



# City of La Crosse, Wisconsin

City Hall  
400 La Crosse Street  
La Crosse, WI 54601

## Meeting Minutes

### Neighborhood Revitalization Commission

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Monday, February 1, 2021

6:00 PM

Via Video Conference

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In an effort to keep members of the public, City staff and Neighborhood Revitalization Commissioners as safe as possible from the spread of COVID-19, City Staff highly encourages the public to submit any comments, concerns, questions, or support in writing ahead of the meeting to Tim Acklin at [acklint@cityoflacrosse.org](mailto:acklint@cityoflacrosse.org).

The meeting will also be conducted through video conferencing and may be viewed and accessed with the following link:

<https://stream.lifefizecloud.com/extension/4796124/c7d43560-fea7-4613-9625-63af875bee87>

Members of the public will be permitted to ask questions or provide statements via video conferencing.

#### Call to Order

**This meeting was called to order at 6:01PM.**

#### Roll Call

**Present:** 9 - Tim Kabat, Linda Lee, Ralph Geary, Jennifer Trost, Will Kratt, Jim Bagniewski, Larry Sleznikow, Janet Allen, Christopher Woodard

**Excused:** 1 - Nora Garland

**Absent:** 1 - Steve Nicolai

#### Approval of Minutes

1. Approval of the January 4, 2021 Meeting Minutes.

**Approval of the minutes made by Geary, seconded by Sleznikow. Motion passed by voice vote.**

#### Agenda Items:

2. Discussion with City Staff on Street Design, Safety, and Enforcement. (Engineering, Planning, Police)

**Several Commission Members expressed concerns about safety in neighborhoods related to traffic: Sleznikow expressed concerns about the busyness of Cass St. Lee has concerns of busyness of any street perpendicular to Losey Blvd. Allen expressed concerns about safety in Springbrook Park related to speedy traffic and concerns for children's safety in the area. Geary asked if the Police is considering implementing traffic cameras where you receive a ticket in the mail.**

Tim Acklin - Senior Planner, explained there is internal discussions over handling and responding to requests, with Engineering and Police departments. A joint partnership is important to respond to needs.

Matthew Gallager - Deputy Director of Engineering, explained issues related to traffic are persistent throughout the City. There is are many resources, information, studies, and discussions over street design and traffic calming. Looking at traffic data through various resources is a starting point to address the issue. There are temporary measures like signs and speed bumps to implement and experiment with, as well.

Shawn Kudron - Police Chief, and Robert Abraham - Assistant Police Chief, spoke on the issue. Chief Kudron explained that officers have been monitoring on traffic on Cass St. and enforcement efforts are based on availability of time for officers. Working with Engineering staff to identify trends of traffic speediness was indicated as an important step to slow traffic. As well as, advocating and promoting slow and safe traffic on social media. Assistant Chief Abraham indicated this is an ongoing issue his entire career. He expressed the importance of data, in particular, a speed and traffic survey to analyze problem areas. It comes down to education, enforcement, and engineering.

Woodard asked if a traffic study is viable to do in the winter. He expressed concerns about speed on Cass St. Deputy Director Gallager responded it is not. April through September are months to collect data.

Geary stated that the roads are laid out for efficient flow of traffic. Authority shouldn't make it cumbersome to drive because a small percentage of drivers drive too fast. He also stated, this [traffic] problem is the same in every community.

Kratt asked if there is a study or data out that shows a significant decrease in speeds on Losey Blvd after the speed limit was changed. Deputy Director replied there was not good data after, and the effort was policy driven.

Kratt stated that land use, parking and traffic should all be talked about together. There has been significant increases in employment downtown and all the roads discussed are ways people travel to downtown. Along with housing supply not being kept up. He expressed short term and long term projects should be done, not one or the other. Parking studies and form-based codes are examples Kratt provided.

Sleznikow stated he hopes Engineering will prioritize interns and/or cadets doing traffic studies and compiling more recent data. He explained that it could be important now and in the future.

No action taken on this item.

3. Update on the Ordinance to eliminate Off-Street Parking.

Tim Acklin - Senior Planner, spoke on gathering more data to create more defined goals for the Parking Ordinance. He explained it is also important to engage with the public and collaboratively work with other City departments to

find any opposition to this effort. Commissioners agreed this was a good idea.

Sleznikow expressed the educational and public input components are extremely important. Anything that can be done to make that as concise and clear as possible will be important before a final decision is made.

No action taken on this item.

4. Discussion/Update on 2415 State Rd. (Former KMart Site)

Mayor Tim Kabat presented updates on the former Kmart site.

Lee expressed that her Neighborhood Association is bordering the neighborhood the former Kmart site is in and that they are concerned it will become a giant truck parking lot if U-Haul develops the site. She is in favor of mixed use development.

Tim Acklin explained U-Hauls proposal requires a change in zoning from Commercial to Heavy Industrial. He continued, a change in zoning to Heavy Industrial would not be highest and best use for the land. The business is welcomed in the community, however this may not be the best location for this business.

Bagniewski asked if the Planners have had discussions with the local business owners over non-competing development. He explained how local business owners think that a use other than U-Haul is too far out of the box. Acklin replied that there has been a giant effort to make development of this site better use because there is a TID (Tax Increment District) developed around this site.

Geary expressed that the City should consider exploring the option of purchasing this site.

Kratt explained that what would put the City in the best position to negotiate is show that the community is open to a lot of different options for development of this site. The purchase and construction costs would put developers in a deep hole. For something appealing to go there, it would have to be a large-scale development.

No action taken on this item.

5. [21-0030](#) Annual Ethics Policy Review

Attachments: [Code of Ethics](#)

The Chair confirmed that the Commission Members has read and reviewed the Annual Ethics Policy.

No action taken on this item.

## Adjournment

Motion to adjourn made by Woodard, seconded by Kratt. Meeting adjourned at

7:23PM.

*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](mailto:ADAcityclerk@cityoflacrosse.org), with as much advance notice as possible.*