

## Minutes for May 17th, 2022 Zoom Meeting at 7:00 PM

### I. Welcome and Introductions (7:00)

- a. Everyone in attendance introduced themselves, 16 in attendance

### II. Strengthen Relations

#### Speakers:

*Caleb Wodarz (Woody), City of La Crosse Engineer*

- The City of La Crosse has teamed with the State DOT, who is the main caretaker of the project. Limited information—waiting on a pre-construction meeting that should be set up shortly with Chippewa Concrete, who works a lot in the city, and Gerke Concrete. The anticipated start date is June 6th, after the state track and field meet to accommodate the influx of people in the city at that time.
- Phase I: West Ave to East Ave will be the furthest west portion of the project, but there is no set time to complete Phase I. The first phase will be the longest phase, probably around 2-3 months but that is a very rough estimate.
- Phase II: From East Ave to Hillview Ave. This will be the shortest and most straightforward phase. Planning for traffic access to Myrick Park is still being decided.
- Phase III: Hillview Ave to Losey Blvd. There is an industry-wide shortage of water main materials, need water mains on far east end. Phase III may have to roll into next year due to 6 month lead-time on materials and concerns about digging underground during the winter. The contract to pursue Phase III to be stipulated in September.
- Questions?
  - Will any trees be removed? – Some trees may be removed, curb lines are shifting and the boulevards may not have the space to put them in.
    - Barb has been communicating with Dan Trissoni and some trees will be transplanted on the south side of the street, no plans for transplanting on the north side, but small trees should survive. There are \$50,000 in the City budget to replace trees following the project.
  - Is there an opportunity for an improved intersection by the Myrick Park tennis court? – Unsure.
    - At the intersection by the tennis courts will be bump
  - Oakland and La Crosse St intersection has poor visibility, are there any plans for lighting? – Unsure, utilities may intersect with new fire station planning.
    - Barb Janssen has been in contact with DOT, there are new plans for lighting.

*Jared Flick, Recreation and Facilities Supervisor*

- Surface court underneath tennis court deemed inaccessible. Courts have not been open the past few years, but people are cutting off locks—this is a safety concern. Tennis courts will be removed within the next 30 days, before state track and field. Looking for

input from neighborhoods to decide what should be done moving forward: recreational facilities or greenspace?

- Pools are opening June 4th during state track and field week.
- Questions?
  - Is there any wisdom in not tearing them down and putting in grass until we know what to do, so that grass doesn't have to be replaced later? – Just seed will be planted, should not be hard to remove once a plan for the area is made. Tennis courts would have to be remade from the ground-up.
  - Can the Parks and Recreation Department work with the Neighborhood Associations more?
  - What is the plan for discussion surrounding reuse for the tennis courts? – Jared will keep engaging the neighborhood to continue engagement through surveys, etc. The city acknowledges that there is not enough tennis space in the community, so the goal is not to eliminate the tennis courts, but to ensure needs are being met.
    - Tim: the courts need to be removed, regardless of future use due to liability concerns.
  - Could we set a date or goal for when the decision will be made by, considering budget decisions that need to be made by the 1st of the year? – If Parks and Recreation has general concept suggestions from neighborhoods by November, they could take that into consideration before the budgeting process.
    - Executive team will establish a work group to gather input over the summer.

*Tim Acklin, City of La Crosse Planning Administrator*

- Not many updates this week. Reminder that the Comprehensive Planning process is underway. Over the next couple of months, Tim is planning on conducting Comprehensive Planning input sessions—can either wait until August when GENA resumes or schedule a special input meeting during June-July break. The goal is to have several input meetings, beginning in the next 2-3 months. Looking for general input from the city, as well as neighborhood land use and housing. Future land-use input is considered when determining zoning use petitions.
- The Comprehensive Plan would cover more general wants and needs, rather than specific requests (ie. tennis courts).

*David Pierce, County Board Supervisor District 3*

- New to the County Board for District 3. ARPA funds are at the front of the agenda, specifically child care funding. Will also be looking at sustainability initiatives and the goal of carbon neutrality.

*Larry Sleznikow, City Council District 4*

- The Parks and Recreation puts out a publication on what they do from May-August.
- The City has a new communications coordinator who will be working on connecting the community with the city through social media, websites, etc.
- Hear often from community members and other city council members about vehicular speeding. If you are noticing speeding in your area, let Larry know–will be communicating regularly with Chief Kudron.
- Working on accessibility in the city.
- Wiegant-Hogan shelter to begin construction in September.

*Maureen Freedland, County Board Supervisor District 4*

- Serving on the Health and Human Services Committee, deals with both extremes of aging–ages 0-3 and elderly populations. Several events going on in the next month, go to County website if interested.
- \$50,000 from the State to serve youth of color and their social and emotional health needs. Working with Hope Restores.
- The County Health Department has been working with Drift Bike Share to make the bicycles more usable and accessible.
- Jack Sabrowski is now working within the County Planning Department to coordinate sustainability issues.
- Questions?
  - Do you know the schedule for public hearings for the County’s Comprehensive Plan? – Going before the Board in June, but not sure about when the public hearing is. Will look into it and pass on that information.

*Barb Janssen, City Council President District 3*

- No updates.

### **III. Support Administration**

- Approve April Minutes.
- Treasurer’s Report: Treasurer not present.

### **IV. Open Forum**

*Garden Updates, Doug McVey*

- GENA currently has 5 gardens. Small group came to the garden day last Saturday, it took about 2 hours between 4 people. A couple of gardens will need plants this year:
  - About 5 plants have been destroyed by vehicles in the roundabouts.
  - New tree on Campbell Rd. to replace the tree that was knocked over 2 years ago. Garden needs a few plants.

- Unsure how to access money for the gardens—is there a budget?
  - Nora: we have about \$1,000 in our budget, but we only use about \$200 to LCNI and the rest is open for gardening. We could easily collect money through donations if we need to exceed the funding we currently have.
  - Doug: we might need about \$500 for this year.
  - Nora: the executive team will look at our budget and send out an email for donations, if needed.
- Questions?
  - Which 5 gardens are the GENA? The end of Campbell Rd., Crowley Park, the dead end on Pine St., a water retention site past Eagles Nest, and the roundabout.

## **V. Engage Members**

- Movies in the park may be cost prohibitive—costs \$500-\$600 dollars and dates are pretty booked up. Tabling project until next summer.
- Ideas for welcoming students back:
  - Move-in week for UWL campus is August 31st-September 4th.
  - We could do rummage sale in the early fall after students move in. Could possibly do sidewalk sales or coupons.
  - Amy will connect GENA with Sample the City at UWL.

## **VI. Upcoming Meetings and Events.**

- Tentatively resuming meetings in August.

Adjournment at 8:28 pm