

City of Dubuque
COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

GOVERNMENTAL BODY: Resilient Community Advisory Commission

DATE: April 1, 2021

TIME: 5:00 pm

LOCATION: Virtually – Go to Meeting platform

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Robin Kennicker

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 Boles motions to approve the March 4, 2021 minutes. Seconded by Commissioner Jayawickrama. Motion carries.

PUBLIC COMMENT: No public comment was offered.

OLD BUSINESS

a) Letter to Council /CAP Implementation Q&A with City Manager

Chair Eudaley-Loebach gave the floor to City Manager Mike Van Milligen who discussed his thoughts about moving the Climate Action Plan forward with the help of the Resilient Community Advisory Commission (RCAC). He does not believe the citizens of Dubuque understand resiliency and does not believe the Climate Action Plan (CAP) will be successful without a lot of community engagement and community support. He noted that many of the actions in the CAP are outward facing and an engagement and implementation strategy are needed for these actions.

The City Manager fielded questions from the RCAC and explained that this is not a marketing campaign – it is very much focused on education and engagement. Conversations related to climate action need to take place and he would like to see the existing climate action implementation matrix expanded upon to complete this body of work.

Commissioners requested updates on what departments are doing as it relates to climate action so they can include the City's work in their conversations with external partners and request that departments come to them so they can better assist with budget and goals recommendations.

A further discussion related to resiliency and how it fits into all City plans is needed (Plans mentioned were CAP, Imagine Dubuque Comprehensive Plan, and the Equitable Poverty Prevention Plan). The discussion also included an overview of how the budget process and goal setting work.

b) Subcommittee Report / CAP Implementation

Chair Eudaley-Loebach, and Commissioners Kohlhaas and Hoffman met to discuss RCAC role in CAP implementation as well as purpose of RCAC. They shared their ideas of how the RCAC can better support council goals as well as engage the community. In the City Manager's response to the RCAC letter to City Council, he mentioned four actions that are already being addressed via goals and priorities. The subcommittee made four requests related to moving this work forward and fulfilling RCAC purpose. Discussion ensued of the following:

1. Determine the approximate budget for the Sustainable Dubuque 2.0 initiative.
2. Invite City staff that are working on the four priorities (mentioned by the City Manager) so RCAC can

determine where to focus and how to help move work forward.

3. Determine plan for CAP implementation funding – find out what Imagine Dubuque did to retain consultant to help with implementation.
4. Invite the Office of Shared Prosperity (when they are hired) to speak with the RCAC to brief on plan and implementation.

Commissioner Boles motioned to move forward with the above discussion and action items. Commissioner Kohlhaas seconds. Motion passes unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS:

a) Sustainable Dubuque Grants / subcommittee recommendation

Booth motions to forward recommendation to City Council. Jayawickrama seconded. Vote carries: Six in favor, zero opposed, and one abstention.

b) Return to in-person meetings discussion

Overall, it was determined that the RCAC is generally open to returning to meeting in-person after everyone is vaccinated and very much would prefer a hybrid model with high-quality audio/visual. Hybrid will only work if the a/v is high quality.

HOW DID I SHOW UP? COMMISSIONER REPORTS:

Community Development Advisory Commission/Commissioner Boles shared that Dubuque receives ~\$1.3M/year in Community Development Block Grant funding to spend on three funding priorities from the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD):

- i. Benefit to low- and moderate- income (LMI) persons.
- ii. Aid in the prevention or elimination of slums or blight.
- iii. Meet a need having a particular urgency.

Commissioner Kohlhaas gave an update on Valentine Park – primarily that things are progressing quickly.

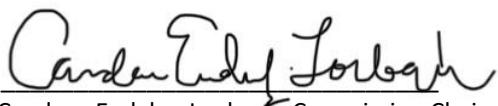
Commissioner Jayawickrama shared that he spoke about Dubuque's sustainability and resiliency efforts when attending a conference with the Minister of Environment from Sri Lanka.

Chair Eudaley-Loebach shared that Bike Week is happening this year and the focus will be on mobility (less focused on solely biking to work).

Commissioner Sanger shared that Project Rooted has lots of seeds and potentially could partner with Valentine Park Garden.

NEXT MEETING: The next commission meeting will occur on Thursday, May 6, 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 7:00 pm.

Minutes approved by: 
Candace Eudaley-Loebach, Commission Chair

Prepared by: 
Gina Bell, Sustainable Community Coordinator