

City of Dubuque
COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

GOVERNMENTAL BODY: Resilient Community Advisory Commission (RCAC)

DATE: July 7, 2022

TIME: 5:00 pm

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

MEMBERS PRESENT: Dean Boles, Josh Chamberland, Katharine Connolly, Adam Hoffman, Lalith Jayawickrama, Robin Kennicker, Sandra Evans

MEMBERS ABSENT: none

Jake Kohlhaas (present as guest)

STAFF PRESENT: Gina Bell

Staff member Bell called the meeting to order at 5:05 pm.

TEST AGENDA

OATH OF OFFICE: Sandra Evans

MINUTES APPROVAL: Boles motioned to approve the April and May minutes. Jayawickrama seconded. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

- Paul Schultz – representing Green Dubuque. See attached remarks.
- Doug Cheever, 900 Kelly Lane – See attached remarks addressing plant heights; ReLeaf Cedar Rapids
- Ronald Lindblom, 1846 N. Main Street – ecologist; requests group of citizens to ask city to produce an RFP to ecosystem mapping (to know it and determine impacts from other projects) and to help improve habitat, CO2 sequestration, air and water quality impacts, etc. and then use the maps to help us determine which projects to push forward/determine funding to improve these ecosystems.
- Chuck Isenhart – State Representative shared his work related to 50th Anniversary of the Clean Water Act as well as a joint resolution proposed amendment to the Iowa constitution to give rights to residents to have a clean environment. www.thegenerations.org see attached He also discussed SCOTUS EPA vs. W. Virginia decision and shared information about the Lawns to Legumes program in Minnesota.

NEW BUSINESS:

- a) Complete Streets – Molly Smith gave a presentation about complete streets. She did not find anything about cities with more historical constraints nor why Dubuque can't implement complete streets concepts.
- b) Policy Work for RCAC moving forward: Commissioners agreed this focus is a good use of their time. It was suggested to form sub committees to divide out policies every month review and advise the larger group to then make a recommendation to City Council.

OLD BUSINESS

- a) Trash Tipper Carts Roll Out – Jake Jansen shared about his work and commitment to work on diversion and minimization of waste. He shared about the roll out and the information that will be included. Working with Sustainability to share climate action information and they are working on consistent, educational messaging. Addressing RCAC members questions - customers decide what size they want and public works are asking people if they need a recycling bin or a replacement recycling tipper cart. Ken Miller then shared about diversion efforts at the Dubuque Area Solid Waste Agency (DMASWA). They have diversion data – comingled recycling (community

recycling, not the City residents comingled) and it is increasing. DNR waste sort happening next week which pulls trucks that come into the landfill and audit them. Boles requested when the report is complete. Compiled at state level and specific to area. Additional items addressed include that glass recycling accounts for the increase in diversion, DMASWA pays for electronics to be recycled in Wisconsin and have diverted ~200,000 pounds of electronics, fees help but the program is heavily subsidized by the agency.

b) Complete Streets Updates: Mobility Study contracted, Intern working on complete streets awareness bike ride with Bike Coop, [this map](#)/City Trails team + trailheads in residential areas and update to map
Boles: Is there funding for counting added usage / counters build into these plans or how we measure.

HOW DID I SHOW UP? COMMISSIONER REPORTS:

Commissioner Boles: Community Development Advisory Commission (CDAC) recommended Purchase of Services grants - \$100K – Convivium, Lantern Center, Dream Center, Friends of Fair Housing, Crescent CHC received funding. CDBG – administration is burden; narrow focus on rehab and first-time home buyer efforts and reconsidering how to grant this money. Additionally, he offered that anyone who sits on a commission should be able to go for free to the Growing Sustainable Communities Conference!

Kennicker: Park and Rec – hired 20 new lifeguards with wage increase and training costs. Will continue to recruit; does not want to keep Sutton Pool closed. Working on activating space around pool as well.

Chamberland: summer committee work focused on 3 areas (move in; native plantings, and composting)

Hoffman: county used up well water testing funding – first time they ran out
Citizen water sampling in place working with Soil and Water Conservation District

Jayawickrama: Sri Lanka – 1 month, looked at dumps/garbage and elephants are eating the plastics; some are dying. Elephants are now kept out.

NEXT MEETING: The next commission meeting will occur on Thursday August 4, 2022, at 5 pm at the Jule Operations and Training Center (JOTC) in the Circle Conference Room, 949 Kerper Blvd.

ADJOURNMENT: The Commission adjourned at 7:08 pm.

Minutes approved by: 
Robin Kennicker, Commission Vice Chair

Prepared by: 
Gina Bell, Sustainable Community Coordinator

ATTACHMENTS

Gina Bell

From: Paul Schultz <paul@greendubuque.org>
Sent: Thursday, July 7, 2022 4:16 PM
To: Gina Bell
Subject: [CAUTION: OUTSIDE SENDER] Public Input RCAC 7-7-22

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Gina and RCAC Commissioners:

I cannot attend the in-person RCAC meeting today.

Even if I could, it would hardly be a resilient practice to drive there and back to repeat 3 minutes of Public Input that I have shared over the last year. This is especially true because my hearing loss does not allow me to capture and understand most everything spoken at this in-person meeting without amplification.

(If allowed, please read the following into the record as Public Input from Green Dubuque.)

However, for part of my limited 3 minutes' worth, I suggest some resilient actions that might be worthwhile for Council's Strategic Planning consideration:

1. Establish Resource Management Commission. I cannot think of any actual or potential Dubuque City Commission that needs more soft cultural enforcement, community engagement and community empowerment than Resource Management to achieve the stated Targets in both the Imagine Dubuque 2037 Comp Plan and the Climate Action Plan. "Nothing For Us, Without Us"
2. Codify targeted, measurable, and to be reported outcomes into annual solid waste ordinance updates. Key Council Decisions need to be empowered with transparency and responsibilities and not remain in documents on a shelf inside Public Works or other Departmental "silos".
3. Frequency of civic participation at City Council and Commission meetings has been greatly declining over the last 10 or so years. It is very difficult to connect with and hold meetings among many different demographics in our community. What are the Barriers and how can our community help lower them and regain relevance and trust with all our neighbors? In just looking at the RCAC, I, for one, find a barrier in having no zoom meeting option, and no shared contact information for directly contacting commission members on a concern or idea. I also find a Public Input sharing opportunity of 3 minutes maximum per share to be counterproductive.
4. Our city has too many smaller silos within its larger silos. This undermines and stunts collaboration and empowered synergy. There was, in my opinion, a real sense growing energy of collective progress in moving forward among many city staff, as a COMMUNITY, when we had regular City Green Team Meetings. I do not know of any high performing city without a Green Team. Re-establish a City Green Team.

Thanks for your Consideration,

Paul Schultz
Green Dubuque

Paul

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House of Representatives
State of Iowa
Eighty-Ninth General Assembly
STATEHOUSE
Des Moines, Iowa 50319

COMMITTEES
Environmental Protection
Government Oversight
Local Government
Way and Means
Watershed Planning Council

July 7, 2022

To: Jack Whitver, Chair, Legislative Council
Patrick Grassley, Vice-chair, Legislative Council
Members of the Legislative Council
From: State Rep. Chuck Isenhart
About: Carbon emissions and climate impacts

Dear Majority Leader Whitver, Speaker Grassley and members of the Legislative Council:

In light of the U.S. Supreme Court's decision and opinion in *West Virginia v. EPA*, I urge the Legislative Council to act expeditiously to initiate a process to address the climate impacts and other environmental consequences of carbon emissions in the State of Iowa.

Anticipating that the United States Congress may not act to restore federal authority according to its power under the United States Constitution to regulate interstate commerce, I believe it is imperative for the State of Iowa to act, perhaps in concert with other states that are part of the midcontinent independent operating system (MISO). Such a process should include consultation with the Iowa Utilities Board, Department of Natural Resources, Economic Development Authority, Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship, Department of Health and Human Resources, and Department of Human Rights.

I believe that private sector partners are also willing to come back to the table to assist in this endeavor, as demonstrated by their participation in developing the state's response to 111(d) plan requirements before that process was short-circuited by previous uncertainty at the federal level. An interim committee should also consider state actions to address carbon emissions in the transportation, agricultural and other sectors.

If Congress does act, interim committee consideration of these issues will allow the State of Iowa to be ready and able partners with the federal government. With or without such a partnership, we must determine the policies and appropriate the funding to do Iowa's part to stem and reverse the flood of air emissions that are leading to the catastrophic weather events and other impacts Iowa and the world are facing, along with the increasingly destructive fallout affecting people, human infrastructure and the world's natural wealth.

I thank you for your urgent consideration of and timely response to this petition.

House Joint Resolution 12 - Introduced

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 12
BY ISENHART, STAED,
BROWN-POWERS, STECKMAN,
HUNTER, ANDERSON, and
WINCKLER

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

- 1 A Joint Resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution
- 2 of the State of Iowa relating to the right of the people to a
- 3 clean environment.
- 4 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. The following amendment to the Constitution of
2 the State of Iowa is proposed:

3 Article 1 of the Constitution of the State of Iowa is amended
4 by adding the following new section:

5 Sec. 1B. Right to clean environment. Every person has
6 the right to a clean and healthy environment, including pure
7 water, clean air, ecologically healthy habitats, and the
8 preservation of the natural, scenic, historic, and aesthetic
9 qualities of the environment. The state shall not infringe
10 upon these rights by action or inaction. The state's public
11 natural resources, including its soils, waters, air, flora,
12 fauna, climate, and public lands, are the common property of
13 the people, including both present and future generations. As
14 trustee of these resources, the state shall conserve, maintain,
15 and restore these resources for the health and benefit of all
16 the people. This section and the rights stated herein are
17 self-executing and shall be in addition to any rights conferred
18 by the public trust doctrine or common law.

19 Sec. 2. REFERRAL AND PUBLICATION. The foregoing proposed
20 amendment to the Constitution of the State of Iowa is referred
21 to the general assembly to be chosen at the next general
22 election for members of the general assembly, and shall be
23 published as provided by law for three months previous to the
24 date of that election.

25 EXPLANATION

26 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with
27 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

28 This joint resolution proposes an amendment to the
29 Constitution of the State of Iowa providing that every person
30 has a right to a clean and healthy environment, including
31 pure water, clean air, ecologically healthy habitats, and the
32 preservation of the natural, scenic, historic, and aesthetic
33 qualities of the environment. The state shall not infringe
34 upon these rights by action or inaction. The proposed
35 amendment declares that the state's public natural resources

1 are the common property of the people, including both present
2 and future generations, and that the state, as trustee, shall
3 conserve, maintain, and restore these resources for the health
4 and benefit of all the people. The proposed amendment and
5 the rights stated therein are self-executing and shall be in
6 addition to any rights conferred by the public trust doctrine
7 or common law.

8 The resolution, if adopted, would be published and then
9 referred to the next general assembly (90th) for adoption a
10 second time, before being submitted to the electorate for
11 ratification.

Recommendations to
City of Dubuque Resilient Community Advisory Commission
July 7, 2022

Endorsement and promotion of two actions by the Resilient Community Advisory Commission can help recovery of eco-system, economic, and social benefits provided by native plants.

These two low-cost actions can empower, enable, align, focus, coordinate, and leverage the actions of the City by involving individuals, businesses, institutions, and governmental agencies.

The long-lasting benefits include improved resident and neighborhood health, increased housing values, lower energy and carbon use, more diverse bird and insect life, and better resistance to wind and rainfall damage.

1. Increase the permissible height of plants between the sidewalk and street from 18 to 24 inches.

- Only 10 out of 700 available flowering native plants are under 18 inches in height.
- A 33% increase in height to 24 inches increases the number of available plants by 260% to a total of 36.
- The additional plants include clover, coneflower, wild indigo, coreopsis, lupine, bee balm, and asters.
- Dubuque County's Mowing to Monarchs program can help homeowners design and plant attractive low natives in the extreme conditions of salt, ice, and heat along City streets.
- Mowing to Monarchs currently engages over 100 Dubuque County residents interested in learning how to use more high value native plants in their home landscapes to reverse pollinator and songbird decline.
- Mowing to Monarchs is proving to be an effective tool for educating and empowering individuals to make significant, long-lasting eco-system improvements.

2. Adapt the 120-page plan for *ReLeaf Cedar Rapids* (published February 2022) to Dubuque and begin implementation.

- *ReLeaf Cedar Rapids* has the goal of planting over 600,000 trees in 10 years.
- *ReLeaf* creatively engages individuals, institutions, businesses, and governmental agencies in economically and appropriately planting more trees.
- *ReLeaf* focuses on planting long-lived trees with high eco-system value and good resistance to wind, water, and disease.
- View the plan at this link: TreesForever.org/releaf/

Please contact me when more information is needed.

Doug Cheever, Volunteer: Mowing to Monarchs
900 Kelly Lane
Dubuque, Iowa
563-845-8309

