

CITY OF DUBUQUE - COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

GOVERNMENTAL BODY: Resilient Community Advisory Commission (RCAC)

DATE: 9/05/2024

TIME: 5:00 pm

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

MEMBERS PRESENT: Josh Chamberland, Jake Kohlhaas, Dean Boles, Sandra Evans, Lalith Jayawickrama, Robin Kennicker (late, arrived at 5:38pm)

MEMBERS ABSENT: N/A

STAFF PRESENT: Gina Bell , Michelle Kim

Chair Kohlhaas called the meeting to order at 5:07pm

TEST AGENDA

MINUTES APPROVAL: Evans motioned to approve the August minutes. Boles seconded. Motion carried. Jayawickrama abstained

PUBLIC COMMENT: N/A

NEW BUSINESS

- Unified Development Code Update by Sheena Moon
 - Planning staff met with consultant (Camiros) on Sept 3, 2024 to make sure the City and the consultants were on the same page. This meeting's purpose was to Identify who are the key stakeholders, what info the consultant needs, share the Climate Action Plan, share the Imagine Dubuque plan,
 - Striking a balance between promoting development and holistic city interests
 - Stakeholder engagement is key
 - Community engagement, technical advisory committee, developers round table, city boards, city commissions, and committees (Long Range planning advisory committee, Zoning board of adjustment, housing commission, resilient community advisory commission, development review)
 - Parking is going to be a huge discussion, especially when it comes to sustainability
- Dubuque colleges Sustainability coalition update by Ashley Noonan
 - It's a collection of 7 area colleges who are all coming together and working on issues of sustainability.
 - Strong focus on economic benefits and funding of sustainability measures
 - Looking at capacity constraints that make sustainable measures difficult
 - Partnering with community groups and making sure that there is an feasible way to follow through with sustainable measures after the sustainable colleges coalition gives a donation or etc.

- They have been doing a lot of info sharing between the stakeholders. What's working and what isn't?
- How are people addressing barriers within their institutional structure
- At UD there are a couple of pilot efforts and have been info sharing with the other colleges
 - Two students are doing waste research, waste education, assessing the flow of waste through the institution
 - How do we minimize our waste?
- Using EnergyStar – metering is weird! Asking questions and digging to understand why things are the way they are
- Sept 19th à International Day of Peace
- Oct 2nd à Waste panel at Clark University: starting conversations around food waste. How do we know our recycling and compost programs are effective? How do we continue to assess and measure that. Talking more about hard to recycle materials.
- Oct 7th-9th à Iowa waste and recycling conference
- Emmaus, NICC, Loras colleges have some native vegetation gardens that could possibly be good to do pesticide free garden tours in.
- Sustainability staff will be working on our budget request
 - Permanency for Michelle's position
 - Does the commission have anything that they want us to consider?
 - Street maintenance, Chaplain Schmitt development, parks maintenance à is there a way that the Office of Sustainability can support these priorities? There seems to be so many missed opportunities for small sustainable changes. Thinking holistically about street maintenance.
 - The commission might have interest in some of these goals if the commission understood the details a little more
 - Sustainability staff are being realistic about what they have capacity to take on
- SD Grant Subcommittee
 - Gina will send out the applications and the rubric to the subcommittee 9/16
 - Robyn, Jake, and Sandra are willing to be on the subcommittee
- State & Federal Legislative Priorities
 - Net metering is going away in Illinois, it's expected that that's going to come back to Iowa. We need to flag this. Solar companies are worried about this as well
 - What are you seeing at the state level that we want to advocate for?
 - Adopting a more robust energy code than 2012
 - Using solar farms as an opportunity to plant natives for pollinators
 - Water sense all buildings, but this needs to start with the city. City needs to start these things in city buildings and then show data on how much \$ is saved
 - We will leave this on the agenda for future discussions

OLD BUSINESS

- a. Urban Ag Guide
 - a. Josh wrote the letter to city council supporting the additions to the urban ag guide
 - b. Commission did some minor edits on the letter

HOW DID I SHOW UP? COMMISSIONER REPORTS:

Dean: Community development advisory commission had a public meeting for the consolidated action plan report

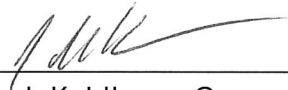
Robin: Parks and recs commission had tours of some pools, these pools need maintenance or to be replaced. There's a lot of discussion for a new aquatic center, possibly need to be put in the North end

Lalith: Sponsored a free community library in his home country with hopes to propagate this to other areas.

Josh: Met with City Councilman David Resnick, continues to advocate for City Council and Mayor to meet with RCAC.

NEXT MEETING: The next commission meeting will occur on October 3, 2024, at 5pm at the Jule Operations and Training Center (JOTC) in the Circle Conference Room, 949 Kerper Blvd.

ADJOURNMENT: The Commission adjourned at 6:38 pm.

Minutes approved by: 
Jacob Kohlhaas, Commission Chair

Prepared by: 
Michelle Kim, Climate Action Coordinator

