

## La Crescent Economic Development Commission Meeting Minutes

La Crescent Chamber of Commerce

Keep Company Shared Workspace, March 5, 2023

- 1: Call to Order: Chair Sarah DeLacy called meeting to order at 3:05 pm.
2. Pledge of Allegiance: The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by the members and guests.
3. Roll Call: Members Present, Sarah DeLacy, Troy Nolop, Lori Kadlec, Michael Welch  
Members Absent – (Excused) – Brett Kemmer, Alan Voss, and Cheryl Jostad  
Staff Present - Larry Kirch  
Guest(s): Ron Wilke, Dean Bergstrom, Monica Holman, Patti Martel, Randy Rosenberg (via Zoom)
4. Approval of Agenda: Mike made a motion to approve the agenda, seconded by Troy, the motion carried unanimously.
5. Approval of January 9, 2023 Meeting Minutes: A motion was made by Mike to approve the minutes of the January 9, 2023 meeting, seconded by Troy, the motion carried unanimously.
6. Outdoor Performance Venue Presentation/Discussion: Members of the “steering committee” were in attendance, one of their members was in attendance via Zoom. Ron Wilke presented the slide show (a copy of the Powerpoint presentation was sent to the EDC members after the meeting and is incorporated by reference for the minutes) and covered the project origins, background/history since its inception along with the vision and mission for the performance venue. The project is being moved forward with steering committee members that are Lions Club members and Rotarians.
7. Review Updated Project List/Workplan  
Staff Report:  
In the interest of time, Larry Kirch presented an abbreviated report and updated project list/workplan.
  - The Root River Trail Extension – Citizens Exploratory Committee continues to meet and is developing a fact sheet, a work plan, and will be posting agendas and minutes on the city of La Crescent’s website. Next meeting is April 5<sup>th</sup>
  - The MnDOT Active Transportation Planning (STH 16 corridor from the new Wagon Wheel bridge landing to Miller’s Corner) corridor study continues with a planning committee and their most recent meeting was March 2nd. A third planning committee meeting as well as a public meeting and city council meetings are also to be scheduled in April and May. The project was to finish in March but is more likely to be May/June.
  - Blandin Foundation Grant - Overlook Plaza - We received \$60,000 from the Blandin Foundation for the design of a monument at the Wagon Wheel Trail bridge landing area (Overlook Plaza) to provide education about the indigenous people who inhabited the downtown area before white settlement. The city hired the Mississippi Valley Archaeology Center to help the city consult with the Native Tribes. The Bike Trail Head project is all tied into the Blandin Foundation Grant and the Walnut Street Corridor Planning Project. The city has received several grants that are to be coordinated for a trailhead/Overlook Plaza.

- Walnut Street - The city approved the contract with MSA Professional Services and later in the agenda is an item requesting that the city EDC be the project committee for the project. We are looking at April 5<sup>th</sup> for a kick-off and walk of the corridor from South 3<sup>rd</sup> Street to the new hotel site. The project should wrap up by November of this year.
- The city is working with MnDOT informally to study the US 14/61 corridor and intersections at Hillview, N 4<sup>th</sup> and N 2<sup>nd</sup> Streets. Kwik Trip was notified of the work and the city will keep them informed.
- Phase 4 Wagon Wheel Trail – No new update, the next meeting of the cities and DOTs has not been set yet. MnDOT has been involved in the meetings along with City of La Crescent Staff.
- Keep Company - A grant was approved by the Arlin Falck Foundation for the Keep Company shared workspace for \$8,400. The city was the applicant. Funds are for hiring a business/marketing college major staffing and business assistance, for six networking events, coaching and for the creation of a “business plan” to outline long-term financial sustainability. The grant outlined that the city was the fiscal agent and that the Chamber would take the lead on implementing the grant.
- The city council did discuss long-range planning items in February and there is consensus in moving ahead with planning for a new city hall which has been delayed primarily due to Covid.

#### 8. Discussion Items –

- a. EDC as Walnut Street Corridor Planning Committee: Larry mentioned that Brett and Cheryl had let him know that they were in favor of having the EDC serve as the Planning Committee. By consensus, the EDC members agreed to be the Planning Committee for the Walnut Street project.
- b. Member Reports: Lori mentioned that a coffee shop is coming to downtown.
- c. Other Items – Larry reminded everyone that the Bluff Country Collaborative Job Fair will be on Wednesday, March 8 @ La Crescent Area Event Center.

9. April Meeting Date/Time: The EDC moved the date to Wednesday, April 5<sup>th</sup> to coordinate with the Walnut Street kick-off meeting and field walk of the corridor.

10. Adjourn – The chair adjourned the meeting at 3:57 p.m.

Next scheduled meeting is Wednesday, April 5<sup>th</sup>, 2023 at 11:30 p.m. at the La Crescent City Hall.

Minutes submitted by: Larry Kirch