

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
April 8, 2026

1. Call to Order: Chair Sarah DeLacy called meeting to order at 1:01 p.m.
2. Pledge of Allegiance: The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
3. Roll Call: Members Present: Sarah DeLacy Chair, Troy Nolop, Honor DiDonato, Colin Luz, Allen Voss, Brett Kemmer and ex-officio City Council Member Cherryl Jostad

Members Absent – Lori Kadlec, (excused)

Staff Present - Larry Kirch, Community Development Director, Michelle Hoskins, La Crescent Chamber of Commerce and Tourism Executive Director
4. Approval of Agenda: Allen Voss, made a motion to approve the agenda, seconded by Colin Luz, the motion carried unanimously.
5. Approval of March 4, 2026 Meeting Minutes: A motion was made by Colin Luz to approve the minutes of the March 4, 2026 meeting as presented, seconded by Allan Voss, the motion carried unanimously.
6. Discussion Items
 - a. Walnut Street Update – Larry stated that he stopped at the Minnesota Indian Affairs Council (MIAC) offices in Saint Paul earlier today to physically drop off our application to prepare a Phase 1 Archaeology Study. A license has also been applied for from the Office of the State Archaeologist (OSA). That process is still being held up by the (MIAC) and Larry submitted the application form to MIAC on December 12th. There is a cataloged burial in the project boundary at the south end of the project. The Environmental Assessment is essentially completed pending the Phase 1 Archaeology Study. The project cannot proceed until the EA is finalized.
 - b. The city is finalizing the Active Transportation Action Plan and it will be approved by the Council at the second meeting in April. The draft plan was presented to the Council in March.
 - c. Root River Trail Grant and Funding Requests – Larry handed out a list of the various grants he has applied for including a federal BUILD Grant, state LCCMR grant, Congressionally Directed Spending, a direct stand-alone funding bill from Representative Davids and Senator Miller, and the Minnesota Parks and Trails Council has also submitted a funding request. The list provides an explanation of the funding request and whether there is a match required and also the scope of the application (each request is slightly different and so the table is a way to differentiate each funding request).

- d. USA Cycling Gravel National Championships – Larry presented an update from the Houston County Towns Association where the city presented the previous evening. The city is working on all aspects of the project amongst the six subcommittees. The route is being finalized and hopefully it will be finalized in May.
- e. Railroad Crossing Safety Grant – The city is finalizing a Request for Proposals and pending a final contract from the Federal Railroad Administration, can send out the RFP and go through the consultant selection process.

7. Reports

- a Updated Project List/Workplan - Larry briefly went through the Workplan.
 - Phase 4 Wagon Wheel – No new updates and the city is still waiting for the City of La Crosse to approve the maintenance agreement between the two cities and the project is now expected to start in 2027.
 - Walnut Street – See above.
 - Root River Trail Extension- See above.
 - Overlook Plaza – Still no progress and Larry needs to meet with Teresa O’Donnell Ebner to talk about next steps or whether to turn back the grant.
- b Member Reports –Larry mentioned that the city will likely receive one of the Drifty Award for the Pine Creek Restoration project on April 18th.

Cherryl mentioned that the City Administrator will start May 4th. Cassandra Hanan is currently the Vernon County, Wisconsin Coordinator. Information about the applicants is in the council agenda packet.

Sarah mentioned that the Early Childhood Daycare Center is well on its way and under construction with an August opening. There will be spots for 24 infants (currently there are none). They are going from 40 to 110 total childcare slots.

- 8. Next Meeting – May 6th, 2026 at 1:00 p.m.

- 9. Adjourn: Brett Kemmer made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Troy Nolop, the motion carried unanimously. The Chair adjourned the meeting at 2:01 p.m.

Minutes submitted by: Larry Kirch