

CITY OF DUBUQUE - COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

GOVERNMENTAL BODY: Resilient Community Advisory Commission (RCAC)

DATE: 01/09/2025

TIME: 5:00 pm

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

MEMBERS PRESENT: Dean Boles, Lalith Jayawickrama, Robin Kennicker, Nolan Bielinski, Rachel Boeke, Sandra Evans, and Dave McDermott

MEMBERS ABSENT: Jake Kohlhaas (excused)

STAFF PRESENT: Gina Bell and Michelle Kim

Robin Kennicker called the meeting to order at 5:03pm

TEST AGENDA

OATH OF OFFICE: Dave McDermott is sworn in as a commissioner

MINUTES APPROVAL:

Boles motioned to approve the November minutes. Evans seconded. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Rick Dickinson was present to answer questions about business and possible needs with businesses in the community regarding sustainability

NEW BUSINESS

1. Sustainability Office annual report
 - a. BODI contract amendment – A suggestion was made that we could make another amendment to the contract, so it allows landlords who accept housing vouchers to be eligible for a free tree as well
 - b. There were concerns about the paint on the bike lane – paint lines were unclear and potentially unsafe where both cars and bikes are riding on 10th street
 - c. What's next regarding GHG reductions in the city? What is the next big push that reduces emissions?
 - i. What can we do to green the grid?
 - ii. What can we do to use less gas?
2. Themes/ideas from community input + workplan
 - a. Waste management and composting education
 - b. Renewable energy and energy efficiency
 - c. Unified development code and sustainable urban planning
 - d. Invasive deer control outreach and education is not under the charge of RCAC
 - e. Sustainable clothing swap
 - f. Workplan
 - i. Subcommittee for urban agriculture/pesticide free green space

1. Figuring out what education component is needed to push these initiatives
2. Possible tours of pesticide free gardens – possibly a pesticide-free city park in Dubuque
3. The idea is to show people the examples of a pesticide-free space

- ii. Subcommittee for GHG reductions

- g. Commission should think about the qualifications of sustainable measures on land that the City leases out for agriculture because its hard to justify denials on pitched ideas from potential leasers.

OLD BUSINESS

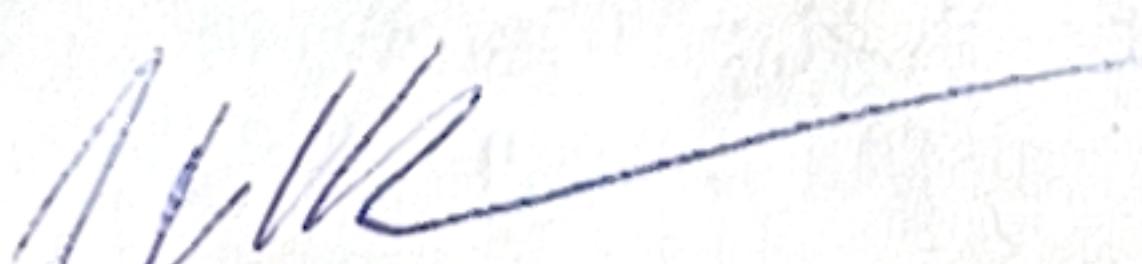
N/A

COMMISSIONER REPORTS: How Did I Show Up?

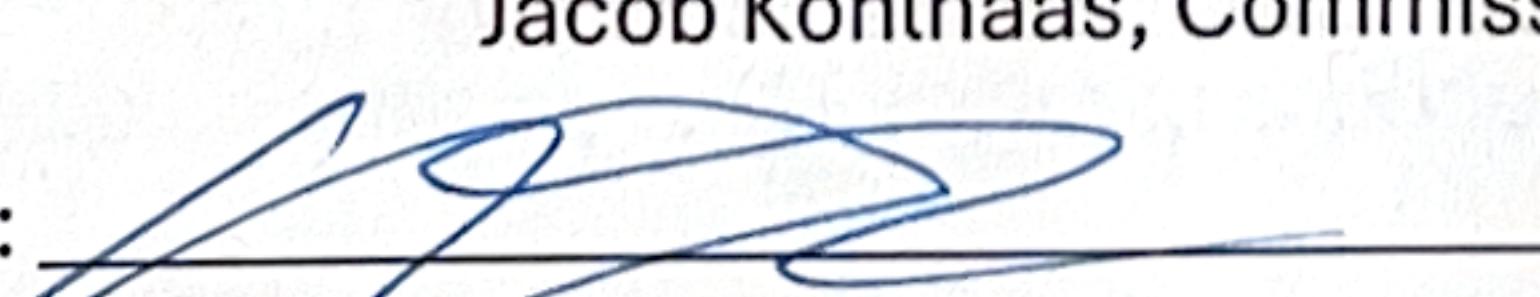
- Robin Kennicker is on the Parks and Rec commission, and they are working on the Master Plan for the department
- Dean Boles is on the Community Development Advisory Commission, and they are supporting the Housing Department on their analysis of barriers of being housed in the City
- Rachel Boeke with the Dubuque Rescue Mission was awarded a grant from DMASWA to start a “repair center” for community members to drop off any broken item to have it fixed by a volunteer

NEXT MEETING DATE: The next commission meeting will occur on February 6, 2025, at 5pm at the Jule Operations and Training Center (JOTC) in the Circle Conference Room, 949 Kerper Blvd.

ADJOURNMENT: The Commission adjourned at 6:39 pm.

Minutes approved by: 

Jacob Kohlhaas, Commission Chair

Prepared by: 

Michelle Kim, Climate Action Coordinator