

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
September 15, 2025

- 1: Call to Order: Vice Chair Troy Nolop called meeting to order at 1:08 p.m.
2. Pledge of Allegiance: The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
3. Roll Call: Members Present: Sarah DeLacy Chair, Troy Nolop, Allen Voss, Honor DiDonato, Colin Luz, Brett Kemer and ex-officio City Council Member Cherryl Jostad

Members Absent – Lori Kadlec, (excused)

Staff Present - Larry Kirch, Community Development Director,
4. Approval of Agenda: Al Voss, made a motion to approve the agenda, seconded by Colin Luz, the motion carried unanimously.
6. Approval of August 11, 2025 Meeting Minutes: A motion was made by Colini Luz, to approve the minutes of the August 11th, 2025 meeting as presented, seconded by Honor DiDonato, the motion carried unanimously.
7. Discussion Items
 - a. Walnut Street Project Update – Larry is working on completing the Environmental Assessment which is a requirement of the use of federal funds for streetscaping on the project. The schedule has not changed per what the City Engineer presented at the August meeting. A website is being developed for the project. There will be continued updates to the EDC on a monthly basis. The next set of plans for review will be at 60% plans.
 - b. Keep Company Coworking Space Update - There are three people routinely using the space. Payments are made through the Lansing Office Works site and then sent to the Chamber. The city, county and chamber staff are evaluating continuing the arrangement with Lansing Office Works. The chamber installed two cameras so that better monitoring can take place as to the use of the space.
 - c. County-wide Main Street Idea Update – City, county and chamber staff have met with Rethos about working with Rethos. Rethos is the non-profit that the state contracts with to carry out Minnesota’s Main Street program. Rethos has lost funding and is to send us a pricing schedule for services. We are evaluating our options in terms of how funding such an effort would be possible.
 - d. Staff Report: Updated Project List/Workplan - Larry briefly went through the Workplan.
 - Phase 4 Wagon Wheel – project is waiting for an agreement between the cities of La Crescent and La Crosse for the maintenance of the bridge once the project is complete.

La Crescent has drafted a maintenance agreement which WisDOT has indicated needs to be in place by February to keep the project moving forward. Project is not expected to start in the spring of 2026, so it is now behind the original schedule.

- Walnut Street – See above.
 - Root River Trail Extension- the committee has completed their draft of a Joint Powers Agreement. The final revised draft will be sent to the City and County Attorney. The Federal BUILD grant was not successful and a debrief will be held on October 8th with federal USDOT staff.
 - Overlook Plaza –The city continues attempt to secure artists through an Indigenous arts organization from the Wisconsin Dells area and the Director is reaching out to Ho-Chunk and Dakota Artists to invite to work on the project.
 - Many cannabis projects are winding their way through the approval process.
 - The city has submitted two projects to the Legislature for Capital Requests for improvements to the ice arena (replace the R-22 cooling system) and a new public safety/EOC building adjacent to the existing fire station.
 - No movement on having a meeting with the current owners of Springbrook Village (now known as Bay Harbor of La Crescent).
- e. Member Reports – Cheryl Jostad reported that the City Administrator, Bill Waller has announced his retirement for January 31. The council has been discussing the process to conduct the recruitment for a new city administrator. Colin Luz asked about the city's new parade ordinance related to noise. Larry stated that, in essence, all the city has done is to codify what has always been in the parade permits that the city issues for parades. There have been problems for people with PTSD and loud noises along the parade route. Larry noted that the USA Gravel National Championships are coming up this weekend and all the preparations are in place for the event. Larry also mentioned the Old Fashioned Gravel ride/race that was held the previous weekend. Additionally, the city is working with the Ho-Chunk Nation, The Nature Place and the La Crosse Public Library on Indigenous Peoples Day coming up in October and the use of the Trolley for the event with a trip to La Crescent to highlight the city's effort at its Indigenous History project.
9. Next Meeting Date/Time: There was a discussion about moving the meetings to Wednesdays so that the Chamber Executive Director could attend. The group decided to move the monthly meetings to Wednesdays at 1:00 p.m. Therefore, the next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 12th.
10. Adjourn: Allen Voss made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Honor DiDonato, the motion carried unanimously. The Chair adjourned the meeting at 2:10 p.m.

Minutes submitted by: Larry Kirch