

TO: Planning Commission Members
Honorable Mayor and City Council Members
FROM: Shawn Wetterlin, Building/ Zoning Official
DATE: November 27th, 2017
RE: Meeting Minutes,
Tuesday, November 20th, 2017
REVISED AND AMENDED MINUTES

The Planning Commission met at 5:30 p.m., on Tuesday, November 20th, 2017 in the City Council Chambers at City Hall. The Following members were present: Donald Smith, Patti Dockendorff, Jerry Steffes, Dave Hanifl, and Richard Wieser. City Council members Brian Krenz, Dale Williams, Bernie Buehler, Mayor Mike Poellinger and Building/ Zoning Official, Shawn Wetterlin were also in attendance. Planning Commission members Linda Larson and Jason Ludwigson were not in attendance.

1. The meeting was called to order by Chairman, Smith. The meeting minutes of November 7th, 2017 were approved as distributed by a consensus of the Planning Commission Members.
2. The Planning Commission held a Public Hearing at the La Crescent City Hall, 315 Main Street on Monday, November 20th at 5:35 o'clock P.M. to consider adopting the Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan update document.

General: Each of the 3 Plans being considered today were selected from the priorities identified in the Comprehensive Plan. The studies supply additional community input and more specific planning.

The Public Hearing opened with Planning Commission Chairman Smith giving an overview of the Bicycle and Pedestrian plan. This update focused on a number of critical areas where experience and future plans suggests significant opportunity for improvement exist. The over plan was made current with changes from the last plan and future general improvements. The cost of this study was funded through a grant from the LAPC.

The following residents spoke to the Bike Pedestrian Plan:

Larry Stryker, 407 North 14th street: Spoke in favor of the overall plan. Has some concerns of the traffic diet that is proposed on south 3rd street from a traffic and accident stand point.

Jack Miller, 758 Shore Acres road: wondered what the time frame would be for completing all ten recommendations. Thought it was a well done project and looks forward to cooperative meetings with the County.

Steve Mau, 180 Crescent Ave: had concerns if parking would be allowed on south 7th street and if it would be one side.

Bob Cummings, La Crescent Township Chairman: Concerns on parking on south 7th street.

Jeremy Chipps, 1406 Willow Street: asked for the Planning Commission Chairman to touch on the Comprehensive plan and how the Bike Pedestrian plans works with Comprehensive Plan.

Cherryl Jostad, 117 Hillview Blvd: Questioned if the City adopts a Complete Streets plan, does that obligate the City to obey certain Federal or State laws? No

Motion by Steffes, Seconded by Wieser to recommend adoption by the City Council of the Bicycle and Pedestrian plan to the City Council with the understanding that there will be increased emphasis in the the section that refers to a connection to the Root River Trail from La Crescent.

Upon a roll call vote, all members present voted in favor of the motion as proposed. Discussion included the commission members delight of in addition to general questions the universally positive comments received from the Public.

3. The Planning Commission held a Public Hearing at the La Crescent City Hall, 315 Main Street, in on Monday, November 20th at 5:50 o'clock P.M. to consider adopting the Bluffland Plan document.

The Public Hearing opened with Planning Commission Chairman Smith giving an overview of the Bluffland plan. The Bluffland Plan is an extension of the work done under contract with the LAPC and lead by La Crosse County. That plan looked at Bluffland preservation on the La Crosse and La Crescent side of the river. The question we are attempting to answer is "what are the specific actions can be take by La Crescent to help achieve the broad objectives of The Bluffland Plan. This La Crescent project also is a high priority area of the Comprehensive Plan and was funded by the LAPC under a grant to La Crescent.

The following residents spoke to the Bluffland Plan:

Bob Cummings, La Crescent Township Chairman: Concerns if property owners have been contacted and what are the costs of completing the plan.

Janice Hoeshler, 31018 Old Mill Road, Dresbach: Concerned were she should ride her horse and were the right of ways are.

Bob Hurt, Dakota: In favor of the plan and thinks it's a good starting point.

Dan Wilson, 1570 Crescent Hills Drive: How can he learn when meetings are.

Ed Walsh, 45593 Lost Valley Drive: Likes the plan and commends the group that put it together. The Plan enhances property and increases value for the entire community and especially subject parcels.

Bruce Kuehmichel, 1105 East Caledonia St. Caledonia, MN: Likes the Plan and spoke to the Bluffs giving 'a sense of place' which is important in community building, identity and good health.

Ann Morse, Winona county Planning and environmental Services: Likes the plan and improving parks and looking forward. Recognizes opportunities to work together that will open new funding opportunities.

Lucas Fabian, 175 Eagles Bluff road: Likes plan with a bike trail in his back yard.

Jeremy Chipps, 1406 Willow St: consider looking at other communities how they develop trails.

Jim Nissen, 1214 poplar St: Bluffland conservation is important and thinks it's a great plan.

Other comments were: We have a gem here in La Crescent and the Bluffs give La Crescent a sense of place.

Motion by Dockendorff, Seconded by Hanifl to recommend adoption by the City Council of the Bluffland Plan as adjunct to the Comprehensive Plan.

Upon a roll call vote, all members present voted in favor of the motion as proposed. The Commission sited the overwhelming expression of support for the plan as a starting place for community action.

4. The Planning Commission of the City Zoning Authority held a Public Hearing at the La Crescent City Hall, 315 Main Street, on Monday, November 20th at 6:05 o'clock P.M. to consider adopting the Downtown Plan document.

The Public Hearing opened with Planning Commission Chairman Smith giving an overview of the Downtown Plan.

The following residents spoke to the Downtown Plan:

Kathy Rozivics, with friends of the Library: Concerns of the library having street frontage and enough square footage. The Library needs four times the area of what they currently have.

Janice Hoeshler, 31018 Old Mill Road Dresbach: What is the priority and where do we start.

Tom Fushsel, with Knights of Columbus organization: Concerns with looks of the new grocery store next to the Knights of Columbus buildings.

Ricardo Acevedo, with Knights of Columbus: The Knights of Columbus parking lot is essential to their customers.

Cherryl Jostad, 117 Hillview Blvd: Questioned if a property owner has a different idea (for usage of the property) than what the plan shows.

Motion by Wieser, Seconded by Hanifl to recommend approval of the Downtown Plan by Council adoption of the resolution on Page 2 of the Plan. It was understood that scrivener edits and the addition of the corner of Oak and Main Street as a 'catalytic redevelopment site' would be made to the final draft.

Upon a roll call vote, all members present voted in favor of the motion as proposed.

5. The Planning Commission wishes to thank all involved who helped develop the documents and attended the many meeting and working sessions.

The next Planning Commission meeting date will be December 12th

Meeting Adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully, Shawn Wetterlin