

Implementation Task Force

A cornerstone of the DMP Action Plan is the establishment of an Implementation Task Force. Their purpose, like the Steering Committee, is to study issues, gather appropriate stakeholder input, and make recommendations to the Village Council, under a facilitated structure and with the guidance of Staff and subject matter experts. Further, the Implementation Task Force provides critical value to the Council and community in the three following ways.

First, Task Force members are recommended to be subset of the prior DMP Steering Committee—ensuring familiarity and continuity with the previous year-long planning effort. The five-member Task Force includes Jon Talty (Chair), Trustee Scott Myers (Council liaison), Margaret Benson, Steve Hudson, and Bob Winters. All of these individuals have been contacted and readily agreed to continue their service. Because they are making recommendations around issues they have already studied, they have a short learning curve to facilitate a nine-to-ten month Work Program. They all also appreciate the value of stakeholder input, guidance of the DMP Vision Statements, and rationale for the Action Plan process.

Second, the Task Force will be specifically charged with the identified priorities on behalf of the Council—allowing the Council to spend its time on strategic priorities, including the Stormwater Management Program, One Winnetka Planned Development, Water Rate Analysis, and Electric Rate Study. The practice of tasking an advisory board to critically evaluate a specific set of issues and make recommendations is consistent with past Council practice, including building height/density, coal tar ban, refuse collection analysis, etc. Some items in the Implementation Work Program are rather simple and linear, such as the installation of bike racks or some aspects of parking management. Others, however, are more complex and iterative—requiring time, input, feedback, and analysis. We anticipate following the DMP format for providing and processing information, as well as for formulating and presenting recommendations.

Third, the Task Force allows for more of the valuable community input we received over the last year and a half. The facilitated structure permits residents to engage with key stakeholders on behalf of the Council, but with assistance from Staff and with expert consultants. The scope of this group is limited to the Action Plan the Council has authorized through the Budget, and so the 2017 Work Program is reasonably expected to take nine to ten months, after which Staff would draw again on the DMP Action Plan to craft a budget and work program for 2018.

Overall, this is structured to be a deliberative and focused process to give the Council thoughtful recommendations to begin the important work of the Plan that will help ensure the long-term vitality of the Hubbard Woods, Elm, and Indian Hill Business Districts.