

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
December 9, 2024

- 1: Call to Order: Chair Sarah DeLacy called meeting to order at 3:00 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 Kemer, Honor DiDonato, Michael Welch, and ex-officio City Council Member Cherryl Jostad

Members Absent –Lori Kadlec, (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 Al Voss, the motion carried unanimously.
5. Approval of October 7, 2024 Meeting Minutes: A motion was made by Mike Welch, to approve the minutes of the October 7th, 2024 meeting, seconded by Brett Kemmer, the motion carried unanimously.
6. Election of Officers for 2025:
 - a. Member Terms and Reappointments – Larry went over the current appointments and the terms of each member. There are four members whose term ends in 2024. All four commission members stated that they would like to continue on the EDC. Larry will let the City Administrator know so the item can be placed on the January council agenda. Election of officers would take place at our next meeting.
7. Discussion Items:
 - a. Feedback on Minnesota Main Street Program – (Chamber lunch and learn event) - Three EDC members were present at the Lunch and Learn and Honor and Sarah had some feedback on the presentation and discussion that followed. Honor and Sarah noted that it was a great presentation and that Emily was a terrific speaker. It was time for La Crescent to think ahead on what a Main Street effort might look for La Crescent. Both Honor and Sarah gave positive feedback on points made in the presentation including items like parking, streetscaping examples, and that Main Street is not just for visitors but also La Crescent residents. They liked the idea of a multi-city model where the cities could share resources. Larry said he would reach out to Emily and Allison Wagner at Houston County about some follow-up and would include Brian in the discussion.
 - b. USA Cycling Gravel National Championships Applefest Weekend 2025 and downtown activities/events – Larry let the commission know that a local organizing committee was getting going with some workgroups being established. Cherryl Jostad stated that she would like to help out on the effort. Honor mentioned that the local Mountain Bike club would like to help out as well as volunteers. Larry would like to make sure that the downtown businesses are involved in

any planning that would affect the downtown. Coordination with Applefest is also vital for the success of both events.

- c. Walnut Street Project update – Larry indicated that the city council will take up the contract this evening with the State Department of Employment and Economic Development. The city has to prepare an Environmental Review Record for the project so that it meets Federal NEPA requirements. The city is still looking for additional funding.
- d. Member Reports – Honor's son Tommy is working on a Mountain Bike Skills course on school property near ABLE. The project is an Eagle Scout project and will help add to the regional mountain bike efforts. He has a SHIP grant and has the International Mountain Bike Association involved (IMBA). Troy gave an update on his building project and that is going well and that concrete will be poured this week. Brian mentioned the Commodore building project and Xcel Energy's substation project on N. Sycamore Street. He mentioned the dog park and it was mentioned that the ribbon cutting/opening was well attended. Sarah mentioned that the La Crescent Community Foundation may be a good source for some city projects including streetscaping items like benches and flowers for Walnut Street. We can invite them to a future meeting.
- e. Other Items – no other items were mentioned.

8. Staff Report

- a. Updated Project List/Workplan – Larry quickly went through the Workplan.

The next meeting for the West Channel Bike Ped Bridge is January 7th and all is still ago.

Walnut Street Corridor planning –This was mentioned earlier regarding the MnDEED Small Cities Development Program (SCDP) funds.

The Root River Trail Extension / MOA to Jointly Cooperate: The City Attorney is still drafting a Joint Powers Agreement for the communities to consider. The city engineer is working on a model and cross sections for the corridor from the Wagon Wheel Bridge to Miller's corner (MnDOT \$30,000 IJIA Technical Assistance Grant). The city awaits word (January) about the Federal Discretionary Grant called ATIP or Active Transportation Infrastructure Investment Program for Planning and Design. That application was for \$595,000 and the city has to match with 20% of that amount.

Overlook Plaza –The city received the final report from the two graduate students which includes two case studies on Red Wing and Dakota County Parks. The city focused on issuing a Request for Proposals for indigenous artists to design the plaza and we are working with the Minnesota Design Center (part of the UofM).

Kwik Trip – The city is set to meet with KT officials next week regarding the property to the west of the south store that may be available for sale.

- b. Public Arts Plan grant application – status – Larry mentioned that he applied for an Arlyn Falck grant that would help fund a Public Arts Plan and it does not look like it got funded. Larry

previously applied through SMIF for Otto Bremmer Foundation funds and that was not funded either.

8. Next Meeting Date/Time: The next meeting is scheduled for February 10th. Larry will look into a virtual option.

9. Adjourn: Mike Welch made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Troy Nolop, the motion carried unanimously. The Chair adjourned the meeting at 3:58 p.m.

Minutes submitted by: Larry Kirch

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