

2021 LWVLA Observer Corps Report Form

Thank you for participating as a member of the Observer Corps for the League of Women Voters of the La Crosse Area. Our goal is to educate LWVLA members on local government activities with the potential to refer topics for further study and advocacy.

Your Name: Nora Garland

Name of Governmental Body (City/County/Town) Board or Committee: La Crosse City Plan Commission

Time and Date of Meeting: April 4, 2022

Members of the Governmental Body (If available, note attendance.): James Cherf, Matt Gallagher, Scott Neumeister, Chris Kahlow, Elain Yager, Mitch Reynolds, Jennifer Trost, Jacob Sciammas

Nabamita Dutta (arrived later)

Link to the public posting of meeting information:

<https://cityoflacrosse.legistar.com/MeetingDetail.aspx?ID=930798&GUID=0CBAA530-BAA3-4E2A-A987-BFCAD64E049D&Search=>

Meeting Purpose and Content

Please provide a brief statement of the meeting's purpose and a concise overview of its content in the form of a bulleted list:

A number of zoning requests were addressed and approved:

- converting first floor retail/commercial to residential in the fairly new development 7th & Farnum
- alley vacation by Mayo
- conversion of single-family to Traditional Neighborhood Development for development of townhouses on 10th and Denton
- transfer from Local Business to Planned Development for the former Kmart site
- allowed an exception for addition parking stall requirements

The commissioners received a report on the launching of the city's Comprehensive Plan process. City planner Tim Acklin introduced Mary Walker Kramer, the city's project writing manager from Graef Planning & Urban Design in Milwaukee and showed a kickoff video from the comp plan interactive website.

Identify issues that the League may want to follow for further study or advocacy:

It could be worthwhile to follow the developing awareness and acceptance of the public to more variety in housing development related to density, affordability, and rental vs. owner-occupied status.

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Notable from this first look at the city's comp plan:

- outreach to diverse demographics
- online interactive features
- importance of communication to engage public participation

Note any additional comments or feedback regarding this meeting:

Items in this section of the form are provided for the observers' benefit. They do not need to be a part of the report, but they provide a checklist of WI Open Meetings Law requirements and good practice for public meeting accessibility. Notable observations about these practices could be included in your feedback comments.

WI Open Meetings Law Checklist

- Public notice (time/date/location/content) was readily available no later than 2 hours prior to the meeting.
- The meeting was held in a location that was open to the public and readily accessible to members of the public who wished to attend.
- The agenda provided enough specific detail to inform interested members of the public about the content of the meeting.
- A quorum was present to conduct business.
- Meeting content was limited to only noticed agenda items, including business discussed in closed session.
- A record of motions, seconds, and roll-call votes from the meeting will be (was?) created and preserved.

Good Practice for Public Accessibility Checklist

- The meeting was available to view or listen to on-line.
- Copies of the agenda and handouts were available to the public. Important information was available for viewing via handouts, web links, or projector.
- Roll call was conducted, and the public could identify members who were present or absent
- Speakers were identified and could be easily heard.
- The public was given an opportunity to speak at the meeting.
- Minutes and/or a recording of the meeting will be made available to the public.

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Thank you for participating in the LWVLA Observer Corps. Your responses will help us ensure transparency in local government and assess the need for future LWVLA actions!