

CITY OF DUBUQUE - COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

GOVERNMENTAL BODY: Resilient Community Advisory Commission (RCAC)

DATE: November 2, 2023

TIME: 5:00 pm

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

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Josh Chamberland

STAFF PRESENT: Amanda Lewis

Commissioner Kohlhaas called the meeting to order at 5:01pm.

TEST AGENDA

MINUTES APPROVAL: Kennicker motioned to approve the October minutes. Boles seconded. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Paul Schultz: 1040 Carmel Drive

- Attended DMASWA meeting and board approved 5-year strategic plan, but there was no public process to give input. Wants to see the implementation of a 10-year solid waste management plan based on Imagine Dubuque 2037 Plan and Climate Action Plan. Would like to see additional opportunities for public input/public meetings at DMASWA meetings.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Bike Route Signage Update – Next steps with Engineering/Steve Sampson Brown

Jon Dienst and Steve Sampson Brown – Engineering Department

- Smart Parking and Mobility Plan: Move DBQ where all information will be posted. Speed is a significant contributor to deaths on roadways and particularly hazardous to pedestrians and impacts comfort level for cyclists. Want to design a low-stress bike network where people of all ages and experience levels can feel comfortable riding.
- Bike Lane Design Standards: Via National Association of City Transportation Officials (NACTO) bikeway design guides, discussed different bike lane designs including shared street/boulevards (with signage), on street bike lanes, and separated bike lanes.
- Connecting Downtown Destinations Project: Designing bike lanes so they go to a destination where someone wants to go rather than install bike lanes that don't go anywhere, which relates to ECIA plan.
- Bike Lane Pilot: During education and public engagement sessions, question about cycling comfort was posed in relation for an east/west street. Most people felt comfortable on 9th and 10th street. Engineering Department conducted traffic data and speed studies and there is potential for a bike lane on 9th to go east bound and 10th to go west bound. Showed examples of potential bike lanes in relation to existing streets.
- Bike & Pedestrian Safety Campaign: Planning a bike and road safety public education campaign in the spring. Campaign will focus on cars, pedestrians, and cyclists, shared use trails, expectations about bike signage, etc. and collaborate with the police department to increase awareness.
- Regional Bike & Ped Plan – Signage for Bike Routes: ECIA study did not determine where it was safe to integrate cyclists with motorists, so some areas need further traffic studies. It is possible

to examine streets that are already suitable for bike lanes to get signs in sooner, but better to wait for a more overall plan with other street projects in progress. Asking for more time to work on public safety campaign in the spring and understand that there is progress being made and engagement with businesses. There are also new national standards that will be coming out that will include promotion of the safety, inclusion, and mobility of all users.

- Additional Information: The Engineering Department is looking at one way to two-way traffic on White Street to get people comfortable walking, which is better for businesses. The preference for bike lanes is to have buffered, dedicated bike lanes. Pavement parking and signage will be included to clearly mark bike lanes/boulevards, especially for people who are from out of town. Bike lanes can be singular on different streets, like having a split on Locust and Bluff with one lane on each street going in different directions. This would leave room for angled parking and a bike lane with one lane of traffic (as these streets have less traffic than Grandview, which is only one lane of traffic).

Question: Many students don't pay attention when they are crossing streets – will education be done in the schools?

Answer: Yes, there is an opportunity for education in the schools. There are also additional resources through the Bicycle Coalition that gets involved with education – for both cyclists and motorists.

Question: Are there statistics on who is walking and riding cyclists?

Answer: Can get data from the US community census survey, which gives percentages of cyclists and walkers. Also have cameras in Dubuque where City can obtain counts of pedestrians, cyclists, and cars. Dubuque doesn't buy data to track where people are cycling and walking.

2. Deron Muering- Stormwater discussion

NPDES MS4 permit

- City's permit expires at the end of 2024. The City will work with Iowa DNR to modify a permit that makes sense for Dubuque. To apply for the MS4 permit, public education & outreach, volunteer opportunities, and public participation & involvement is needed. Seeking commission's input on what makes sense in terms of commission's role going forward as it relates to public engagement.

Question: When are green alleys on the north end going to be put in?

Answer: always looking at grants and there are three alleys under design. Using SRF sponsorship to install them – allows some of what you'd pay in interest and put some of the money into other projects. Looking at slowly adding funding in capital budget.

Question: What happens with snow melt and how does it impact storm water?

Answer: Inspections happen at sites in the City and measures chloride samples – it is monitored to determine where chloride is coming from in relation to salt accumulation from snow melt.

Question: Have you approached Catfish creek Management watershed authority?

Answer: Have not approached them yet and are partners with Dubuque Watershed committee.

Follow up: Steve will ask Catfish Creek Watershed chair about having joint meetings with the Catfish Creek Watershed.

3. Discussion/Review of Waste Reduction Report and Solid Wastes Plan support discussion

Connolly motioned to draft a letter to city council for a solid waste plan in coordination with DMSAW and include public input and public meetings. Kennicker seconded. Boles will draft a letter. Motion carried.

4. Education and graduation rates discussion and support ideas (Goal setting/SD grants)

Determine what is role in our relation to education. Boles has presented in the past about education and education relates to resiliency, but it is difficult to leverage educational efforts. Sustainability grants do say they need an educational component.

Education depends on state funding and school board, but graduation rates impact City and employment rates. NICC has programs to support students that are funded by the City and offer GED classes.

Question: Has there been any organization about why the graduation rate is low?

Answer: Boles has been unsuccessful communicating with the school district to determine causes.

Next step: Evans motioned to create an education subcommittee to increase the graduation rate in relation to resiliency. Hoffmann seconded. Motion carried. Boles, Hoffmann, Kennicker, and Drahozal volunteered to join subcommittee.

OLD BUSINESS

- 1. Policy Work** – Review ordinances and policies as they relate to Climate Action Plan and determine subcommittees and where to focus plane height, urban agriculture, and tree canopy.
 - a. Reports from Commissioners regarding Climate Action Plan (CAP) activities:
Urban agriculture policy and paring recycling and trash containers has been moved through various city departments. They will both be reporting back in December.

HOW DID I SHOW UP? COMMISSIONER REPORTS:

Kohlhaas mentioned Sustainable Colleges Coalition is hosting an eco-trivia event next Thursday for college students (and anyone else is welcome) at Backpocket.

Motion to adjourn by all.

NEXT MEETING: The next commission meeting will occur on December 7, 2023, at 5pm at the Jule Operations and Training Center (JOTC) in the Circle Conference Room, 949 Kerper Blvd.

ADJOURNMENT: The Commission adjourned at 6:47pm.

Minutes approved by: 

Jacob Kohlhaas, Commission Chair

Prepared by: _____ e/Amanda L. Lewis _____
Amanda Lewis, Climate Action Coordinator