

La Crescent Economic Development Commission Meeting Minutes

La Crescent Chamber of Commerce

Keep Company Shared Workspace, September 6, 2022

1: Call to Order: Chairman Stryker called meeting to order at 3:06 pm.

2. Pledge of Allegiance: The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by the members.

3. Roll Call: Members Present - Brett Kemmer, Cherryl Jostad, Troy Nolop, Larry Stryker, Alan Voss, Michael Welch

Members Absent - Lori Kadlec , Sarah Danielson, Julie Hatlem

Staff Present - Larry Kirch

Guest(s): None

4: Approval of August 1, 2022 Meeting Minutes: A motion was made by Mike to approve the minutes of the June 27, 2022 meeting, seconded by Al, motion carried.

5. Approval of Agenda: A motion was made by Mike to approve the agenda as presented, seconded by Al, motion carried.

6: Staff Report:

a. Larry K presented an updated project list/workplan.

- The Root River Trail communities (Houston County, La Crescent, Houston, Hokah) last met on July 25th. As the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA to Jointly Cooperate) was not adopted, the communities felt it better to wait until all four jurisdictions approve the MOA and appoint their two community members before another meeting is to be held.
- The city received approval for a MnDOT Active Transportation Planning corridor study to study the corridor from the new Wagon Wheel bridge landing to Miller's Corner. MnDOT's Consultant and MnDOT staff and city staff will coordinate the effort that will start later in September and conclude in March. There will be a Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) of local residents and officials to help as a steering committee.
- We were unsuccessful in our SMIF Small Towns grant to fund a community process for the ultimate streetscaping of Walnut Street. The city is working on an application to the La Crosse Area Planning Committee for a Local Studies project.
- We were invited to submit Blandin Foundation grant 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. We are now waiting to see if the grant proposal was approved.
- A 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. This is known as Wagon Wheel Phase 4.

- The Sportsman Road improvement project is moving forward as the bid was approved. There is a MnDOT landscaping project in this area. Some of the trees are being located to the Wagon Wheel Bridge area as they would have to be moved once the West Channel bridge is installed. 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.
- Larry K has tried a couple of times to set up another meeting 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 . Cheryl mentioned that Explore La Crosse Bluff to Bluff Trolley’s first tour was very successful and the next one had only 1 seat unsold. Cheryl also brought up the idea of “over 55” housing on the 5 lots near Horsetrack Meadows that the city has which was originally suggested by Julie Hatlem. This will be 10 “twin homes” and a preliminary plat will be brought forth soon to the Planning and Zoning Commission. Cheryl indicated the need for this type of housing in La Crescent. The council will be discussing at their September 12th meeting.

Troy noted that there is a visible increase in the number of bicyclists he is seeing in the downtown now that the bridge is open. The bridge is having a positive economic impact. He would like the city to address bike parking now this fall to accommodate those wishing to visit downtown. Long-term it can be part of the Walnut Street streetscaping project. Signage is another topic so that people know of the businesses in the downtown. Larry K mentioned that the Mayor is working on a map to place on a sign for this Fall that would direct people on the trail into the downtown with 2 signs listing the businesses that might cater to bicyclists and walkers/runners. Troy also noted that MnDOT promised a sign on U.S. 14/61 to bring people into downtown and that never happened. He also mentioned improving lighting in and around the parking lot behind the laundromat will be part of any project for the laundromat site. Lighting will also be addressed as part of the Walnut Street Project.

Al inquired about whether La Crosse will budget for the funds for the West Channel Bridge. Larry K noted that the LAPC is amending the regional Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for design in 2022/2023 with construction in 24/25 so the city would likely include the funding in future City CIP budgets.

b. Other items: None

8. Adjourn – Chairman Stryker adjourned the meeting at 4:04 pm.

Next scheduled meeting is Monday, October 10 6, 2022 at 3:00 p.m. at the Chamber building.

The November meeting will be held on Wednesday 2nd.

Minutes submitted by Larry Kirch