

## La Crescent Economic Development Commission Meeting Minutes

La Crescent Chamber of Commerce

Keep Company Shared Workspace, June 27, 2022

- 1: Call to Order: Chairman Stryker called meeting to order at 3:05 pm.
2. Pledge of Allegiance: No flag was available so the pledge was dispensed with.
3. Roll Call: Members Present - Lori Kadlec, Julie Hatlem, Cherryl Jostad, Troy Nolop, Larry Stryker, Alan Voss, Michael Welch, Sarah Danielson  
  
Members Absent - Brett Kemmer (excused)  
  
Staff Present - Larry Kirch  
  
Guest(s): None
- 4: Approval of April 25 Meeting Minutes: A motion was made by Mike to approve the minutes of the April 25, 2022 meeting, seconded by Sarah, motion carried.
5. Approval of Agenda: A motion was made by Sarah to approve the agenda as presented, seconded by Mike, motion carried.
- 6: Staff Report:
  - a. Keep Company Shared Work Space - Larry Kirch noted that the meeting was being held here at the La Crescent Chamber Building in the Keep Company shared work space which was made possible through a grant from the Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation (SMIF). Larry is working here on Tuesdays from 9-4 to keep office hours. Julie pointed out various features of the space and noted that Terry Erickson was instrumental in securing the funds and there is a plaque on the wall in appreciation to Terry's many community improvement efforts. The space is available for use by appointment and advertising its availability is ongoing and that there are funds to bring in business coaches and mentors for those wanting such services.
  - b. Larry presented an updated project list/workplan.
    - The Root River Trail communities (Houston County, La Crescent, Houston, Hokah) are meeting monthly and the memorandum to cooperate is slowly getting finalized for future city action. Each community will appoint two citizen members with La Crescent and Allison Wagner from the County taking the lead.
    - Larry applied for MnDOT funding to study the corridor from the new bridge landing to Miller's Corner.
    - Larry also applied to the SMIF for a Small Towns grant to fund a community process for the ultimate streetscaping of the street.
    - Previously Larry submitted a Letter of Interest to the Blandin Foundation for funding for the design of a monument at the bridge landing area to provide education about the indigenous peoples who inhabited the downtown area before white settlement.
    - The final section of the Wagon Wheel Trail was paved last week.

- Larry K again spoke with Jack Zabrowski (now with La Crosse County) regarding the West Channel Bridge and additional Bicycle accommodations. The city of La Crosse staff submitted a request to WisDOT for a new parallel bridge but funding is unlikely.
- SEMCAC is administering the housing rehabilitation funds for city homeowners. If people have questions they should contact Cindy at SEMCAC regarding application status.
- Larry K and the Mayor had a meeting scheduled for this evening with the Government Affairs person from Kwik Trip to continue dialogue with them on both the north and south convenience stores.

#### 7. Discussion Items:

- a. Member Reports: Larry K handed out a press release from the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED) regarding funding through SMIF that is available to small businesses via the Main Street Economic Revitalization Awards. \$2.3 million was awarded by DEED for SMIF to administer. Mike mentioned that there is a young business person that wants to get into Minnesota, and would like to be in La Crescent. Cheryl mentioned that Explore La Crosse is finalizing the verbiage for the trolley tour this Fall and has a Bluff to Bluff logo and they are doing a dry run in August. Everyone had heard comments on the city's demonstration project at Main and Walnut. All comments were negative. Some quick fixes were suggested including moving the stop signs out to the street more and painting the crosswalks all the way through the intersection at all four corners. Some suggested developing a questionnaire and having drop boxes at some of the businesses. Troy noted about the gravel parking lot in Old Hickory Park (others noted they had heard comments) and why it was not paved. (Larry checked with Bill Waller and Bill indicated that it was slated in the capital improvement budget for 2024/2025 and the city has no funds at present) Julie mentioned that there would be no meat market/coffee shop as the landlord did not approve the lease terms. Also, the visitor's guides are in.
- b. Other items: A follow-up discussion by the chair regarding moving the meeting day to the first week of the month. The group agreed to move the meetings to the 1<sup>st</sup> Monday instead of the last Monday. We would work around national holidays and move those meetings to the 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday. No other business was brought before the commission.

8. Adjourn – Chairman Stryker adjourned the meeting at 3:55 pm.

Next scheduled meeting is Monday August 1, 2022 at 3:00 p.m. at the Chamber building.

Minutes submitted by Larry Kirch