



City of La Crosse, Wisconsin

City Hall
400 La Crosse Street
La Crosse, WI 54601

Meeting Minutes - Final

Neighborhood Revitalization Commission

Wednesday, April 5, 2023

6:00 PM

Council Chambers- City Hall- 400 La Crosse St

Members of the public will be able to attend the meeting in person in the Council Chambers at City Hall located at 400 La Crosse St in La Crosse, or online via video conferencing with the links below.

View and Speak:

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://cityoflacrosse-org.zoom.us/j/82155464093?](https://cityoflacrosse-org.zoom.us/j/82155464093?pwd=aGw1NWRRUE4xM1RxajJxaTM0QkNUQT09)

[pwd=aGw1NWRRUE4xM1RxajJxaTM0QkNUQT09](https://cityoflacrosse-org.zoom.us/j/82155464093?pwd=aGw1NWRRUE4xM1RxajJxaTM0QkNUQT09)

Meeting ID: 821 5546 4093

Passcode: 543969

Participate by phone:

1-312-626-6799

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:01pm.

Roll Call

Present: 8 - Ralph Geary, Jim Bagniewski, Larry Sleznikow, Mitch Reynolds, Jessica Stanton, Sean Hurtubise , Robert McDonnell, Greg Clark

Excused: 2 - Vacant 1, Will Kratt

Absent: 1 - Steve Nicolai

Approval of Minutes

Approval of the February 1, 2023 Meeting Minutes.

Ralph Geary moved to approve the minutes. Jim Bagniewski seconded. The motion passed 7-0 by voice vote.

Agenda Items:

1. [23-0382](#)

Lewis Kuhlman provided an overview of his memo he provided to the Commission and stated some of the main points. Lewis suggested that he

could bring back a draft ordinance at the next meeting. The Commission agreed.

2. Discussion on parking and parking districts.

The Mayor requested that this item be taken first. The Commission agreed. Sean Hurtubise joined the meeting.

Jim Bagniewski asked how the parking district and pay to park efforts were going especially around the campuses and if there are any other updates. Joe Pederson, Parking Utility Coordinator, stated that the parking district ordinance is in place. As of now there are no parking benefit districts in place but the pay to park efforts have been heavily utilized. Jim Bagniewski asked if the City has moved forward to exempt businesses from having to provide parking. Staff stated that the City has eliminated off-street parking requirements for commercial businesses but has not for multi-family developments. Based on feedback from neighborhoods, staff decided to hold off on this effort until after the Comprehensive Plan has been updated to see if this issue is identified as a priority or need.

3. [22-1153](#)

Discussion on possible regulation/legislation of AirBnBs/short-term rentals.

Staff provided a recap of the direction from the Commission and their efforts to date. Staff put together a draft ordinance based on the direction and stated that they shared it with other departments for review. Jessica Stanton asked how this relates to the County's registration and whether they need to renew every year. Staff stated that they would only need one inspection but would need to renew license annually. Jessica Stanton asked if short-term rentals are supposed to be licensed from the county by state law. Staff stated that is correct.

Ralph Geary stated that he really liked the Green Bay ordinance and would like to follow that.

Sean Hurtubise asked in relation to license revocation who determines what a legitimate police call is. Ellen Atterbury suggested a legitimate police call be kept consistent with other ordinances. Her suggestion was to take from the chronic nuisance premise ordinance which includes a call for service which requires enforcement action as a legitimate police call.

CM Slezniow asked if there is state legislation regulating what municipalities can do with short-term rentals. Staff stated the regulations for short-term rentals are not as strict as those imposed on long-term rentals.

Jessica Stanton stated she is in favor of keeping the City license fee to cover administrative costs and not cause barrier for those wanting to pursue having a short-term rentals.

Greg Clark said there is a big difference within the short-term rental market. Clark said some people only open a room of their house for guests. Other owners have multiple properties and do not live in the area. Clark asked if there was a way to be able to differentiate how we regulate the different types of short-term rentals.

Mayor Reynolds asked for guidance on penalties and fees from the Committee.

Committee Members did not have any suggestions. Mayor Reynolds told staff to use their discretion for setting penalties and fees.

CM Sleznikow asked if the registration and fee would be annual. Staff stated most other municipalities have annual registration and most have discounted fees after the initial registration.

4. Discussion on reducing single-use plastics.

Jim Bagniewski stated he saw some other cities reducing the use of single-use plastics and he would like to see the City look into this. Staff stated that there are strict regulations from the state on what municipalities are allowed to do. Staff informed the Committee municipalities are not allowed to ban plastic bags, containers, or bottles.

The Mayor stated that public education is an important piece to reducing the use of single-use plastics. Bagniewski asked if there was any kind of proclamation possibility from the Mayor to encourage reduction of single-use plastics. Mayor Reynolds agreed that he can could do that.

Greg Clark stated they could encourage businesses to have recycling facilities. Sean Hurtubise suggested recognizing businesses who strive toward reduction of single-use plastics. Jessica Stanton agreed with Hurtubise that having a partnership with business that use less single-use plastics could encourage less plastic use.

CM Sleznikow asked if there is any regulation from the State in which the municipality can charge a fee for the use of single-use plastics. Staff said they would look into this.

5. [23-0391](#)

Staff provided an update.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:02pm.

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.

Neighborhood Revitalization Commission Members:

Mayor Mitch Reynolds, CM Larry Sleznikow, Jessica Stanton, Jim Bagniewski, Greg Clark, Ralph Geary, Robert McDonnell, Sean Hurtubise, Steve Nicolai, Will Kratt