

**MINUTES
WINNETKA VILLAGE COUNCIL
STUDY SESSION**

May 10, 2022

(Approved: June 7, 2022)

A record of a legally convened meeting of the Council of the Village of Winnetka, which was held at Council Chambers on Tuesday, May 10, 2022, at 7:00 PM.

- 1) Call to Order. President Rintz called the meeting to order at 7:08 PM. Manager Bahan called the roll of the Village Council. Present: Trustees Rob Apatoff, Andy Cripe, Tina Dalman, Bob Dearborn, Kim Mancini, and John Swierk. Absent: None. Also present: Village Manager Robert Bahan, Assistant Village Manager Kristin Kazenas, Village Attorney Ben Schuster, Deputy Village Clerk Berina Gradjan, and Community Development Director David Schoon, and approximately 13 persons in the audience.
- 2) Public Comment.
 - i) Jeffrey Liss, believes that the post office site serves as a town center for the local community and general public while also attracting traffic to local businesses. With such a diverse use for the town center, Jeffrey believes that the Council should consider providing adequate parking to the West Elm Business District.
- 3) Elm Street Business District Public Gathering Place – Post Office Site.

Trustee Dalman enters 7:14 PM.

Presented before the Council and members of the public is the concept design drawings for the post office site, provided by the Lakota Group, focusing on the improvements and development for community events and formal gathering spaces.

President Rintz informs Council and members of the public on the history of the concept plan, when the Village Council and advisory boards first began planning how the parcel might be used, the history and transformation of the current post office site, and some of the early ongoing planning that is now being worked on by the Village. President Rintz commends the vision for the site to better serve the community by the past board and commissions.

With the results from the 2020 survey from the Caucus, President Rintz states that the results have directly influenced the decision for Village Council to take action in increase the vibrancy of the West Elm Business District as well as enhancing a more public gathering space for community engagement.

The concept plan creates a town square with North and South parking lot along the current post office site, a multipurpose performance stage platform, and a public gathering space that can also serve as a site for Village events and formal gatherings in both the warmer and colder months throughout the year.

President Rintz indicates how the Streetscape project has helped define the basic elements of the proposed concept plans, and the importance of relocating the post office to a site that will be beneficial to the Village.

Village Council commends the post office concept plan and unanimously agree that adequate parking should be considered as well as the use of public restrooms and consideration of the site use during the winter months.

Trustee Apatoff references the success of the tree lighting bringing families together and agrees that the proposed site plan would be an ideal space.

Trustee Dearborn believes that the multi decade planning is a staple in the Village structure and applauds the planning that has gone into the concept plan.

Public Comment.

- i) Scott Myers, urges Council to think about the physical space, providing opportunity for gathering spaces, and to approach the plan in a very conscientious manner. Council agrees that organizations/events can be planned for the gathering space.
- ii) Tom Browne states his support for the concept plan and urges Council to consider the gathering space for the winter months that can still allow for public gatherings.
- iii) Mark Haller, encourages Council to consider storage space for performers and organizations participating in Village events.
- iv) Theresa Lucas, commends the design that opens the space and suggests Council consider public restrooms, accessible bike racks, winter weather friendly gathering space, and to be mindful towards the business community.
- v) Jessica Fuller, commends Council regarding the concept plan and expresses her support for the concept plan. Ms. Fuller encourages the consideration of pop up events.
- vi) Katie Stevens states that she is honored to have taken part in bringing the concept plan to life and the vision to preserve the land for the public while reflecting on the beauty of the Village Green.
- vii) Liz Kunkle believes that is a wonderful vision that is needed for the community.
- viii) Rocky Flinterman questions the sizing (1800 sq ft), tiers, and suggests building the concept plan with lights and speakers that will create a fun energetic vibe.

Council deliberates creating a gathering space that can accommodate all age groups, and the considerations for parking and businesses in the West Elm Business District.

- 4) Adjournment. Trustee Apatoff, seconded by Trustee Cripe, moved to adjourn the Village Council meeting. By roll call vote, the motion carried. Ayes: Trustees Apatoff, Cripe, Dalman, Dearborn, Mancini, and Swierk. Nays: None. Absent: None. The meeting adjourned at 8:45 PM.

/s/Berina Gradjan, Deputy Village Clerk
Recording Secretary