

City of Dubuque
COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

GOVERNMENTAL BODY: Resilient Community Advisory Commission

DATE: February 4, 2021

TIME: 5:01 pm

LOCATION: Virtually – Go to Meeting platform

MEMBERS PRESENT: Dean Boles, Sara Booth, Candace Eudaley-Loebach, Adam Hoffman, Lalith Jayawickrama, Jake Kohlhaas, Whitney Sanger

MEMBERS ABSENT: Robin Kennicker, Craig Reber

STAFF PRESENT: Gina Bell, Sustainable Community Coordinator

Chair Eudaley-Loebach called the meeting to order at 5:01 pm. Bell confirmed the meeting was in compliance with the Iowa Open Meeting Law.

TEST AGENDA

MINUTES APPROVAL: Commissioner Hoffman motions to approve the January 7, 2021 minutes. Seconded by Commissioner Boles. Motion carries.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Paul Schultz – good job commission, excited to move CAP actions forward. Abby Willis – staying up to date on CAP implementation and because RCAC is fun.

NO OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS:

a) CAP Implementation with Ted Redmond of palebluedot, llc: Ted started by highlighting the Team page on Pale Blue Dot's website and showed where the CAP lives, the implementation matrix which is a digital matrix which we are still working to finalize the partners. It is searchable, collapsible, changeable, etc.

In addition, another resource is a curated list of example policies and ordinances related to CAP efforts. It is linked and can be found on their websites. These are a good place to start and then make fit for Dubuque. Net Zero Building Guide is another resource they have put together. Solar Ready guide as well.

In terms of RCAC, how to move this work forward? There is policy work – start with a few key policies; there is advancing a sustainable approach – funding requests, internal policies to change the way the City does business; or engagement and outreach related to community awareness and advocacy. Or spur the City to do some pilot projects on city land/with city projects. Advocacy – need state level policy to change but Dubuque could work on advocacy; link to other likeminded communities within Iowa to move policy at state level forward. The implementation plan is searchable – everyone can be looking out for opportunities. City Departments should be the implementation team. Council could establish a team with a representative from each department which maps out the year's project plan and policies to cover for the year.

Commissioner Boles expressed “getting lost” when he sees all the actions. Asked what are the low-cost/high-impact actions are? He requested a visualization to communicate within a common framework. Such as www.visualcapitalist.com/visualized-a-global-risk-assessment-of-2021-and-beyond

Commissioner Boles also suggests communicating to the public like Ames did – 2 two-hour sessions (Gina's note: Ames is in pre-planning and we are post plan). Also, shared the idea to get the Iowa sustainability folks together to work on moving state issues forward. (Staff Bell shared that there is a group already working on this.) Commissioner Boles also pointed to the research that stated that Cities are measuring incorrectly related to GHG emissions and what they

include or don't <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/02/02/climate/cities-greenhouse-gas-emissions.html> Ted responded that consistency is most important so we can understand our major impacts and what we can do and where to put your focus as a community; instead of counting each and every metric ton. Obviously note if there are errors. But the process and same data sources are what is most important.

Commissioner Kohlhaas requests linking to the palebluedot's resources on the SD website and the City website.

Commissioner Boles has watched other Commissions advocate around goal setting time and we can use the Sustainable Dubuque Work Sessions to advocate for what we want.

Chair Eudaley-Loebach expressed the desire to be helpful and shared that a council member suggested providing Council with a list.

Commissioner Hoffman shared that another role RCAC can play in implementation would be to link other existing parties to climate action, food overlap, trees and green space linkage, etc.

b) RCAC purpose and future

Chair Eudaley-Loebach started by identifying the issue to be discussed. A large part of the RCAC purpose, as defined by an ordinance, is to advise Council yet they've only asked once. The RCAC would like to help but don't want to waste time on research and work if the Council will ignore it.

Commission Kohlhaas thinks the letter is excellent. It expresses what the RCAC has been feeling and he is in full support and would like to get feedback from Council.

Commissioner Hoffman agrees this makes sense on many levels and will help us be more effective.

Chair Eudaley-Loebach: Ted's suggestion to break it up by policy is a good one.

Commissioner Kohlhaas shared the generated list is good because it is shorter than the plan itself and it could generate a decent amount of conversation without it being too much. If we get some guidance for us to focus and give feedback, then we as a commission can determine the framework.

Commissioner Hoffman agrees.

Commissioner Boles asked if considering from the point of view of City Council, what will the Commission do if they don't respond? How do they respond? Do we use a work session?

Chair Eudaley-Loebach: They've had a work session for the CAP, they have approved it already. They need to give us direction. Costs may happen but right now there are no associated costs.

Commission discussed the language in the letter, revised it and voted on sending to City Council.

Kohlhaas motioned to approve letter and send letter to City Council. Commissioner Sanger seconded. Motion carries, 6 in favor, 1 oppose.

HOW DID I SHOW UP?

COMMISSIONER REPORTS:

Commissioner Kohlhaas thanks Commission members for speaking with Loras Honors students.

Valentine Park Community Garden is moving forward to Council for a vote. Mentioned a Community Garden Initiative but City website does not have any contact information.

Commissioner Boles and Commissioner Hoffman are following up with Trees Forever.

Chair Eudaley-Loebach has been working with businesses related to transit issues named in the plan and parking needs and hoping to move forward.

Commissioner Sanger watched a Strong Towns webinar – picking your next bike lane. Cool complete streets where to start or what not to do – Minneapolis, MN. Planning on attending all of them. Project Rooted is working on a “great plant day” and education day but will want to be planting stuff around the city.

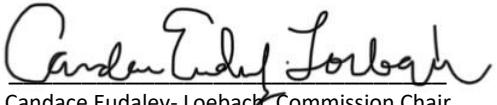
Chair Eudaley-Loebach: Strong Towns have webinars every Thursday for the next two months.

Commissioner Boles: wants to focus on economic resiliency – volunteer income tax prep/stimulus payments.

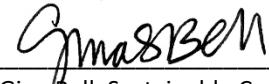
NEXT MEETING: The next commission meeting will occur on Thursday, March 4, 2021 at 5:00 pm. The location of the meeting will be at the Jule Operations and Training Center, 949 Kerper Boulevard OR held virtually depending on CDC and State of Iowa guidance.

ADJOURNMENT: The Commission adjourned at 6:33 pm.

Minutes approved by:


Candace Eudaley- Loebach, Commission Chair

Prepared by:


Gina Bell

Sustainable Community Coordinator