

**MINUTES
WINNETKA VILLAGE COUNCIL
STUDY SESSION
March 12, 2024**

(Approved: April 2, 2024)
(Amended: April 16, 2024)

A record of a legally convened meeting of the Council of the Village of Winnetka, which was held at the Council Chambers on Tuesday, March 12, 2024 at 7:00 PM.

- 1) Call to Order. President Rintz called the meeting to order at 7:01 PM. Village 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, Village Attorney Ben Schuster, Deputy Village Clerk Berina Gradjan, and approximately 3 persons in the audience.

President Rintz confirms that Trustee Apatoff has provided the required notice that he will be unable to attend the regular meeting due to work obligations. The Village's policy provides that Trustee Apatoff may participate remotely unless 2/3 of the Council objects. With no objections, Trustee Apatoff participated remotely fully in the meeting.

- 2) Public Comment.
- i) Ted Wynnynchenko addresses Council on the Village's involvement and leadership regarding climate matters.
 - ii) Teresa Lucas suggests that any affiliated members of organizations state their roles during any public commentary.

- 3) Discussion.

- a) Post Office Plaza – General Discussion on Next Steps

President Rintz and Council discuss the future development of the Post Office Plaza. Council discusses the costs and benefits of either utilizing international state-of-the-art cutting-edge architects to lead the process or utilizing a well respected but local firm. President Rintz engaged with Jeanne Gang, the founding partner of Studio Gang, and recognizes the work the Village would benefit from with her experience. However, President Rintz also emphasizes the recognition of the involvement of the community with the overall development of the Post Office site.

Council discusses the importance of utilizing practitioners with developing the public space, understanding the community and the various challenges of creating a vision of a complex development while implementing historic elements that will enhance the community. Council consensus was to continue discussion with Studio Gang. Council consensus was to continue considering various architectural firms with regional or national reputation.

Public Comment.

Teresa Lucas commends the engagement with Jeanne Gang, based upon her previous experience in Glencoe.

b) Park District Update and Discussion

President Rintz, and Trustee Rob Apatoff, attended a meeting with the Park District on matters related to the Elder/Centennial project to be brought forth before Village Council for approvals as a whole. The Park District was provided two options, an intergovernmental agreement with the Village, or go through the special use permit process which requires the Park District to go through the Design Review Board, Plan Development Commission, Zoning Board of Appeals, and the Village Council for final approval.

Village Attorney Ben Schuster provides information regarding the Village Code; application for zoning relief, required standards, and public hearings.

Council discusses the potential of two application submissions, Elder and Centennial, or a consolidated project, implementation of an intergovernmental agreement on the stormwater pipe, application and hearing process, assigning liaisons for both the Park District and Village Council regarding communication, and matters related to stormwater.

Trustee Dearborn suggested that the stormwater co-liaison role, currently being served by President Rintz and Trustee Apatoff, be expanded to include issues related to the Winnetka Park District Elder/Centennial lakefront improvement plan generally. Given the complexity of the project, the reason to formally expand the scope would be to facilitate efficient communication with the Park District as appropriate. There were expressions of support, and the village attorney confirmed Council consensus, but the Council was not taking any final action or voting in the study session. Manager Bahan noted that Council liaison assignments were approved by the Council at the start of each new term. President Rintz concurred and commented that while the expanded liaison approach could improve communication, an important consideration is if the Park District decides to pursue the special use process that the Council not usurp the advisory board's review and authority during this process.

Public Comment.

Ted Wynnychenko addresses Council regarding Park District matters are Centennial Beach, the transfer of land to private ownership, and encourages the Council and Park District to have a collaborative approach.

- 4) Adjournment. Trustee Dearborn, seconded by Trustee Dalman moved to adjourn the meeting. By voice vote, the motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:21 pm.

/s/ Berina Gradjan, Deputy Village Clerk

Recording Secretary