



City of La Crosse, Wisconsin

City Hall
400 La Crosse Street
La Crosse, WI 54601

Meeting Minutes

Neighborhood Revitalization Commission

Monday, August 29, 2016

6:00 PM

3rd Floor Conference Room

Call to Order, Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 6 p.m. by Mayor Tim Kabat.

Present: 7 - Tim Kabat, Robert Haavind, Barb Janssen, Steve Nicoli, Carla Pena, Jennifer Trost, Liz Nutter

Excused: 2 - Phil Ostrem, Will Kratt

Absent: 1 - Steven Larrabee

Others present: Dawn Wacek, Kim Cable, Kelly Krieg-Sigman, Michael Sigman, Gary Padesky, Judy Bouffleur, Arlene Urlee, Joe Hammes, Dan Gelatt, Jourdan Vian, Jason Gilman, Tim Acklin, Sara Olson

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Janssen, seconded by Nutter, to approve the August 1, 2016 meeting minutes. The motion carried by voice vote.

Agenda Items:

1. Homelessness Presentation - Kim Cable, Couleecap

Kim Cable spoke on homelessness in La Crosse area. She works at Couleecap and also chairs the La Crosse Collaborative to End Homelessness. They recently conducted a point in time homelessness count, as do many communities, which is conducted in the end of January and end of July. Their number includes those who are at several shelters, warming centers, supportive housing providers and those who are unsheltered, on the street in the community on that day. The street count begins at 3am by teams who canvas the street for homeless. They also hosted a Homelessness Connect Event which had 185 people in attendance and staff assisted 25 access the Housing Prioritization List. They found 46 unsheltered people during the July 2016 count versus 28 during July 2015; up to 20 of those people are veterans. Kim noted that 20% of shelter users use 80% of services, and this is a national average. An initiative of the Mayor and others is to end veteran homelessness. Approximately 1,300 people who are homeless are served throughout La Crosse County each year. Participation numbers have either stayed the same or increased over the years. Couleecap's strategy is to provide housing first to those that seek out their services, because other issues tend to stabilize and improve once housing is addressed. She noted Erin Healy's work as a national consultant. Erin is

working with our community for a year through funds from Gundersen. She did an assessment and analysis of how we could end homelessness in La Crosse. In September, the Collaborative is doing planning sessions. The first goal is to end veteran homelessness in our community by Christmas. Kim addressed questions of the Commissioners.

2. Update on Library Services

Mayor Kabat has proposed the City contract with La Crosse County to provide library services. It goes to F&P this Thursday and to Council next Thursday. Since his memo was sent to Commissioners, the County Board has taken action to recommend a stakeholder group. There is a significant budget issue with library services. All departments are requested to have a zero percent increase on their operating budgets; there is a \$1.3 million deficit to keep the levy at the same level. Commissioners asked for clarification on county stakeholder group, conversations between city and county to this point, TIF funding, timeline, increasing taxpayer contributions to library services and expected increasing property values in near future. Kelly Krieg-Sigman noted that it will take thoughtful dialogue and time to work out a plan with County; Kelly does not know that a merge is the only solution. Mayor Kabat encouraged NRC members to advocate to their City and County leaders if they feel the library is important to them. Discussion ensued about pros and cons of different options.

3. Updates on neighborhoods section of website

This item has been referred to next month because suggestions have not yet been implemented with transition from Kayla to Sara. Please come with content suggestions to the next meeting.

4. Update on action plan items

Carla Pena shared that she has prepared a Welcome to the Neighborhood form to provide to Welcome Celebrations that includes a map and list of resources. This document could be used as a template for other neighborhoods.

Barb Janssen shared that the Mayor's Conference on March 25, 2017 will be titled "Living Well in the City". The main conversation is what is a healthy neighborhood.

Steve Nicolai shared that the parking policy is still being worked on.

Next Meeting Date/Agenda Items

The next meeting is October 3, 2016 at 6 p.m.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Janssen, seconded by Pena, to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried by voice vote. The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m. by Mayor Tim Kabat.

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.