

MINUTES
WINNETKA VILLAGE COUNCIL
SPECIAL STUDY SESSION
April 14, 2026

(Approved: May 5, 2026)

A record of a legally convened meeting of the Council of the Village of Winnetka, which was held at the Council Chambers on Tuesday, April 14, 2026 at 7:00 PM.

- 1) Call to Order. President Dearborn called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM. Village Manager Kristin Kazenas called the roll of the Village Council. Present: Trustees Kirk Albinson, Rob Apatoff, Tina Dalman, and Scott Myers. Absent: Trustees Kim Handler and Bridget Orsic. Also present: Deputy Village Manager Hannah Lipman, Deputy Village Clerk Berina Gradjan, Village Attorney Ben Schuster, Community Development Director Scott Mangum, and approximately 4 persons in the audience.

- 1) Public Comment:

- i. Ted Wynnychenko addresses Council regarding back flow prevention testing.

Trustee Handler enters at 7:05 pm.

- ii. Warren James addresses Council regarding a misstatement made regarding the Tower Road Pier and Park District annual dredging.

Village Manager Kristin Kazenas advises members of the public that the community is under a tornado watch and should weather conditions escalate, President Dearborn will call a recess and all in attendance will seek shelter in the basement.

- 2) Open Space Policy Discussion

The Winnetka Council Caucus surveys have included questions about open space, and the 2025 survey asked respondents to personally define open space in the community. Results show that residents value and want to protect open spaces and define open spaces in the community as parks, natural areas, and public gathering spaces. Additionally, the survey indicated that open spaces may still be enhanced or modified but should remain open space and not be limited in considering alternate uses for spaces without buildings.

Community Development Director Scott Mangum addresses key policy initiatives related to open spaces, defining open space, zoning and special uses, regulations of open space, various land use matters, and public and private regulated areas within the Village.

Council is advised on various policy direction options including a Comprehensive Plan recommendation to establish specific zoning district or standards for open spaces, expanding the overlay zoning district, or negotiate an inter-governmental agreements with applicable agencies.

Environmental, Forestry, & Sustainability Chair Peter Eck addresses Council regarding open space survey results and the importance of preservation of open spaces.

Public Comment

Christina Codo, Park District Commissioner, addresses matters related to communication between the Village Council and Park District Board regarding the open space discussion.

Warren James addresses the Park Districts implementation of the Waterfront 2030 plan and regulations related to land use and zoning.

Peter Eck emphasizes the importance of protecting open space and defining what open space means.

Ted Wynnychenko addresses matters related to public access at street end beaches.

Jeffrey Liss emphasizes the importance of also protecting parking lots within the Village.

Council discusses matters related to open spaces, both public and private, zoning, land transactions and legal matters, implementation of measures to preserve and protect open spaces considered as parks and natural spaces by the community, amending the Village Code to regulate open spaces, zoning designations, comprehensive plan pillars,

Village Attorney Ben Schuster advises Council regarding zoning regulations, defining open spaces, and the process of implementing text amendments for zoning regulations and mapping.

Council further discusses zoning amendments regarding the regulation of open spaces.

Policy direction is provided to staff to proceed with option 1: Comprehensive Plan recommendation: establish specific zoning district or standards for open spaces.

- 3) Adjournment. Trustee Handler, seconded by Trustee Dalman moved to adjourn the meeting. By voice vote, the motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:34 pm.

/s/ Berina Gradjan, Deputy Village Clerk

Recording Secretary