

MINUTES

NEIGHBORHOOD REVITALIZATION COMMISSION

February 3, 2014

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

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Sara Sullivan, Chair
Jerry Swim, Lower North Side and Depot Neighbors
Phil Ostrem, Powell, Hood, Hamilton
Council Member Francis Formanek
Stephen Link Goosetown Campus
Janice Hauswirth, Washburn Neighborhood
Karin Johnson - County Board Representative
Jessica Olson Apartment Association
Barb Jansen GENA
Andrew Londre At-Large
(these should be consistent with either dashes or commas between the commissioners name
and their affiliation)
Atticus Jaramillo, Intern/Secretary

MEMBERS EXCUSED:

Tim Skinner

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Nicolas Breidel
Council Member Dempsey Miller

CITY STAFF PRESENT:

Mayor Kabat
Tim Acklin, Planning
Caroline Neilsen, Planning
Larry Kirch, Planning

OTHERS PRESENT

Jason Witt, Director of La Crosse County Department of Human Services
Carl Green, UW Extension
Becky, Jack, and Sam Veenstra, Lovebomb Squad
Mike Boehm, Family & Children's Center
Danita Muller, Workforce connections/Building Ops
Chris Crye, Neighborhood City Church
Jan Shuttmater, Apartment Association of La Crosse Area
Carla Pena, Weigent Hogan Neighborhood Association

The meeting was called to order at 6:01 pm by Chair Sara Sullivan

1. Approval of the December 2 and 30, 2013 meeting minutes

Francis Formanek moved to approve meeting minutes from December 2 and 30, 2013.
Barb Jansen Seconded the motion
The motion passed unanimously

2. Welcome (Review Code of Ethics)

All members had reviewed the code of ethics and felt comfortable signing it without discussion.

3. Neighborhood “Hot Spots” for Services to Juveniles (Guest Speaker) Jason Witt, Director of La Crosse County Department of Human Services

The La Crosse County Department of Human Services has five different service areas: family and children; integrated support and recovery; justice support; economic support; aging and disability resource center. This presentation was focused on how the deterioration of La Crosse neighborhoods is affecting juveniles.

Neighborhood deterioration (Impact on children)

- More filth and squalor
- More multi-family habitation (exacerbating issues)
- More transients with no community support network
- More areas of the city that feel unsafe, with alarming drug use
- Increase of 48% if children living in out of home care
- Total placement cost in 2009: 2,333,834

Striving to be more effective

- Data Drive, Consolidating services, increased accountability
- Community collaboration: works to decrease poverty by increasing self-sufficiency, assets and opportunities for individuals, neighborhoods, community organizations, faith based organizations, government.
- Hot spots within city: most effective way you can have an impact on human service needs.
- 1 or 3 City of La Crosse juvenile justice cases come from Powell-Poe-Hamilton, or Lower Northside depot neighborhood.

Promising Neighborhood Center Service Model

- Freeing from system dependence
- Take ownership
- Holistic flexible and accessible
- Neighborhood assets
- Prevention

Approach

Core Team: school; county community social worker; public health nurse; law enforcement officer

Collaborative network: extensive linkages such as clergy; community services; citizens

Local resident advisory board

Intensive outcome monitoring of several performance indicators on community and neighborhood well-being

Effectiveness

- Decline in child maltreatment referrals
- Decreased crime
- Improvement in neighborhood environment
- Increased diversions from formal system interventions
- System resource savings

Next step

- Exploration of potential pilot program in one or two City of La Crosse neighborhoods.

4. Mayors Report

We are hoping to prioritize various projects to take action on initiatives outlined in the “Neighborhood Implementation Plan 2014.”

Community building: Organizing events and supporting neighborhood organizations. We’ve talked about making a landlord/tenant commission; we’ve sat down with various interested groups to talk about making this feasible. We also discussed some guidelines for individuals who buy properties and plan to rent them.

Crime and Safety: Local judges would like to see individuals living close to problem properties attend sentencing hearings so they can express the issues that they are observing. I am hoping that this group can work close with the neighborhood associations to encourage this.

Infrastructure: Devoting as many dollars to street repairs as possible; areas that you may have interaction plans for public spaces that can be enhanced and beautified.

5. Chair’s Report

Chair Sara Sullivan updated the meeting on the “Success Through knowledge- Training for Landlords,” event.

Saturday, March 8th, 2014, 8:30 am – 4:00 pm
Northside Beach House – 1433 Rose St., La Crosse, WI

6. Common Council Referred Matters- (None)

No action was taken.

7. NRC initiatives and Follow up

Paint and Fix-Up (Tim Acklin)

Funding Update:

- Remaining to be allocated: \$720.78
- Total amount of proposed projects (amount stated on application): \$278,174.46
- Total amount of funding: \$75,961.37

Existing Program

- Paint and Stain for exterior areas
- Paint materials
- Roofing, siding, window replacement, on houses and detached garages
- Repair and replacement of existing fixtures

Policy discussion

Should the program be restricted to less affluent neighborhoods? How do we determine these areas?

Sara Sullivan moved that Paint & Fix Up should maintain as a city wide program.
Karin Johnson seconded the motion
Motion passed unanimously

Should we accept applications for the buildings that may need to come down? How do we determine?

Janice Hauswirth moved to maintain the status quo
Barb Jansen seconded
Motion passed unanimously

Should we allow for repeat applicants?

Janice Hauswirth moved to allow repeat applicants unless they have not completed the previous year's application project.
Barb Jansen seconded the motion
The motion passed unanimously

Should we break up the project between Paint & Fix-Up projects or just grant an overall amount of \$800.

Janice Hauswirth moved to have an overall grant amount of 800 dollars.
Phil Ostrem seconded the motion
The motion passed unanimously.

Should mobile homes be eligible?

Karin Johnson moved to allow mobile homes to be eligible for the program
Jerry Swim seconded the motion
The motion passed 8-1
Dissenting vote: Janice Hauswirth

Should downtown properties with occupied upper floor residential be eligible?

Jessica Olson moved to allow downtown properties with residential occupied upper floors to be eligible for program funding for the residential portion only.

Barb Jansen seconded the motion
The motion passed 8-1
Dissenting vote: Janice Hauswirth

Should owner occupied rental fall under the rental or owner requirements?

Andrew Londre joined the meeting at this point
Janice Hauswirth recused herself from discussion on this topic

Jerry Swim moved that owner occupied rental properties are treated as owner occupied properties.

Phil Ostrem seconded the motion
The Motion passed 8-1
Dissenting vote: Francis Formanek
Abstained vote: Janice Hauswirth

Should the program fund rental of equipment? (power washers/scaffolding)

Barb Jansen moved that grant funds can be used towards rental of equipment.
Phil Ostrem seconded the motion

Andrew Londre moved to amend the original motion so that the cost for rental equipment does not exceed 25% of the 800\$.

Jessica Olson seconded the motion
The motion for the amendment passed unanimously.

The original motion passed unanimously.

Should the program pay for permanent equipment (more than materials) (Paint sprayer/ladder/tools?)

Barb Jansen moved that no permanent be equipment be allowed in the grant
Phil Ostrem seconded the motion
The motion passed unanimously.

Should the program fund new items: railing/gutters/fences that were not there before?

Jessica Olson moved that security lighting is an eligible reimbursement for applicants.

Barb Jansen seconded the motion.

The motion passed 9-1
Dissenting vote: Janice Hauswirth

Barb Jansen moved that new railings, gutters, and fences are not eligible for the program.

Phil Ostrem seconded the motion
The motion passed unanimously

Should the applicant replace an existing fence with the same material or can it be new?

Barb Jansen moved that applicants can use new material to replace an existing fence.

Janice Hauswirth seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

Can rental companies reimburse their own staff labor for projects?

Barb Jansen moved that rental companies cannot reimburse their staff.

Phil Ostrem seconded the motion

The motion passed unanimously

Should landscaping be an eligible reimbursement?

Francis Formanek moved to exclude landscaping as an eligible reimbursement.

Andrew Londre seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

Additional Motions

Jessica Olson moved that applicants are not eligible if they have an order to correct, and the proposed project does not correlate with that notification.

Barb Jansen seconded the motion

The motion passed unanimously

8. Committee Update

a. *First annual Mayor's Conference on Neighborhoods*

Date: Saturday, March 29

Time: 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. & 1-3 p.m.

Location: Black River Beach Neighborhood Center- 1443 Rose Street

b. *"Love Your Neighborhood Social"*

Date: Monday, February 10

Time: 6-8pm

Location: Congregation Sons of Abraham- 1820 Main Street

c. LNDC (La Crosse Neighborhood Development Corporation)- Update

Andrew Londre: We had a meeting with stakeholders outlining the mission vision. Things are moving along very well. The organization will have a primary geographic focus on Powell-Hood-Hamilton, Washburn, and the Lower Northside neighborhoods. However, the long term goal of the organization is to provide support/fiscal sponsorship on a city wide basis.

9. Washburn proposal- seeking grant money for Defibrillators

Janice Hauswirth: We want support from the NRC on the issue of installing defibrillators in several of the high rise buildings downtown. We would like to state this in a grant application.

10. Discussion & Possible Action

a. State Legislation regarding Foreclosures and Vacant Property

- No action was taken

11. Mobil Oil Site Riverside Redevelopment Charette Representative

Larry Kirch: The RDA is in charge of that project, but we are hoping to expand that to have someone from the park board, etc. Basically, they will be a sounding board; they don't have veto power on the project.

Francis Formanek will serve as the representative.

12. Adjourn

Andrew Londre moved to adjourn at 8:21 p.m.

Barb Jansen seconded the motion

The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,
Atticus Jaramillo, Intern