

Resolution to explore options for two Senior Center locations in La Crosse - one on the northside and one on the southside.

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the existing Harry J. Olson Senior Center and the Southside Senior Center require extensive repairs and the existing Senior Center leases expire on December 15, 2020; and

WHEREAS, the Senior Center Subcommittee has met since June 2017, conducting extensive research and analysis on the options for the future of La Crosse Senior Centers; and

WHEREAS, the Senior Center Subcommittee researched models from other cities, standards for senior centers, and existing senior services and activities offered in La Crosse; and

WHEREAS, they have determined a solution must meet the following goals: be a capital project that is financially feasible; provide easy access for users, be flexible in its design and have a dedicated space for seniors; and be operationally sustainable over the long-term; and

WHEREAS, the Senior Center Subcommittee also conducted a community-wide survey, with 671 respondents in which 81% of respondents felt that there should be a northside and southside senior center and respondents also provided other valuable insight; and

WHEREAS, furthermore, the Senior Center Subcommittee strongly supports the integration of senior centers with other types of buildings and uses such as a senior housing, library, existing neighborhood or recreation centers, etc.;

BE IT RESOLVED, BY THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LA CROSSE, in recognition of the recommendation by the Senior Center Subcommittee, that the City of La Crosse shall explore options and feasibility for a new southside senior center at the South Branch Library including but not limited to architectural design and options, building cost and financial feasibility.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City shall explore options for a renovated Harry J. Olson Senior Center site that is a mixed-use building, such as housing, and 2-3 other options for a northside senior center site. This may include partnering with a private developer, the relocation of the Senior Center to another northside site or combining with another type of facility or housing. This research shall include site options, cost, design, feasibility and operational structure.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Planning & Development Department shall oversee this analysis research and shall be allocated up to \$20,000 from the contingency funds to pay for a consultant or staff time.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Planning & Development Department and Finance Department shall take all steps to effectuate this resolution and report the results to the Board of Public Works, Finance and Personnel Committee and Common Council.