

City of Dubuque
COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

GOVERNMENTAL BODY: Resilient Community Advisory Commission (RCAC)

DATE: June 3, 2021

TIME: 5:00 pm

LOCATION: Virtually – Go to Meeting platform

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Lalith Jayawickrama, Craig Reber, Whitney Sanger

STAFF PRESENT: Gina Bell, Sustainable Community Coordinator

Chair Eudaley-Loebach called the meeting to order at 5:07 pm. Bell confirmed the meeting was in compliance with the Iowa Open Meeting Law.

TEST AGENDA

A revised agenda was sent on Thursday morning to the public.

MINUTES APPROVAL: Commissioner Kohlhaas motions to approve the May 6, 2021 minutes. Seconded by Commissioner Kennicker. Motion carries.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Paul Schultz – President of Green Dubuque thanks Commission of accurate presentation of comments from last month and discussed the list he sent to staff and Commission Chair of projects which Green Dubuque is supportive of, including the Renew DBQ solar pilot project and other Climate Action Plan (CAP) implementation projects. Solar, safe routes to schools, EV purchasing policy, education and support, solid waste projects including organic materials. He encouraged RCAC to follow the DMSWA strategic planning process next spring, to move the needle on this work. All projects suggested will come with significant impacts on GHG mitigation.

OLD BUSINESS

a) Goal Setting Worksheet – no discussion.

b) Renew DBQ Solar Pilot Project – 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. Commission expressed displeasure with process, and frustration that staff was dismissive and rushed them, nor did they have adequate time or information to decide. They expressed wanting to be included much earlier in the process. Commissioner Boles motioned to table the support request decision. Commissioner Hoffman seconded. Motion carried. Before revisiting the item, the following information has been requested by the Commission:

- How many solar installations occur in the city in a year?
- How many in low-income n'hoods? What are the assessed values of the homes? Are they owner occupied or rentals?

An additional suggestion was to gather information (after program start) from pilot participants, asking if they were going to get solar anyways or if not, why? And what were the barriers?

Not specific to this project but the Commission also would like to better understand programs targeted to benefit a specific race (examples were a Sustainable Dubuque grant focusing on Black hypertensive patients and an Economic Development proposal to give loans to Black-owned businesses) and requested hearing from the City Attorney or Human Rights Director (both lawyers) about the practice and legality of it.

c) Climate Action Plan (CAP) Implementation - Post reports discussion: Buildings and Energy, Greenspace and Tree Canopy, Transportation and Land Use, Food

Chair Eudaley-Loebach asked if commissioners want to follow up on any of these and what impressions were of presentations?

1st step: reach out to presenters and express interest in following up and asking to help. Commissioners will then report back at the next meeting.

The following commissioners will take the lead on the following sectors:

- Commissioner Hoffman: tree canopy/green space
- Commissioner Booth: food
- Commissioner Kohlhaas: buildings and energy and green space
- Chair Eudaley-Loebach: transportation and land use

NEW BUSINESS:

- Officer re-election in August** – Chair Eudaley-Loebach reminded folks that terms are up for re-election and encouraged commissioners to think about specific roles they want to hold.
- Implementation Plan Financial Support** (position + demo projects from CAP) – Staff is working on a proposal on behalf of the Resiliency Commission to respond to the City Manager’s request of how RCAC wants to be involved in Climate Action Plan Implementation and outreach. Proposal is likely a 3-year temporary position with funding for projects / specific outcomes for the position to achieve (which are contained and measurable). Staff shared a list of projects from the Climate Action Plan that ranked high for priority, cost less than \$25,000 and could be completed in a short period of time (less than 3 years). Commissions expressed support for a position and climate action funding. Discussed possibility of having local colleges/universities be paid to do the work with students. Commissioners will send via email the projects they would like included in the proposal and staff will compile and use to inform the draft proposal.
- Cities Race to Zero recommendation:** Discussion included support because it is already much of what we are doing/have committed to doing and could serve to inspire Council to take more climate action. Commissioner Kohlhaas motions to approve signing on to the Cities Race to Zero. Commissioner Hoffman seconded. Motion carried.

HOW DID I SHOW UP? COMMISSIONER REPORTS:

Commissioner Kohlhaas gave an update on the Valentine Park Garden.

Commissioner Boles participated in his own version of Bike to Work Week titled “Bike Not Work Week”. He also gave an update of the Community Development Advisory Commission’s plan to host a large item pick up event for specific neighborhoods and shared that Trees Forever in partnership with the City and several volunteers were able to plant several trees.

Commissioner Hoffman helped plant trees.

Commissioner Eudaley-Loebach shared that Bike Week participation was good and events were a success. She also asked for volunteers to staff a table at the Sustainability Fair on June 25th from 5 pm – 7 pm. Commissioner Kohlhaas volunteered and others who are interested should let him know. Commissioner Boles said he could help as well.

NEXT MEETING: The next commission meeting will occur on Thursday, July 1, 2021 at 5 pm unless we will not have quorum. A doodle poll will be sent to determine the date. The location of the meeting will be held virtually until further discussion by RCAC.

ADJOURNMENT: The Commission adjourned at 6:49 pm.

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

Prepared by: Gina Bell
Gina Bell, Sustainable Community Coordinator