

City of Dubuque
COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

GOVERNMENTAL BODY: Resilient Community Advisory Commission (RCAC)

DATE: May 6, 2021

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, Whitney Sanger

MEMBERS ABSENT: Sara Booth, Craig Reber

STAFF PRESENT: Gina Bell, Sustainable Community Coordinator

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

MINUTES APPROVAL: Commissioner Kennicker motions to approve the April 1, 2021 minutes. Seconded by Commissioner Kohlhaas. Motion carries.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Paul Schultz – President of Green Dubuque share the following 5 points which he would like addressed: **1)** Nothing for us, without us. A call to empowerment and inclusion. **2)** The Resilient Community Advisory Commission’s main purpose is to advise council and they should focus on Council-facing work. **3)** Sustainability Coordinator is both internal and external facing - this is where the focus needs to be with programming and needs additional staff. Not alone but this is the primary purpose of this job. Greatly underfunded. **4)** walking the talk – City Green Team no longer exists, and it shows how there is not a priority at the City. For accountability and responsibility. **5)** Sustainable Dubuque says in promotional material that it is “community-created, citizen led...” As it reads in the material, designed to be this, but it is not this is practice. It started that way and fell apart. It should not be just a brand and a website. We should encourage an entity like that. There is not a solid sustainability organization in the city, and one is needed.

OLD BUSINESS

a) CAP Implementation

i. Buildings and Energy – Alexis Steger

Shared information related to Energy efficiency in rental units – CAP goal is to have a rating be met if rental license is granted. She introduced RentLab, a platform which tracks energy efficiency in housing as well as other livability and city goals. She shared information about the Energy Savers Program and will report back to RCAC in the fall of 2021.

ii. Greenspace and Tree Canopy –Steve Fehsal

Shared information about the City’s work related to trees and the City’s canopy. Discussed the 2011 Urban Forest Study.

iii. Transportation and Land Use –Gina Bell

Shared information about complete streets. Commissioners discussed what complete streets mean. Determined it would be helpful to have Planning Services discuss the design review process related to development in the city. Also discussed that often, we do not need more infrastructure, we already have it, and it just needs signage and there are other opportunities as well that are low/no budget.

iv. Food – Gina Bell

Updated on food security and insecurity within the city.

- v. **Implementation Plan Financial Support** (position + demo projects from CAP) – Needs a longer discussion, will revisit in June.

NEW BUSINESS:

- a) **Successes and Goals worksheet for Council Goals and Priorities** – Staff will email form and request Commissioners fill out and return. Staff will pull themes and send to commission for approval and discussion at June meeting.
- b) **Officer re-election in August** – moved to June's agenda
- c) **Support for Renew DBQ** – Staff request support of low- to moderate-income solar project. Commissioners asked questions about the program and wanted further information which staff provided via email. No action was taken by the Commission.
- d) **Cities Race to Zero recommendation:** Requested that staff send more information and add to next agenda

Commissioner Boles motions to table New Business Items B and D to June meeting.
Commissioner Jayawickrama seconded.
Motion carries.

HOW DID I SHOW UP? COMMISSIONER REPORTS:

Commissioner Eudaley-Loebach shared that she will send a Bike Week email very soon with all the activities happening during Bike Week (supported by a Sustainable Dubuque grant).

NEXT MEETING: The next commission meeting will occur on Thursday, June 3, 2021 at 5 pm.
The location of the meeting will be held virtually until further discussion by RCAC.

ADJOURNMENT: The Commission adjourned at 7:08 pm.

Minutes approved by: Candace Eudaley-Loebach
Candace Eudaley-Loebach, Commission Chair

Prepared by: Gina Bell
Gina Bell, Sustainable Community Coordinator