

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  
July 14, 2025

- 1: Call to Order: Chair Sarah DeLacy called meeting to order at 3:04 p.m.
2. Pledge of Allegiance: The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
3. Roll Call: Members Present: Sarah DeLacy Chair, Troy Nolop, Honor DiDonato, Colin Luz, and ex-officio City Council Member Cherryl Jostad  
  
Members Absent – Allen Voss, Brett Kemmer, Lori Kadlec (excused)  
  
Staff Present - Larry Kirch, Community Development Director, Brian Meeter Chamber of Commerce and Tourism Executive Director
4. Welcome New Member Colin Luz - Sarah welcomed Colin and everyone introduced themselves. Colin explained his business background, current businesses and involvement in La Crescent and the area.
5. Approval of Agenda: Honor DiDonato, made a motion to approve the agenda, seconded by Colin Luz, the motion carried unanimously.
6. Approval of April 14<sup>th</sup>, 2025 Meeting Minutes: A motion was made by Troy Nolop, to approve the minutes of the May 12, 2025 meeting as presented, seconded by Colin Luz, the motion carried unanimously.
7. Discussion Items
  - a. Updates on USA Cycling Gravel National Championships Applefest Weekend 2025 and downtown activities/events – Larry noted that the Race Director was in town this Wednesday and there was a Local Organizing Committee meeting along with a press conference. Explore Minnesota has come on as a major sponsor. Final logistics for Main Street and the route were being worked out on this visit. All things are looking good for the Thursday night event, vendors, etc. Explore La Crosse is still looking for sponsors, vendors and volunteers.
  - b. Proposed Downtown rezoning – Change portions from Highway Commercial to Central Business District (on Council agenda tonight). Larry explained the background on the proposal as the current zoning is Highway Commercial for a portion of the downtown and it would be better long term for all of the area to have one zoning as Central Business District. The city is attempting to be proactive with the former nursing home site as well as other long-term redevelopment. (footnote: the council did approve the rezoning).

- c. Chamber Lunch and Learn – and August EDC meeting - Walnut Street 30% Plans. 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 at Corky's and to the merchants and residents in the form of an open house.
- d. Root River Trail Towns Participation – City and Chamber involvement. Larry mentioned that perhaps with a new Chamber Director that the La Crescent Chamber of Commerce and Tourism might take an active role in the Root River Trail Towns organization. All of the other communities have the Chamber Director as the representative on the board of the group. Larry and Council Member Teresa O'Donnell Ebner have been going to the meetings. The city is paying the dues at this time.
- e. Update on Minnesota MainStreet Program – Larry mentioned that he reached out to Emily at Rethos.org and Emily replied that their funding disappeared and that she was losing her job as the Main Street Program Director. Emily did loop us in with the new person to see if there is a way to move this initiative along.
- f. Staff Report: Updated Project List/Workplan - Larry briefly went through the Workplan as many of the items were covered above in the grant's memo above.
- Phase 4 Wagon Wheel – the new bridge project is still on schedule to be bid out in August.
  - Walnut Street – See above.
  - Root River Trail Extension- the committee is working on a DRAFT of a Joint Powers Agreement. The LCCMR grant was not successful. The Federal BUILD grant is still pending. The committee is looking at numerous strategies for funding the design of the trail. Congressionally Designated Spending was also not approved this year.
  - Overlook Plaza –The city is reaching out to indigenous artists and arts organizations in order to revamp the public art component.
  - Kwik Trip – The sale to KT is said to have been sorted out with a closing in September.
  - Many cannabis projects are winding their way through the approval process with two cannabis licenses already approved and another pending tonight at council meeting (update: the 3rd one was approved).
  - three approved so far with daily inquiries about more dispensaries. The TIF for Radecki was approved for Main and Oak Street.
  - The city council will be discussing all the city grants and the City Hall/Library and Public Safety building using USDA loan funds on July 28th.
  - No movement on meeting with the current owners of Springbrook.

g. Member Reports –

Brian mentioned that his last day was Thursday (after the golf outing) with the Chamber and he was going to be teaching at Western. Everyone wished him well and thanked him for his leadership. Sarah noted that Brian was able to transform the Chamber in many ways over the last two years. Brian mentioned his highlights including working on the Gravel National Championships, Applefest, the Minnesota Convention and Visitors Bureaus Conference, among other things. Troy mentioned that the commercial lease should be signed this week (fingers crossed!) and that they had won the bid to finish the buildout of the space for the tenant as Troy and his son Bryce acted as the general contractor for the building. The new tenant asked three companies to prepare bids for the tenant buildout and Troy and Bryce won the bid. Troy was asked if the house was leased and he said that it was. It was mentioned that Sue Howe was looking for space in the downtown for a counselling business and has talked to Brian and Troy and the city. Honor was asked to give some highlights of her son Tommy's Eagle Scout project which is a bike skills project south of the football field and on land over the bank along Pine Creek. It contains about 8 acres. It will be set up for all abilities. He received a SHIP Grant of \$18,000 and hired IMBA to help design the park and has also received \$52,000 in other grants with the project totaling \$300,000.

9. Next Meeting Date/Time: The next meeting is scheduled for August 11<sup>th</sup>.

10. Adjourn: Troy Nolop made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Colin Luz, the motion carried unanimously. The Chair adjourned the meeting at 3:57 p.m.

Minutes submitted by: Larry Kirch