

La Crescent Economic Development Commission Meeting Minutes
Corky's Pizza Event Room
25 S. Walnut Street
September 16, 2024

- 1: Call to Order: Chair Sarah DeLacy called meeting to order at 12:02 p.m.
2. Pledge of Allegiance: The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
3. Roll Call: Members Present: Sarah DeLacy Chair, Michael Welch, Troy Nolop, Alan Voss, Honor DiDonato and ex-officio City Council Member Cheryl Jostad.

Members Absent –Lori Kadlec, (excused) Brett Kemmer (excused)

Staff Present - Larry Kirch, Community Development Director, Brian Meeter, Chamber Executive Director
4. Approval of Agenda: Mike Welch, made a motion to approve the agenda, seconded by Troy Nolop, the motion carried unanimously.
5. Approval of July 8, 2024 Meeting Minutes: A motion was made by Mike Welch to approve the minutes of the July 8th, 2024 meeting, seconded by Troy Nolop, the motion carried unanimously.
6. Staff Report:
 - a. EDC Rule and Bylaws Nov 22, 2021: Larry had included the most recent copy of the EDCs adopted Rules and Bylaws in the meeting notice. Some of the members stated that they did not have them and appreciated receiving them. It helps to describe the duties of the commission. There was a discussion about creating a binder for members. Some indicated they would like that while others said they were fine with having them posted on the city's webpage for the EDC along with the EDC member job description.
 - b. Economic Development Element 2017 Comprehensive Plan: Larry prepared a grid/table with the objectives listed from the Economic Development Element of the 2017 Comprehensive Plan and handed it out to the commissioners. There are 23 strategies in the plan element that the EDC could look to as part of their role in implementing the Economic Development. Larry went through each of the 23 objectives and discussed the progress on each item. The Commission agreed to discuss again at their next meeting.
 - c. Updated Project List/Workplan: Larry went through the spreadsheet item by item and reviewed the status of the projects and grant applications that the city is working on.

No new information on the City of La Crosse's progress on the West Channel Bike Ped Bridge, all is still a go.

Walnut Street Corridor planning –The city did not receive any federal Congressionally Designated Spending (CDS) program funds. The city requested \$2 million dollars. The city did get awarded \$600,000 from the MnDEED Small Cities Development Program (SCDP). The city has to match with \$33,500. The total cost of the project is approximately \$5,400,000. The city will reapply for the State

bonding bill funds in May of 2026. The city is proceeding with engineering for the project as well as setting up city funds for street reconstruction.

The Root River Trail Extension / MOA to Jointly Cooperate: The Root River Trail Extension – Citizens Exploratory Committee approved the Trail Plan. The City of Hokah approved the trail plan on September 3rd. The city engineer is moving forward on the \$30,000 IJA Technical Assistance Grant which will now include both the trail segment noted above as well as the portion from S 14th Street to Miller’s Corner from S 14th Street. The city has applied for a Federal Discretionary Grant called ATIIP or Active Transportation Infrastructure Investment Program for Planning and Design for the Root River Trail extension. That application was for \$595,000 and the city has to match with 20% of that amount.

Overlook Plaza – The city finished up a Summer Research Scholars project with the UofM through its Resilient Communities Program. The city is awaiting the final report from the two graduate students which includes two case studies on Red Wing and Dakota County Parks. The city will likely create three workgroups, one for the design, one for an educational component and a third group on an Acknowledgement Statement or a MOA. The city is seeking Indigenous artists to help with the design of the plaza.

Kwik Trip - The city staff has reached out to Kwik Trip store planners on any updates. Kwik Trip has a major project going on in South Dakota and may be postponing other projects for the time being.

The city continues to put together the data and federal forms that make up a preliminary application to the USDA Rural Development program for loan funds for the city hall, police station and library. There are also Library grants available through the State. Several funding sources will likely be needed to complete these projects.

Houston County is creating a “Core Team” of various interests on what the County can do to promote housing initiatives. Next meeting is October 7th.

7. Discussion Items:

a. Member Reports: Ready Bus is going to keep using the Commodore site for about 30 days and the city approved a lease with Ready for one year with options for another 5 years on the city’s land by the animal control building and solar project. Honor DiDonato mentioned the Scout Troop 33 was having an Evergreen Products sale and it’s not too early to think about holiday decorating of storefronts in December.

Other Items – Troy Nolop mentioned that he was at the Council Meeting where the council discussed possible cannabis rules, which are complicated. The new building is now coming along quickly! Brian noted that there are For Sale signs on the Pike at the used car lot and asked if anyone knew anything on that.

8. Next Meeting Date/Time: The next meeting is set for Monday, October 7th, 2024 at the Chamber of Commerce and Tourism Building at 3:00 p.m.

9. Adjourn: Mike Welch made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Al Voss, the motion carried unanimously. The Chair adjourned the meeting at 1:05 p.m.

Minutes submitted by: Larry Kirch