

CITY OF DUBUQUE - COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

GOVERNMENTAL BODY: Resilient Community Advisory Commission (RCAC)

DATE: October 6, 2022

TIME: 5:00 pm

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

MEMBERS PRESENT: Dean Boles, Josh Chamberland, Lalith Jayawickrama, Adam Hoffman, Jake Kohlhaas

MEMBERS ABSENT: Katharine Connolly, Sandra Evans, Robin Kennicker

STAFF PRESENT: Gina Bell and Amanda Lewis

Chair Kohlhaas called the meeting to order at 5:13 pm.

TEST AGENDA

OATH OF OFFICE: Joshua Chamberland

MINUTES APPROVAL: Boles motioned to approve the September minutes. Hoffman seconded. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

- Jackie Kerr, 1008 Victoria – volunteer master gardener and Dubuque Co. Conservation board member. Has participated in Mowing to Monarchs program for 3 years. Program funded by DC Conservation Board and partnered with Master Gardeners. Many pocket prairies are primarily located in Dubuque. Reduce water use, carbon impact, keeping leaves for compost. Growing group of homeowners are growing these and want them legally (parkways / ROW need to be addressed. Low maintenance plants in these spaces. Seeing benefits already. Endangered species spotting (rusty patch bumblebees). Want to partner to continue with RCAC. Grateful for consideration to increase plant height.
- Doug Cheever, 900 Kelly Lane – repping Jim Herrig; ReLeaf Plan from Cedar Rapids, there is a financing portion through carbon credits. Want to explore with Cedar Rapids how we can make this happen in Dubuque. CR has committed to 188 trees per day. Lots of innovation in the plan.
- Ken Miller – Dubuque Metro Area Solid Waste Agency has a plan to replace 500 trees and can be offsite 5-year objective (100 trees per year).

NEW BUSINESS:

a) Policy Work for RCAC moving forward: dividing them up 2 at a time for the next 2 months.

Plant Height: Per last month's discussion, small typo fixed; Boles motions to approve the letter, with suggested change and including example pictures and forward to CC. Chamberland seconds. Motion carries.

Trees and Greenspace: There was a discussion of Urban Agriculture as it relates to hooves, hens, beekeeping, and front yard gardens including chicken and ducks for eggs, goats, sheep, turkey. There are many possibilities as well as concerns such as noise.

RCAC will work in subcommittees/individually to address:

- What is already permitted?
- If something isn't prohibited – should we try to protect it?
- What are example policies?
- Who should we include in the discussion; and
- what additional information do we need?

Urban Agriculture – animal expansion: Chamberland
Front yard gardens/garden use: Hoffman
No Mow May/native plants/Lawn Maintenance and weeds: Kohlhaas

Additional discussion included the City's tree policy. Should we catch up the canopy after so much loss due to Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) vs. exceeding/improving; look to Cedar Rapids ReLeaf – need to assess where we're at. City Staff can offer data (Invite: Parks/Trees – Steve F. or City Forester) update on trees/status of canopy.

- b) Sustainable Dubuque Grants: Concern on the animal welfare for chicken purchases; ethics – need to know vet; how to over winter; etc. Kohlhaas motions to accept recommendation but lessen grant amount by \$200 for chicken purchases from the Washington Garden application; strongly encourage an animal welfare maintenance policy. Jayawickrama seconds. Motion carries with amendment.

OLD BUSINESS

- a) Letter to other Commissioners: re: cross rep – Boles motions to approve the letter and thank Adam, with the amendment of Commissioner Kohlhaas's title from President to Chair. Chamberland seconds. Motion carries.

HOW DID I SHOW UP? COMMISSIONER REPORTS:

Commissioner Boles: Trees Forever is planting at Allison Henderson Park and citywide the next two weekends and needs volunteers.

Commissioner Hoffman: Iowa County Conservation Conference – shared about public/private partnerships and water quality.

Jayawickrama: concerned with selling of soccer field as a loss of greenspace and open space for development.

Boles: We should consider valentine park which is owned by school district and leased to city and RCAC could recommend to city that city has first right of refusal or match any highest offer. He also shared the Community Development Advisory Commission (CDAC) is funding Lincoln School, which is redoing their playground.

Kohlhaas: clearing for pocket prairies; putting compost to over winter and then will plant in spring
City has 6 maps for bike trails and 2 recommended routes for future and none of them agree. And the Strava map doesn't match any of the proposed routes. Hopefully they will have something to turn in by December. (INVITE Nikki)

Chamberland: UD, Emmaus, Capri, Loras and NICC – 4 pocket prairies and 1 meadow. Prepping site and then start installing prairies. GIA Sustainable Schools – 11-month positions, reduced full time – the coalition has 2 spots.

NEXT MEETING: The next commission meeting will occur on December 1, 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