

CITY OF DUBUQUE - COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

GOVERNMENTAL BODY: Resilient Community Advisory Commission (RCAC)

DATE: 4/4/2024

TIME: 5:00 pm

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

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Adam Hoffman

STAFF PRESENT: Gina Bell

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

TEST AGENDA

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

PUBLIC COMMENT:

NEW BUSINESS

1. Sustainable Dubuque Grant Recommendation

Motion: Kennicker

No second because it was from a committee.

Motion carries.

2. Greener Electricity Generation

Gina will invite Alliant Energy as a part of her work session (which she will schedule) to discuss Alliant's Clean Energy Vision per Dean's recommendation.

Dean Boles shared his findings from the ghg inventory. Primarily, the emission factor and Alliant's efforts to improve the emissions factor has led to greatest decrease in ghg.

In discussing next steps, Commissioner Boles had a list of suggestions but would like someone to fact check his work. However, upon further discussion, timing and cost, Commissioner Boles requested an agenda item pertaining to sharing the information with the city council for the next meeting. He will bring a proposal to the RCAC to send to the City Council.

In discussing additional actionable steps, Commissioner Chamberland suggested updating the city code to improve energy efficiency. Discussion related to preemption and energy code ensued, however mention of tax credits and rebate opportunities in the Inflation Reduction Act were also discussed and one effort could be to help educate residents on the tax credits available to them. As a follow up, Commissioner Chamberland requested encouraging city council to speak with our state leaders on the matter.

3. Budget Hearings Update

Final budget hearing has been moved from April 11, 2024 to April 15, 2024.

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. (Reports from Commissioners regarding Climate Action Plan (CAP) activities)
 - a. **Urban Agriculture Guide** - Final version coming soon. Commissioner Chamberland will email the final version and commission will pass along to the City Council with a recommendation letter.
 - b. **Bike Signage**: Add Jason Duba to future agenda for an update on bike signs and mobility (bikes may use full lanes/routes) + potentially Arielle Swift in Public Works.

HOW DID I SHOW UP? COMMISSIONER REPORTS:

CDAC: POS Grants distributed \$100K and heard from grant recipients in a round robin style of reporting how they used the funding. Grants ranged from \$10,000-\$25,000.

Parks and Rec Commission: several parks are going through redesign. Parks are selling ads along fences, and it is very successful.

Lalith spent a month in Sri Lanka and got funded to continue studying waste created by hotels adjacent to national park and elephants are scavenging the trash. Lalith is studying microplastics in elephant dung. They are eating whole bags of trash. He is studying the gut bacteria found, extracting the DNA from the dung (to get around regulations).

Staff Update: policy review from CAP – Jessica will send an email explaining her methodology. Commissioners are encouraged to attend the IISC Report and Celebration on May 2, 2024.

NEXT MEETING: The next commission meeting will occur on June 6, 2024, at 5pm at the Jule Operations and Training Center (JOTC) in the Circle Conference Room, 949 Kerper Blvd.

ADJOURNMENT: The Commission adjourned at 6:33 pm.

Minutes approved by: _____

Jacob Kohlhaas, Commission Chair

Prepared by: _____

Gina Bell, Director of Sustainability