

rLa Crescent Economic Development Commission Meeting Minutes

La Crescent Chamber of Commerce

Keep Company Shared Workspace, October 10, 2022

- 1: Call to Order: Chairman Stryker called meeting to order at 3:03 pm.
2. Pledge of Allegiance: The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by the members.
3. Roll Call: Members Present – Larry Stryker, Lori Kadlec, Sarah Danielson, Cherryl Jostad, Troy Nolop
Members Absent – (Excused) Brett Kemmer, Julie Hatlem, Alan Voss, Michael Welch
Staff Present - Larry Kirch
Guest(s): None
- 4: Approval of September 6, 2022 Meeting Minutes: A motion was made by Lori to approve the minutes of the September 6, 2022 meeting, seconded by Troy, motion carried.
5. Approval of Agenda: No action. (discussed moving this item up to #4 prior to approval of the minutes)
- 6: Staff Report:
 - a. Larry K presented an updated project list/workplan.
 - The Root River Trail communities (Houston County, La Crescent, Houston, Hokah) have all approved the MOA to Jointly Cooperate and have all appointed their two citizen members. An organizational meeting of the citizen group is to be scheduled.
 - The MnDOT Active Transportation Planning (STH 16 corridor from the new Wagon Wheel bridge landing to Miller’s Corner) corridor study kicked off on October 6th with a hybrid meeting to set the vision for the project and for the consultant team to learn more about the project and get input from the local project steering committee. The next meeting is November 3 with a series of walking tours, biking tour and mini-charrette with the general public.
 - Walnut Street - Since we were unsuccessful in our SMIF Small Towns grant to fund a community process for the ultimate streetscaping of Walnut Street, the city submitted an application to the La Crosse Area Planning Committee for a Local Studies project. This project was approved by Wisconsin DOT and the Federal Highway Administration. The city has to send out a Request for Proposals to hire a planning firm to do the plan. The process will start in February once WisDOT and the Federal Highways Administration approve the RFP document in January.
 - Overlook Plaza - We were successful in our Blandin Foundation grant for the design of a monument at the Wagon Wheel Trail bridge landing area (Overlook Plaza) to provide education about the indigenous peoples who inhabited the downtown area before white settlement. We are reaching out to both the Prairie Island Indian Community and the Ho-Chunk Nation for their involvement in this project.
 - Phase 4 wagon Wheel Trail - the West Channel Bike-Ped Bridge was funded by the Wisconsin DOT as a Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) project. WisDOT

awarded \$4,010,400 million toward the project. The city of La Crosse has to come up with the design engineering for the project which will not just be the bridge but also widening the sidewalks to bike paths up to the new Mississippi River Bridge.

- A grant was submitted to the Arlin Falck Foundation for the Keep Company shared workspace for \$8,100 for outreach networking events, staffing the space and also offering business assistance and coaching. The preparation of a “business plan” to outline long-term financial sustainability was also part of the application. The city, chamber and county are collaborating on this effort to expand the use and long-term effectiveness of the Keep Company project.
- The Sportsman Road improvement project started today. Monte Carlo road is being pushed out a year as there was only 1 bid and the city wanted to get a few more bids.
- The Mayor is working on setting up a meeting with the Government Affairs person from Kwik Trip along with their store planner to continue dialogue with them on both the north and south convenience stores.

7. Discussion Items:

a . Troy mentioned that there are now cameras on the new bike bridge and mentioned how the cable was installed/re-installed in the alley next to the laundromat building. The contractor initially put the buried cable on his property and he made several attempts to make sure that it was put in the alley right-of-way. The contractor had to go back and move the cable to the alley right-of-way. Troy mentioned that the bike traffic on the new bridge is amazing. He also mentioned that the city came out the next day (after our last meeting) and installed a bike rack, then brought in a nicely painted red one near the bus stop. Troy appreciated that the city got the bike rack into downtown so quickly.

Cherryl mentioned that she is going to ride Explore La Crosse Bluff to Bluff Trolley this weekend to see how La Crescent is showcased. The last Trolley tour is October 29th. The city council had a split vote on the Over 55 housing discussion for the 10 “twin homes” near Horse Track Meadows. The council will continue the discussion when the preliminary plat is brought forth.

b. Other items: Larry K mentioned that Houston County received a grant to examine and plan for growing child care opportunities in the county. The planning effort is 12-18 months long and the county is planning a Town Hall Meeting and also an appreciation event for current providers as part of the process. The grant came through MnDEED and the non-profit consulting entity to assist the county is First Children’s Finance. Allison Wagner at the County EDA would like to ensure that La Crescent daycare providers are included in this process. Larry K mentioned that the Mayor would like to have discussions with the Rail Road about stopping too long or blocking the crossings when that is not necessary.

8. Adjourn – Chairman Stryker adjourned the meeting at 4:09 pm.

Next scheduled meeting is Wednesday, November 2nd, 2022 at 3:00 p.m. at the Chamber building.

Minutes submitted by Larry Kirch