

**MINUTES
WINNETKA VILLAGE COUNCIL
JOINT STUDY SESSION MEETING OF WINNETKA VILLAGE COUNCIL &
PLAN COMMISSION
March 14, 2023**

(Approved: April 18, 2023)

A record of a legally convened meeting of the Council of the Village of Winnetka, which was held at Council Chambers on Tuesday, March 14, 2023, at 7:00 PM.

- 1) Call to Order. President Rintz called the meeting to order at 7:01 PM. Manager Bahan called the roll of the Village Council. Present: Trustees Rob Apatoff, Andy Cripe, Bob Dearborn, Kim Handler, and John Swierk. Absent: Trustee Tina Dalman. Community Development Director David Schoon called the roll of the Plan Commission. Present: Chair Bridget Orsic, Commissioners Mamie Case, Layla Danley, Chris Foley, and Liz Kunkle. Absent: Commissioners Jonathan Alt, John Golan, and Matt Bradley. Also present: Village Manager Robert Bahan, Assistant Village Manager Kristin Kazenas, Village Attorney Ben Schuster, Deputy Village Clerk Berina Gradjan, Community Development Director David Schoon, Assistant Community Development Director Ann Klaassen, and approximately 2 persons in the audience.
- 2) Public Comment. None.
- 3) Review of Proposed Comprehensive Plan.

President Rintz states that the Plan Commission, representatives from the Lakota Group, and Village staff will review the Winnetka Futures 2040 Plan, the proposed Comprehensive Plan for Winnetka, allowing for consideration of introduction of an Ordinance to adopt the plan at a future meeting. President Rintz commends the Plan Commission, the Lakota Group, and staff for their exceptional work on composing the Comprehensive Plan.

Community Development Director David Schoon briefs Council and members of public of the initial planning of the Comprehensive Plan that began in 2019 when the Village hired a consulting group, the Lakota Group, to assist in the long-term vision serving as an official policy statement to guide future policy decisions.

Plan Commission Chair Bridget Orsic briefs Council on the work put forth by the Plan Commission, Village staff, and the Lakota Group on the goals and initiatives to achieve the overall vision of the community.

Scott Freres, of the Lakota Group, advises Council and members of the public on the Comprehensive Plan core initiatives to achieve the future plan of Winnetka. Scott Freres assures Council that while the Comprehensive Plan is designed to guide and improve the community overtime, there is value in the perservance of heritage and sense of community. While the planning process consists of analysis, visioning work, and plan making, Mr. Freres informs Council on the core pillars; Quality Livable Neighborhoods, Community Heritage & Placemaking, Educational Excellence, Community Infrastructure, Services, & Technology, Civic Engagement, Vibrant Business Districts, Sustainability and Climate Action, Healthy

and Engaging Lifestyles, Mobility & Accessibility, and Operational Efficiencies & Regional Coordination.

Public Comment.

Teresa Lucas addresses Council on the importance of the involvement of business owners, concerns related to the Comprehensive Plan, and the evolution of the business districts.

Council discusses goals and initiatives related to various pillars in the Comprehensive plan, importance of community input and direction, quality livable neighborhoods, business district parking accessibility concerns, commercial and residential zoning regulations, and advisory board approval processes.

With the Comprehensive Plan enhancing the future of the community, Council discusses the need for adaptation and implementation regarding constant changes and development.

Council also discusses matters related to census data, wayfinding signage, improved real estate including multi-family unit development, overall financial health of the Village, and the priority of goals and initiatives regarding the Comprehensive Plan.

Council directs staff and the Lakota Group to make the following adjustments to the Plan: (1) include a goal and initiatives regarding lakefront development; (2) insert features in the PDF document that allows a user to more easily navigate the digital version of the Plan, and (3) reword certain goals to more clearly identify that we already are working on those particular items.

Council commends the work of the Plan Commission, the Lakota Group, and Village staff for exceptional work regarding the Comprehensive Plan.

David Schoon confirms that Council will consider an Ordinance adopting the Comprehensive Plan at a future date.

- 4) Adjournment. Trustee Apatoff, seconded by Trustee Cripe moved to adjourn the meeting. By voice vote, the motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 9:10 PM.

/s/Berina Gradjan, Deputy Village Clerk
Recording Secretary