



City of La Crosse, Wisconsin

City Hall
400 La Crosse Street
La Crosse, WI 54601

Meeting Minutes

Neighborhood Revitalization Commission

Monday, June 6, 2016

6:00 PM

3rd Floor Conference Room

Call to Order, Roll Call

Present: 9 - Tim Kabat, Robert Haavind, Barb Janssen, Steve Nicoli, Phil Ostrem, Carla Pena, Amanda Acklin, Liz Nutter, Steven Larrabee

Excused: 2 - Nancy Stoll Caucutt, Jennifer Trost

- 1 [16-0536](#) Approval of May 2nd Meeting Minutes

Attachments: [May 2nd Minutes](#)

Motion to approve May 2nd meeting minutes brought by Janssen, seconded by Ostrem. Motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

Agenda Items:

2 Parks and Recreation Department Strategic Plan - Steve Carlyon

Jay Odegaard, Superintendent of Park Facilities, Recreation, and Forestry, presented on the Parks and Recreation Department Strategic Plan. He went over the process of how the plan was written as well as how it is used by the department. Odegaard stated that one way the department got feedback was through a survey. Janssen expressed concern that the responses of the survey did not include respondents in the 25-35 years age range. Odegaard confirmed this can be a difficult age group to reach for this type of survey. Janssen suggested possible collaboration with the UWL Rec Department on surveys in the future and Odegaard agreed this is a good idea. Haavind expressed concern that the plan states neighborhood associations were consulted in this process and the Washburn Neighborhood Association was not consulted. Odegaard stated that this plan is not final and comments and suggestions from the neighborhoods are still welcome. Odegaard appreciated the feedback and welcomes continued feedback from the neighborhood associations. Nutter provided Odegaard with written feedback on the plan from the Bluffside Neighborhood Association. Council Member Padesky was in the audience and brought up his concern about losing baseball diamonds in City parks. He stated his opinion on the importance of keeping these accessible to residents of the neighborhoods. Mayor Kabat stated he would like to ensure efforts are being made to keep baseball diamonds, basketball hoops, and greenspace in neighborhoods so community members are able to use them for pick up games as well. Odegaard confirmed that he also sees these as important assets to the community and the importance of greenspace parks. Ostrem asked about the use of surplus land and planning staff stated there is a list of surplus land available for sale that the Common Council can look at and determine usage for. Nicolai asked about tree replacement programs and Odegaard informed the commission there is a program in which homeowners can pay for trees to be planted immediately in the boulevard. There is also a program in which people can purchase trees to be planted in other parts of the city. Odegaard discussed the process of ash tree removal and replacement and the efforts being made for diversification of tree species. The commission thanked Odegaard for his time and information provided.

3 Formal Recognition of Neighborhood Associations

Tim Acklin, City of La Crosse Senior Planner, discussed the current policy for the commission to formally recognize neighborhood associations. The intent of this process was to have neighborhood associations become sustainable while also offering incentives such as consideration for the Mayor's CIP funds as well as assistance from planning staff. To be formally recognized, the policy requires each neighborhood association submit bylaws, hold meetings, and have an action plan. This action plan was intended to be a simple one to two year plan of what the neighborhood association plans on accomplishing. Acklin asked the commission what they would like the process to be. Mayor Kabat stated he would like the process to be as simple as possible for the neighborhood associations. Planning staff provided the commission with what information each neighborhood association has currently submitted to the Planning and Development Department. There was a consensus that short term action plans would benefit each neighborhood association. Motion to request each neighborhood file an action plan yearly by Janssen, seconded by Pena. Motion passed by unanimous voice vote. Planning staff will send a letter to each neighborhood association that has submitted all of the required information informing them they have met the requirements to be designated as a recognized neighborhood association. Planning staff will send a letter to each neighborhood association not currently meeting the requirements stating what the requirements are and requesting the information.

4 Updates on Action Plan Items

Commission members gave updates on progress on action items. Action plan subcommittees should continue to work towards these items and be prepared to report progress at each meeting.

5 Next Meeting Date/Agenda Items

Suggested future agenda items include inviting a representative of La Crosse Neighborhoods, Inc. and presentation on neighborhood website by Planning Staff. The next meeting will be held on Monday, July 11 at 6:00 pm in the 3rd Floor Conference Room at City Hall.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn brought by Nutter, seconded by Pena. Meeting adjourned at 7:36 pm.

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.