

**MINUTES
WINNETKA VILLAGE COUNCIL
VIRTUAL STUDY SESSION
February 8, 2022**

(Approved: March 1, 2022)

A record of a legally convened meeting of the Council of the Village of Winnetka, which was held virtually on the Zoom videoconference platform on Tuesday, February 8, 2022 at 7:00 PM.

- 1) Call to Order. President Rintz called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM. Manager Bahan called the roll of the Village Council. Present: Trustees Andy Cripe, Tina Dalman, Bob Dearborn, and Kim Mancini. Absent: Trustees Robert Apatoff and John Swierk. Also present: Village Manager Robert Bahan, Assistant Village Manager Kristin Kazenas, Village Attorney Ben Schuster, Deputy Village Clerk Berina Gradjan, and approximately 4 persons in the audience.
- 2) Public Comment.
 - i) Elisha Gray inquires about the status of the Green Bay Trail per the Village, Park District, and the Lakota Group. President Rintz confirms that there will be discussion regarding the matter at a future Council meeting.
- 3) General Village Council Discussion Regarding Policy Matters for Future Agendas.

President Rintz states that Council will be reviewing current Village initiatives and discussing suggestions for future policy matters. The discussion provides guidance for Council members, and the community, regarding Village related agenda items, emerging topics, and aids in providing a better sense of direction with upcoming matters within the Village.

Village Council initiatives for 2022 include Stormwater Management; final engineering, permitting & licensing for North of Willow RD areas, Final Engineering, Permitting & Licensing for Cook County Site, Cook County Forest Preserve Final Agreement, Final Engineering for Crow Island & South of Willow RD Areas, Resident Communications & Grants, East Side Evaluation. Comprehensive Plan Process; Post Office Site Evaluation, Council Check-ins, Review & Approval, Green Bay Trail Enhancements. Economic Development; Former One Winnetka Re-Development, Hubbard Woods Streetscape Planning, Design & Jurisdictional Transfer, Review Village Owned Property Inventory – Potential Uses, Economic Development Corporation, Community Events to Activate Business Districts. Electric Utility System; Evaluation FY 2022 & 2023, Current Generation System Evaluation, Alternative Energy Review, Undergrounding of Overhead Lines.

Trustee Dearborn elaborates on previous matters presented to Council stating that he would like to see more discussion pertaining to these items surface at future Council meetings. Village Council indicates the importance of the Green Bay Trail amongst the items that will be relevant for discussion and unanimously agree on addressing public safety concerns and the overall enhancements of the trail.

Trustee Mancini indicates her interest in reengaging in the comprehensive sidewalk plans that former Trustee member Penny Lanhier advocated for. Village Manager Bahan confirms that the Village currently has an inventory regarding the prioritization of sidewalks and briefs Council on the Village policy.

Village Council addresses sustainability within the Village, referencing the Environmental and Forestry Commissions work with the Climate Action Plan. Trustee Mancini commends President Rintz for challenging the EFC members towards coming up with actionable items as well as suggesting EFC serve as more of an advisory committee rather than advocacy committee.

Trustee Cripe expressed his interest on discussing taxes within the Village, urging Council to work towards continuing opportunities to consolidate, operationally or functionally. Trustee Cripe also notes his interest in the future of the power plant indicating the importance of Winnetka's power supply and long term affects. In agreement with Village Council, Trustee Cripe would like to continue addressing the post office progress and the enhancements of the Green Bay Trail.

Trustee Dalman stresses the priority of implementing discussion of the Comprehensive Plan at future Council meetings as well as adopting design standards regarding solar panels within the Village. Trustee Dalman conveys her interest in enhancing public safety aspects for the crossing located on Tower Road and Hibbard Road.

President Rintz notes that discussion regarding the Green Bay Trail may be considered at a future study session to address future plans. Village Manager Bahan confirms allocated funding for conceptual studies to address enhancements of the Village portion of the trail. Mr. Bahan stresses that engagement between the Park District, Friends of the Green Bay Trail, users, and the Garden Club will be beneficial to the overall improvements.

Public Comment.

- i) Elisha Gray commends Village Council on prioritizing the Green Bay Trail and conveys the support and expertise that Friends of the Green Bay Trail can contribute alongside the Council.

4) Closed Session. None.

5) Adjournment. Trustee Dearborn, seconded by Trustee Dalman, moved to adjourn the Village Council meeting. By roll call vote, the motion carried. Ayes: Trustees Cripe, Dalman, Dearborn, and Mancini. Nays: None. Absent: Trustees Apatoff and Swierk. The meeting adjourned at 7:46 PM.

/s/Berina Gradjan, Deputy Village Clerk
Recording Secretary