Planning Goals and Objectives

Improve Village Capacity

[create a process that can be replicated]

Village trustees, officials and staff share a deep commitment to citizen participation and service. The Village has a well-deserved reputation for possessing a vibrant socially and politically active civic life. But participation has its costs. Deliberation and debate about the location, scale and value of proposed improvements, whether private developments or public facilities, takes time and often generates frustration among participants who feel their ideas have no impact. Specific experiences and ideas cannot readily find a place in adversarial debates except as evidence for one position or another. Ironically, public officials also find themselves frustrated because adversarial debates tend to harden positions without identifying common or shared interests or benefits.

Planning cannot resolve adversity directly, nor does it seek to substitute for important differences of belief or opinion. Planning introduces conceptual frameworks and techniques for improving the quality of deliberation among relevant participants. Planning that works well improves the intelligence of participatory democracy by helping participants learn how to evaluate and anticipate the shared consequences of proposed projects for the future. When people start planning they attend to the consequences of different elements of a proposal rather than focusing exclusively on their own interests. Planning makes sense in urban settings where the individual decisions of each of us impacts so readily upon our neighbors. Plans help public officials intelligently balance the interests and needs of each individual against the collective welfare of us all. When local citizens participate in the planning this improves the quality of the judgments and the advice that officials will use to make decisions about development proposals or infrastructure improvements.

The planning activity and recommendations described in this report directly build upon the 1990 Comprehensive Plan for the Village. The recommendations elaborate and implement many of the goals, objectives and policies approved in the Comprehensive Plan. See Appendix 1 for a summary of the 1990 Comprehensive Plan’s Goals and Objectives.