



# City of La Crosse, Wisconsin

City Hall  
400 La Crosse Street  
La Crosse, WI 54601

## Meeting Minutes - Final

### Heritage Preservation Commission

---

Thursday, May 25, 2023

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

---

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 6:00pm.

### Roll Call

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

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

### Approval of Minutes

1. Approval of the April 27, 2023 Meeting Minutes.

Laura Godden moved to approve. Greg Clark seconded.

Eric Garland requested the following corrections

Eric abstained on vote for the approval of the minutes. Vote should be 5-0

Minutes should state that Eric Garland and Laura Godden are working on the

schools article, Laura Godden and David Riel are working on the Glory Days article and that Mackenzie Mindel and Natalie Heneghan are working on the article intro.

Eric Garland moved to approve with the requested corrections. Laura Godden seconded. The motion passed 6-0 by voice vote.

## Notices and Discussions

Greg Clark stated that the Preservation Alliance will be scraping and painting the buildings next to Hixon House on June 3rd and 4th.

## 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)

Mackenzie Mindel stated the designation process to the Commissioners and members of the public.

Staff stated that the property was nominated for its style of architecture and for the architect of the building. Staff also stated that they felt it was a complete nomination.

David Riel moved to open a public hearing. Laura Godden. The motion passed 6-0 by voice vote.

Chris Woodard, with the Washburn Neighborhood, stated that it was an important building to save for the city and the neighborhood and still has life left. Natalie Heneghan stated that she felt that it is an important building but asked why the additions was not included. Chris stated that they felt it was less significant and didn't want to potentially create more roadblocks for the sites redevelopment. Natalie Heneghan stated that generally there is a period of significance that assists with design regulation. Depending on what period is considered significant would pertain to what components, including additions, are preserved. Greg Clark asked if there were meetings held on the desired future. Chris stated that there have been a few meetings with the neighborhood. Eric Garland asked if the designation is for the main building only can the rest of the additions be torn down. Staff stated that they could, review would be limited to the impact the removal of the additions would have on the designated building.

Natalie moved to close the public hearing. David Riel seconded. The motion passed 6-0 by voice vote.

Greg Clark asked if there were other properties designated by Otto Merman. Staff stated that there are many buildings, mostly houses, in La Crosse. Many are located in historic districts, there are some that are locally designated.

David Riel asked why it wasn't considered for being significant to the social history of La Crosse. Staff stated that it likely could be considered under that criteria but he nomination as written did not support it.

Natalie Heneghan stated that she felt it was a complete nomination but that social history is significant. Laura Godden agreed that it could fall under this category but more research would be needed.

Mackenzie Mindel stated that she was excited to read the nomination and that

the applicant did a great job. It is important to preserve the work of Otto merman and recognize a great building.

David Riel thanked the nominator for their work. CM Tamra Dickinson asked if the auditorium was part of the nomination. Staff stated that the auditorium was located in the main building which is the portion being considered for designation.

Laura Godden moved to approve the nomination and hold a public hearing at the June meeting. Eric Garland seconded. The motion passed 6-0 by voice vote..

3. [23-0483](#) 2023 Most Endangered Buildings List/Project.

Mackenzie Mindel provided an update on the project. Was working with the La Crosse Tribune and Kristin Lueth the City's Communication Coordinator to coordinate publishing the articles and the press conference. The La Crosse Tribune ended up publishing all of the articles today. Still need to coordinate a date for the press conference. May 31st is a suggested date at 2-2:30pm. Greg Clark asked what were the three things the Commission wants to get across to the public? Mackenzie Mindel stated that they wanted to state what was removed and why, what was added and why, what remains and why, and provide education on why preservation is important . This effort is really an awareness campaign. David Riel added that it is intended to convey why historic preservation matters and why its useful in the future, He thanked everyone for their work. Mackenzie Mindel stated that she will coordinate with School District on holding the press conference in front of Lincoln Middle School. Greg Clark suggested that maybe the press conference be held in front of building coming off of the list.

David Riel stated that holding in front of a threatened building does get people's attention though he does understand Greg's point of view. Mackenzie Mindel hopes this effort hopes this will help engage the community on its future.

## Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:52pm.

*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