



City of La Crosse, Wisconsin

City Hall
400 La Crosse Street
La Crosse, WI 54601

Meeting Minutes

Neighborhood Revitalization Commission

Monday, September 9, 2019

6:00 PM

3rd Floor Conference Room

Call to Order

Mayor Kabat called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

Roll Call

Others present: Chris Kahlow, Jason Gilman, Ashley Marshall, Barb Janssen, and David Reinhart.

Present: 6 - Tim Kabat, Will Kratt, Nora Garland, Larry Sleznikow, Janet Allen, Christopher Woodard

Excused: 2 - Jennifer Trost, Jim Bagniewski

Absent: 3 - Linda Lee, Steve Nicolai, Ralph Geary

Approval of Minutes

A motion by Garland, second by Sleznikow to APPROVE the previous meeting minutes. The motion carried by voice vote.

Agenda Items:

1. Discussion and recommendations from Fire Prevention and Building Safety on district citations and code violations.

Reinhart gave a presentation on citations and code violations. Reinhart stated there was 15,127 inspections and activities in 2018. Reinhart stated as of 7/12/19 the department has already had 11,871 inspections and activities for 2019. Reinhart stated this was due to having two full-time positions dedicated to code enforcement. He also mentioned they recently hired a Chronic Nuisance Technician. Sleznikow asked how the department tracks compliance. Reinhart stated they have a computer system that tracks all activity related to an activity. Garland asked if information was available to the public. Reinhart stated the public can make complaints online and they will be able to track information. Kratt asked what happens if someone could not afford to clean up the property. Reinhart stated if they notify the department, the department staff can make recommendations to programs or organizations that can possibly help. Reinhart states if they still don't comply the department staff will write citations. Garland asked Reinhart for advice on what the Neighborhood Associations could do to help. Reinhart stated they could inform the citizens about filing complaints online and to be specific when writing a complaint. Garland asked for Reinhart to provide a FAQ sheet with the top 10 citations.

Janssen asked how the two technicians go about finding citations. Reinhart stated they work proactively going block by block and they will be routed complaints as they come in. Kahlow stated there was a garbage issue for four years and stated citizens should not have to fight for that long to get action. Reinhart stated if the issue was related to dumpsters there are regulations and stated he thinks having the Chronic Nuisance Technician on staff will help greatly. Mayor Kabat requested that staff look into having an intern work on a display of the before and after photos of properties that have received orders to correct. Kratt stated he would be interested to see what other cities are doing to provide incentives other than citations. Kahlow stated the Paint and Fix up Program was very important and would like to see more funding for this program in the future. Garland stated UW-Milwaukee has a Preferred Tenant Program. Reinhart stated he was going to UW-La Crosse to do a presentation on Tenants Rights.

2. Update on Neighborhood Center Overlay Districts.

Jason Gilman gave an overview and update on Neighborhood Center Overlay Districts. Gilman stated they have two districts in the works right now: Bridgeview Plaza and Monitor Street. Gilman stated the Bridgeview Plaza Overlay District was going through the council this Thursday and he was having a meeting session with the Lower-Northside Depot Neighborhood on September 23rd. Gilman hopes to see the Monitor Street District go through the council by the end of the year.

3. Update on Mayor's neighborhood conference.

The 5th annual Mayor's Conference will be held at the Black River Beach Community Center on October 16, 2019 from 8:30 am to 12 pm.

4. Announcements

Adjournment

A motion by Sleznikow, second by Kratt to ADJOURN. The motion carried by voice vote. The meeting adjourned at 7:17 pm. The next meeting will be on September 30, 2019.

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.