

**MINUTES
WINNETKA VILLAGE COUNCIL
STUDY SESSION
September 12, 2023**

(Approved: October 17, 2023)

A record of a legally convened meeting of the Council of the Village of Winnetka, which was held at Council Chambers on Tuesday, September 12, 2023, at 7:00 PM.

- 1) Call to Order. President Chris Rintz called the meeting to order at 7:01 PM. Manager Bahan called the roll of the Village Council. Present: Trustees Kirk Albinson, Rob Apatoff, Tina Dalman, Bob Dearborn, Kim Handler, and Bridget Orsic. Absent: None. Also present: Village Manager Robert Bahan, Assistant Village Manager Kristin Kazenas, Deputy Village Clerk Berina Gradjan, Village Attorney Courtney Willits, Village Attorney Peter Friedman, Community Development Director David Schoon, Engineering Director Jim Bernahl, and 24 persons in the audience.
- 2) Public Comment.
 - a) Ted Wynnychenko addresses Council regarding the Bertling-Hill-Woodland Pathway Vacation.
 - b) Ron White addresses steep slope matters regarding Lake Michigan and erosion.
- 3) Lakefront Regulations Discussion Regarding Construction in the Bluff Steep Slope Area Along Lake Michigan.

President Rintz informs members of the public that the purpose of the study session is to discuss matters relating to lakefront regulations and there will not be any adoption of rules and/or regulations.

Community Development Director states that staff and the Village's Coastal Engineer will review bluffs and the lake ecosystem, neighboring steep slope regulations, existing development on steep slopes, and current regulations.

Caleb Barth, Associate Principal of Baird & Associates, provides information regarding the role of bluffs along the lakefront ecosystem; accretion, regional coastal geomorphic areas, erosion, and development, the bluff ecosystem; what the ecosystem consists of, habitat, human-induced disturbances, and the impacts from development on erosion and the lake.

In addition, Mr. Barth compares steep slope regulations in the Villages of Glencoe and Kenilworth, and how those regulations may apply to Winnetka. Council is informed of the various ways in which key steep slope regulation definitions are defined and implemented in neighboring municipalities and the permitted development in the steep slope zones.

Council addresses Mr. Barth regarding steep slope, the purpose of regulation along the lakefront, and Baird & Associates involvement with various municipalities.

Community Development Director David Schoon informs Council of existing development on private owned land along the lakefront, existing conditions on the steep slopes, existing features and structures such as pools, boat houses, gazebos, etc., and the estimated amount of impermeable surface on the steep slope portions of residential lots.

In addition, David Schoon provides information regarding lakefront zoning; permitted uses related to residential properties and special uses related to various institutions, zoning lots, front yard and setback, and permitted features and structures.

Engineering Director Jim Bernahl provides information regarding the Engineering regulations permitting process and its code provisions, regulations, and requirements, topographic requirements, floodplain requirements, bluff requirements, permitting partnership with the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District, and water quality.

Public Comment.

John Root addresses Council regarding steep slope mapping.

John Edwardson addresses Council regarding his opposition for the need of implementing regulations along the lakefront.

Lean Pulp requests that Council indicate their purpose for implementing steep slope regulations.

Hale Frank seeks clarification regarding provisions not covered by Village regulations.

Susie Schreiber addresses Council regarding the design minimum factors of safety for coastal slopes of the Great Lakes.

Erik Folk addresses Council regarding bluff studies, mapping, and bluff construction and development.

Ted Wynnychenko addresses Council regarding lakefront matters pertaining to public and private land and Village related regulations.

Bill Jackson addresses Council regarding the bluff and landscaping maintenance.

Jenna Radney addresses Council regarding property value.

Council discusses matters related to improving and implementing lakefront regulations, impacts to lakefront homeowners, significance of shoreline protection and maintenance, development, zoning concerns, environmental preservation, and permitting processes.

President Rintz addresses implementation of zoning regulations on new construction versus existing lakefront properties.

Council further discusses the impacts of the removal of bluff, restoration, increased lakefront value while implementing regulations,

Council unanimously concludes that further study and discussion will be vital to the decision making process regarding the implementation of lakefront regulations.

- 4) Adjournment. Trustee Apatoff, seconded by Trustee Dalman moved to adjourn the meeting. By voice vote, the motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 10:11 pm.

/s/ Berina Gradjan, Deputy Village Clerk

Recording Secretary