

La Crescent Economic Development Commission Meeting Minutes  
La Crescent Chamber of Commerce and Tourism/Keep Company Co-Working Space  
111 S Walnut Street, Suite B  
May 12, 2025

- 1: Call to Order: Chair Sarah DeLacy called meeting to order at 3:01 p.m.
2. Pledge of Allegiance: The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
3. Roll Call: Members Present: Sarah DeLacy Chair, Troy Nolop, Allen Voss, Brett Kemmer, Lori Kadlec, Honor DiDonato, Mike Welch, and ex-officio City Council Member Cherryl Jostad  
  
Members Absent – None  
  
Staff Present - Larry Kirch, Community Development Director, Brian Meeter Chamber of Commerce and Tourism Executive Director
4. Approval of Agenda: Mike Welch, made a motion to approve the agenda, seconded by Allen Voss, the motion carried unanimously.
5. Approval of April 14<sup>th</sup>, 2025 Meeting Minutes: A motion was made by Mike Welch, to approve the minutes of the April 14, 2025 meeting as presented, seconded by Troy Nolop, the motion carried unanimously.
6. Discussion Items
  - a. Updates on USA Cycling Gravel National Championships Applefest Weekend 2025 and downtown activities/events – Larry stated that the city has to put together a traffic control plan for MnDOT, Houston County and City of Hokah approval. The 5K was on the council agenda for tonight. There still has to be coordination with the organizers to switch the start and finish lines. The Local Organizing Committee is meeting monthly and the event is four months away. Sub committees are working on a medical plan, communications plan, first responder plan, EXPO and finish line events. Volunteer groups can go to the Explore La Crosse website to volunteer. Explore La Crosse is still looking for sponsors, vendors and volunteers.
  - b. Larry handed out two memos that were presented to the City Planning Commission at their April and May meetings. The commissioners can read these at their leisure to get a sense of all the projects the city is working on. The list includes items the EDC has talked about including grants for Walnut Street, the extension of the Root River Trail, MnDOT Transportation Alternatives Grant and Railroad Crossing Safety Grant. Larry noted all the grants that Jason Ludwigson has gotten for the city including one not listed which is a \$1,000,000 grant for stormwater for Redwood Street. Larry again went over the grants and projects related to the MnDOT Highway 14/61/MN16 intersection project and the Federal Transportation Alternatives Grant for 2029, the MnDOT path up to Walnut Street

in 2026 and the path to the Kistler MHP yet this year. The results for several of the grant applications for the Root River Trail will be known in June. The city is going to re-submit the project for the Community Ice Arena through the Minnesota Legislature.

- c. August Meeting – As a reminder, the city engineer will be at the August meeting to discuss the 30% plans for Walnut Street. The city engineer will also be presenting the draft plans to the council, the Chamber’s Lunch and Learn event and to the merchants and residents in the form of an open house.

d. Member Reports –

Troy mentioned that a Police Officer stopped in to talk about a grant for cameras that could read license plates as the current cameras cannot read them. Troy mentioned that they are working on a few punch list items for the city on their new building so they can get an occupancy permit for the residential portion.

Lori mentioned that there was a 5K this weekend that was part run and scavenger hunt. Troy said his business participated as well. It was not well organized and Affagato Lane was supposed to host it but was not open.

Brian mentioned that the new visitor’s guides will be out this week and they ordered 1,000 more than last year.

Larry mentioned that he heard again from Colin Luz about being on the EDC. Larry will reach out to him with an application form. Mike mentioned that he would step back and has felt that a business person should be on the EDC. Mike continues to be on the Planning Commission.

There was a question about when the city council might weigh in on the use of UTVs on city streets. As was noted previously, there are pros and cons to allowing their use. They are allowed on Houston County Roads but not city streets. Many of the attendees to the council meeting were township residents. The council may take the item up later this summer.

- e. Tour of 31 S. Walnut Street – Once the meeting adjourned, the group walked over to the Nolop’s new building for a tour of the two apartments and the commercial space.

7. Staff Report:

- a. Updated Project List/Workplan – Larry briefly went through the Workplan as many of the items were covered above in the grant’s memo above.
- Overlook Plaza –The City has issued a Call for Indigenous Artists for the project who will work with the Minnesota Design Center (part of the UofM). Proposals are due on May 26<sup>th</sup>.
  - Kwik Trip – The sale to KT is said to have been sorted out.

- The city council will be discussing the USDA loan this evening and the city council will have a meeting in the future to decide the next steps to move forward on a Public Safety building and/or city hall/Library.

9. Next Meeting Date/Time: The next meeting is scheduled for July 14<sup>th</sup>.

10. Adjourn: Mike Welch made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Lori Kadlec, the motion carried unanimously. The Chair adjourned the meeting at 3:41 p.m.

Minutes submitted by: Larry Kirch

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