

**La Crescent Economic Development Commission Meeting Minutes**  
Chamber of Commerce and Tourism – Keep Company Co-Working Space  
June 5, 2023

- 1: Call to Order: Chair Sarah DeLacy called meeting to order at 3:01 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, Lori Kadlec, Michael Welch, ex-officio City Council Member Cheryl Jostad

Members Absent – none

Staff Present - Larry Kirch, Community Development Director, Brian Meeter, La Crescent Chamber of Commerce and Tourism Executive Director

4. Approval of Agenda: Mike made a motion to approve the agenda, seconded by Al, the motion carried unanimously.
5. Approval of May 8, 2023 Meeting Minutes: A motion was made by Lori, to approve the minutes of the May 8, 2023 meeting as corrected, seconded by Troy, the motion carried unanimously. It was noted that the corrected minutes of the April 5, 2023 meeting were approved “as amended” and that on page 2, the next scheduled meeting should have been listed as June 5<sup>th</sup> and not July 10<sup>th</sup>.

6. Review Updated Project List/Workplan:

A copy of the updated project list/workplan was transmitted 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. The committee will have two openings, one appointed by the City of Houston and one by Houston County. The group is working on identifying from county property maps, land ownership by the USF&W, MnDNR, MnDOT and private owners. Larry also updated the Commission on the Highway 16 corridor planning study to Miller’s Corner. The consultant has finished its work and the MnDOT Staff in St. Paul has confirmed that the document is the city’s to roll out to the public. The city will host a public information meeting later in the summer. Council member Teresa O’Donnell Ebner made a presentation about the project to the Minnesota Indian Affairs Council (MIAC), which has members from all the recognized Minnesota tribal communities. MIAC is operated through a state agency. The city applied for a project through the University of Minnesota under the Resilient Communities Project to work with two student classes on the project. One class would research the indigenous history and the other would be a landscape architecture class that would help with concepts for design. Larry will combine the projects for the Bike Trailhead Area and the Blandin Foundation Grant. The Walnut Street project is somewhat related to the Overlook Plaza project on South 1<sup>st</sup> Street since the two are in close proximity. 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 4<sup>th</sup> Street intersection with US Hwy 14/61. Larry will make sure that Kwik Trip is invited to the business/merchant focus group meeting to be held on Wednesday of this week. The Sportsman Landing Project is essentially completed with some minor punch list items to be completed and Larry will delete that project. The City of La Crosse continues to work on the Phase 4 West Channel Bridge

project with another project meeting in late July. The project extends from the Cass/Cameron Street bridges along both sides of the roadway. The project will widen the sidewalks on both sides of the highway between the West Channel Bridge and the Cass/Cameron Street bridges. The Keep Company intern starts tomorrow and will work 15 hours a week at the Chamber offices until the end of December. Larry will send out the intern's resume. His name is Sam Furth and attends UW-La Crosse. The purpose of the position is to market the co-working space, create six networking events, and assist in creating a business plan to keep the co-working space going for the long term. The city staff continues to conduct space planning for the city hall, Library and Police Department.

7. Discussion Items –

- a. Member Reports: Lori mentioned that the coffee shop renovation is moving along and that she was working with the city on placing a bike rack near the coffee shop. Troy mentioned that he is working on finding a contractor so they can get the project started. The city has to finalize the developer's agreement in the near future. Cheryl mentioned that the city finalized a Short Term Rental Ordinance and that Xcel Energy was proposing a project to create a new substation on north Sycamore, east of the Mobile Home Park. Sara mentioned several Eagle Scout projects including a proposal to create a dog park on 7<sup>th</sup> Street, continued work on the Kayak Launch and some canopies at the ball field.
- b. Other Items – Brian Meeter mentioned that the Chamber of Commerce and Tourism is starting up some "lunch and learn" events with one coming up on June 15<sup>th</sup>.

8. Next scheduled meeting is July 10, 2023 at 3:00 p.m. at the La Crescent Chamber of Commerce and Tourism/Keep Company Co-Working Space. Lori noted that she is unable to make that meeting.

9. Adjourn – Mike made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Brett, the motion carried unanimously. The chair adjourned the meeting at 3:51 p.m.

Minutes submitted by: Larry Kirch