

MINUTES
WINNETKA VILLAGE COUNCIL STUDY SESSION

September 13, 2016

(Approved: October 4, 2016)

A record of a legally convened meeting of the Council of the Village of Winnetka, which was held in the Village Hall Council Chambers on Tuesday, September 13, 2016, 2016 at 7:00 p.m.

- 1) Call to Order. President Greable called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Present: Trustees Andrew Cripe, William Krucks, Penny Lanphier, Scott Myers, Christopher Rintz and Kristin Ziv. Absent: None. Also in attendance: Village Manager Robert Bahan, Community Development Director Mike D’Onofrio, Assistant Community Development Director Brian Norkus, and approximately 5 persons in the audience.
- 2) Downtown Master Plan. Mr. D’Onofrio reviewed the process for developing Winnetka’s first Downtown Master Plan (DMP), which began in October of 2015. He introduced Michael Blue, Teska Associates Project Principal and Meg Benson, Chair of the DMP Steering Committee.

Ms. Benson noted the DMP process moved at a very good pace and resulted in a plan that the Steering Committee unanimously approved. She explained the community engagement exercises and the Working Groups provided valuable information from all corners of the Village. She said the DMP will be used to guide the Village for the next 20 years or more. She added that the DMP envisions everyone in the Village working together – retailers, building owners, businesses, the Village and residents.

Mr. Blue explained the timeline for developing a DMP in a year’s time was very aggressive, and Winnetka meeting its deadline is an extraordinary feat. He commended the Steering Committee and Chair Benson, Teska Planner Erin Cigliano, and Village staff for their focus and hard work. He reviewed the process, including extensive public and stakeholder outreach, development of vision statements, market assessment, study of urban design, examination of land use and zoning, and parking. A key learning from the public engagement process is that Winnetka needs to attract visitors from outside its boundaries in order for its downtowns to thrive.

Mr. Blue next reviewed opportunities and ideas for each of Winnetka’s three business districts: Indian Hill, Elm Street and Hubbard Woods. Finally, he explained that the action plan summary recommends steps to facilitate the invigoration of the business districts.

President Greable thanked the DMP Steering Committee, Working Groups and residents for providing insights and contributing to the development of the Plan.

The Council discussed how the DMP fits into Winnetka’s Comprehensive Plan.

Mr. D’Onofrio explained once the Council adopts the DMP, it becomes part of the Comprehensive Plan, and the Council sets a schedule for reviewing objectives and accomplishments.

Trustee Lanphier asked for specifics about what the community would like to see developed, and why certain things, like brew pubs, are appealing. Ms. Benson explained the community’s desire for businesses like brew pubs reveals an underlying wish for more casual, multi-generational food businesses and gathering places.

Trustee Myers noted it is not the purview of the Village to choose actual businesses in the downtowns; the DMP's mission is to recommend feasible concepts for Winnetka. He added that the concepts could change over the years as public taste changes.

After the Council finished with their questions and comments, President Greable called for public comment.

Jon Talty, Steering Committee member and Chair of the Business Community Development Commission. Mr. Talty complimented the dedication and expertise of Village staff, and posited that Winnetka is losing relevance on the North Shore. He felt the desire of the community for a brew pub is a metaphor for a wish to have gathering spaces that are relevant in today's culture. Finally, he noted that the DMP is a legitimate tool to revitalize the Village.

Mr. D'Onofrio thanked the Council for supporting the development of the Plan and said he enjoyed the opportunity to work with Teska, the Steering Committee, and the community.

- 3) Public Comment. None.
- 4) Closed Session. None.
- 5) Adjournment. Trustee Rintz, seconded by Trustee Ziv, moved to adjourn the meeting. By voice vote, the motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:36 p.m.

Deputy Clerk