

City of Dubuque
COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

GOVERNMENTAL BODY: Resilient Community Advisory Commission (RCAC)

DATE: June 23, 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 5:01 pm. Bell confirmed the meeting was in compliance with the Iowa Open Meeting Law.

TEST AGENDA

MINUTES APPROVAL: Commissioner Kennicker motions to approve the June 3, 2021 minutes. Seconded by Commissioner Sanger. Motion carries.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Abby Willis – Green Iowa AmeriCorps; invited commissioners to Sustainability Fair on Friday 6/25

OLD BUSINESS

a) Officer Re-election in August – no discussion, only a reminder.

b) Renew DBQ Solar Pilot Project – Letter of Support was shared with Commission. Commissioner Kohlhaas motions to accept letter of support for the Renew DBQ project and forward to City Council. Commissioner Kennicker seconded. Motion carries.

c) Climate Action Plan (CAP) Implementation – Reports by Commissioners

Commissioner Hoffman reported on tree canopy/green space – He is currently waiting on emails from Parks staff and will share when he has the information.

Commissioner Booth will report on food but was not present at tonight's meeting.

Commissioner Kohlhaas reported on buildings and energy. He had a discussion with Alexis Steger, Housing and Community Development Director and they discussed four areas of help:

- Rental ratings program – done during inspections - energy efficiency scorecard / data collection has started but what / how should we use the data; Steger wants to present to RCAC in future to review trends and determine next steps. Commissioner Kohlhaas asked if there is any transportation information collected such as distance to work/availability of transit and currently they are not collecting this information.

Action: think about what to do with data related to energy efficiency; potentially add locations and walk scores and transportation information commissioners can gather

- Energy savers program – replace heaters and water heaters; programs pay for equipment; owner pays for installation; currently have 50% of funds available; open to landlords with tenants who accept housing vouchers and income eligible homeowners.

Action: get the word out to more folks; Gina will send out link to RCAC

- Siding and roof replacement program – currently expired and want to start again; wonder if intersects with solar plans. Can we link to additional energy savers programs and make solar ready at same time?

Action: research how other cities are modeling solar programs/roof replacements

- Food scarcity program –City wants to do a aquaponics program or other projects to address food insecurity, looking at downtown lots where houses formally stood.
Action: volunteering, data collection, project potential studies; needs input; which location is best?
- Lead Mitigation program: can we link lead program to GHG savings program? It is a resiliency issue!
Action: good ideas to work on lead and climate action (research)

Chair Eudaley-Loebach reported on transportation and land use after a discussion with Engineer Jon Dienst.

- Sidewalk system – Engineering has technology for volunteers to walk and collect data for mapping; including certain separation rates, ada crossing/accessibility; what is feasible to be compliant. They have \$ to pay someone to facilitate mapping and coordinate volunteers and they have criteria.
Action: Inventory of sidewalks using technology and volunteers.
- Bike Routes – marking places people are already biking; some places put a bike on the street sign instead of separate signage. Funding is there to put up signs.
Action: Gather input, identify and propose bike boulevard routes for signage and involve Tri-State Trail Vision and Bike Coop.
- Bike racks – Engineering has funding but needs locations for bike racks.
Action: Research where bike racks don't exist (Parks? Schools? Businesses?) and propose locations for racks.
- Cross Walks – Cross walks are pained and wear easily. City needs a better style of cross walk as the paint used gets scraped off each year. Next option is a plastic that lasts longer. Need to determine areas where a cross walk is needed, or it is worn down; also information is needed about where pedestrian flow and curb bumps would be beneficial/increase safety.
Action: Assess crosswalk needs and existing crosswalks which are worn out and could benefit from longer lasting "paint" – propose list to Engineering.

Commissioners Kennicker and Eudaley-Loebach discussed benefits and weaknesses of bump outs. Commissioner Boles asked if the City knows where the sidewalks are and it was determined that there is no comprehensive plan of sidewalks and the City does not know the status. Commissioner Boles also asked in the City uses traffic cameras technology to count vehicles, pedestrians and bikes. (No.)

Discussion followed on how to move forward with the potential actions included formation of subcommittees to work on shorter term and longer-term items. It was determined four subcommittees will form to meet outside of regular RCAC meeting:

- Bike Rack location: Commissioners Eudaley-Loebach and Hoffman
- Bike Route locations: Commissioners Eudaley-Loebach and Kennicker - will reference the plans that already exists as starting place
- Promote the Energy Savers Program – Commissioners Kohlhaas, Boles and Sanger will share at Sustainability Fair
- Project Bundling for Housing and CD – Commissioners Kohlhaas and Kennicker (with Commissioner Boles's research that he has already done)

d) Implementation Plan Financial Support (position + demonstration projects)

Commissioners discussed proposal, position, and support of proposal. Commissioner Kennicker motioned to recommend creation of this position and proposal support based on previous conversation with City Manager Mike Van Milligen and send a letter to the City Manager explaining the proposal and request. Commissioner Sanger seconded. Motion carries. Chair Eudaley-Loebach will draft letter to City Manager and share with staff.

NEW BUSINESS:

- a) No new business on agenda.

HOW DID I SHOW UP? COMMISSIONER REPORTS:

Commissioner Hoffman is moving his proposal for a sustainability/waste reduction position at UD forward with support from Dubuque Metropolitan Area Solid Waste Agency.

Commissioner Kennicker shared that National Night Out is happening August 3rd at Comiskey Park as well as Hot Dog Night at Holy Trinity on September 14th.

Staff member Bell reminded Commissioners they can attend, free of charge, the Growing Sustainable Communities Conference on October 12-13th at the Grand River Center (and Watershed Symposium on October 11th). If interested, please email Bell and she will give you registration instructions.

NEXT MEETING: The next commission meeting will occur on Thursday, August 5, 2021 at 5 pm. The location of the meeting will be determined but in person with a virtual option.

ADJOURNMENT: The Commission adjourned at 6:22 pm.

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

Prepared by: Gina Bell
Gina Bell, Sustainable Community Coordinator