

CITY OF DUBUQUE - COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

GOVERNMENTAL BODY: Resilient Community Advisory Commission (RCAC)

DATE: 7/11/2024

TIME: 5:00 pm

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

MEMBERS PRESENT: Josh Chamberland, Jake Kohlhaas, Robin Kennicker, Lalith Jayawickrama, Sandra Evans

MEMBERS ABSENT: Steven Drahozal, Dean Boles

STAFF PRESENT: Gina Bell

Chair Kohlhaas called the meeting to order at 5:06 pm.

TEST AGENDA

MINUTES APPROVAL: Kennicker motioned to approve the April minutes. Chamberland seconded. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT: N/A

NEW BUSINESS

1. Policy Work for FY25

- a. Strategy numbers from the CAP that align with the top words in the word cloud: BE4-A-1, TL1-B-1, SW1-A-3, F1-A-1, F2-A-4, GS2-A-1, GS3-A-3
- b. The planning dept is updating a unified development code, helpful if this commission made it known they want to be a part of the update to further climate action plan & implementation.
 - i. Is there anything in the development code that prevents developers from cutting down/razing greenery before starting to develop?
 - ii. Will the city be better stewards of the land if they oversee development (specifically mention buying out the low/moderate income housing project)
 - iii. RFP already completed
 - iv. Follow up to know who the proposed consultant is, then we can go to city council with our needs
- c. Strategies that the commission has been working on: BE2-D-1 (not happening anymore), BE4-A-1, community garden, C1-B-2
- d. We need to somehow assess how far we have gotten with each of these strategies. Showing that there has been progress might be helpful when we are advising city council. Gina tracks it in "achieve it" --> Michelle will eventually take over this with the implementation spreadsheet.

2. Goal Setting Worksheet

- a. Goals that Commissioner Chamberland mentioned, and discussion ensued.
 - i. RCAC participates in the unified development code process, commission will choose high priority goals to add in this new unified development code.
 - ii. Urban Ag/Green Space --> needs a letter from RCAC to the City Council
 - iii. Construction waste and recycling
 - iv. Colleges and bikes
 - v. Checking in with past goals

- b. Ideal practices handout --> "If you want to back away from a manicured lawn, you can do XYZ". Not a mandate, but a resource
- c. Renewable energy and mobility have momentum and funding sources
- d. Setting a science-based target for greenhouse gas reduction
- e. The letter to council represents the goals that we set for this commission
- f. Final goals for the commission/ goals to get to city council
 - i. Unified development code
 - ii. Green space
 - iii. Renewable energy
 - iv. Waste
 - v. GHG review - Science based target
 - vi. Permanent funding for CAC position
- g. Three specific requests to make clear for City Council
 - i. Unified development code participation
 - ii. GHG review – Science based target
 - iii. Permanent funding for CAC position
- h. Motion for areas to focus on
 - i. Renewable energy
 - ii. Green space
 - iii. Mobility
 - iv. Waste

3. YCAF Update

In progress, still need more youth to submit ideas.

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** - The plan was to send this to council with a request for adoption. Josh will write the letter by July 22th and get it to Gina so she can get it on Council agenda.
 - b. Garden tour happening in 2025
 - i. Two dates – end of April/beginning of May and mid July
 - ii. No charge, but possible donation based and then the donations could be used to send to a non- profit
 - iii. Have an educational component at every site --> expert on organic gardening or natural remedies, composting, native flowers, etc
 - iv. Still thinking about some tour location options – open to suggestions
 - 1. Sandra's yard
 - 2. Would like to get a business that would be a good site for a tour
 - 3. River museum
 - 4. Community garden could also be a good tour
 - 5. Reaching out to mowing to monarchs to see what businesses they've worked with
 - 6. Gina's yard
 - v. Table discussion on garden tour subcommittee

c. Bike Signage - no update

HOW DID I SHOW UP? COMMISSIONER REPORTS:

- Lalith: Gave initial seed money for a free little library in Sri Lanka

NEXT MEETING: The next commission meeting will occur on August 1, 2024, at 5pm at the Jule Operations and Training Center (JOTC) in the Circle Conference Room, 949 Kerper Blvd.

ADJOURNMENT: The Commission adjourned at 6:52 pm.

Minutes approved by: 
Jacob Kohlhaas, Commission Chair

Prepared by: 
Gina Bell, Director of Sustainability

