

La Crescent Economic Development Commission Meeting Minutes

City of La Crescent, City Hall Conference Room

October 16, 2023

- 1: Call to Order: Chair Sara DeLacy called meeting to order at 3:21 p.m.
2. Pledge of Allegiance: The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by the members and city staff.
3. Roll Call: Members Present, Sarah DeLacy, Michael Welch, Troy Nolop, Lori Kadlec, ex-officio City Council Member Cherryl Jostad

Members Absent –Alan Voss, Brett Kemmer (Excused)

Staff Present - Larry Kirch, Community Development 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 October 2, 2023 Meeting Minutes: A motion was made by Mike, to approve the minutes of the October 2, 2023 meeting, seconded by Troy, the motion carried unanimously.
6. Discussion/adoption of the Final Draft Walnut Street Corridor Plan

Larry attempted to show some photos of other downtowns and how they have made their downtowns pedestrian friendly, provided decorative lighting, banners and hanging baskets, stormwater rain gardens, bicycle parking, mid-block crosswalks, public art, angled and parallel parking, and wayfinding signage.

Larry then turned the discussion more specifically to the Walnut Street Corridor Plan and listed the discussion items that the EDC had discussed at the October 2nd meeting regarding the draft plan. They included more parking on the east side of Walnut Street, better signage to the existing parking lots, the location of the sidewalk on the east side of Walnut Street north of N 1st Street, discussion about the width of the multi-use path north of N. 4th Street along Park Street as well as the Commission's discussion and overall preference to have the multiuse path extend all the way into the downtown to S 1st Street. Larry asked if the commissioners had any other questions or concerns or particular items they would like addressed in the plan. Larry outlined a list of items that the commission wanted addressed in the plan.

After some discussion, a motion was made by Lori to recommend approval to the City Council of the Walnut Street Corridor Plan subject to the following conditions and suggestions, seconded by Troy, the motion carried unanimously.

- 1) All lighting must be Dark Sky compliant;
- 2) More modern light fixtures are preferred and should be like those depicted on Page 23 as the city has chosen those already for the Wagon Wheel Bike-Ped bridge area;
- 3) Light fixtures should accommodate cameras, banner arms, possible hanging baskets, wifi capability, etc.;
- 4) Add more angle parking on the east side of Walnut Street north of the new coffee shop up to N. 1st Street;
- 5) Continue to carry the 10' multi-use path on the west side of Walnut Street into the downtown, if possible in the final engineering design;

- 6) On the east side of Walnut Street, do not put the sidewalk directly behind the curb so to allow for both snow storage and boulevard trees;
- 7) As part of the implementation of the plan, the city needs to address the two hour parking zones;
- 8) The city should reconstruct the alleys on the east and west side of Walnut Street between Main Street and S. 1st Street (between Quillin's and the hardware store) and between the laundromat and pizza parlor);
- 9) The burial of overhead wires is not addressed in the plan and all the overhead wires should be buried during construction.

The Planning Commission will make its own separate recommendation to the City Council on the draft plan after a Public Hearing on October 30th, 2023. City staff will give a short presentation on the recommended plan as recommended by the Economic Development Commission, followed by a Public Hearing. The Planning Commission may choose to recommend approval, denial or continue to their next meeting. The City Council will also hold a public hearing on the plan. The plan does need to be adopted by the end of 2023 to satisfy the LAPC's Local Studies Program requirements.

7. Discussion Items –

- a. Member Reports:
- b. Other Items –

8. Next Meeting Date/Time: The commission decided to have their next meeting on Monday, November 6th, 2023 at the Chamber of Commerce and Tourism Building at Noon. One of the topics for the meeting is to review the Keep Company Coworking Space Business Plan with the Keep Company Intern.

9. Adjourn – Lori made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Troy, the motion carried unanimously. The Chair adjourned the meeting at 4:15 p.m.

Minutes submitted by: Larry Kirch