



**PLAN COMMISSION SPECIAL MEETING**  
**MONDAY, MARCH 21, 2022 - 7:00 PM**  
**WINNETKA VILLAGE HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS – 510 GREEN BAY ROAD**

**AGENDA ITEMS**

1. Call to Order and Roll Call.
2. Approval of February 23, 2022, meeting minutes.
3. Public Comment.
4. Community Development Report.
5. Comprehensive Plan Visioning Work: The Commission will discuss goals and initiatives for the following community pillars: (a) Community Heritage and Placemaking; (b) Healthy and Engaging Lifestyles; and (c) Civic Engagement.
6. Other Business
  - a. Next Regular Meeting Quorum Check – March 23, 2022, Meeting
  - b. Potential Special April Meeting Quorum Check – April 25, 26, or 28:  
Comprehensive Plan Visioning Work: (1) Vibrant Business District and (2) Quality, Livable Neighborhoods
7. Adjournment.

Note: Public comment is permitted on all agenda items at the meeting. If you wish to provide testimony or comments prior to the meeting, you may provide them one of two ways: (1) by sending an email to [planning@winnetka.org](mailto:planning@winnetka.org); or by sending a letter to Community Development, Village of Winnetka, 510 Green Bay Rd, Winnetka, IL 60093. All agenda materials are available at [www.villageofwinnetka.org/agendacenter](http://www.villageofwinnetka.org/agendacenter).

**NOTICE**

The Village of Winnetka, in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, requests that persons with disabilities, who require certain accommodations to allow them to observe and/or participate in this meeting or have questions about the accessibility of the meeting or facilities contact the Village ADA Coordinator at 510 Green Bay Road, Winnetka, Illinois 60093, (Telephone (847) 716-3543; T.D.D. (847) 501-6041).

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**WINNETKA PLAN COMMISSION  
MEETING MINUTES  
FEBRUARY 23, 2022**

**Members Present:**

Bridget Orsic, Chairperson  
Jonathan Alt  
Matthew Bradley  
Mamie Case  
Layla Danley  
Chris Foley  
John Golan  
Liz Kunkle  
Kim Mancini

**Members Absent:**

None

**Village Staff:**

David Schoon, Director of Community Development  
Brian Norkus, Assistant Director of Community  
Development  
Ann Klaassen, Senior Planner

**Call to Order & Roll Call:**

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Orsic at 7:00 p.m. Ms. Klaassen took roll call of the Commission Members present.

**Introductory Remarks Regarding Conduct of Virtual Meeting.**

Chairperson Orsic read the Oral Declaration into the record and outlined how the meeting would progress.

**Approval of January 26, 2022, meeting minutes.**

Chairperson Orsic asked for a motion to approve the January 26, 2022, meeting minutes. Mr. Bradley moved to approve the January 26, 2022, meeting minutes. Mr. Alt seconded the motion. A vote was taken, and the motion unanimously passed, 9 to 0:

AYES: Alt, Bradley, Case, Danley, Foley, Golan, Kunkle, Orsic

NAYS: None

NON-VOTING: Mancini

**Comprehensive Plan Visioning Work. The Commission will discuss goals and initiatives for the following community Pillars: (a) Sustainability and Climate Action; (b) Community Infrastructure, Services and Technology and (c) Operational Efficiencies and Coordination.**

Mr. Schoon provided the Commission with an outline of The Lakota Group presentation.

Scott Freres introduced The Lakota Group team and stated they would discuss three Pillars in the presentation. He stated they are developing the Comprehensive Plan framework and structure to be refined into specific goals and initiatives over the short term, mid-term and long term. Mr. Freres then identified the specific Pillars to be discussed at this meeting and referred to the refined Pillar statements as well as the Winnetka Futures 2040 global mission statement.

Mr. Freres outlined and described how they reached definitions of Pillars, goals and initiatives which

1 indicate that each Pillar would include a number of goals with subsequent initiatives. He stated following  
2 Commission Member input, the consultants would further expand on the goals and initiatives with  
3 additional documentation and verbiage. Mr. Freres then referred to an example of Pillar 7 (Community  
4 Infrastructure, Services and Technology) and how it would be communicated in the Comprehensive Plan.  
5 He stated in connection with sustainability, he identified how sustainability initiatives could be  
6 incorporated under both the Sustainability pillar as well as other pillars.  
7

8 Mr. Freres began with Pillar 7 and identified its drafted mission statement. He then identified the twelve  
9 pillar goals which may be changed or eliminated after discussion. Mr. Freres referred the Commission to  
10 the five initiatives behind goal no. 1 which include specific action items. He stated they wanted to point  
11 out to the Commission the main initiatives behind the policy level thinking and asked for the Commission  
12 Members' comments.  
13

14 Mr. Bradley stated while the information provided so far is great, he expected the initiatives to be more  
15 concrete and that it may be difficult for the average layperson to understand the initiatives. Mr. Freres  
16 responded the information provided is a vetting of the initiatives. He agreed it can be simplified and made  
17 more tangible and direct. Chairperson Orsic stated while she agreed with Mr. Bradley's comments, there  
18 is a separate use for the document by professionals while it may be more confusing to the average  
19 layperson. She suggested there be a quick glance version to check that the goals have been accomplished.  
20 Mr. Freres agreed with Chairperson Orsic's comments and agreed they intend to have a quick glance  
21 version of the plan available.  
22

23 Mr. Golan commented it is dramatically different than the focus of the 2020 Comprehensive Plan. Mr.  
24 Freres stated the Comprehensive Plan is a policy document that sets forth action items for the community  
25 over 20 years. He stated the difference between the two Comprehensive Plans are two-fold in that it  
26 needed to be very clear, understandable and direct in terms of what the community's values are, the  
27 value positions on the key pillars/chapters. He stated it also needed to spell out specific goals and  
28 initiatives for leadership to act on and to use as a benchmark for tracking the ability to implement  
29 community directives.  
30

31 Mr. Alt stated since there is so much information being presented, they should consider the wants versus  
32 the needs with the realization that everything identified cannot be accomplished by 2040. Mr. Bradley  
33 stated the items can be categorized as low, medium and high. Mr. Freres indicated some of the items  
34 identified are already in motion. Siraj Asfahani, with The Lakota Group, informed the Commission that as  
35 they look at the initiatives, they are asking the Commission Members for their thoughts as to whether  
36 some may be changed or eliminated. Ms. Mancini asked if in their discussions with those involved in  
37 implementing the ideas if they are to confirm they know these are tangible items that can be  
38 accomplished. Mr. Freres responded these items are out of their playbook and are initiatives which are  
39 currently on their books to be placed appropriately in the new Comprehensive Plan and provided an  
40 example of how initiatives would be implemented. Mr. Asfahani asked the Commission Members if there  
41 was any one initiative they wanted to discuss further in detail since there are 20 initiatives to review. Ms.  
42 Case questioned whether initiative nos. 1.4 and 1.5 could be combined. Mr. Freres agreed with Ms. Case's  
43 suggestion. Mr. Asfahani informed the Commission they could also provide comments following the  
44 meeting. Ms. Kunkle commented initiative nos. 1.4 and 1.5 should be kept separate although they both  
45 relate to energy efficiency standards and provided suggested wording for both initiatives as well as for  
46 goal no. 1.  
47

48 Mr. Asfahani and Mr. Freres then referred to goal no. 2 and its four initiatives. Ms. Mancini questioned

1 the data to be tracked and analyzed under initiative 2.4 and suggested clarification be provided. Mr.  
2 Asfahani then referred to goal no. 3 and its five initiatives. Ms. Case asked for clarification regarding  
3 initiative 3.3. Mr. Freres responded they are suggesting the Village look at and change the policy in terms  
4 of ways of solving storm water issues within the community and noted there are varieties of best  
5 management practices that can apply natural solutions to solve problems on residential and commercial  
6 properties. Mr. Freres suggested sustainable principles can be applied in conjunction with existing storm  
7 water principles. Mr. Alt suggested Mr. Freres' response replace the initiative's wording. Mr. Freres and  
8 Ms. Danley suggested the narrative be written after the initiatives are finalized in order to be more time  
9 efficient. Ms. Kunkle referred to goal no. 2 and initiatives 2.1 and 2.2 and suggested they be combined  
10 and provided suggested wording.

11  
12 Mr. Asfahani then referred to goal no. 4 and its three initiatives and asked for comments. Mr. Alt asked if  
13 initiative nos. 4.1 and 4.2 came from the professionals and Mr. Freres confirmed that is correct. Mr. Alt  
14 then questioned the meaning behind initiative no. 4.3 and Mr. Freres explained the meaning behind it  
15 using an example of water management on construction sites. Mr. Alt suggested Mr. Freres' explanation  
16 be used as the wording for the initiative. Mr. Asfahani informed the Commission that the initiatives are  
17 approached as something that the Village may want to have happen but are not set in stone. Mr. Golan  
18 referred to the perception of the difficulty in getting things done with regard to permitting. Mr. Freres  
19 stated that topic is addressed in Operational Efficiencies.

20  
21 Mr. Asfahani referred to goal no. 5 and its eight initiatives and asked for comments. No comments were  
22 made at this time. He then identified the remaining four initiatives. Ms. Kunkle suggested an edit to the  
23 wording of initiative 5.7. Mr. Bradley again commented the wording is difficult for the average layperson  
24 to understand and hoped that it is directed toward the professionals. Mr. Golan asked if these items came  
25 from Village management or represent national issues. He also questioned whether there is an issue with  
26 lead lined pipes. Mr. Schoon confirmed there are lead pipe issues and referred to a recently adopted State  
27 act which addressed the issue. He also stated some of the items are community specific depending on  
28 where they are in the process. Mr. Alt asked for further explanation of initiatives 5.1 – 5.4 in terms of the  
29 status and Mr. Schoon provided an update on the status of these items.

30  
31 Mr. Asfahani referred to goal no. 6 and its four initiatives. Chairperson Orsic asked the consultants to  
32 elaborate on the private sector program mentioned in initiative no. 2 and Mr. Schoon provided an  
33 explanation to the Commission with a rainwater example.

34  
35 Mr. Asfahani suggested the meeting be opened at this time for community engagement. Mr. Norkus  
36 allowed members of the public into the meeting to comment. Terry Cross stated she is encouraged by the  
37 discussion and the emphasis placed on sustainability in the Village. Chuck Dowding agreed with Ms. Cross'  
38 comments. No additional comments were made at this time.

39  
40 Mr. Asfahani and Mr. Schoon asked the Commission Members if they had any comments relating to the  
41 way the meeting is being conducted. Chairperson Orsic responded it may be helpful if the non-technical  
42 initiatives not be read. Mr. Asfahani then referred to goal no. 7 and its seven initiatives and asked if there  
43 were any comments or questions. Mr. Bradley referred to initiative 7.3 and commented it seemed too  
44 specific compared to the others. Mr. Freres referred to an example of burying visible lines and poles. Mr.  
45 Golan suggested wording for the initiative no. 7.3. Mr. Schoon noted the Village has to work with other  
46 agencies in order to accomplish that goal. Mr. Foley suggested alternative wording in place of "cost  
47 effective." Mr. Bradley questioned whether the term should be replaced in other initiatives. Ms. Danley  
48 referred to transformer vaults in initiative no. 7.7. Mr. Schoon responded the underground vaults are

1 primarily in commercial areas and represent safety in terms of servicing them and explained the status of  
2 the project.

3  
4 Mr. Asfahani referred to goal no. 8 and the five initiatives and asked if there were any questions. Mr.  
5 Freres informed the Commission some of these initiatives would be carried over into other pillars.  
6 Chairperson Orsic referred to initiative no. 8.5 and questioned facilities and Mr. Freres explained the  
7 meaning behind its use. He added clarification can be provided. Mr. Bradley referred to roadway  
8 maintenance and asked if it related to traffic light modernization for example. He also referred to the train  
9 stations and questioned whether talks related to Hubbard Woods should be included as well as traffic  
10 management systems. Mr. Freres stated the mobility pillar related to all of the topics Mr. Bradley raised.

11  
12 Mr. Asfahani referred to goal no. 9 and its two initiatives and asked if there were any questions. Ms.  
13 Kunkle suggested the word "institutions" be added to initiative no. 9.1. Mr. Asfahani referred to goal no.  
14 10 and its two initiatives and asked if there were any questions. No comments were made at this time.  
15 Mr. Asfahani referred to goal no. 11 and its eleven initiatives and asked if there were any comments. Mr.  
16 Alt suggested alternative wording to initiative no. 11.4 as well as the inclusion of the reuse of generated  
17 waste. Ms. Kunkle suggested clarification to initiative no. 11.5.

18  
19 Mr. Asfahani referred to goal no. 12 and its four initiatives and asked if there were any questions. Mr.  
20 Bradley stated since this goal related to the ZBA, he would like to discuss the goal in depth later. Ms.  
21 Kunkle suggested clarification to initiative no. 12.4.

22  
23 Mr. Norkus allowed members of the public into the meeting to provide comment. Mr. Dowding suggested  
24 wording to the mission statement to replace the word "manmade" with "constructed." He suggested  
25 wording to include in initiative nos. 7.4 and 7.5 and adding the sustainability icon and for initiative no. 8.5  
26 to include schools. Mr. Norkus confirmed there were no additional comments from the public at this time.

27  
28 Scott Ruhland referred to Pillar 10 which combined Operational Efficiencies and Regional Coordination  
29 and the changes made to the mission statement. He then identified its four goals. Mr. Ruhland referred  
30 to goal no. 1 and its three initiatives and asked if there were any questions. Mr. Bradley questioned  
31 whether the process for instance should be broken down to be Board/Commission/Village Council  
32 specific. Mr. Ruhland confirmed representatives of each group can be included as they further summarize.  
33 Ms. Hurley referred to goal no. 2 and its six initiatives and asked if there were any questions. Ms. Kunkle  
34 provided comments on initiative no. 2.2 relating to taxing jurisdictions and questioned whether New Trier  
35 should be included as a taxing partner. Mr. Bradley also provided comments on initiative no. 2.2.

36  
37 Ms. Hurley referred to goal no. 3 and its single initiative and asked if there were any questions. Mr. Bradley  
38 suggested wording be added with regard to communicating information to residents and businesses using  
39 technology in real time. Ms. Hurley agreed that is a great idea and informed the Commission the  
40 consultants have discussed it. Ms. Hurley referred to goal no. 4 and its four initiatives and asked if there  
41 were any questions. Mr. Alt asked for a further explanation of initiative 4.4 in depth which Ms. Hurley  
42 provided for the Commission with an example of incorporating greener measures or carpooling. Ms. Case  
43 suggested wording to include "encourage" in the initiative. Ms. Mancini stated the initiative would not be  
44 for individuals to use but directed toward Village officials and suggested actual recommendations be  
45 included.

46  
47 Mr. Asfahani asked for public comment. Mr. Norkus allowed members of the public into the meeting. Mr.  
48 Dowding referred to goal 10 and initiative no. 2.5 and suggested a Park District liaison be reinstated on

1 the Environmental and Forestry Commission as an additional initiative. Mr. Norkus confirmed there are  
2 no other members of the public to comment.

3  
4 Chairperson Orsic suggested Pillar 4 Sustainability and Climate Action be held over until the next meeting  
5 and Mr. Freres agreed along with other topics. He then identified three additional meeting dates for the  
6 consultants to meet with the Commission.

7  
8 **Other Business.**

- 9 a. Community Development Report. No Community Development Report was given at this  
10 time.  
11 b. March 23, 2022, Meeting – Quorum check.  
12 c. March 21 or March 22 Potential Special Meeting – Quorum Check: Comprehensive Plan  
13 Visioning Work: (1) Healthy and Engaging Lifestyles, and (2) Community Heritage and  
14 Placemaking and (3) Civic Engagement.

15  
16 Mr. Schoon informed the Commission there are three applications on the March agenda and suggested  
17 holding a special meeting during the week of March 23<sup>rd</sup>. He then asked for the Commission Members’  
18 availability on March 21, 22 and 23 at 7pm. After hearing from all Commission members, it was confirmed  
19 the special meeting would be held on March 21<sup>st</sup>.

20  
21 Chairperson Orsic then introduced the two new Commission Members, Chris Foley and Trustee Kim  
22 Mancini.

23  
24 **Public Comment.**

25 No comments were made at this time.

26  
27 **Adjournment:**

28 A motion to adjourn was made by Member Bradley and seconded by several Commission Members. A  
29 vote was taken, and the motion unanimously passed:

30 AYES: Alt, Bradley, Case, Danley, Foley, Golan, Kunkle, Orsic

31 NAYS: None

32 NON-VOTING: Mancini

33  
34 The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

35  
36 Respectfully submitted,

37  
38 Antionette Johnson

39 Recording Secretary



# MEMORANDUM VILLAGE OF WINNETKA

## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

**TO: PLAN COMMISSION**  
**FROM: DAVID SCHOON, DIRECTOR**  
**DATE: MARCH 17, 2022**  
**SUBJECT: COMPREHENSIVE PLAN - PILLAR GROUP 2 - GOALS & INITIATIVES**

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At the March 21, 2022, Plan Commission special meeting, the comprehensive plan consultant team, headed by The Lakota Group, and staff will continue to work with the Commission on developing vision statements, goals, and initiatives for each of the community pillars that have been identified. At the March meeting, the Commission will discuss the following pillars:

- ***Healthy and Engaging Lifestyles***
- ***Community Heritage and Placemaking***
- ***Civic Engagement***

Attachment C contains the draft vision statements, goals, and initiatives for each of these pillars. This is a working document, and we look forward to receiving your comments and thoughts. Staff would note that at the February meeting, the Commission had continued its discussion of the Sustainability and Climate Change pillar to the March meeting. Following the February meeting, The Lakota Group, Commission Chair, and I had a discussion regarding the order of the pillars, and we decided to move the discussion of the Sustainability and Climate Change pillar to later in the visioning process after we have discussed all other pillars.

Attachment A contains the agenda The Lakota Group plans to use to guide the discussion during this item on your meeting agenda. For your easy reference, Attachment B contains the current versions of the draft vision statement for the community as a whole as well as draft vision statements for each of the community pillars. Also, as a follow-up to your February 23 discussion, The Lakota Group and staff have taken the Commission members comments and have updated the draft vision statement, goals, and initiatives for each of the following pillars (Attachment D):

- Community Infrastructure, Services, and Technology
- Operational Efficiencies and Regional Coordination

We are providing them for your information and any additional comments.

At upcoming meetings, the Commission is currently scheduled to consider the other community pillars:

- April meeting
  - Vibrant Business Districts
  - Quality, Livable Neighborhoods

- May meeting
  - Educational Excellence
  - Mobility and Accessibility
  - Sustainability and Climate Change

**ATTACHMENTS**

Attachment A: Agenda for the Comprehensive Plan Visioning Work Agenda Items

Attachment B: Current Draft Overall Community Vision Statement & Individual Pillar Vision Statements

Attachment C: Draft Vision Statements, Goals, and Initiatives for the following Pillars: Healthy and Engaging Lifestyles; Community Heritage and Placemaking; and Civic Engagement

Attachment D: Updated Draft Vision Statements, Goals and Initiatives for the following Pillars: Community Infrastructure, Services, and Technology, Operational Efficiencies and Regional Coordination

## WINNETKA FUTURES 2040 PLAN

AGENDA: Visioning Working Session – Pillars 3, 6 and 9

**DATE:** March 21, 2022

**TIME:** 7:00-9:00 pm

**LOCATION:** Village Hall

1. Review of Winnetka Futures Comprehensive Plan Phases
2. Review of Revisions to Community Infrastructure, Service and Technology and to Operational Efficiencies and Regional Coordination Pillars Based Upon February 23 Commission Discussion
3. Pillar Three: Community Heritage and Placemaking
  - a. Review of Vision Statement
  - b. Goals 1 through 6
  - c. Draft Initiatives for each Goal
4. Pillar Six: Healthy and Engaging Lifestyles
  - a. Review of Vision Statement
  - b. Goals 1 through 5
  - c. Draft Initiatives for each Goal
5. Pillar Nine: Civic Engagement
  - a. Review of Vision Statement
  - b. Goals 1 through 4
  - c. Draft Initiatives for each Goal
6. Discussion of Next Steps
7. Next Meeting
8. Adjourn



## Attachment B

March 17, 2022

116 West Illinois Street  
Floor 7  
Chicago, Illinois 60654  
p 312.467.5445  
f 312.467.5484  
thelakotagroup.com

**Updated per February 23, 2022, Commission Discussion with changes noted in red text.**

To: David Schoon  
Brian Norkus  
Ann Klaassen

From: The Lakota Team

Winnetka Comp Plan – *Winnetka Futures 2040 – Our Heritage Forward*  
Draft Vision Statements and Comp Plan Structure

### Comprehensive Plan Vision Statement

DRAFT VISION STATEMENT – Preferred option was A2

“Winnetka, the “Beautiful Land,” is a treasured North Shore lakefront village with easy access to the Chicago metropolitan center. Our community is committed to the stewardship of all its natural resources, **its built environment, and** its family-friendly heritage of:

- Pedestrian-friendly, safe, and tree-lined neighborhoods.
- Housing for all stages of one’s life.
- Vibrant and walkable core areas for commerce and community gathering.
- Active and engaged multigenerational citizenry.
- Primary and secondary school educational excellence.

#### Pillar 1: Quality Livable Neighborhoods

“A community of connected neighborhoods with safe, pedestrian-oriented streets, tree-lined parkways and a variety of well-maintained housing offerings to meet the needs of all of its residents, all of which create a unique and powerful sense of place.”

#### Pillar 2: Vibrant Business Districts

“A community with a strong commitment of supporting and enhancing its unique, walkable mixed-use business districts, which serve both as the community’s commercial core and its social centers.”

### **Pillar 3: Community Heritage and Placemaking**

**"Winnetka's authentic heritage can be found in its walkable streets, its rich tapestry of commercial and residential architecture, and in its cultural activities."**

### **Pillar 4: Sustainability and Climate Action**

**"A forward-looking community with a strong heritage of innovation and commitment to stewardship of our natural and built environment."**

### **Pillar 5: Educational Excellence**

**"A community with a strong heritage rooted in education that honors the wholechild, fosters creativity and confidence, inspires lifelong learning, and develops civic responsibility."**

### **Pillar 6: Healthy and Engaging Lifestyles**

**Note: Combined Parks and Recreation and Healthy and Engaging Lifestyles, added Arts and Culture into this.**

**"A unique lakefront community that values a variety of carefully managed and well connected parks and open spaces and that treasures unlimited access to recreational opportunities and cultural pursuits to help residents achieve a balanced and fulfilled lifestyle."**

### **Pillar 7: Community Infrastructure, Services, and Technology**

**"A forward-thinking tradition of delivering exceptional and efficient public services and infrastructure systems to meet the current and future needs of the community."**

### **Pillar 8: Mobility and Accessibility**

**"A progressive community with forethought in developing a safe and efficient local and regional mobility connectedness for all through public transportation, regional trails and pedestrian and bike friendly neighborhood street networks."**

### **Pillar 9: Civic Engagement**

**"A community heritage founded on the fundamental principle of fostering beneficial public dialogue through active community engagement and volunteerism."**

### **Pillar 10: Operational Efficiencies and Coordination**

**Note: Combined Operational Efficiencies and Regional Coordination**

**"A community with a strong heritage of thought-leadership supporting and enhancing our local and regional intergovernmental relationships to ensure efficient, prudent community management through data-supported planning, organizational synergies and effective communication."**

## Draft Comp Plan Structure Example

### A. Comp Plan Report Structure

- a. Acknowledgments
- b. Previous Planning Documents
- c. Table of Contents
- d. Introduction and Background
- e. Community Voice
- f. Comprehensive plan
  - i. Community Vision Statement
    1. Plan Vision and Policies
  - ii. Plan Values and Principals - Pillars
  - iii. Current and Future Land Use Strategy
  - iv. ***Community Planning Pillars - Chapters***
    1. ***Quality, Livable Neighborhoods***
    2. ***Vibrant Business Districts***
    3. ***Community Heritage and Placemaking***
    4. ***Sustainability and Climate Action***
    5. ***Educational Excellence***
    6. ***Healthy and Engaging Lifestyles***
    7. ***Community Infrastructure, Services and Technology***
    8. ***Mobility and Accessibility***
    9. ***Civic Engagement***
    10. ***Operational Efficiencies and Coordination***
- g. Implementation
- h. Comp Plan Community “notebook” – executive form



March 17, 2022 (DRAFT FOR COMMISSION REVIEW)

To: Winnetka Team

Fr: Lakota Team

RE: GROUP 2 – PILLARS 3, 6, 9 – GOALS AND INITIATIVES DEVELOPMENT  
Winnetka Comp Plan – *Winnetka Futures 2040 – Our Heritage Forward*

116 West Illinois Street  
Floor 7  
Chicago, Illinois 60654  
p 312.467.5445  
f 312.467.5484  
thelakotagroup.com

### Pillar 3: Community Heritage and Placemaking

*"Winnetka's authentic heritage can be found in its walkable streets, its rich tapestry of commercial and residential architecture, and in its cultural activities."*

### HERITAGE BASED GOALS

#### GOAL 1:

The Village will adopt and utilize tools that support the preservation of Winnetka's rich heritage, which is reflected in its history, architecture, neighborhood character, open space, and natural resources.

#### Initiatives

1. In order to strengthen and maintain the rich and diverse character of the Village's neighborhoods, take steps to define a neighborhood's character and sense of identity by identifying each neighborhood's unique elements that contribute positively to the Village, be it a heavy concentration of mature trees, significant density of tree canopy, irregular terrain, private lanes without curb and gutter, grid street form with uniform setbacks, or predominately smaller or larger residential lots.
2. Ensure infill housing and new construction is contextually consistent with existing single-family housing in its neighborhood by creating guideline documents identifying the scale and form of new residential construction envisioned in Winnetka's various neighborhoods.
3. Conduct an architectural survey to identify important Winnetka architectural and historic resources and other physical contributions to its heritage and character.
4. Build upon Winnetka's history of major public works initiatives which have reshaped the community in the past, including lowering the railroad grade, enhancement of the Skokie Lagoons, and the purchase and conversion of the former *Chicago North Shore and Milwaukee* railroad to establish the *Green Bay Trail*.
5. Use open space and parkway lands for pollinator gardens, community gardens and native plants.

**GOAL 2:**

**The Village will create and maintain new educational tools, publications, and programs that inform residents, developers, commercial property owners about the benefits of preserving the community's heritage.**

Initiatives

1. Provide summary information and links to federal and state financial incentives, such as the State of Illinois Property Tax Assessment Freeze or federal and state historic tax credits, so that Winnetka property owners are aware of programs to offset costs to restore qualifying historic structures.
2. Provide to Winnetka property owners information concerning non-financial tools and resources available to assist with preservation of historic and architecturally significant structures.
3. Upon completion of the historic and architecturally significant building survey, publish its findings to educate property owners and developers of the Village's potentially significant buildings and structures.

**GOAL 3:**

**The Village will identify policies, code amendments, and regulatory mechanisms that encourage context-sensitive design and building conservation solutions to maintain Winnetka's authentic commercial, institutional, and multi-family residential community character and sense of place.**

Initiatives

1. Update existing commercial design guidelines to address current design issues, concerns, and contexts more adequately.
2. Review sign regulations to ensure they adequately address current sign technology and the needs of Winnetka institutions and the business community while maintaining the pedestrian-focused community character of these areas that residents have come to expect.

**PLACEMAKING GOALS****GOAL 4:**

**The Village will encourage the enhancement of its public spaces, streetscapes, plazas, alleys, and corridors through creative, cost-effective placemaking and public art initiatives to enhance social gathering, events, and recreation for residents of all ages and abilities.**

Initiatives

1. Continue to implement the Village's Downtown Master Plan and Downtown Master Streetscape and Signage Plan by constructing streetscape improvements, similar to those in the Elm Street Business District, in the Hubbard Woods and Indian Hill business districts so that these commercial streets are for both mobility and public spaces for gathering, events and socializing.
2. Pursue Green Bay Road improvements that increase and contribute to placemaking through the Village.

3. In cooperation with the Park District, pursue Green Bay Trail improvements that enhance its usability, through improved access and signage, and that enhances the landscaping through upgrades to the natural systems.
4. To encourage more outdoor dining opportunities in Winnetka, establish a Village-wide policy for such temporary uses on public sidewalks, public streets, parking lots, and in public parks.
5. Activate streets and open spaces with temporary and permanent uses that can be catalysts for future investment and growth.
6. Create gateways at Village entrances that integrate elements such as signage, wayfinding, landscaping, and building forms unique to Winnetka.
7. Benchmark and measure the outcomes of public investment in placemaking initiatives.

**GOAL 5:**

**The Village will be prudent in its investment and management of public placemaking initiatives seeking a sustainable, long-term view in the selection of high-quality materials, product durability, product lifecycle, and maintenance responsibility.**

Initiatives

1. Use decorative streetlights and other outdoor lighting as effective placemaking tools used along Green Bay Road, the Green Bay Trail and other high traffic commercial areas.

**GOAL 6:**

**The Village will support community-wide arts and cultural efforts by providing welcoming spaces to support active participation, promotion, and programming efforts.**

Initiatives

1. Identify and create additional gathering spaces in the community, whether public, non-profit, or private, for cultural and entertainment events such as live performances and concerts.
2. Partner with Winnetka institutions and businesses to integrate public art and art spaces throughout the Village and continue to support Winnetka as an arts and cultural destination.

**Pillar 6: Healthy and Engaging Lifestyles**

***“A unique lakefront community that values a variety of carefully-managed and well-connected parks and open spaces and that treasures unlimited access to recreational opportunities and cultural pursuits to help residents achieve a balanced and fulfilled lifestyle.”***

**GOAL 1:**

**The Village will promote and encourage partnerships with other units of government and agencies to conserve, restore and enhance natural features and ecosystems and to ensure accessibility to and among natural areas, parks, and other open or public spaces.**

### Initiatives

- 1 . Collaborate with the Park District, local school districts, Forest Preserves of Cook County, and others to create programs that enhance accessibility to the open spaces of Winnetka.

### **GOAL 2:**

**The Village will work with other agencies or units of government to support recreational facilities and programs that support the health of residents of all ages and abilities.**

### Initiatives

- 1 . Collaborate with the Park District, School District, Library District, Community House of Winnetka, and other community institutions to create programs that maintain active and thriving Village recreation programs offering a variety of sports, exercise, arts and crafts, cultural, life skills, educational, social, and leisure programs for residents of all ages and abilities.
2. Coordinate with the Park District, non-profit service providers, private leagues, and the school districts the sharing of information so that the public is made aware of the full range of available recreational opportunities.
3. Ensure that local regulations do not discourage businesses and not-for profits from providing private recreational and physical fitness training facilities in the community.

### **GOAL 3:**

**The Village will support and promote community institutions and other units of government in the advancement of programs and facilities that provide life-long educational opportunities that broaden all Winnetka residents' understanding of the world in which we live.**

### Initiatives

1. Support the efforts of community institutions such as the Winnetka-Northfield Public Library, Oakton Community College, and the Winnetka Youth Organization to create programs that provide life-long learning opportunities about Winnetka and the world.
2. Ensure that local regulations and processes do not discourage businesses and not-for-profits from providing supplemental educational opportunities for Winnetka parents and their children.

### **GOAL 4:**

**The Village will support community-wide arts and cultural efforts that provide cultural enrichment to community members through active participation, promotion and programming efforts with other businesses, community institutions and arts entities.**

### Initiatives

- 1 . Collaborate with businesses and community organizations, such as the North Shore Art League, to create programs that encourage participation in arts and culture programs.
2. Create and appoint residents to a Cultural Arts Advisory Board or Commission to collaborate with local organizations and facilitate the installation of public art around the Village.

**GOAL 5:**

**The Village will support health and wellness through innovative and diversified recreation and cultural opportunities in its public parks, plazas, trails, and open spaces.**

Initiatives

1. Support and promote health and wellness for all its residents through a safe, connected, and accessible pedestrian and bicycle network, and resources for recreation.
2. Initiate regular, scheduled meetings and information sharing with local bodies of government and other public and non-profit organizations regarding open space and recreation. Sharing resources, ideas, and concerns may lead to new solutions or efficiencies.
3. Improve existing or create new non-motorized linkages between recreation and open space facilities for Village residents, businesses, and schools, and between the facilities themselves. Ensure adequate linkages to regional trail systems are also in place.
4. Support the efforts of the Park District and other community organizations to expand and/or modify Winnetka's recreational programming to fill gaps in services from existing recreation service providers.

**Pillar 9: Civic Engagement**

***“A community heritage founded on the fundamental principle of fostering beneficial public dialogue through active community engagement and volunteerism.”***

**GOAL 1:**

**The Village will nurture a culture among community residents that is welcoming, inclusive, and equitable, and that promotes diverse perspectives and cultivates community engagement.**

Initiatives

1. Orientation for new Council, board, or commission members, will include training on how the Village provides a welcoming and inclusive way in which all members of the public may participate in Village public processes.
2. Utilize active businesses and business groups to cultivate engagement among their customers and connect with different segments of the population.

**GOAL 2:**

**The Village will foster, promote, and provide ample and structured opportunities for robust community dialogue to support and enhance community in Winnetka.**

Initiatives

1. Support the effective use of digital civic engagement and traditional tools, including social media, for use of how residents of all ages and abilities interact with the Village.

2. Create a community open-source software program to engage the public on discussion of agenda items and Village sponsored projects before they become final.
3. Continue to make a high priority of posting online user-friendly information on Village finances, fiscal transparency, and projects.

**GOAL 3:**

**The Village will continue to develop and improve strategies for active recruitment, engagement, and retention of a diverse and multigenerational cohort of volunteers.**

Initiatives

1. Create a volunteer committee to work with the support of one staff person to focus on growing the field of volunteers and future leaders for the community and Village.
2. Pursue a variety of methods to attract volunteers such as holding open houses, creating a citizen's academy, collaborating with groups such as the Community House Winnetka, and reaching out to younger generations.
3. Use the Village's website to advertise the satisfactions and benefits volunteers receive from civic engagement.
4. Provide training to volunteers and employees to improve their data and information literacy and how they interact with the Village.
5. Identify obstacles and factors deterring residents from serving on Village boards and commissions. Provide comprehensive and detailed training to Village Board members and all commissioners.

**GOAL 4:**

**Continue to cooperate with those organizations utilized by its Village residents to enhance civic involvement including various clubs, organizations, leagues, and the caucus system.**

Initiatives

1. Inform Winnetka residents of community organizations that provide services to residents and include engagement of Village sponsored projects.

March 17, 2022 (FINAL DRAFT FOR REVIEW)

Comprehensive Plan Vision Pillars - Goals and Initiatives Development Working Draft  
Group 1 - 2.23.22 PC Working Group - FINAL EDITS

Red text reflects changes to, additions to, or the combining of initiatives based upon comments made at the February 23, 2022, Plan Commission meeting.

### Mission Statement

*Winnetka, the “Beautiful Land,” is a treasured North Shore lakefront village with easy access to the Chicago metropolitan center. Our community is committed to the stewardship of all its natural resources, **its built environment**, and to its family-friendly heritage of:*

- *Pedestrian-friendly, safe, and tree-lined neighborhoods.*
- *Housing for all stages of one’s life.*
- *Vibrant and walkable core areas for commerce and community gathering.*
- *Active and engaged multigenerational citizenry.*
- *Primary and secondary school educational excellence.*

### Pillar 7: Community Infrastructure, Services, and Technology

*“A forward-thinking tradition of delivering exceptional and efficient public services and infrastructure systems to meet the current and future needs of the community.”*

*Items highlighted in yellow below come from EFC/GRC2 goals. The idea is to incorporate these sustainability initiatives throughout the different pillars.*

**GOAL 1 – The Village will ensure infrastructure systems and services are evaluated, updated, and modernized to meet the needs of current and future residents.**

#### Initiatives:

- 1.1 Continue ongoing condition/risk assessments of all Village managed utilities including stormwater, water, sewer, and electric infrastructure to identify and prioritize required infrastructure updates or modernization.
- 1.2 Continue to annually update the Village’s Five-Year Capital Improvement Program to guide funding, scheduling, and implementation of improvements to Village managed utility infrastructure systems.

- 1.3 Ensure municipal finance practices and purchasing policies are consistent with sustainability and reinvest cost savings into sustainability initiatives.
- 1.4 Audit, benchmark, and track energy usage in Village facilities, and budget energy audits and retro commissioning studies.
- 1.5 Where feasible and economical, adopt energy efficiency measures, procure, or install renewable energy resources, and develop renewable energy resources for Village facilities and underutilized properties.

**GOAL 2 – The Village will adequately fund essential public works services and water, sewer, and electric utility systems to keep up with evolving regulations, and changes in demand, as well as technology.**

**Initiatives:**

- 2.1 Continue to maintain a database of potential infrastructure funding options and schedules for applications to help in identifying funding resources for essential public works services and water, sewer, and electric utility systems, and changes in technology.
- 2.2 Evaluate opportunities to migrate fleet to alternative fuel vehicles.
- 2.3 Track, analyze, and manage data regarding public works services and public infrastructure to advance sustainability.

**GOAL 3 – The Village will continue to update the community stormwater management systems, implementing both constructed and green infrastructure solutions, to alleviate flood risk and improve stormwater runoff quality.**

**Initiatives:**

- 3.1 Continue implementation of the Stormwater Management Plan for West and Southwest Winnetka based on the *Stormwater Alternatives Study for Western and Southwestern Winnetka*.
- 3.2 Develop a Stormwater Management Plan for Eastern Winnetka.
- 3.3 Consider incentives or credits to the Village's stormwater management policies and regulations to require or encourage stormwater best management practices such as rain barrels, permeable pavement, rain gardens, natural landscaping, and bioswales and bio-retention basins.
- 3.4 Evaluate the effectiveness of existing floodplain and stormwater management regulations for development and consider modifications to improve effectiveness.
- 3.5 Protect surface and groundwater from runoff and contamination, support post-development runoff reduction and mitigation and encourage residents and businesses to

address flood risks on their property.

**GOAL 4 - The Village will continue to strive to improve water quality in its natural systems of lakefront, bluffs, rivers, creeks, ponds, channels, and wetlands to enhance the natural environment and overall community quality of life.**

**Initiatives:**

- 4.1 Set guidelines and standards for water quality that are measurable.
- 4.2 Annually test water quality in natural systems against measurable standards.
- 4.3 Establish local construction techniques and best management practices to minimize the impact of construction site stormwater run-off on surface water quality.

**GOAL 5 - The Village will provide a reliable and safe water source through cost-effective intake, treatment, and distribution of Lake Michigan's water resource.**

**Initiatives:**

- 5.1 Perform a condition/risk assessment of Water Treatment Plant equipment and facilities to identify and prioritize short- and long-term facility needs.
- 5.2 Determine viability and appropriateness of an elevated tank to sustain pressures in the distribution system.
- 5.3 Update the water distribution system study with condition/risk assessment information and continue a prioritized replacement of water main with a goal of annually replacing a minimum of 1% of the water distribution system.
- 5.4 Anticipate the growing cost of providing water, including chemicals, equipment, and labor and include these costs in the utility Capital Improvement Program, while also tracking and forecasting long-term expense escalations.
- 5.5 Address and manage water quality issues and future regulations as they are developed through USEPA and IEPA.
- 5.6 Implement the installation of Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) "smart meters" to increase accuracy of measuring customer consumption and provide customers with increased awareness to potential water leaks in their system.
- 5.7 Implement water efficiency measures in Village operations and encourage residents and businesses to identify and mitigate water losses, which in the long term will reduce Winnetka's water consumption.
- 5.8 Replace lead service lines over time, minimizing lead exposure in drinking water.

**GOAL 6 – The Village will provide a reliable and cost-effective sanitary sewer system maintenance, management, and operate a plan in conformance with the Metropolitan Water and Reclamation District of Chicago (MWRD), Watershed Management Ordinance (WMO).**

**Initiatives:**

- 6.1 Completion of sanitary sewer televising, smoke testing, manhole rehabilitation and relining program.  
*Complete - example of completed or near completed initiative.*
- 6.2 Continue implementation of a long-term management program based on the WMO for reducing inflow and infiltration into the sanitary sewer system due to sanitary sewer system deficiencies.
- 6.3 **Reduce** infiltration and inflow into the sanitary sewer system due to private sources such as deficiencies in sanitary sewer laterals and non-sanitary connections.
- 6.4 **Reduce beach closures due to pollution.**

**GOAL 7 – The Village will continue to operate and maintain a cost-effective, efficient, and affordable electrical distribution system.**

**Initiatives:**

- 7.1 Continue to incorporate radial distribution circuits into looped circuits to improve electric supply reliability to facilities currently served by radial circuits.
- 7.2 Expand the current electrical infrastructure replacement program to improve electric supply reliability.
- 7.3 Continue conversations **with AT&T, or its successors, regarding its joint ownership with the Village of utility poles and a plan and strategies** to bury existing overhead utilities.
- 7.4 Review and set Village direction and discussion regarding upcoming IMEA agreement termination and fiscal impact of aging electrical generation system reinvestment options.
- 7.5 Implement the installation of Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) “smart meters” to improve operation of electric distribution system and create the ability to provide customers with additional information for the management of their energy consumption.
- 7.6 To complement the Village’s installation of energy efficient LED street lighting, work with IDOT and residents on private roads to develop plans to install LED lighting on state owned roadways and on private streets.

- 7.7 Continue to evaluate and convert existing underground transformer vaults to pad mount transformers designs to improve system operations and safety for commercial and residential properties.

**GOAL 8 – The Village will regularly assess, maintain, and improve Village roadways, parking facilities, accessibility, sidewalks, station areas, and bike facilities.**

**Initiatives:**

- 8.1 Continue to perform a roadway inventory and condition assessment of all Village roadways on a regular cycle to identify and prioritize required roadway maintenance and improvement needs.
- 8.2 Develop a Roadway Improvement Program to guide funding, schedule, and implementation of improvements to Village roadways.
- 8.3 Update the Village-wide-accessibility plan and consider new accessibility initiatives based upon legal requirements and best practices.
- 8.4 Implement pedestrian and traffic safety and crossing improvements at signalized intersections along the Green Bay Road corridor, in collaboration with IDOT, as part of on-going roadrepair, or new streetscape and utility projects
- 8.5 Invest in projects that further a network of on- and off-street bike improvements to enhance east-west connections to the Green Bay Trail as well as other destinations such as the Skokie Lagoons, schools, train stations, and the lakefront.

**GOAL 9 – The Village will identify and support the incorporation of new technologies to assist infrastructure and public safety systems efficiencies, cost effectiveness and advanced community communications or fiber optic.**

**Initiatives:**

- 9.1 Collaboratively work with telecommunication service providers to ensure Winnetka residents, businesses, and institutions have access to the most robust and reliable broadband and wireless telecommunication services infrastructure.

**GOAL 10 – The Village will continue to strive to meet the highest standards of providing essential public safety and community protection for its residents, businesses, and institutions.**

**Initiatives:**

10.1 Design and develop a new public safety camera system infrastructure to improve public safety response in high visibility and high traffic locations such as the business districts and along Green Bay Trail.

10.2 Establish requirements for effective public safety radio transmissions to ensure any remodeled or new commercial structure shall be designed and possess infrastructure that allows public safety radio communications within any part of the structure.

**GOAL 11 - The Village will provide a waste and recycling system that encourages community members to reduce the amount of waste they generate and to recycle or reuse generated waste.**

11.1 Consider impacts of the limited remaining lifespan of the SWANCC waste landfills.

11.2 Consider expanding the Village modified Pay-As-You-Throw waste and recycling program.

11.3 Continue working to make public events Zero Waste.

11.4 Support and incentivize expansion of existing services to include food scrap composting, commercial and multi-family recycling, discouraging use of unrecyclable products, as well as encouraging the use of eco-friendly products.

11.5 Continue to educate residents on refuse and recycling to reduce waste and avoiding the use of unrecyclable products.

11.6 Support efforts to find ways to reuse materials rather than to recycle or dispose of as waste.

**GOAL 12 - The Village will provide development and building services and regulations that encourage the preservation and enhancement of existing structures while at the same time allowing for the context-sensitive redevelopment of residential and commercial properties.**

12.1 Evaluate incorporating more green building construction standards into the Village's regulations and apply to all new and retrofit projects to the extent possible.

12.2 Review Village rules and procedures to identify and address any that disincentivize the renovation of existing homes in favor of teardowns and the construction of new homes.

- 12.3 Evaluate the adoption of rules and regulations that will further encourage the use, when appropriate, of on-site energy generation such as solar, wind, and geothermal.
- 12.4 Require any multifamily or mixed-use development projects of certain size to provide EV charging stations as part of their development.

## **PILLAR 10: Operational Efficiencies and Regional Coordination**

### **Note: Combined Operational Efficiencies and Regional Coordination**

***“A community with a strong heritage of thought-leadership supporting and enhancing our (local and regional) intergovernmental relationships to ensure efficient, prudent community management through data-supported planning, organizational synergies and effective communication.”***

**GOAL 1 - The Village will manage an efficient and an effective public review and entitlement process that provides clarity and predictability to both public and private reinvestment in the community.**

### **Initiatives**

- 1.1 Engage the Village Council, Zoning Board of Appeals, and the Plan Commission to consider changes to the zoning and subdivision entitlement regulations and processes to make them as clear and understandable for residential and commercial applicants as well as for the impacted residents and businesses that will participate in the processes.
- 1.2 Engage the Design Review Board to consider recommending streamlining the multi-family, commercial, and institutional design review process while still ensuring that compatible design is achieved.
- 1.3 Include Environment and Forestry Commission (EFC) representation on other Village commissions as well as enabling additional environmental and/or forestry related ordinances to fall under EFC's purview.
- 1.4 Engage all respective boards, commissions, and Village staff to consider recommending changes to streamline development and entitlement regulations and processes while still ensuring that desired development is achieved, and the public review process is transparent and consistent

**GOAL 2 - Whenever operationally efficient and fiscally effective, the Village will deliver exceptional public services through shared intergovernmental or regional cooperation and synergies.**

**Initiatives:**

- 2.1 Continue to maintain a single, integrated, five-year capital improvement program (CIP) for all Village facilities, equipment, and infrastructure, which program identifies how each project helps achieve of the mission and goals of the Comprehensive Plan.
- 2.2 Continue the practice of communication among local taxing jurisdictions (**New Trier High School District**, School District 36, Park District, Village), to inform and coordinate on infrastructure and facility improvements.
- 2.3 Create and continue to maintain a facilities master plan.
- 2.4 Coordinate the utility infrastructure Capital Improvement Program with the Village's Roadway Improvement Program for efficient and effective programming of improvements under both programs.
- 2.5 Establish or strengthen an inter- and intra-entity Green Team.
- 2.6 Partner with federal, regional, state, other local governments, (**such as local school districts and the Park District**) and other entities to undertake initiatives that promote energy efficiency, sustainability, and climate action.

**GOAL 3 – The Village (governance and management) will effectively evaluate, educate, and communicate changing and current community issues **with** its residents, businesses, and institutions.**

**Initiatives:**

- 3.1 When appropriate engage community service organizations, such as **the Winnetka Historical Society, local gardening clubs, service clubs**, into local issues and help create community.
- 3.2 Seek the use of other innovative technology to communicate with residents in real time, such as community sign boards.

**GOAL 4 – The Village will evaluate opportunities to approach municipal operations with effective sustainability measures, addressing current and future climate concerns.**

4.1 Measure emissions from Village operations to develop a GHG emissions reduction target for those operations, followed by monitoring to validate/optimize.

4.2 Adopt policies that reduce in the most cost-effective manner Village-wide carbon emissions for all Village buildings, facilities, and equipment.

4.3 Apply best management practices to all Village projects, to the extent possible.

~~4.4 Reduce energy usage of municipal operations through municipal and community means by reduction of single occupancy vehicle use, reduction of dependence on gas-powered tools, and incorporating green building measures.~~