

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
October 7, 2024

- 1: Call to Order: Chair Sarah DeLacy called meeting to order at 3:02 p.m.
2. Pledge of Allegiance: The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
3. Roll Call: Members Present: Sarah DeLacy Chair, Troy Nolop, Alan Voss, Brett Kemmer, and Honor DiDonato.

Members Absent –Lori Kadlec, (excused) Michael Welch, (excused), and ex-officio City Council Member Cheryl Jostad (excused)

Staff Present - Larry Kirch, Community Development Director, Brian Meeter, Chamber Executive Director
4. Approval of Agenda: Al Voss, made a motion to approve the agenda, seconded by Troy Nolop, the motion carried unanimously.
5. Approval of September 16, 2024 Meeting Minutes: A motion was made by Al Voss, to approve the minutes of the September 16th, 2024 meeting, seconded by Troy Nolop, the motion carried unanimously.
6. Staff Report:
 - a. Economic Development Element 2017 Comprehensive Plan: Larry went through the table of Objectives again and noted the items in green that were complete and that several items could be turned green after discussion from the last meeting and this meeting. The committee can discuss further items that could be further worked on with direction from the City Council. Larry will update the table and present at their next meeting.
 - b. Updated Project List/Workplan: Not much time was spent on the workplan as Larry went through a handout of the various grants that the city had received and was working on for Walnut Street and downtown related revitalization efforts.

Again, no new information on the City of La Crosse’s progress on the West Channel Bike Ped Bridge, all is still ago. Larry will email the La Crosse Planning staff for an update.

Walnut Street Corridor planning –The city is proceeding with Engineering design. Troy asked if plans would come back to the group as they are developed. Larry indicated that they would. More funds are needed as the city did not receive any Bonding Bill or federal Congressionally Designated Spending (CDS) program funds. The city is moving forward with the MnDEED Small Cities Development Program (SCDP) funds and went through a training last week and the City Council will take up several policies related to the federal program

The Root River Trail Extension / MOA to Jointly Cooperate: The City Attorney is drafting a Joint Powers Agreement for the communities to consider. Larry has reached out to a trails organization for samples. The city engineer is ramping up efforts on the \$30,000 IJA Technical Assistance Grant which

covers from the Wagon Wheel Bridge to Miller's Corner. The city will not find out about the Federal Discretionary Grant called ATIP or Active Transportation Infrastructure Investment Program for Planning and Design until January. That application was for \$595,000 and the city has to match with 20% of that amount.

Overlook Plaza –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 – Nothing new to report, the city continues to reach out to Kwik Trip store planners on any updates. Kwik Trip has a major project going on in South Dakota another in DeForest, WI and may be postponing other projects for the time being.

Houston County has another meeting scheduled tomorrow to discuss grants and doing a housing study

c. Minnesota Main Street Program information. Larry is working with Brian and Allison Wagner from the Houston County EDA on having a Lunch and Learn on November 14th. The event is confirmed for Corky's Event Room. Larry met the program director and handed out an information piece. Larry said that with the reconstruction of Walnut Street happening in 2026 it is a good time to get an understanding of what is available to build up a Main Street community. The city is also looking at Main Street and how that will tie into the Walnut Street Project. The city's Downtown Strategy Plan should be considered in these overall efforts.

D. Public Arts Plan grant application. Larry mentioned that he applied to the Arlyn Falck Foundation for funding to go through a planning process to create a Public Arts plan. Larry handed out an article from the Minnesota League of Cities on how public art can be part of a downtown revitalization strategy. Larry dusted off the grant application the city made to the Bremer Foundation that was being offered through SMIF.

7. Discussion Items:

a. Member Reports: Brian mentioned the bus tours during Applefest that had 130 people visit Van Lin orchards. This was way more than last year. Brian mentioned that he and his wife had Van Lin apples for the Minnesota Association of Convention and Visitors Bureaus that had their annual meeting in La Crescent. Explore La Crosse had put in a bid for the conference. There were several food vendors from the area including Free Range Exchange, Time Out Tavern, Swing Bridge. Allison Wagner had a Houston County Table with Houston County visitor information. Brian talked about the Cars and Coffee tour that has 30 registered so far. The idea is to promote the county coffee shops and promote the three scenic bi-ways in the county. Several Chambers of Commerce are involved.

Other Items – Troy Nolop mentioned that the roof should be on his new building by the end of the week.

8. Next Meeting Date/Time: The next meeting is set for Thursday, November 14th at Noon at Corky's for the Lunch and Learn event on the Minnesota Main Street Program.

9. Adjourn: Troy Nolop made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Al Voss, the motion carried unanimously. The Chair adjourned the meeting at 3:46 p.m.

Minutes submitted by: Larry Kirch

DRAFT