

MINUTES
CITY OF DUBUQUE LONG RANGE PLANNING ADVISORY COMMISSION
REGULAR SESSION

5:30 p.m.

Wednesday, February 19, 2025

City Council Chambers, Historic Federal Building

Commissioners Present: Chairperson Michael Rabagia, Vice Chairperson Beth McGrath; Commissioners Jason Davis, Aaron Miller, and Mark Ward.

Commissioners Excused: Cliff Conrad and Julietta Scott

Commissioners Unexcused: None.

Staff Members Present: Wally Wernimont and Jason Duba.

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Rabagia at 5:30 p.m.

The Oath of Office for new commissioner Jason Davis was conducted. The commissioners welcomed Davis and all gave a brief introduction.

MINUTES: Motion by Rabagia, seconded by McGrath, to approve the minutes of the November 20, 2024 Long Range Planning Advisory Commission meeting as submitted. Motion carried by the following vote: Aye –McGrath, Miller, Ward, and Rabagia; Nay – None; Abstain – Davis.

ITEMS FROM PUBLIC: None.

ITEMS FROM COMMISSION: None.

ITEMS FROM STAFF:

Imagine Dubuque Update

Assistant Planner Duba and Planning Services Director Wernimont led a review of selected progress updates about Imagine Dubuque recommendations. One selection was made from each of the plan's seven categories.

Economic Prosperity: Employment, 1.1.3: Entrepreneurial support.

Sustainable Environment: Clean Water, 2.1.1: Bee Branch improvements led to a discussion of floodplain and how that affects development.

A question about how the City of Dubuque is being affected by changes to federal grants came up, and Wernimont stated that those situations are being closely monitored.

Social + Cultural Vibrancy: Food, 3.6.2: Mental health service changes from state of Iowa.

Livable Neighborhoods + Housing: Livable Neighborhoods, 4.1.1: New rental license ordinance; Evaluate nuisance enforcement efforts.

Community Facilities: Infrastructure, 5.1.6: Greenhouse gas inventory, based on 2022 data, there's a 9% decrease from 2018. There is a further 62% reduction needed to meet the 50% by 2030 target (based on 2003 levels).

Transportation + Mobility: Public Transportation, 6.2.1: RFP for FTA grant to optimize bus routes, identify potential service changes, and determine appropriate equipment and facility needs.

Land Use: Parks, 7.7.1: Millwork District park, Welu Park playground replacement, Jefferson Park retaining wall replacement.

Unified Development Code Update

Wernimont discussed aspects of the UDC update, including the public survey, the three phases of the project, and some of the relevant topics including parking and housing.

City Plans Update

Wernimont stated that he would like to have the commission review more City plans as they get developed. A brief discussion of the following plans took place:

- Chaplain Schmitt Island Development Plan adopted
- Central Avenue and White Street study adopted
- Parks & Recreation Master Plan getting underway with a consultant
- Sanitary Sewer Asset Management Plan – Rockdale Road lift station under construction

Development Projects Update

Wernimont gave a brief update on various development projects underway:

- Cedar Cross Road apartments
- Emri apartments
- Union at the Marina affordable apartments
- Century Square apartments
- Cedar Lake apartments
- Fox Hills apartments
- Nesler Center apartments
- Former Bridge Restaurant site

He stated that there is enough demand for this new housing in the community, especially with the UD medical school planned to open.

A discussion of affordable housing took place, including how that is defined and what the City is doing to help increase its supply.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion by Rabagia, seconded by Miller, to adjourn the February 20, 2025 Long Range Planning Advisory Commission meeting. Motion carried by the following vote: Aye –Davis, McGrath, Miller, Ward, and Rabagia; Nay – None.

The meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Wally Wernimont, Planning Services Director

March 19, 2025

Adopted