

Root River Trail Extension - Citizens Exploratory Committee
Meeting minutes.

Date: July 10, 2024

Location: La Crescent Area Chamber of Commerce and To, MN

1. Call To Order, Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 3:31 p.m. by Larry Kirch, City of La Crescent, Community Development Director.

Members Present: Jay Wheaton - Houston, Larry Stryker – La Crescent, Dick Wieser – La Crescent, Ben Horn – Houston County, Jake Olson – Hokah

Members Absent: Jason Kraft – Houston County (excused), Kevin Walther – Hokah

Others Present: Gary Wilson

2. June 12, 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. Trail Plan - Status of City Council Meetings and County Board Presentations – The City of La Crescent and the City of Houston have approved the plan. The plan is on the agenda at the County Board Meeting on July 16th for approval. The City of Hokah is set to take up the plan on August 6th. The plan seemed to be well received by the County Board at their worksession meeting on July 9th.
- b. Federal Discretionary Grant - Active Transportation Infrastructure Investment Program (ATIIP) Planning and Design Grant Application Due July 17th – Larry Kirch has been working on a federal grant for Planning and Design that is due next week. He has been securing letters of support from area legislators and other groups. The grant is a 80/20 percent grant although we are encouraged to provide more than the 20% minimum. We are looking to find matching funds from MnDOT through a grant program they have set up to assist local governments with grant match. The purpose of this planning effort would be to narrow down the alignment from the 2011 DNR Master Plan to a specific alignment.
- c. Drafting of Joint Powers Agreement – The City Attorney for La Crescent has agreed to draft a JPA on behalf of the cities and county and perhaps have a draft completed by August.

- d. Review Survey Parcels Legals Info – Larry Kirch and Jay Wheaton stated that they still didn't have time to thoroughly review the legal descriptions for this meeting. Larry Kirch agreed to set up a meeting with Jay and Christina Peterson prior to the committee's next meeting.
- e. Next Steps – The next steps include approval by the City of Hokah of the Trail Plan, posting the Trail Plan on the City of La Crescent project webpage, refinement and approval of the JPA by all the cities and Houston County, focusing on the ownership patterns at the next meeting, and hopefully receiving the ATIP Planning and Design Grant. The City of La Crescent continues to work on the segment from the Wagon Wheel Bike – Ped Bridge to Miller's Corner using the \$30,000 IJA Technical Assistance grant the city received from MnDOT last October.

4. Root River Trail Towns - Membership Approval for La Crescent

The City of La Crescent was voted in as a member of the Root River Trail Towns organization at the organization's June meeting. The group is a 501c3. Chatfield is a member. Larry Kirch has suggested that the City of Hokah also become a member. Even though La Crescent and Hokah are not connected to the Root River State Trail at present, there is a benefit to joining this organization and working together to get all the communities connected. The city paid \$300 to become a member.

5. RRTE-CEC membership status – City of Houston

The City of Houston has not appointed a new member. Jay Wheaton said that Margaret Knutson was interested and would work with her and the City of Houston regarding her appointment.

6. Public Comment – None

7. Next Meeting – August 14 in Houston at 3:30 p.m.

8. Adjourn – the meeting was adjourned at 4:29 p.m.

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