



City of La Crosse, Wisconsin

City Hall
400 La Crosse Street
La Crosse, WI 54601

Meeting Minutes

Floodplain Advisory Committee

Monday, September 23, 2019

4:30 PM

3rd Floor Conference Room

Special Meeting

Call to Order

Richmond called the meeting to order at 4:30 pm.

Roll Call

Present: 6 - Andrea Richmond, Scott Neumeister, Barb Janssen, Gary Padesky, Bill Bosshard, Sara Strassman

Excused: 1 - Richard Becker

Approval of Minutes

Padesky made a motion to approve the minutes; Neumeister seconded. The motion carried by a voice vote.

Agenda Items:

- 1 [19-1393](#) Discuss State Floodplain Regulations and Ways to Help Property Owners with State Legislators - Richmond

DNR has grant funding available for municipal flood control, flood mitigation assistance, and hazard mitigation. Richmond asked how Wisconsin's floodplain regulations compared to other states; Michelle Staff says WI codes haven't changed much in 50 years and Minnesota's floodplain regulations are modeled after WI. Neumeister requested help for people who haven't had flooding and are paying more in insurance, which affects the homeowner and the city. Staff said filling in basements helps a lot with reducing insurance costs. Strassman shared that many nonconforming structures need significant help and funding to reach compliance. Doug Kerns added that the biggest restriction facing city residents in the floodplain is on cumulative improvement value. Sen Shilling requested a meeting with officials to get more background information on flood issues; she also suggested asking the Mayor about floodplain tips he's gotten from the Mississippi River Cities and Towns Initiative. Janssen also suggested help to address groundwater issues. Kerns added that the water pumped out of the basements carries soil with it, which could lead to more damage. Strassman mentioned that there is a lot of low income housing in the floodplain and a low vacancy rate citywide for those tenants to have opportunities to move. Staff and Kerns reiterated that mitigation is the best solution.

- 2 [19-1396](#) Pending Floodplain Relief Grant Applications for Fill - Jason Gilman

Attachments: [Right of First Refusal](#)

Gilman listed addresses of submitted and expected applications. He also mentioned that this was a direct payment program not a reimbursement. City Attorney provided first right of refusal form. Stacy Masters provided update regarding increased cost estimate. Doug Kerns asked if companies doing the sump pump work have insurance or warranty to cover damage. Janssen suggested getting more bids and guarantee. Richmond recommended taking a hard look at costs. Gilman requested administrative approval for grants to expedite process so applicants can potentially get work done before winter. Updates on applications will be included on future agendas for informational purposes.

Janssen made a motion approving staff administration of grant applications including approval of applications of those presented; Padesky seconded. The motion carried by a voice vote.

3 [19-1408](#) Update on Community Assistance Visit Response & Compliance

Committee requested written memo follow up on progress.

Adjournment

Janssen made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:43 pm; Strassman seconded. The motion carried by a voice vote.

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.