

City of Dubuque
COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

GOVERNMENTAL BODY: Resilient Community Advisory Commission

DATE: December 3, 2020

TIME: 5:00 pm

LOCATION: Virtually – Go to Meeting platform

MEMBERS PRESENT: Dean Boles, Candace Eudaley-Loebach, Adam Hoffman, Lalith Jayawickrama, Robin Kennicker, Jake Kohlhaas, Craig Reber

MEMBERS ABSENT: Sara Booth, Whitney Sanger

STAFF PRESENT: Gina Bell, Sustainable Community Coordinator

GUESTS PRESENT: N/A

Chair Eudaley-Loebach called the meeting to order at 5:04 pm. Bell confirmed the meeting was in compliance with the Iowa Open Meeting Law.

TEST AGENDA

PUBLIC COMMENT: N/A

MINUTES APPROVAL: Commissioner Reber motions to approve the November 5, 2020 minutes. Seconded by Commissioner Kennicker. Motion carries.

SUSTAINABLE DUBUQUE GRANT APPLICATION UPDATE: Bell shared proposed changes to the application and Commission requested the follow changes:

- Under eligibility: Past performance will be considered. Noting this gives RCAC flexibility with scoring and give past grantees the opportunity to address it or correct it.
- Remove points totals.

Bell will update document with discussed changes. Commissioner Kennicker motions to advance to City Council for approval. Commissioner Reber seconds. Motion carries.

CAP IMPLEMENTATION: Bell shared the document listing where RCAC has been named in the implementation guide.

Commissioner Boles: Some actions listed here the City should first do to lead by example. Example: The City rehabs houses each year and yet there has been little interest to make the houses solar ready even though it is easier and cheaper to do so when rehabbing. Several recommendations apply directly to Housing. From Housing, it would be good to hear related to the houses we rehab – cost, problems, future benefits to residents. To address: what does it mean to make a house solar ready; rental housing?

Commissioner Kohlhaas: Landlords are not going to be particularly helpful; City already inspects for rental licenses and this shouldn't be a heavy lift. Energy efficiency policy is low hanging fruit. If we are going to take them on, we need to understand the issues and what that looks like. There needs to be a look at the whole plan.

Chair Eudaley-Loebach: will look at implementation plan and add RCAC to more items that she thinks there is low-hanging fruit that the Resiliency Commission could take on as well as plan for future meetings where RCAC could educate and learn more.

Boles: We could address similar to how we looked at cover crops on our rental properties; understand what is doable and cost effective.

Chair Eudaley-Loebach: as an action to continue to move this forward – should we invite the housing department to share what they are doing, potential plans, how they work, how they can move toward energy efficiency?

Commissioner Kennicker asked for clarification if we would also invite the Landlord's Association and the Chair shared that was not the intent, noting we should talk with the Landlord's Association at some point.

Commissioner Kohlhaas suggests working with the landlords once we know what our ask/plan is and we have a way to include them.

Next steps: Invite housing to come to present at a future commission meeting.

HOW DID I SHOW UP? / COMMISSIONER REPORTS:

Commissioner Kohlhaas met with Parks staff to move forward with a garden at Valentine Park.

Commissioner Boles shared a program he finds really interesting: <https://foodcomputerprogram.com/about/> Here is an option or a critical mass of interest, Fall of 2021 at the earliest. Hoping Whitney would be at the meeting for future discussion. If anyone is interested, email him. Continues to support the idea of a Youth Outcomes Summit – wants to engage university professors on the commission. What can our community do to keep university students here/to come back? Commissioner Boles also shared that Voices Productions wants to link the murals and climate action. Living green wall that changes with the season; a mural appears during winter or changes. Exploring the concept of art and climate action. Call to action - ideas of what to place this.

STAFF REPORT: Bell shared information about two grants – Partners for Places grant which is supporting community dinners and the Rapid Response grant which formed the Teen Resiliency Corps.

Urban Heat Island Mapping campaign/grant – Green Dubuque or Green Iowa AmeriCorps, or the university should take on. Perhaps Candace and Adam can take on for their May-term sustainability class.

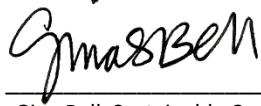
NEXT MEETING: The next commission meeting will occur on Thursday, January 7, 2021 at 5:00 pm. The location of the meeting will be at the Jule Operations and Training Center, 949 Kerper Boulevard OR held virtually depending on CDC and State of Iowa guidance.

ADJOURNMENT: The Commission adjourned at 6:18 pm.

Minutes approved by:


Candace Eudaley-Loebach, Commission Chair

Prepared by:


Gina Bell, Sustainable Community Coordinator