

City of Dubuque
COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

GOVERNMENTAL BODY: Resilient Community Advisory Commission (RCAC)

DATE: September 1, 2022

TIME: 5:00 pm

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

MEMBERS PRESENT: Dean Boles, Katharine Connolly, Sandra Evans, Adam Hoffman, Robin Kennicker, Jake Kohlhaas

MEMBERS ABSENT: Josh Chamberland, Lalith Jayawickrama

STAFF PRESENT: Gina Bell

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

TEST AGENDA

OATH OF OFFICE: Jacob Kohlhaas

MINUTES APPROVAL: Boles motioned to approve the July minutes. Evans seconded. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

- Doug Cheever, 900 Kelly Lane – See attached remarks – asking for support in policy change and regulation; visual aid of 24 inches for ROW plants. Raising the height of plants doubles the # of plants that are native and climatized. Commissioner Kennicker asked why the ordinance is 18 inches. Cheever explained that prior to the ordinance, only grass was allowed, and he worked to update the ordinance. Has there been positive or negative feedback? No. Mostly it just looks nice. Mowing to Monarchs has great feedback. Endangered species has been reported sightings.
- Jim Herrig, his item is visionary. Matches the city's vision – broad vision with accelerated implementation. Significant impact for the community. Aggressive proposal – losing trees and canopy with problems on the horizon for various trees. Our "plant citizens" aka trees improve equity, livability. Ask: 10-fold increase at the rate we plant trees in the community. 229 trees (from City Focus last year) were planted. If we pride ourselves on sustainability and resiliency, we need to be better at planting trees. ReLeaf from Cedar Rapids is a plan, and we need to use the roadmap. Look to CAP, shared prosperity, flood control, community livability, public interaction via commissions. Several reasons offered as to why trees are the answer – economic development, heat island effect, energy burden. City needs to PPP- public and private participation plan to motivate different sectors of the community to work together to plant more trees. Looking for an endorsement to explore this with city departments. SMART goals. Doesn't need big budget.

NEW BUSINESS:

- a) Letter to other Commissioners: re: cross rep – proposed that we can write the letter first and then if not, change our by-laws. Commissioner Hoffman will draft the letter.

Kennicker motions, Connolly seconds. Hoffman will draft and send for approval. Motions carries.

OLD BUSINESS

- a) 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.

Commissioners agree to flag “easy wins” and update definitions.

- solar ready standards (is it rehab or just new build)?
- Complete streets
- Combine 5 solid waste areas of construction material diversion
- urban agriculture
- greenspace and tree canopy

Commission also noted that some actions are preempted: energy code; plastic bags.

Boles noted that city buildings are missing from this and asked what is regulating the city? How are we leading by example? During reconstruction can we hold ourselves to these standards? Are we diverting waste? Can we build it into our contracts? Work with Tony Breitbart. No specific suggestions – just a lot to consider.

HOW DID I SHOW UP? COMMISSIONER REPORTS:

Commissioner Boles: Community Development Advisory Commission (CDAC) - no specifics; Community Foundation and TH doing equity profile – looking at specific pillars (housing, economic mobility, etc.) and disparities. Proposes we try to get CAP as a part of the conversation. Can we pick one piece of data for each pillar related to CAP?

Kennicker: Park and Rec – trees and more tree plantings; partnering with Trees Forever; looking for more funding; need to remove stumps and Chaplin Schmidt Island plans are in the works.

NEXT MEETING: The next commission meeting will occur on October 6, 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 6:39 pm.

Minutes approved by: 
Jacob Kohlhaas, Commission Chair

Prepared by: 
Gina Bell, Sustainable Community Coordinator

ATTACHMENTS