

City of Dubuque
COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

GOVERNMENTAL BODY: Resilient Community Advisory Commission

DATE: March 4, 2021

TIME: 5:00 pm

LOCATION: Virtually – Go to Meeting platform

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Craig Reber

STAFF PRESENT: Gina Bell, Sustainable Community Coordinator

Chair Eudaley-Loebach called the meeting to order at 5:02 pm. Bell confirmed the meeting was in compliance with the Iowa Open Meeting Law.

TEST AGENDA

MINUTES APPROVAL: Commissioner Kennicker motions to approve the February 4, 2021 minutes. Seconded by Commissioner Hoffman. Motion carries.

PUBLIC COMMENT: John McAndrew, new to Dubuque, interested in the Commission and wanted to join to see what it was all about.

OLD BUSINESS

a) Letter to Council

Staff shared background and memo the City Manager sent. He wants RCAC to focus on education and outreach. He will attend the April 1, 2021 meeting. Chair Eudaley-Loebach responded to City Manager asking for guidance and structure. Especially around communication and specifically 3 things:

1. Commission binder does not address resources and tools Commissions have access to and the amount of time from staff available nor the line for personal vs. Commissioner speech
2. Requested an example of successful engagement campaigns by Commissions and how will we measure it.
3. If RCAC focuses on education and engagement RCAC still wants specific areas to communicate – not just resiliency.

Chair Eudaley-Loebach encouraged others to add to the list of areas for the City Manager to address.

Commissioner Boles offered kudos to all for working on this and shared that he too struggles with what resiliency means, specifically for the City.

Commissioner Sanger offered using a Strong Towns approach (focus on one small initiative – name it, measure it and complete it) and wants to define ONE thing for RCAC to accomplish.

Commissioner Kohlhaas is confused with no budget nor guidance on how to do this and questioned the RCAC authority.

Jenni Peterson-Brandt, City Arts & Culture Coordinator, and staff responsible for Arts & Culture Commission's implementation of the A&C Master Plan joined to share her experience about implementation of a plan via commission. They created 5 working groups – took action from plan and make a work plan for each one with short-, mid- and long-term goals. She provides staff support for those meetings. They have a checklist and go through it. Also asking for what are the priorities – working groups tell Council what the priorities are because they have already approved the plan. The A&C Commission also struggle with funding piece.

Commissioner Booth asked if the Commission could provide value by prioritizing CAP policies? Commissioner Kohlhaas expressed that the RCAC does not feel like they can put time or energy into anything because RCAC has not

been directed or given a mandate by Council. If policies are prioritized, will Council just receive and file? He does not believe Council took the letter seriously.

Commissioner Kennicker shared in experience on other commissioner she has received similar responses until they presented a plan of what the commission was doing to Council.

Commissioner Boles is Interested to hear from the City Manager for clarification on the RCAC questions. Suggested offering a voluntary carbon tax/fund.

NEW BUSINESS:

a) Policy Report related to CAP Implementation

Rachel is a Green Iowa AmeriCorps member and Dalton is the Sustainability Intern and a student at Loras College. They are working on updating policies for the City as they related to the Climate Action Plan.

b) Sustainable Dubuque Grants subcommittee

Need up to 3 commissioners to make grant recommendation to full commission. Commissioners Kennicker and Sanger will work with staff to create recommendation. All Commissioners submit their scores.

HOW DID I SHOW UP? COMMISSIONER REPORTS:

Commissioner Boles shared that Community Development Advisory Commission is updating the CDBG budget for this current fiscal year (FY21) and reviewing the CAP to identify what could be funded with community development dollars which has three goals: Benefit to low- and moderate- income (LMI) persons; Aid in the prevention or elimination of slums or blight; Meet a need having a particular urgency.

Commissioner Kennicker shared the Park and Rec Commission received very positive responses on Valentine Park survey and the garden has been approved.

Commissioner Kohlhaas shared his students read the climate action plan. One major concern was how difficult it was to find the document (even for technology savvy students with Internet access.) Additionally, he called RCAC to action: what are current Council priorities, how do they relate to CAP priorities/policy changes and can we frame them in a way to meet both goals?

Commissioner Boles suggests aiming RCAC efforts, with residents' input, for the August goal setting sessions. Chair Eudaley-Loebach requests a subcommittee to work to advance Council goals. Commissioner Hoffman and Kohlhaas have agreed to be on subcommittee.

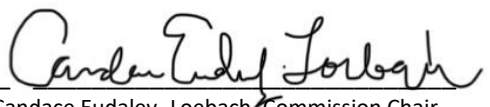
Commissioner Hoffman shared that GIA team presented to his UD Web of Life students.

Chair Eudaley-Loebach discussed her strategy document related to adding people downtown without adding parking structures and identified 5 policies that need to change. Work is in alignment with CAP and she will share with RCAC. Commissioner Boles again calls for RCAC to consider economic resiliency and stated that HACAP needs more volunteers, suggesting maybe the TRC could be those volunteers.

NEXT MEETING: The next commission meeting will occur on Thursday, April 1, 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 6:16 pm.

Minutes approved by: _____


Candace Eudaley- Loebach, Commission Chair

Prepared by: _____


Gina Bell, Sustainable Community Coordinator