

La Crescent Economic Development Commission Meeting Minutes
City of La Crescent City Hall Council Chambers
May 8, 2023

- 1: Call to Order: Chair Sarah DeLacy called meeting to order at 3:10 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, Brett Kemmer, Alan Voss, and Council Member Cheryl Jostad

Members Absent – Lori Kadlec, Michael Welch (excused)

Staff Present - Larry Kirch, Community Development Director, Tyler Benish, Public Works

Guest(s): Brad Vowels-Katter, MSA Professional Services, Emily Herold, MSA Professional Services, Brian Meeter, La Crescent Chamber of Commerce and Tourism Executive Director

4. Approval of Agenda: Brett made a motion to approve the agenda, seconded by Troy, the motion carried unanimously.
5. Approval of April 5, 2023 Meeting Minutes: A motion was made by Sarah to approve the minutes of the April 5, 2023 meeting, seconded by Brett, the motion carried unanimously.
6. Walnut Street Corridor Planning Project (EDC Project Committee) - Brad Vowels-Katter, MSA Professional Services, Larry Kirch

Larry Kirch briefly went over the discussion topics for today and re-introduced Brad Vowels-Katter and also introduced Emily Herold, also with MSA Professional Services. Brad gave a quick summary of the April 5th Corridor Walk Thru event and that MSA was still compiling and sorting through the comments and various observations that were made during the walk-thru. The rest of the discussion focused on refining the project schedule and strategies for public outreach and involvement. On June 13th, Larry and Emily would have a pop-up booth at the Farmers Market and then on June 14th we would have two Focus Group meetings, one for merchants and one for property owners at the north end of the corridor. Larry will reserve a spot at the Farmer's Market and reserve the meeting rooms for the focus group meetings and the public meeting. Brad and Emily would prepare the mailing list for the focus groups. We would have project information and comment forms available for all meetings. Larry will have a short article for the city newsletter about the project. Brian Meeter offered to hand out a Focus Group invite to the merchants along the corridor.

Brad will update the project schedule and send it to Larry so he can distribute. The next meeting of the City Technical Committee is on June 7th and Larry will invite the EDC to the meeting. Larry will have information on the city website about the Public Information meeting.

7. Review Updated Project List/Workplan

A copy of the updated project list/workplan was sent out with the agenda and minutes. Larry Kirch handed out a copy of the updated project list/workplan and briefed the Commission on the Root River

Trail Extension Citizens Exploratory Committee and that there is a webpage for that project on the City's website. Larry also updated the Commission on the Highway 16 corridor planning study to Miller's Corner that was finishing up. The city will host a public information meeting later in the summer. The city is working on several projects and grants at the Wagon Wheel Bridge landing in downtown on South 1st Street. There is no new news on the two Kwik Trip project. Kwik Trip will continue to be informed about the Walnut Street project as well as the informal study that the city and MnDOT are doing of the North 4th Street intersection with US Hwy 14/61. The Sportsman Landing Project is essentially completed with some minor punch list items to be completed. The city of La Cross is still looking for additional funding for the project of a new bike/ped bridge over the West Channel of the Mississippi River which really starts at the Cass/Cameron Street bridges along both sides of the roadway. The city is attempting to hire an intern for the Keep Company co-working space for the summer and fall. The city staff is working with an architect on defining space needs of the various city departments and Library in a new city hall building.

8. Discussion Items –

- a. Member Reports: none
- b. Other Items – Troy mentioned that his project to redevelop the laundromat is moving forward and the city council will be discussing the developer's agreement in the near future.

9. Next scheduled meeting is July 10th, 2023 at 3:00 p.m. at the La Crescent Chamber of Commerce and Tourism/Keep Company Co-Working Space.

10. Adjourn – The chair adjourned the meeting at 4:02 p.m.

Minutes submitted by: Larry Kirch