



City of La Crosse, Wisconsin

City Hall
400 La Crosse Street
La Crosse, WI 54601

Meeting Minutes

Neighborhood Revitalization Commission

Monday, October 3, 2016

6:00 PM

3rd Floor Conference Room

Call to Order, Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Mayor Tim Kabat.

Present: 10 - Tim Kabat, Robert Haavind, Barb Janssen, Steve Nicoli, Phil Ostrem, Carla Pena, Jennifer Trost, Steven Larrabee, Will Kratt, Linda Bye

Excused: 1 - Liz Nutter

Others present: Austin Travers, Jim Flottmeyer, Tim Acklin, Sara Olson

Mayor Kabat invited commissioners and others present to introduce themselves.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made Larrabee, seconded by Nicolai, to approve the August 29, 2016 meeting minutes. The motion carried by voice vote.

Agenda Items:

1. Discussion on "Vulnerable Highway User Law"

Trost brought this item to the commission for discussion in response to the state's plans to widen the highways and increase speeds through the city. Mayor Kabat encouraged the NRC to draft a letter to elected officials to enhance punishments for this legislation. Trost will research how many people were affected. Kratt noted this legislation was championed by the Bike Fed when introduced in 2013/2014, so the NRC should follow their lead on this item for this legislation cycle. Trost will contact the Bike Fed to see if they're sponsoring this item again and we will follow suit. If so, we should invite Carolyn Dvorak from the Bike Fed and the Police Chief to speak to the NRC on this topic at a future meeting.

2. Update on WisDOT's Coulee Region Transportation Study

Mayor Kabat provided an update on this item. The La Crosse Area Planning Commission, which includes representatives from the region's towns, cities and villages, received a report from the DOT. Most recently, the DOT is reluctant to move into an environmental impact study phase. The City has requested they pursue

Strategy H, which is a no build strategy. The DOT would not accept Strategy H as a stand alone option. The DOT recommended the City should implement the bike ped plans, stop light timing and other changes now. Mayor Kabat noted the transit plan has been updated for the next five years. This item will remain on the agenda to keep the NRC in the loop of updates and changes. Mayor Kabat invited commissioners to serve on subcommittees regarding this topic.

3. Discussion on parking

Jim Flottmeyer provided an update on changes and improvements made during his seven month tenure as the Parking Utility Coordinator. A few commissioners are on a subcommittee and requested an update on this topic. Ostrem noted that Powell Poage Hamilton neighborhood association has explored the option of permitting near the Gundersen campus. Trost inquired about a parking benefit district; Flottmeyer noted it has been discussed on the fringe of the downtown. He also noted there is a complimentary resident parking pass available so the user is waived from the two hour parking restrictions. It was noted this pass could be an opportunity for revenue and investments would go back into the neighborhood collected from. Mayor Kabat noted that great improvements will roll out in the next year under Jim Flottmeyer's leadership. Flottmeyer noted the technology we could implement in some areas are pay stations where you pay for your license plate for the length of time parked. Jim works with the police department, the traffic engineer and planning department on issues, and his role will incorporate neighborhood and residential parking in addition to his primary downtown focus. Jim is willing to meet with neighborhood associations if invited to speak. Mayor Kabat encouraged the subcommittee of Trost, Nicolai and Ostrem to meet with Jim. Kratt requested membership on the subcommittee. Haavind inquired about outstanding parking ticket fees. Jim will provide an update on the outstanding parking ticket fees and the revenue collected; Sara Olson will distribute this information to the NRC and neighborhood groups. Sara will also share Jim's contact information with the NRC members.

4. Updates on neighborhoods section of website

Sara Olson presented an update on the neighborhoods section of the website. Improvements made by recommendations of the NRC so far include: adding neighborhood logos to each page, adding thumbnails of boundary maps on the homepage and each neighborhood page, and adding council member names and a link to their contact information on each neighborhood page. Tim Acklin and Sara Olson also worked with Jason Buck to add a layer in the GIS maps where your neighborhood group will be displayed when you type in your address. We will also be implementing a GIS layer in the spring where your council member will be displayed when you type in your address. Other improvements yet to be made include: a neighborhood boundary map and council districts map thumbnail, information on how to become a neighborhood association, case studies, links to resources such as LCNI and LNDC, and a paragraph on what a neighborhood association is and the benefits. New recommendations from commissioners included: updating the commission member names on the homepage, adding a link on the City's I am a Resident homepage to the neighborhoods page, adding a link to the GIS maps and an explanation of how to search for your neighborhood association, an explanation of what GIS is and perhaps changing the verbiage of the link to quickly explain what GIS is, adding a link to the 311 Citizen Resource Center on the neighborhoods homepage, linking to PDFs of achievements on each neighborhood page, and linking to a spreadsheet of available programs on the homepage. If other changes need to be made to each neighborhood page such as an updated logo, meeting time, contact names or other details, please send those to Sara Olson.

5. Update on action plan items

Mayor Kabat reviewed the action plan and updates on items. In a few months, the action plan will be the first agenda item and will be updated accordingly.

6. Other

Larrabee mentioned a program Home Depot is offering for neighborhoods to build food pantry libraries, similar to the Little Libraries throughout town. Powell Poage Hamilton and Washburn were interested in working with Home Depot on the project. Share the Bounty's nonprofit organization will coordinate with Home Depot to facilitate the funding. No formal action was taken by the NRC.

Next Meeting Date/Agenda Items

The next meeting has been moved to November 7, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. Future agendas will continue to include: the vulnerable highway user law, the WisDOT's Coulee Region Transportation Study, website updates, and the action planning session in a few months.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Ostrem, seconded by Janssen, to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried by voice vote. The meeting was adjourned at 7:32 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.