

City of Dubuque
COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

GOVERNMENTAL BODY: Resilient Community Advisory Commission (RCAC)

DATE: November 4, 2021

TIME: 5:00 pm

LOCATION: Jule Operations and Training Center (JOTC) Circle Conference Room, 949 Kerper Blvd.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Dean Boles, Adam Hoffman, Lalith Jayawickrama, Robin Kennicker, Jake Kohlhaas, Craig Reber, Candace Eudaley-Loebach

MEMBERS ABSENT: Whitney Sanger

STAFF PRESENT: None

Chair Eudaley-Loebach called the meeting to order at 5:03 pm.

TEST AGENDA

Chair Eudaley-Loebach suggests tabling items 6b (CAP Community Engagement Brainstorm) and 7b (RCAC meeting frequency and purpose) as Staff member Gina Bell, who was to lead the brainstorming and purpose activities, could not attend the meeting.

MINUTES APPROVAL: Commissioner Kennicker motions to approve minutes from October 2021. Commissioner Boles seconds. Motion carries.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Members from the audience introduced themselves: Representative Chuck Isenhardt, Josh Chamberland (Stewardship and Sustainability Coordinator at DMASWA/University of Dubuque), Bev Wagner (Environmental Educator at DMASWA/Loras College), Allison Hallihan (Student at University of Dubuque), Allison's boyfriend, and Natalie Holl, Codi Sharkey, Liz Swan, Sam Harris of Green Iowa AmeriCorps.

NEW BUSINESS:

a) CAP and College Discussion –

- A robust discussion occurred with the commissioners and public regarding areas of the Climate Action Plan that might well fit with the goals of the local institutes of higher education. The areas of food waste, tree canopy/cover, solar, transportation/parking, and lighting all were brought up as areas of overlap where a collaborative might be especially useful. In addition, heat islands were discussed as NOAA has a grant that could be used to fund a study. Rules of order were suspended to allow for the audience to offer their knowledge regarding these actions on the campuses of local institutions of higher education. Especially notable was the announcement that representatives of Northeast Iowa Community College, Divine Word College, Wartburg Theological Seminary, Emmaus Bible College, Loras College, Clarke University, University of Dubuque are meeting later this month for the inaugural meeting of the Dubuque College Sustainability Coalition.

b) CAP Community Engagement Brainstorm -- Tabled

OLD BUSINESS

a) Climate Action Plan (CAP) Implementation –

- Reports by Commissioners: Commissioner Kohlhaas shared that Loras students are working with the city on hydroponics projects on some of the city's vacant lots.
- Chair Eudaley-Loebach shared that Loras students finished their tree canopy and park data collection for all the city parks.
- Additionally, she and Jon Dienst (City Engineering Dept.) presented to the Tri-State Trail Vision related to the on-street bike routes and signage project.

- Lastly, she shared information related to a food policy survey open until Nov 15 targeted at three groups: i) Local food producers for themselves or others, ii) People who work with or manage food distribution, and iii) Municipal employees
- Commissioner Hoffman shared that University of Dubuque students and local community members worked with trees forever to plant trees this past month
- The Bike signage letter of support proposed by Chair Eudaley-Loebach was well received. Commissioner Kohlhaas motions to submit letter of support to City Engineering. Commissioner Kennicker seconds. Motion carries.

HOW DID I SHOW UP? COMMISSIONER REPORTS:

Commissioner Kohlhaas shared that his community garden group has had issues getting reimbursed from the Dubuque County Food Policy Council. He also shared that Loras honors students will be doing two projects related to sustainability: i) watershed project led by Kevin Koch and ii) Pollinators and Tree canopy project led by Aditi Sinha.

Commissioner Eudaley-Loebach shared that Mowing to Monarchs is now accepting applications for next year and that they are allowing applicants who are not selected to purchase plants with the group and go through the training and education alongside the awarded applicants. In addition, she reported that the Lincoln Elementary School parent and teacher organization organized a very successful fall event that incorporated sustainability and food elements, specifically Bev Wagner (DMASWA) and her composting worms; ISU Extension potato-themed story walk and a variety of potatoes for sampling. Approximately 300 – 400 people attended the event which was also used as an opportunity to gather neighborhood and family input for the Lincoln Elementary School new playground equipment and community garden, which is partially funded by the Community Development Advisory Commission Grant.

Commissioner Boles shared that he also helped plant trees with Trees Forever. In addition, he pointed out his concern with the decreasing 4-year graduation rates in the Dubuque Community School District with relation to community resiliency and LEED for communities data collection and reporting.

NEXT MEETING: The next commission meeting will occur on Thursday, December 2, 2021, at 5 pm at the Jule Operations and Training Center (JOTC) in the Circle Conference Room, 949 Kerper Blvd.

ADJOURNMENT: The Commission adjourned at 6:56 pm.

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

Prepared by: Adam Hoffman
Adam Hoffman, RCAC Commissioner