

La Crescent Economic Development Commission Meeting Minutes
La Crescent Chamber of Commerce and Tourism - Keep Company Conference Room
January 8, 2024

- 1: Call to Order: Chair Sarah DeLacy called meeting to order at 3:02 p.m.
2. Pledge of Allegiance: The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
3. Roll Call: Members Present, Sarah DeLacy, Michael Welch, Alan Voss, Troy Nolop, and ex-officio City Council Member Cherryl Jostad

Members Absent – Lori Kadlec (excused) Brett Kemmer (excused)

Staff Present - Larry Kirch, Community Development Director, Brian Meeter, Chamber Executive Director
4. Election of Chair/Vice Chair: Sarah asked if there were any nominations for Chair and Vice Chair. The Commission members suggested keeping the same slate for Chair and Vice Chair. A motion was made by Alan Voss to approve Sarah DeLacy as Chair and Troy Nolop as Vice Chair, seconded by Mike Welch, the motion carried unanimously.
5. Approval of Agenda: Mike Welch made a motion to approve the agenda, seconded by Troy, the motion carried unanimously.
6. Approval of December 4, 2023 Meeting Minutes: A motion was made by Sarah, to approve the minutes of the December 6, 2023 meeting, seconded by Al, the motion carried unanimously.
7. The Commission discussed a number of possible potential members from business owners, bank employees, residents/property owners along Walnut Street and others. Several committee members agreed to reach out to several people that were named. Larry said he would draft a Commission member job description that could be used for recruitment/informational purposes.
8. EDC Workplan Review: Larry went through the spreadsheet item by item and reviewed the status of the projects and grant applications that the city is working on via a Letter of Intent or final application.

Root River Trail Extension / MOA to Jointly Cooperate: The Root River Trail Extension – Citizens Exploratory Committee met on Wednesday, January 10th. Their next meeting will be in March. The committee is working on drafting a “trail plan” as required by the MOA. The committee has one vacancy that has to be filled by the City of Houston. Joe Thessing has stepped off and there is a new member from Houston County, Jason Kraft. Larry has been in contact with Minnesota DNR staff who may come to the March meeting. Larry is submitting a grant on Friday, January 12th for a federal grant for a trail along south Chestnut from the base of the Wagon Wheel bridge to S 14th Street then to Kistler Manufactured Home Park. The city has another grant for \$30,000 to help design a trail south to Miller’s Corner from S 14th Street. The City Council approved the MnDOT funded Active Transportation Action Plan on December 11th. The city is also applying for Safe Routes 2 School grant funds along Oak Street to implement the plan.

Overlook Plaza – The city continues to work with the University of Minnesota Humphrey Institute Masters of Urban Planning graduate capstone class through the Resilient Communities Project (RCP)

program to develop a feature at Overlook Plaza (at the downtown bridge landing of the Wagon Wheel Bridge) to recognize and honor the Indigenous history of the city and area. A landscape architecture class in the Fall will design the final feature and there may be a summer graduate student that may refine the work of the current class.

Walnut Street Corridor planning – The Walnut Street Corridor Plan was approved by the City Council on Monday, December 11th. The city has three funding applications in for funding the project including the state bonding bill, the Local Road Improvement Program, and the MnDEED Small Cities Development Program for approximately \$5,000,000 for total project costs. The city staff met with Kwik Trip staff and plans to meet again in March with representatives from various Kwik Trip departments.

The City of La Crosse West Channel bridge (Wagon Wheel Phase 4) is moving along with a project meeting on January 18th. Larry did not have any news to report on the housing rehabilitation loans. Larry will be closing out the Arlyn Falck grant in January for the Keep Company Co-working space project by using remaining grant funds to pay to be part of the Lansing Office Works/Rural Ideas Network co-working environment. The city continues to work with the city's architect to draft building layout plans for the city hall, police station and library. An internal meeting with all the city staff will take place the week January 22nd. The City Council will have a special meeting on January 29th. The city is looking for funding for the project from grant sources and is meeting with the USDA Rural Development program staff later this week. Larry is working on a grant to MnDEED that is due February 1st to apply for matching funding for the demolition of the laundromat.

9. Discussion Items:

Member Reports: None

- a. Other Items – Brian mentioned the upcoming Chamber Chili and Brew event at the new Weiser Pavilion on January 20th.

10. Next Meeting Date/Time: The commission decided to have their next meeting on Monday, March 11th, 2024 at the Chamber of Commerce and Tourism Building at 3:00 p.m.

11. Adjourn: Mike made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Al, the motion carried unanimously. The Chair adjourned the meeting at 4:04 p.m.

Minutes submitted by: Larry Kirch