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**LONG RANGE PLANNING COMMITTEE MINUTES**

The City of Tomah Long Range Planning Committee (LRPC) met in session on **Tuesday, May 27, 2025,** at 5:30 p.m. in the Municipal Building, 819 Superior Ave, Tomah, WI, and via Zoom teleconference. The meeting access information was provided on the posted agenda. The meeting agenda notice was posted at City Hall and on the City’s website in compliance with the provisions of Section 19.84 Wisconsin Statues.

**Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance, Roll Call:** Eric Prisecalled the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. Members present: E. Prise, Paul Dwyer, Tina Thompson, Travis Scholze, and Shawn Zabinski. Absent: Jeff Holthaus, and Pete Reichardt. Quorum present. Also in attendance: Director of Economic Development and Zoning Nick Morales, Code Enforcement Officer/EDZ Assistant Kendra Donohoo, and City Clerk Nicole Jacobs.

**Approval of April 22, 2025, Long Range Planning Committee meeting minutes:** Motion by T. Thompson, second by S. Zabinski, to approve the minutes of the April 22, 2025, meeting. Motion carried.

**Operation Phoenix Public Forum:** The LRPC, along with the Historic Preservation hosted a Public Forum, giving local business owners a platform to express ideas and concerns they have pertaining to the downtown business district.N. Morales went over the rules and invited the participants to speak in the order they signed in on the sign in sheet. A summary of their comments were as follows:

* Faye Vega, of 508 Superior Ave, shared her ideas regarding an indoor pool or a place that both adults and children could visit year-round.
* Ron Brieske, of 1021 Superior Ave, explained that he had purchased the vacant lots downtown to make the process for potential developers easier.
* Pete Thorson, of 300 Superior Ave, applauded the city’s effort for organizing the forum. He also suggest forming an Ad Hoc Committee to put together ideas for developers.
* Blain Hackett, of 800 Superior Ave, advocated for the implementation of a sidewalk dining ordinance. He also suggested the idea of developing a boutique hotel downtown.
* Mark Tralmer, of 1101 Superior Ave, suggested reallocating hotel tax to help develop and improve the downtown area and attract more businesses.
* Jane Donaldson, of 1100, 1108, and 1012 Superior Ave, she encouraged to committee when discussing future development, to consider mixing the new with the old as she feels it is important that the city keep the character/charm of the community.
* Chad Manson, of 1123 Superior Ave, encouraged the committee to start development on the vacant lots downtown. He suggested shops, outdoor markets and boutiques to get more people walking around downtown. He also suggested the development of more apartments above the downtown buildings.
* Virginia Creed, of 1006 Superior Ave, suggested making the downtown area walkable with the addition of an outdoor market, similar to Sparta, WI. She also suggested more recreation for kids in the winter months, using an example of indoor laser tag.
* Mitch Koel, of 906 Superior Ave, explained that he recently purchased his building and is now open to ideas on how to fill the building. He added that he owns a business in downtown Sparta as well and the outdoor market creates a lot of traffic to the downtown area.

No action taken.

**Discussion of future agenda items:** Committee members requested an update on the status of the Downtown Master Plan, a dining ordinance update, and to have another land audit discussion. No official action taken.

**NEXT MEETING DATE:** The next LRPC meeting will be on Tuesday, June 24, 2025 at 5:30 p.m.

**ADJOURNMENT**: Motion by P. Dwyer, second T. Thompson, to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 6:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

*Nicole Jacobs*

Nicole Jacobs, Chief Deputy Clerk, June 2, 2025