



**Minutes of February 18, 2020 Meeting  
Emerson Elementary Library  
6:30 PM**

**Welcome and Introductions (6:30):**

- ❖ Thirteen GENA Members and one guest were in attendance
- ❖ Eric's role and open seat for a member-at-large
  - Timm Holt resigned from the board. Eric Garland will now be Chair. A member-at-large seat is available.
- ❖ Caroline Gregerson, City of La Crosse Community Development Administrator presented a neighborhood specific report about the Community-Wide Needs Survey results with some comparison to other neighborhoods. The link to her report is below:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1c5NAIAXRG4AluowzH4G9bOmyjZy0cAqJ/view?usp=sharing>

- Caroline talked about the linked PowerPoint. Major take-aways were that, of 160+ GENA members responding, the vast majority felt satisfied and safe living in our family-friendly neighborhood.

**Support Administration (7:00)**

**Motion made to approve the meeting minutes from November and January. All in Favor.**

- ❖ Treasurer's Report
  - No activity since September:

|                   |         |
|-------------------|---------|
| Beginning Balance | 1611.00 |
| Ending Balance    | 1611.00 |
| Designations      |         |
| Gardens & Trees   | 340.00  |
| Miscellaneous     | 1271.00 |

- ❖ Approve 2020 Action Plan

[https://docs.google.com/document/d/1tHtS\\_Da3EQ6SIYTmRY2xBHYIVcHAZU3\\_9qfxQdzTTRE/edit](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1tHtS_Da3EQ6SIYTmRY2xBHYIVcHAZU3_9qfxQdzTTRE/edit)

- **Motion made to approve the 2020 Action Plan. All in Favor.**

- ❖ Approve 2020 GENA budget

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/154vt71NL403usBJAhxclmHkH6mScHd1I7IZxZuQQJg/edit>

- The linked 2020 budget was presented. It was noted even if donations are not received expenses should be covered by our current balance. Expenses shown are more likely higher than actual.

**Strengthen Relations (7:15)**

- ❖ Bennett Thering, UW-L Student Association Local Affairs Director proposed a collaborative project:
  - Bennett would like to organize an event to bring Students and Neighbors together
    - Ideas included a picnic on campus in April or early May
    - Proceeds from food could potentially go to the Student Association, GENA, and a non-profit like New Horizons
- ❖ Feedback re: possible addition of and support for Neighborhood Resource Officers from city and UW-L
  - GENA was asked to write and has written a letter of support for the NROs which will be included in a grant proposal.
- ❖ Parking survey reminder. Please complete it if you've not already done so. Available on Nextdoor, Facebook, and the GENA website.

### Enhance Livability (7:30)

- ❖ Eric reported on Crowley playground resurfacing project. It is being studied by Parks and school district to determine costs, square footage, and choice of material. Fund raising by PTO, Education Foundation, and GENA was recommended to enhance likelihood of success of the project
- ❖ Select capital improvement project (CIP) priorities for 2021 city budget
  - The board will present desired CIP projects to the city shortly. Priorities remain trees and plants.
- ❖ Concern was expressed about tree loss on La Crosse Street.

### Engage Members (7:40)

- ❖ Interested in working with Pete Bemis on letter to mayor re La Crosse Street trees?
  - Greg Krueger and Martin Riese volunteered to help Pete draft a letter to the city stating concerns over landscaping. Bemis is concerned trees will be stressed by the construction and poor fill (soil) and likely die off.
- ❖ Interested in filling the vacancy for a member-at-large on the Exec Board? Please contact any of the Executive Board members to inquire!

### Open Forum

#### Contact GENA:

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 Member-at-Large: Wade Miller  
 Past Chair: Nora Garland

- ❖ *Suggestions for the Good of the Neighborhood:* There was discussion about the Grandma's Gateway trails and whether GENA should facilitate further discussion. No definite conclusion was reached on whether GENA should take a stand in favor or opposition to the trail proposal.

***Upcoming Meetings and Events***

***March 17, 2020: UWL Police Chief Allen Hill to meet GENA***

***April 21, 2020: TBD***

***May 19, 2020: TBD***

**Contact GENA:**

P.O. Box 1661, 54602

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