

WINNETKA CAUCUS PLATFORMS

2021

Village Platform

PLANK #1

More than 50% of Caucus survey respondents rated a program of burying overhead electric and telephone lines as the highest infrastructure priority in the village and more than 70% rated it as one of their top two infrastructure priorities. A majority of respondents (57%) also expressed a willingness to share in the cost of this action if adequate funding was not available within the current village budget.

Therefore, recognizing that this project will take years to complete, the Village Council should undertake a planning effort to determine a reasonable time frame for burying the overhead lines as well as the options for paying for the cost of the effort, and then provide an opportunity for public comment on those options.

PLANK #2

Building community spirit is a long-standing desire highlighted by previous Surveys, and explicitly flagged by Village Planks in 2016 and 2020. In 2021, this interest appears even stronger: 65% of respondents express a clear desire for more opportunities to gather together on Village and Park District properties, and to participate in a broader array of social activities. As with the 2019 directives to coordinate capital spending between the four taxing bodies, a cooperative approach, led by the Village, to develop a public infrastructure that fosters a more attractive and vibrant community has the potential for creative synergies and financial economies of scale not available to the Village when it acts alone. And compared to purely physical infrastructure improvements, a well-coordinated 'social engagement' agenda could substantially enhance civic pride in a relatively short time.

The Caucus therefore strongly urges the Village to take a leadership role on this issue, and proactively collaborate with the Park District – as well as the Library and D36 as appropriate – to broaden the range of social opportunities available in the downtown areas and along the lakeshore, and expand outdoor dining, casual entertainment, and other such shared amenities.

PLANK #3

How, when and where our residents work has changed dramatically over the past year and a half. Based on survey results, there is meaningful interest among residents who are employed full or part time to use a co-working, or shared, office space in our community: 41% of respondents who work from home full or part-time said they would be "Very" or "Somewhat Likely" to use a co-working/shared office space if one were available in Winnetka.

Given this data, the Village Council should: take a leadership position to find ways to make Winnetka a more attractive community to our working demographic; explore incentives to landlords and other businesses who offer these services; consider changes to zoning rules to make offering such services easier to implement; and direct the Village Economic Development department to explore services and providers of co-working services, including the Library or organizations such as the Winnetka Community House, who may be attracted to the Village or attracted to offer these services in the Village.

Library Platform

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The Board of Trustees of the Winnetka-Northfield Public Library District (the "Library Board") should endeavor to cooperate with the boards and finance committees of the other three taxing authorities (i.e., the Village of Winnetka Council, the Winnetka Park District Board of Commissioners, and the School Board of The Winnetka Public Schools) regarding the order and priority of projected major capital expenditures.

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The Winnetka-Northfield Public Library District (the "Library District") should continue to publicize, promote, and explain how Library patrons can borrow e-books, audiobooks, newspapers, magazines, movies, and music

from the Library District by downloading them to their smartphones, home computers, laptops, Kindles, iPads, or similar devices.

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The Library District should continue to publicize, promote, and explain how Library patrons can utilize the equipment available in The Studio and the types of projects that can be done with such equipment.

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The Library District should continue to its use of e-mail communications and social media outreach to publicize, promote, and educate Library patrons about the Library District's available materials and programs.

Schools Platform

PLANK #1

The Winnetka Public Schools District 36 School Board (the "School Board") should endeavor to cooperate with the boards and finance committees of the other three taxing authorities (*i.e.*, the Board of Trustees of the Winnetka-Northfield Public Library District, the Winnetka Park District Board of Commissioners, and the Village of Winnetka Council) regarding the order and priority of projected major capital expenditures.

PLANK #2

The School Board should make comparison data available to residents on how District 36 schools compare to other schools feeding into New Trier, as over 70% of survey respondents indicated a desire for that information and only 24% currently know how to access it.

PLANK #3

The School Board should prioritize capital projects that address updated electrical systems, HVAC systems, and safety and security items in District 36 schools.

PLANK #4

In the wake of the pandemic, the School Board should carefully monitor and implement programming to address the potential loss of academic progress, the effects of social isolation, and the potential loss of enthusiasm for learning among District 36 students. Further, the School Board should examine how much time students are spending on technology and whether it is excessive, as residents expressed that as a concern.

PLANK 5

The School Board should focus curriculum improvement efforts on the subjects of Writing, Math, Reading, Science, and Technology.

Parks Platform

PLANK #1

The Winnetka Park District (the “Park District”) Board of Commissioners (the “Parks Board”) should endeavor to cooperate with the boards and finance committees of the other three taxing authorities (i.e., the Village of Winnetka (the “Village”) Council, the Board of Trustees of the Winnetka-Northfield Public Library District, and the School Board of The Winnetka Public Schools) regarding the order and priority of projected major capital expenditures. The Parks Board should also collaborate with the Village to evaluate and deliver community programs.

PLANK #2

The Park District should continue to implement Winnetka Waterfront 2030, with strong community support for the type of restoration and infrastructure work now complete at Lloyd beach. Proactive engagement with the community should shift to a focus on amenities, programming and the waterfront experience -- with a goal of better understanding community priorities in each of those areas. Direct dialogue with residents should specifically include discussion regarding the following topics: beach maintenance, the sale of non-resident beach passes, interest in small watercraft rental, the viability of beachfront dining options including food trucks/grilled food options, and adult focused events (e.g., bands)

PLANK #3

The Winnetka Park District should evaluate the viability of a pool (outdoor and/or indoor) by analyzing a possible change in demographics and a resulting increased need and desire for a pool. The Park District should thereby research all finance/sponsorship options and the possibility of collaboration with neighboring communities. Further community education around the financial elements (e.g. building costs, annual operating/maintenance costs, estimated revenue) will also be important.

PLANK #4

The Park District should prioritize continuous access to a permanent dog park/dog beach within Winnetka, and actively communicate plans for any dog park/dog beach closures and openings to residents. To the extent that the current dog beach at Centennial is closed during erosion reparation efforts, and another permanent dog park/dog beach is not yet open in Winnetka, residents should be provided access to a temporary dog park/dog beach, whether in Winnetka or in partnership with neighboring towns/villages.

PLANK #5

The Parks Board should maintain an open and continuous dialogue with Winnetka residents on topics, amenities and programs of interest. The Parks Board should demonstrate responsiveness and support for requests including, but not limited to, enhancing the Green Bay Trail, adding additional court facilities (e.g., basketball, pickleball, paddle) to village parks, supporting outside dining options and maintaining the cleanliness (i.e., picking up waste) of parks and beaches.