

Third Ward Neighborhood Meeting
May 8, 2019
7:00pm
Centennial Hall 1804

Steering Committee members present: Kevin Rosenberg, Staci Heidtke, Stephen Ronstrom, Peter Hable, Roger Gravrok, Susan Miller, Chris Klesmith
Steering Committee members absent: Aaron Salmon, Joshua Clements, Janet Bethke, Dick Solberg

Guests that signed in: Nina Brobst, Clay Wanter and Taylor Comeau (Eau Claire Police Department), Ryan Pleski, Ross Johnson, Sharon Hildebrand, Jim Erickson

Call to Order:

Chair Rosenberg called the meeting to order at 7:02pm

Approve Meeting Minutes from last meeting:

Two versions of the minutes were sent out by Chair Rosenberg. Some members of the committee felt that the first minutes were biased and subjective. Others did not. A motion made to approve the original minutes as presented. This motion was seconded. Vote carried 6 to 1.

Chair's Report: (Parking Study):

Chair Rosenberg encourages all neighbors to complete the Parking Study. This survey was distributed by the City. It has been emailed out to the listserve by the Communications group.

There were two additional meetings this month, related to the Neighborhood Plan.

Treasurer's report (10 minutes):

Steve Ronstrom, \$1928.93. No action with the Demmler Garden funding. Most of the money is from the Demmler Garden group. Treasurer's Report is approved 8 to 0 (another committee member joined the meeting after the first vote but before this one).

Roosevelt Roundabout Update (Chair - 15 min):

There are 2 petitions circulating in the city, one is with the most updated language. June 10 is the City Council meeting where neighbors should attend and offer their opinion about relocation. The first petition opposes the roundabout. The second petition opposes the funding to secure the appraisals and start negotiating. If the vote is no to the relocation order, the City cannot move forward on eminent domain. Neighbors can sign both petitions and the petitions can be signed up until the day of the meeting (June 10). Others can be solicited to sign the petitions, signees do not have to be residents of the Third Ward to sign the petitions.

Neighborhood Plan (60 minutes - Susan Miller):

Committee wants to change the neighborhood plan, if necessary, to use to rely upon when considering development, and working with the City.

Discussion was led by committee member Susan Miller. The Neighborhood plan has been drafted by the City of Eau Claire City Planner. It was reviewed at meetings, including in workgroups that were formed at a meeting last week.

Sections:

Redevelopment

Goals: Encourage new growth revitalization. Suggested to craft language specifying streets. Another neighbor suggests housing condition and stock on Jefferson Street should be considered.

Promote context-sensitive design: Encourage building massing on the “Gentle Density” scale. Gentle Density is the mix of new development and rehabilitation. Try to keep it in conformity with what already exists.

Gentle Density is attached ground-oriented housing.

Model B2, B3-criticism of language being biased. Suggested changes to language.

Maintain and protect is recommended in the language under B2.

Model B4 does not have any significant changes recommended.

University growth: Addition: Suggestion was made to change language to “Require on campus improvement by having sufficient student and faculty parking to prevent parking sprawl into adjacent neighborhoods.”

Flood plain relief: no recommendations

Since 2010 new multi family housing, including duplexes has outpaced single family home construction. This trend plays well with certain areas of the neighborhood.

Transportation: Enforce current restrictions. This is important to the neighbors.

A-2: Parking permit system: Propose a Monday through Friday 9-5 system where XX amount of permits are issued to park during these hours in the neighborhood. Some neighbors indicate it can be infringing on rights of residents. Some neighbors recommend resident only parking, others do not.

A-3: Other city strategies- no recommended changes

B-1: Improve Streets and Alleys: Suggested general street repair and construction should be the focus.

B-2: Enhance State Street into a complete street. A complete street is one used for all modes of transportation including biking and walking, including width of sidewalks. Focus on reducing congestion on the street and what can be done to reduce traffic by using mass transit.

C-2: Implement the Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan recommendations: would like relevant sections defined and create wording to support the plan but keep actions consistent.

Public Services: Very few changes to this section.

A-1: The City will continue to meet the basic needs of the neighborhood: Some additions are being made to text.

Quality of Life:

A-1: Maintain a nonprofit status and consider a neighborhood development corporation for the neighborhood association.

B-1: Build a better sense of place

B-2: Actively work with DECI, realtors, lenders and builders to improve the image and livability opportunities

C1: Continue housing inspection and code enforcement programs: The steering committee is very supportive of continuing existing efforts like the city's code enforcement program.

Next Steps (Citizen Input):

Many recommendations were made, and these will be considered at a Neighborhood Plan meeting, amended and then brought back to the TWNA Steering Committee. This needs to be tailored to fit the Third Ward.

Another meeting on the Neighborhood Plan will be scheduled. It is strongly encouraged that the document be read and make comments to Susan Miller or Kevin Rosenberg.

Jeremy Gragert offered to talk to any neighbors who have questions about the Neighborhood Plan.

Announcements/Open Forum:

Media is interested in doing a story about the roundabout.

ECPD indicated the neighborhood association could ask for South District traffic enforcement and parking enforcement as an initiative.

Adjournment:

Motion made and seconded to adjourn the meeting. Vote passed and meeting adjourned at 8:35pm.

Submitted by: Staci Heidtke