

## **Minutes for September 20, 2022**

**Myrick Main Shelter, 7 p.m.**

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

**Welcome and Introductions (7:00)- about 20 people tonight- had everyone introduce themselves**

### **Strengthen Relations**

#### **❖ Speakers:**

➤ **Jared Flick**, Recreation and Facilities Supervisor- Myrick Park Tennis Courts and Blank Space by Erickson pool plans presentation

- Jared Flick: Removed tennis courts- what does the neighborhood want? Who is our market?  
Options:
  - Do nothing (green space)
  - Rebuild tennis courts (same footprint)
  - There are 29 tennis courts around the city already, so maybe add other types of recreation in the same footprint (tennis court(s) and pickleball courts- would fit 1 tennis, 4 pickleball)
  - Shady space with benches/chairs/outdoor classroom/pergola but tiered toward an older population (not little kids because of proximity to La Crosse St)
  - Outdoor workout space
  - Other ideas from us
    - Pump track or pump trail for little kids
    - Mountain bike practice for the area (i.e., for a youth mountain bike team that has 85 members) (some green space that is bike minded)
    - (FYI- Kids Coulee will be fixed up, then a company will come in to get input for replacing parts that need replaced; would be nice to have some sort of shelter with “scenic benches” for putting on skis, ice skates, etc.)
    - Something that educates kids about sustainable transportation (Amy S. will connect with her contact in transit and get back to him)
    - Online survey with options will be sent out to GENA distribution list for more feedback

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

- County Board updates- budget released but not passed (probably November)- less debt, slightly lower tax burden, maintaining services, more money for county roads
- Passed \$90K resolution for nonprofit community events impacted by COVID to write for up to \$10K grants
- Hoping to pass resolution to spend \$1.5-2M to add solar panels to county buildings (great for sustainability and also will save tax dollars in the long run)

➤ **Larry Slezniow**, City Council District 4

- Approved capital improvement program budget- lots of really good projects while trying to be fiscally responsible (budget, with justifications, is posted online)
- Operating budget is in process- requests for additional city staff or replace city staff eliminated during COVID and need to determine if that is affordable (final approval will be in

November)

- City hired a new Director of Finance after retirement and interim- new person was City Manager for Arcadia
- Council member of District 5 (mostly UWL area) was replaced even though they will be replaced next year- applicants were interviewed and voted on by City Council and new person (a UWL student) was sworn in at the meeting
- Weigent Park shelter should be completed by November and within budget
- Neighborhood Revitalization Cmte is working on getting landlords to submit applications to keep track of rental properties
- Hearing a lot about speeding- will need to do a traffic study to confirm anecdotes, and if so, then the problem goes to engineering to see if there's a way to slow people down without slowing response time for emergency vehicles
- Questions
  - Is snow emergency ordinance in effect? (alternate side parking when there is 3" of new snowfall) – developing many ways to communicate but if we can follow this new ordinance, we won't have to go back to the old alternate parking method
  - Glad to hear text messages may be an option because that's a good way to communicate to young people, the primary renter population
  - Maybe connect to UWL student renters via Lisa Klein and/or the TVs on campus

➤ **Maureen Freedland**, County Board Supervisor District 4 (excused)

- Budget for rural road building, solar panels, HHS board working on providing dental care for children that needs it (not just Medicaid supported)

➤ **Barb Janssen**, City Council President District 3

- Will the city pick up my leaves this fall?- yes
- The Isle de Plume site *IS NOT CLOSED* (that is a rumor)
- Flashing beacons will be replaced on La Crosse St

➤ **Tim Acklin**, City of La Crosse Planning Administrator

- City is updating comprehensive plan for the next 5-20 years; most recent one was adopted in 2002; the citizen-driven document is supposed to be used by elected officials when making decisions about planning (land use, projects, budget)- trying to get more diverse feedback by going into neighborhoods (like ours) and having discussions (so probably at several future meetings)
- Plan draft should be done by mid to late summer 2023- neighborhood land use, housing density, rezonings, etc.
- Awarded three transportation alternative program grants from DOT
- If school referendum passes, city has already started thinking about the traffic issues

### Support Administration

❖ Approved May meeting minutes without changes

❖ Treasurer's Report

Summer Account Activity:

|                   |          |  |
|-------------------|----------|--|
| Beginning Balance | 1,177.15 |  |
|-------------------|----------|--|

|                 |         |                                       |
|-----------------|---------|---------------------------------------|
| Designation     | 158.22  | Tree Fund                             |
|                 | 1018.93 | General Fund                          |
| Donations       | 243.05  | Garden Fund                           |
| LCNI dues       | -200.00 | General fund                          |
| Pete Bemis      | -100    | Tree Fund (partial donation by Bemis) |
| Doug McVey      | -112.84 | Garden Fund                           |
| Ending Balance: | 1007.36 |                                       |
| Designation     | 58.22   | Tree Fund                             |
|                 | 818.93  | General Fund                          |
|                 | 130.21  | Garden Fund                           |

### **Enhance Livability**

#### ❖ Highlights from Sean and Julia's meeting with Dr. Engel regarding the referendum

- Keeping this brief because another meeting will occur with Engel present
- Middle schools and high schools are going to be the most impacted by lower enrollment
- Input session for UWL/GENA will occur Thursday, Oct. 15<sup>th</sup> at 5pm in the Union, and then one for GENA only as well
- Acknowledged that transportation is a huge concern- working on plans
- Another large concern is the location- there were other sites examined and chose the Trane site as the only viable site based on their criteria (other sites were too small, former dump sites so toxic, or wouldn't sell to the district; unfortunate that the chosen site is not centralized)
- Website has lots of information- May 2021 presentation has much more information
- If referendum doesn't pass, our taxes won't change
- Engel says Emerson is in a good location and doesn't see it moving

### **Engage Members**

❖ Working to set up a GENA/UWL collaborative session with School District regarding the pending referendum

### ***Open Forum***

- ❖ Call for Announcements
- ❖ Suggestions for the Good of the Neighborhood
- ❖ Thank you all for coming!

### ***Upcoming Meetings and Events -***

***Next GENA meeting October 18, 7 p.m. location TBD (probably in the Main Shelter in Myrick Park)***

**Adjourned ~8:20 pm**