



MEMORANDUM

City of Warrenville

Phone: 630-836-3050 | Website: www.warrenville.il.us

DATE: February 9, 2026

TO: Mayor and City Council

AGENDA ITEM: WARRENVILLE MERCANTILE WORKGROUP

STAFF CONTACT: Amy Emery, Community and Economic Development Director

Background: The Warrenville Mercantile is intended to function as a dynamic, community-focused marketplace that supports local entrepreneurs, activates public space, and strengthens Warrenville's sense of place. To support the long-term success of the Mercantile, staff will be meeting with community stakeholders to obtain guidance, community perspective and feedback on the proposed operations of and community goals for the Mercantile. The stakeholder workgroup will provide diverse perspectives, and subject-matter insight related to operations, programming, marketing, and community integration.

Stakeholder involvement in this context will offer opportunity for balanced representation from stakeholders who are directly impacted by, invested in, or supportive of the Mercantile's success. A diverse body will help staff anticipate challenges, identify opportunities, and maintain strong alignment with community values. It is anticipated this group would meet a 2-3 times in early 2026, prior to the market season commencement and at least once in early 2027 to evaluate first season operations and opportunities for improvement.

Analysis:

The community stakeholder Workgroup will include a mix of vendors, nearby residents, professionals, and community leaders to capture a wide breadth of perspectives. A representative from each of the following stakeholder interests has been identified:

1. **Vendor Representative** - Ensures direct vendor feedback related to operations, programming, and day-to-day needs.
2. **Neighbor Representative** - Provides a nearby resident perspective for a project that directly impacts surrounding neighborhoods.
3. **Plan Commission Representative** - Provides knowledge related to site parking, site layout functionality, and site design and resident perspective.
4. **Marketing Professional** - Provides branding, outreach, and promotional insight as the Mercantile establishes itself as a destination.
5. **Financial Expert** - Brings financial expertise and assist with vendor-focused programming related to financial literacy and business sustainability.
6. **Community Leader** - Former Mayor Brummel has been identified as a nominee for this position.
7. **One Elected Official** - Ensures alignment with City priorities and elected leadership perspectives.

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8. **Warrenville Historical Museum Representative** - Sara Phalen given her knowledge and understanding of local history, storytelling, and cultural identity within the Mercantile.
9. **Warren Tavern Representative** - Barb Thornbury as she is responsible for site operations and scheduling for the Warren Tavern. She brings experience with event coordination and shared-site operations.

Recommendation:

Staff is seeing a City Council representative to volunteer to participate in these Warrenville Mercantile stakeholder advisory discussions.