For example, the Education and Outreach subcommittee will identify and prioritize any education/outreach-related objectives from all ten Objectives in the GRC Framework document.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
<p><b>Homework for next meeting on Tuesday, July 23rd -</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Waste &amp; Recycling (pages 22-23)</li> <li>● Water (pages 24-28)</li> </ul>	<p>Link for reference: <a href="#">GRC Framework</a></p>

**PUBLIC COMMENT** - None

**OTHER BUSINESS** - None

**ADJOURNMENT** - The meeting was adjourned at 8:00pm.

**Next Scheduled Meeting - Tuesday, July 23, 2024 at 7:00pm** in the Conference Room of the Village Hall.