



# City of La Crosse, Wisconsin

City Hall  
400 La Crosse Street  
La Crosse, WI 54601

## Meeting Minutes - Final

### Heritage Preservation Commission

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Thursday, June 22, 2023

6:00 PM Council Chambers- Grandad Room 400 La Crosse St

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Members of the public may participate in the meeting in the following ways:

View Virtually and Speak:

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://cityoflacrosse-org.zoom.us/j/84101189486?](https://cityoflacrosse-org.zoom.us/j/84101189486?pwd=bFhXeHBwdWR3YkhOcmpzWWYrTjRvQT09)

[pwd=bFhXeHBwdWR3YkhOcmpzWWYrTjRvQT09](https://cityoflacrosse-org.zoom.us/j/84101189486?pwd=bFhXeHBwdWR3YkhOcmpzWWYrTjRvQT09)

Meeting ID: 841 0118 9486

Passcode: 810151

Phone Only

1 312 626 6799

Or you may attend in person at City Hall located at 400 La Crosse Street. Members of the public who would like to provide written comments on any agenda may do so by emailing [acklint@cityoflacrosse.org](mailto:acklint@cityoflacrosse.org), using a drop box outside of City Hall or mailing the Department of Planning, Development and Assessment, 400 La Crosse Street, La Crosse WI 54601.

Questions, call

608-789-7512

### Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm.

### Roll Call

**Present:** 6 - David Riel, Laura Godden, Mackenzie Mindel, Natalie Heneghan, Greg Clark, Eric Garland

**Absent:** 1 - John J. Satory

### Approval of Minutes

1. Approval of the May 25, 2023 Meeting Minutes.

David Riel motioned to approve. Eric Garland seconded. The motion passed 6-0 by voice vote.

## Notices and Discussions

Greg Clark reminded everyone that the La Crosse County Historical Society was hosting Silent City this weekend which is a series of one act plays.

### Agenda Items:

2. [23-0618](#) Nomination of Abraham Lincoln Junior High School (Lincoln Middle School), located at 510 9th Street S, to designated as a Local Historic Landmark. (Main/Original Building)

CM Mindel reminded the Commission that this was presented last month with designation. CM Mindel acknowledged there were attendees in the audience that wanted to speak and they should allow for public hearing. The motion to open public hearing was made by Natalie Heneghan, seconded by Greg Clark. The motion passed 6-0 by voice vote.

Dr. Engel, Superintendent of La Crosse School District, spoke in opposition of the designation. Dr. Engel stated that the timeline for the notification of designation felt rushed and it was an injustice to put the school on the register after it went up for sale. He stated the ordinance should be modified to allow more time to make property owners aware of designation and what it means and to not be able to register buildings already put up for sale.

Joe Ledvina, Director of Facilities of the School District of La Crosse, spoke in opposition of the designation. Ledvina stated that this item should be tabled until there is a new owner.

Councilmember Woodard, District 9 Council Member, spoke in favor of the designation. CM Woodard stated there is a fear that the developer will bulldoze the property. He stated that the property belongs to all citizens of La Crosse.

Phil Johnson, citizen of La Crosse, spoke in favor of the designation. Johnson stated that the purpose of the Heritage Preservation Commission is to preserve history and it should not take into account how much the school district will be able to sell the building for.

Jo Ann Neve, citizen of La Crosse, spoke in favor of the designation. Neve stated that keeping the building will not restrict the developer and only requires keeping the shell of the building, offering flexibility with what is done inside.

Cathy Van Maren, citizen of La Crosse, spoke in favor of the designation. Van Maren stated it is important to consider the historical value in addition to the sustainable value of keeping the building.

Natalie Heneghan motioned to close public hearing. Greg Clark seconded. The motion passed 6-0 by voice vote.

Laura Godden motioned to approve the designation. David Riel seconded.

Natalie Heneghan stated that historic designation is a tool to protect the fabric

and goals of the City. Heneghan thanked Cathy Van Maren for bringing up the climate costs of demolition. Heneghan stated that historical designation is a way to protect environmental interests along with other interests in the City. Heneghan said historical designation is not at odds with affordable housing and that all goals of the City can work together.

David Riel stated that the job tonight to make a decision on the nomination in front of them. Riel stated the school building is a significant example of a piece of architecture in the City. Riel said we often identify cities on how they appear and the neighborhood has identified this building as part of the community. Riel stated that the developers can make money investing in these buildings and that this period of time will never happen again.

The motion passed 6-0 voice vote.

3. [23-0738](#)

Communication from Wisconsin Historical Society on the nomination of Oak Grove Cemetery located at 1407 La Crosse Street, to the National Register of Historic Places.

David Riel stated that this is a thoroughly put together nomination. Riel stated he is excited someone took the time and effort to put this together.

Greg Clark stated that this is an incredibly asset to the city and he couldn't be more in favor of the nomination.

There was a motion by Greg Clark for staff to send a letter of support on behalf of the Heritage Preservation Commission. The motion was seconded by David Riel. The motion passed 6-0 by voice vote.

## Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:37 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](mailto:ADAcityclerk@cityoflacrosse.org), with as much advance notice as possible.*

Heritage Preservation Commission Members  
CM Mackenzie Mindel, David Riel, Laura Godden, John Satory, Greg Clark, Natalie Heneghan, Eric Garland