

Root River Trail Extension - Citizens Exploratory Committee
Meeting minutes.

Date: April 3, 2024

Location: La Crescent Chamber of Commerce and Tourism Building, La Crescent, MN

1. Call To Order, Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 3:35 p.m. by Larry Kirch, City of La Crescent, Community Development Director.

Members Present: Jay Wheaton - Houston, Jason Kraft – Houston County, Larry Stryker – La Crescent, Dick Wieser – La Crescent

Members Absent: Ben Horn – Houston County, Jake Olson – Hokah, Kevin Walther – Hokah

Others Present: Hein Bloem

2. March 8, 2024 Minutes - Acceptance

Larry Kirch asked if there were any changes or corrections to the minutes. There were no changes or corrections and the minutes were accepted by consensus.

3. Discussion Items -

- a. Memorandum of Agreement – “Trail Plan”
 - i. Review/Revise Draft Plan
 - ii. Discuss timing of presentations to city councils/county board
 - iii. Engaging community stakeholders

Larry Kirch walked through the draft plan that was emailed and handed out at the last meeting. Larry Kirch went through the document page by page. Starting on the Acknowledgements page, Larry K will correct Hein Bloem’s spelling of his last name and list the statewide organizations as resources. The group went page by page through Larry Stryker’s comments. The group agreed with Larry S’s comments and suggested changes he had for pages 1, 2, 6, 8, and 11. Larry K said he would like to beef up the funding options section on Page 10. The committee didn’t have any other substantive changes to the document. Since there were a few committee members not in attendance at the meeting, it was felt that the group should review the revised draft at the May meeting.

Once the plan is finalized by the committee, it will be presented to the three cities and the Houston County Board of Supervisors. This might happen in June. Once that is done, there was a discussion about making presentations to the various Town Boards in the corridor.

4. RRTE-CEC membership status – City of Houston

The City of Houston still has not appointed a new member. There was no word on whether Margaret Knutson was interested or not in this committee. Margaret is a member of the Root River Trail Towns group. Jay Wheaton stated he would come up with some possible candidates.

5. Public Comment – None

6. Next Meeting – May 22nd , 2024 at 3:30 p.m. – Hokah Fire Department

7. Adjourn – the meeting was adjourned at 11: 55 a.m.

Meeting minutes drafted by Larry Kirch, City of La Crescent, Community Development Director

DRAFT