

CITY OF DUBUQUE - COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

GOVERNMENTAL BODY: Resilient Community Advisory Commission (RCAC)

DATE: 03/06/2025

TIME: 5:00 pm

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

MEMBERS PRESENT: Lalith Jayawickrama, Robin Kennicker, Rachel Schmidt Boeke, Jake Kohlhaas, Sandra Evans

MEMBERS ABSENT: Dave McDermott (excused), Nolan Bielinski (excused)

STAFF PRESENT: Gina Bell

Kohlhaas called the meeting to order at 5:10 pm

TEST AGENDA

MINUTES APPROVAL:

February minutes need bullet point (i) adjusted to reach: Kohlhaas to Boles.

Motion to approve carried. 5 yays, 0 nays.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Taryn Richey joined to observe as a part of their classwork in Environmental Policy at the University of Dubuque.

New Business:

Sustainable Dubuque Grant – Due March 15; we will take a virtual vote after subcommittee makes recommendation. Motion to approve plan to form a subcommittee carries 5/0

Subcommittee members: Kennicker; Schmidt Boeke; will meet on 4/7 with staff.

Vote via email will occur during the week of April 7th and recommendation forwarded to City Council for April 21st meeting.

Old Business:

I. GHG inventory –

- a. Website is updated with preferred language per February meeting discussion. Bell will hyperlink “sustainability staff” on website.
- b. Grid clean up alone is not enough, City needs to do more. If we want to keep being a leader, City Council needs to budget for and consider climate action.
 - i. Letters of Support - Kohlhaas will finalize draft letter.

II. Letters of support

- a. An additional letter will support permanent Climate Action Coordinator position.

III. Workplan revisited/themes/focus areas

- a) Commission looks new – how do we want to get work done and what do we want to do?
 - a) City owned land: create scoring rubric (Provide ideas of how to treat the land/a

rating system and the value of those things?) Do we do this as a whole? Do we want to bring in an expert (Eric Schmechel is one idea)? Commissioner Schmidt Boeke could help – here or in a subcommittee.

- b) Unified Development Code (UDC) – Subcommittee – Jake Kohlhaas; Robin Kennicker
- c) Gardening Tour – Subcommittee forming, Commissioner Evans is recruiting members.
- d) City staff updates – work continues in large group
 - 1. Bike signage (have signs but not hung?)
 - 2. Paired recycling in city contracts (GRC, Imon)
 - 3. Deer and public health – RCAC will drop; program is functioning
 - 4. Brainstorm ideas of potential experts to talk to RCAC:
 - a. WRRRC visit with their updates and explain flare
 - b. Housing team

Commissioner Reports: How Did I Show Up?

Parks and Rec: Tuesday 3/11 at 5 pm at Council Chambers to discuss pet friendly parks

Valentine Park community garden sign ups are open for 2025.

Commissioner Schmidt Boeke will share a paid internship opportunity in Central Iowa on a farm.

Art Exhibit starting April 3 in Galena Art Center up through May

Important Dates: Growing Sustainable Communities Conference April 1-2, 2025

Climate Action Fest at Loras 4/3/2025

NEXT MEETING DATE: The next commission meeting will occur on April 23, 2025, at 5pm at the Jule Operations and Training Center (JOTC) in the Circle Conference Room, 949 Kerper Blvd.

ADJOURNMENT: The Commission adjourned at 6:16 pm.

Minutes approved by: _____

Jacob Kohlhaas, Commission Chair

Prepared by: _____

Gina Bell, Sustainability Director