



City of La Crosse, Wisconsin

La Crosse Center
300 Harborview Plaza
La Crosse WI 54601

Meeting Minutes

La Crosse Center Board

Wednesday, April 11, 2018

5:15 PM

Patrick Zielke Room
300 Harborview Plaza, La Crosse, WI 54601

Call to Order

Roll Call

Present: 6 - Douglas Farmer, Bill Hoel, Dave Pretasky, Brent Smith, Amanda Halderson-Jackson, Pamela Maas

Excused: 3 - Phillip J. Addis, David L. Mc Dowell, Jessica Olson

Approval of Minutes

Agenda Items:

Public Input Meeting for the La Crosse Center Expansion

A wide variety of people attended this public input session on the La Crosse Center. The following dialogue identifies as many people as possible with their ideas.

Chair person Brent Smith opened the session with some comments followed by Director Art Fahey presenting a brief overview of the plans and then concluded with additional information on what could be done under the overhang presented by ISG's Kevin Billings.

George Italiano commented that he felt the design presented was to modern and would like to see a more historical look. He also felt it cut too much into the park. Mr. Italiano also would like the design to follow the flow of Front Street as it moved south and not continue as far into Riverside Park as the illustrations indicated.

Another gentleman commented that he did not like the concrete....he does not want the grass and trees to be removed or disturbed. He would like to continue to see the sky when he is in that area of the park.

Jason Gilman, City Planner for La Crosse indicated that there is a possibility of that area coming off the Mississippi River could be a docking point for river cruise ships. There could be some synergy of people loading and unloading and making their way to the city's downtown via the Pearl Street walkway.

Phil Ostrem, City of La Crosse Council Member asked if there was funding in the project for the improvements that are possible under the overhang. Chairman Smith responded that this was still an unknown of exactly how much might be available.

Todd Olson City of La Crosse Park Board Commissioner wanted to know how much area is being taken away in the Park. He was asking if that could be staked out in the park. The answer is yes and it will be done. Also, Mr. Olson wanted to know how many trees will be removed? Staff will provide that answer to Mr. Olson. Also, he suggested that there be a "roof top terrace" that the general public could have access to. And finally, he suggested that possibility of a "green roof" as part of the project.

TJ Peterslie - Pearl Street business man suggested that there be a sign on the venue that welcomes boat traffic to the downtown....."Welcome to La Crosse" or "Port of La Crosse". Mr. Peterslie stressed the importance of keeping the Pearl Street walkway opening and welcoming. He would like to see the skywalk from the Radisson Hotel become more glass enclosed so that the sight lines from the river to Pearl Street and in reverse is clear.

Another gentleman suggested for multi-seasonal use with things such as snow sculptures. He also echoed the need for a welcome sign to those on the river. Other points he suggested were some type of "green wall" to shield the back of the Center's functions such as the dumpsters from view.. He also wanted to see things like railings on the terrace that would reflect the river or the historical period the city represents. Finally, he said he felt the pain of losing some of the park.

Another suggestion was to have the structure be 2 stories and not go into the park at all. It was indicated that that idea would not work as the ground level needs to be kept open for all the services, deliveries, load-ins and outs necessary for the Center's operation.

Robin Moses - Director of Downtown Main Street suggested that we have a higher view of the park illustrating better the amount of the park being entered into. She also would like to see diagrams that soften the look and design of the expansion.

Another gentleman did not want to see the Center go into the park at all. He wants the Board and the Center to consider another alternative design.

Dave Marshall - City of La Crosse Council member wanted the group to understand that the amount of space being overhung in the park is minimal and that there will be another 30 acres added to Riverside Park with the addition of Riverside North.

Marvin Wanders - Park Board Commissioner felt the project is very worthwhile. He asked if we did not keep Front Street and used that area for the expansion would that work. Board Member Bill Hoel explained how that would not work with all the utilities that lie under Front Street that would need to be disturbed.

After that discussion the meeting concluded with a unanimous consent to adjourn.

Public Hearing Presentation 4.11.18

Adjournment

Notice is further given that members of other governmental bodies may be present at the above scheduled meeting to gather information about a subject over which they have decision-making responsibility.

NOTICE TO PERSONS WITH A DISABILITY

Requests from persons with a disability who need assistance to participate in this meeting should call the City Clerk's office at (608) 789-7510 or send an email to ADAcityclerk@cityoflacrosse.org, with as much advance notice as possible.