



City of La Crosse, Wisconsin

City Hall
400 La Crosse Street
La Crosse, WI 54601

Meeting Minutes

Neighborhood Revitalization Commission

Monday, December 2, 2019

6:00 PM

3rd Floor Conference Room

Call to Order

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

Roll Call

Present: 10 - Tim Kabat, Linda Lee, Ralph Geary, Jennifer Trost, Will Kratt, Jim Bagniewski, Nora Garland, Larry Sleznikow, Janet Allen, Christopher Woodard

Absent: 1 - Steve Nicolai

Approval of Minutes

Garland requested change in the previous minutes from "Garland not interested to it's not part of her job description". A motion by Lee, second by Sleznikow, to APPROVE the previous meeting minutes. The motion carried by voice vote.

Agenda Items:

1. Report from Community Development on the Community Needs Survey as part of the public input process of the HUD required Consolidated Plan for Community Development.

Gregerson gave a presentation on the Community Needs Survey. Gregerson stated the next steps involve informing Council of the importance of roads; but, maintain focus on things we do well-housing quality and affordability, support more lighting, more focus on child care, look at how to incentivize "affordable housing" for wider range of incomes, and advertising housing rehab more.

Gregerson stated many landlords preferred grants instead of loans and wanted to do work themselves which caused the loan program for landlords to not be effective. Mayor asked if the results were available online. Gregerson stated they can be found on the city website under Community Development Block Grant. Will Kratt mentioned it was interesting to him that not many people mentioned taxes and that he was happy to see people were happy with the quality of schools.

2. Feedback from initial affordable housing surveys from neighborhood committee members.

Gilman gave a presentation on results of affordable housing survey. Nora Garland stated she saw the most common responses in GENA related to senior housing and family housing. Gilman stated we could use some diversity in design in affordable housing. He also stated high-rise apartments and multifamily housing are concerns to neighborhoods. Providing affordable options for aging in place was the most common ranked in importance from neighbors. Gilman stated the intent was to take the results and use it to craft an application to provide to the Community Foundation. Janet Allen stated a few comments from her neighborhood were great need for senior housing, housing not affordable for middle class, and more rentals would be resistant in the neighborhood. Mayor Kabat stated committees like the AARP steering committee are looking at accessibility and affordability for seniors city-wide. Gilman asked if he should be looking at design standards that allow accessibility for seniors in their current homes. Lee stated comments received were that people did not like the sectioned homes such as all 55 plus or all family housing. People liked multi-family and mixed income housing. Will Kratt stated what is troubling is the contradictions on what our community wants. People want the roads fixed, etc but yet we have an affordability problem. We need to figure out a creative way to find more density. we need more people to pay for the same issues. Would like to see financial sustainability element. 360 town homes - Garland stated she has only heard good things and heard that many people would wished they could purchase instead of. Trost mentioned working on code for accessory dwelling.

Adjournment

A motion by Garland, second by Geary to ADJOURN the meeting. The motion carried by voice vote. The meeting adjourned at 7:26 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.