



Minutes for October 18, 2022

Myrick Park Center, 7-9 p.m.

Optional social gathering starting at 6:30 p.m.

Welcome and Introductions (7:00)

Strengthen Relations

❖ Speakers:

- **Tim Acklin**, City Planning Administrator- Input session on the City's Comprehensive Plan
 - Updating the city's overall comprehensive plan that will serve as the guiding document for elected officials and staff to help them make decisions- includes goals and objectives for various aspects of the city for the next 10-20 years (our current plan is nearly 20 years old)
 - Plans are developed from citizen feedback which improves buy-in from the community; reaching out to community members in as many ways as possible (neighborhood meetings, social media, online surveys, web site, etc.)- currently in the initial stages of community engagement
 - Draft of the plan should be (ambitiously) ready by end of Summer 2023- please promote the web site as much as you can (<https://forwardlacrosse.org>)
 - Had a great brainstorming discussion addressing the following five questions- What attracted you to live/work in La Crosse? Why do people visit La Crosse? What do you see as La Crosse's top challenges or areas for improvement? What do you see as the city's top assets and/or amenities? Major issues/concerns to address in plan?
 - Loose leaf collection starts Monday, October 24 and goes through November 18. See web site for instructions: <https://www.cityoflacrosse.org/your-government/departments/refuse-recycling/collection-disposal-information/leaf-collection>
 - Fire Station 2 on La Crosse Street is under construction- should be done in January 2023.
 - Received grant to work on bikeable/walkable neighborhoods. Will start work in the spring.
 - Continue hearing about speeding in the city. Working with the police to get officers out there. Challenging to solve this problem.
 - Five wooden plank bridges that are part of the trail system get slippery when wet- putting signs up to warn people of that.
 - Someone asked about roundabout education in the community. GENA can help disseminate information about that- Tim will send.
- **Larry Slezniow**, City Council District 4
 - Police Dept gave the City Council information about their training, recruitment, etc. in their servant leadership approach to the community. They are down about 10 officers- hard to find good, qualified applicants.

- Approved funding for a city texting service so people can receive city alerts. May go into effect in January 2023.

➤ **Maureen Freedland**, County Board Supervisor District 4

- Putting together a good budget for the year.
- Using equity as a lens to show up for the community where needed (e.g., mental health).
- Making sure services are available but also that people are getting the services they need.
- Homelessness and housing issues will be coming up this month, as well as emergency needs for families, and more long-term solutions to housing needs.
- She will send the rest of her notes to Julia to send out.

➤ **Barb Janssen**, City Council President District 3 (not able to be present)

➤ **David Pierce**, County Board Supervisor District 3

- Passed a resolution allowing local non-profits to get grants for community events.
- Meaningful increases in the budget to allow for needed services (police, etc.)

Support Administration

❖ Approved September meeting minutes

❖ Treasurer's Report (nothing changed since last month)

Beginning Balance- \$1007.26 / Ending Balance- \$1007.26

- \$58.22 Tree Fund
- \$818.83 General Fund
- \$130.21 Garden Funds

Enhance Livability

❖ Neighborhood Revitalization Committee Updates- meeting was canceled last month so no update

Engage Members

❖ Gardens, general neighborhood clean-up

Open Forum

❖ Call for Announcements

❖ Suggestions for the Good of the Neighborhood

❖ Thank you to everyone for responding to tennis court site survey. We have 75 respondents so far, and the survey is closing tomorrow.

❖ Short discussion of the recent session at UWL about the school referendum. More information out there on facebook groups, the district web site, etc. One more Q&A with Dr. Engel next week.

Upcoming Meetings and Events -

Next GENA meeting November 15, 7 p.m. location TBD