

CITY OF DUBUQUE - COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

GOVERNMENTAL BODY: Resilient Community Advisory Commission (RCAC)

DATE: April 6, 2023

TIME: 5:00 pm

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

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Steven Drahozal, Robin Kennicker (for first half of meeting)

STAFF PRESENT: Amanda Lewis

Chair Kohlhaas called the meeting to order at 5:02 pm.

TEST AGENDA

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

PUBLIC COMMENT:

NEW BUSINESS

- a) Grant Recommendation to City Council for March 2030 Sustainable Dubuque Grant
 - a. Chamberland and Connolly discussed grant recommendation – decision to fund all grant application partially except for the for profit applicant. Modified awards for Nova Elite Basketball to fund scholarship for students. Modified award for St. Mark Youth Enrichment to fund enrichment activities. Modified award for Centrally Rooted to fund some music equipment. Motion to approve by Hoffman, seconded by Boles. Motion carried.
- b) Nikki Rosemeyer- City's GIS Coordinator – Dubuque Tree canopy
 - a. Rosemeyer gave presentation that involved looking and discussing many different styles of maps. GIS (Geographic Information Systems) maps location and information to provide analysis. The City of Dubuque has been using GIS since 1990s. Rosemeyer showed maps containing Emerald Ash Borer trees on City property. There is no data available for trees that are in residents' yards or private property. Another map showed where ash trees have been removed and where sidewalks have either been impacted or not. Many City departments have access to GIS and are able to update what happens with ash trees. Rosemeyer created a new application for tree planting. ESRI (the overseeing licensing partner of GIS) has a tree management solution and is the goal to have Leisure Services use this application moving forward to monitor tree management, noting that there are currently only three employees in Leisure Services that do this kind of work and have many other responsibilities. Currently, there is not a number indicating how many trees are in Dubuque. Using other data information, maps can be created to show a topographical map. Maps can also be made using 3D models and can color code height, width, and density of trees. Tree canopy inventory is not yet completed, but it has been started (Rosemeyer showed example of Bunker Hill). Through using GIS, maps will be made only showing data points that have height. This map will be used to compare existing trees (data is collected every 10 years because it is done for the entire state) and where have trees been removed. The final result will have all buildings removed and each pixelated point will show the density of points and consistency of heights to demonstrate The City of Dubuque and Dubuque Trees Forever are planting trees. If someone plants a tree in their yard, they can also enter their own data. By collecting minimal information about the tree (example, tree type), GIS can make projections about how large the tree will be and how large the canopy cover will be. Entire tree canopy will probably be completed in the next month. Species diversity is also very important.

Question: For what purpose is the topographical map used for?

Answer: For consultants to get the most amount of information possible. Can be used for understanding crop areas, land cover, topography, etc.

Question: Is it possible to do a thermal graph to see differences in temperature?

Answer: it might be possible with a drone, but haven't looked into it.

Concern: Downtown Dubuque does not have many trees and Main Street used to have trees, but berry trees were planted instead, which has not gone over well due to the fruit dropping.

Response: One additional concern was related to equity and where trees are planted to create more tree canopy coverage (we currently do not have that measurement yet) because we know that there are connections between having good tree canopy and good neighborhoods.

Question: Is data available online?

Answer: Yes, there are some public facing data sites available. Rosemeyer will try to make her information public (maybe via a story map), but she is an office of one person and it might take a while.

Question: If we want more tree canopy, what needs to be measured? Is a comparison able to be made for 2008 and 2018?

Answer: Area and density are the most useful things to measure. Yes, we can compare the information as well as a projection of City tree growth.

Discussion: Share Boles information about tree canopy company with Rosemeyer and she can look and see if that is something her department would be interested in.

- c) Mary Rose Corrigan – Public Health Specialist- Discussion of written response
 - The response didn't clarify much, but Kohlhaas suggested moving forward with submitting clarification to Ben Pothoff.
 - Is Iowa law silent on these issues? Kohlhaas said he didn't think there was any Iowa law.
 - A lot of the ordinances seem to be up to interpretation, and it was suggested to create a living document that can be changed.
 - What would next steps be?
 - o Subcommittee to come up with final draft of language to bring to RCAC for approval and then submit to Pothoff.
 - What does to run at large mean? Assumption is that the animals escape from yard.
 - Recommended to include proposing safe enclosures for animals.
- d) Grass/Weeds/Noxious Weeds and Overspray – Subcommittee creation
 - Evans, Chamberland, Connolly
 - Suggestion to focus on City owned property with expansive lawns

OLD BUSINESS

Policy Work - Review ordinances and policies as they relate to Climate Action Plan and determine subcommittees and where to focus plant height, urban agriculture, and tree canopy.

HOW DID I SHOW UP? COMMISSIONER REPORTS:

- Kohlhaas – Community Garden at Valentine Park is at capacity for garden plots. School district owns some of the property and City owns some of the property (the community garden is on the City owned property)
- Boles – From Community Development Advisory Commission: discussed budget, which included first time

homeowner grants, homeowners getting grants to improve their houses, grants for LMI residents for recreational programs or do other things like rent gazebos. Also discussed Lincoln School receiving a grant to improve their playground.

- Chamberland – Hosting community wide action festival at the Loras Campus on April 18 from 5-8pm. Food trucks will be there. Theme is sustainability and local agriculture. Noticed lack of recycling facilities at Five Flags and suggested City puts recycling in a contract for the next management company of Five Flags.
- Kennicker – From Parks and Rec Commission – Many plans, including refurbishing restrooms at Eagle Point Park, more handicap accessibility, name change for Pyatigorsk Park meeting to hear residents' suggestions.

NEXT MEETING: The next commission meeting will occur on May 4, 2023, at 5 pm at the Jule Operations and Training Center (JOTC) in the Circle Conference Room, 949 Kerper Blvd.

ADJOURNMENT: The Commission adjourned at 6:25 pm.

Minutes approved by: 
Jacob Kohlhaas, Commission Chair

Prepared by: 
Amanda Lewis, Climate Action Coordinator

