

MINUTES

NEIGHBORHOOD REVITALIZATION COMMISSION

April 28, 2014

MEETING PLACE: 3rd FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM CITY HALL,
400 LA CROSSE ST., LA CROSSE, WI

Members Present

Sara Sullivan, Chair
Janice Hauswirth, Washburn Neighborhood
Barb Janssen, GENA
Stephen Link, Goosetown Campus
Phil Ostrem, Powell, Poage, Hamilton
Tim Skinner
Andrew Londre, Citizen
Jerry Swim, Lower North Side and Depot Neighbors
Council Member Dempsey Miller
Council Member Francis Formanek

Excused

Jessica Olson

Absent

Nicholas Breidel

The meeting to order at 6:01 P.M. by Sara Sullivan-Chair

Agenda Items

1. Approval of March 31, 2014 Meeting Minutes

Due to improper procedures regarding the open meeting law for comments and discussion on the moratorium, and endorsement of council member Formanek to explore related issues, the respective motion passed on March 31 had to be redacted from the minutes.

- Skinner moved to approve the minutes once the correction was made
- Londre seconded the motion
- The motion passed unanimously.

Parenting Place Presentation

Non-profit that provides parenting education to La Crosse and Monroe County for free.
Place-based programming is the direction they want to go starting April 1st. Parenting

place provides on-site parent educators to talk with students, parents, and teachers. They strive to build relationships throughout the community, and are currently based out of the Hamilton school. First efforts are about connecting people.

Special Reports

Nick Beltzer, President of Student Association at UWL & Emmy Harmes, Off Campus Housing Director

Beltzer updated the commission on the development of a "rate my rental" website that will help student's address off-campus housing. This is a collaborative effort between the three universities in the city. The project will serve two purposes:

- 1) Provide a rating of different properties and landlords
- 2) Link for general resources and informative materials for students

Site is meant to be a controlled atmosphere, and less of a "bashing" site. In general, this site is meant to provide more education for students, to help them become more involved in the neighborhoods.

2. Mayor's Report
 - a. No Report
3. Chair's Report
 - a. Draft of revision given to commission to consider.
 - b. Residential parking permits
 - c. May 17th: Northside cleanup
4. 2014 Paint and Fix-Up Program-Additional Funding and Wait List Policy

Tim Acklin: There was \$50,000 allotted to the program this year. In less than two weeks there were 130 applications.

The commission considered two different ways of finding additional funding.

- 1) ReInvest Lax funds could be used
- 2) Reserve fund money could be used

The commission also deliberated on what should be done with wait list applications if we do with these applications if we don't pursue additional funding for next year.

- 3) The commission nominated a sub-council to consider this issue as well as other policy issues of the program. The council will include:
Acklin, Ostrem, Formanek, Londre, Swim

Motions

Londre: Moved to nominate Sara Sullivan to work with appropriate city staff to find \$50,000 for paint and fix up.

Skinner amended the motion to have Sullivan explore the possibility of additional funding from the city's reserve fund.

Londre: Moved to nominate Sara Sullivan work with appropriate city staff to explore \$50,000 of additional funds from the city's reserve funds for the paint and fix up program for this year.

Ostrem seconded the motion

The motion passed 6-3 with 1 member choosing to abstain

Opposed: Miller, Janssen, Hauswirth

Abstain: Formanek

In favor: Sullivan, Londre, Swim, Skinner, Ostrem, Link

Hauswirth: Moved to transfer \$50,000 in funds from reinvest LAX to the Paint and Fix-Up program for this year only.

Miller seconded the motion

The motion passed 9-1

Opposed: Londre

In favor: all other commission members

5. Report on the 2015-2019 CIP Requests Acklin

Submitted PED lighting-100,000

Submitted more money for Reinvest La Crosse

Submitted money for GENA and everything that wasn't funded for last year

6. La Crosse Neighborhood Development Corporation

Currently in the process of recruiting a board of directors. Full board will be seated by May. Almost submitted our tax exempt application.

7. Riverside Redevelopment Charette Update

The Week of May 12th, there will be public hearings during this time. The idea is to brainstorm ideas for how the property will be developed. Company hired to do the consulting will help city develop goals to pursue.

8. Discussion on City assisting homeowners with model deed restrictions for their property

No action taken

9. Urban BioDiversity Summit Report/Recap

- a. Good statistical data emerged from the summit.

10. Updated on Reinvest La Crosse

Larry Kirch: Reinvest La Crosse began getting funded in 2013, but needed to get approval from city attorney. The city attorney was worried that we could possibly set up a discriminatory program because the application process involved completing a W-9 form. However, housing guidelines have been updated and the Public Purpose doctrine and Equal Protection clause were made to be useable.

Report from Railroad Meeting on April 22nd

Formanek: A group formed called CARS is working towards some type of solution to the possibility of adding a second track. The volatility of crude oil coming from North Dakota is higher than from other regions. This is an ongoing issue and more meetings will be coming up.

Fire Chief Gregg Cleveland: Fire department is responsible for hazardous materials response. Wisconsin emergency management has reorganized this program and now it has an increased are that they are responsible for, but a decreased the budget. General lack of funding for resources and training for hazardous materials programs means that the city is at a tremendous risk if a second track was added.

Discussion on redesigning the Neighborhood Revitalization Commission Web Pages

11. Neighborhood Association Reports

No action

12. Additional Discussion on work groups to address the NRC 2013 Action Plan

No action

13. Communication from GENA neighbors

Janssen: GENA has outlined three proposals for extending the moratorium in their neighborhood and presented them to the Mayor and City Council. GENA is interested in creating a proposal that would protect the entire city.

Ostrem suggested that the commission should seek legal counsel before going forward.

Londre made a motion to adjourn at 8:11 p.m.

Skinner seconded the motion

The motion passed unanimously.

Next Meeting: June 2nd