

**MINUTES
WINNETKA VILLAGE COUNCIL
STUDY SESSION & SPECIAL MEETING
October 10, 2023**

(Approved: November 14, 2023)

A record of a legally convened meeting of the Council of the Village of Winnetka, which was held at Council Chambers on Tuesday, October 10, 2023, at 7:00 PM.

- 1) Call to Order. President Pro-Tem Bob Dearborn called the meeting to order at 7:00 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: President Rintz. Also present: Village Manager Robert Bahan, Assistant Village Manager Kristin Kazenas, Deputy Village Clerk Berina Gradjan, Village Attorney Ben Schuster, Community Development Director David Schoon, Assistant Community Development Director Ann Klaassen, Engineering Director Jim Bernahl, Assistant Village Engineer Obaid Khalid, and 10 persons in the audience.
- 2) Pledge of Allegiance. Trustee Apatoff led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.
- 3) Public Comment.
 - a) Ted Wynnychenko addresses Council regarding private and public land.
- 4) Establishment of the Consent Agenda.

Trustee Dalman seconded by Trustee Apatoff moved to approve the Establishment of the Consent Agenda. By voice vote, the motion carried.
- 5) Approval of the Consent Agenda
 - a) Resolution No. R-91-2023: Approving an Agreement with Safe-Way Tuckpointing LLC for Repairs to Electric Plant Exterior Wall (Adoption)
 - b) Resolution No. R-92-2023: Pledging the Village of Winnetka to Join Cook County United Against Hate (Adoption)

Trustee Dalman seconded by Trustee Orsic, moved to approve the foregoing items on the Consent Agenda by omnibus vote. By roll call vote, the motion carried. Ayes: Trustees Albinson, Apatoff, Dalman, Dearborn, Handler, and Orsic. Nays: None. Absent: None.
- 6) Green Bay Trail Report Presentation

The Green Bay Trail has served as a major route, running along the east side of the Metra Union rail line, connecting communities all along the North Shore. Due to trail conditions, the Lakota Group conducted a comprehensive study and developed a Master Plan report by identifying areas of improvement, cost estimates, preparing concept plans, and community engagement.

Morgan Chapman, Senior Landscape Architect with the Lakota Group, advises Council on the overall planning process consisting of engagement, analysis, plan and design, implementation, and various discussions regarding the Green Bay Trail improvements.

As part of the engagement process, the Lakota Group met with stakeholders, trail users, and Friends of the Green Bay Trail to better understand the needs and various uses of the trail by utilizing online surveys, focus groups, and hosting a pop-up workshop on the trail. As a result, it was found that essential maintenance of the trail, design, and focus on safe uses for all users of the trail was crucial.

Ms. Chapman informs Council of the trail slope conditions and the plan and design strategy that implements hardscape and maintenance, vegetative improvements, and activation and signage. Ms. Chapman presents the concept plans displaying the current trail conditions and how the various improvements including ADA accessible ramps, kiosks, historic preservation, signage, and trail markings would look after the completion of the project should Council approve the Master Plan.

The Lakota Group provided conceptual cost estimates related to trail improvement strategies, prototype and demonstration projects, and general requirements for planning and budgeting totaling \$7,288,603.

Ms. Chapman emphasizes the importance of developing a comprehensive maintenance plan, ensuring the safety of the trail and users, functionality, and longevity. The Lakota group suggests that the Village and Park District reevaluate the intergovernmental agreement which binds the two governmental agencies for the upkeep and future improvements of the plan.

Assistant Village Engineer Obaid Khalid reviews the potential funding opportunities through various Federal, State, and Local grants, budgeting matters, and the proposed steps for the Master Plan for the Village and Park District. Council is informed that the Master Plan can only be implemented should funding be secured and approved.

Council discusses the ongoing permitting delays with Metra and Union Pacific regarding infrastructure maintenance, access points and ADA compliance, accommodation for all trail users, signage matters, vegetative growth and maintenance, and bicycle accommodations.

Trustee Dalman emphasizes the importance of safety measures along the trail. The Lakota Group confirms that the Master Plan has implemented lighting as increased safety precautions to allow trail users to feel safer.

Public Comment.

Ann Reilly commends the comprehensive Master Plan and addresses maintenance and vegetation along the trail.

Julian Solotorovsky addresses Council regarding access points and maintenance.

Elisha Gray addresses accessibility, maintenance, and vegetation.

Council discusses prioritizing achievable components of the project, utilizing the trail for promoting increase in foot traffic within the business districts, landscaping, and working with the Winnetka Park District.

- 7) Closed Session. None.
- 8) Adjournment. Trustee Orsic, seconded by Trustee Dalman moved to adjourn the meeting. By voice vote, the motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.

/s/ Berina Gradjan, Deputy Village Clerk

Recording Secretary