

CITY OF DUBUQUE - COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

GOVERNMENTAL BODY: Resilient Community Advisory Commission (RCAC)

DATE: 04/23/2025

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, Nolan Bielinski

MEMBERS ABSENT: Dave McDermott (excused)

STAFF PRESENT: Gina Bell and Michelle Kim

Kohlhaas called the meeting to order at 5:10 pm

TEST AGENDA

MINUTES APPROVAL:

- Motion to approve March meeting minutes. Motion to approve carried. 6 yays, 0 nays

PUBLIC COMMENT: NA

New Business:

1. UW Platteville – Solar Parking Report
 - a. UW engineering students gave a presentation for their senior engineering course about their solar roof design on the Iowa street parking ramp
2. Update on compost – Jake Jansen, Public Works -- Food scrap recycling
 - a. Program currently has 672 participants – 21% increase in participants at the end of fiscal year 2024.
 - b. Survey was sent to residents that aimed to answer: “How to grow the participation rate?”.
 - c. Resounding response that people compost because “it’s better for the environment” and “it is the right thing to do”
 - d. Rebrand to food scraps and yard waste! They can now accept meat and dairy from residential bins!
3. Growing Sustainable Communities Conference Recap
 - a. 305 people attending, 21 states represented, 76% people rated their return on time/financial investment as good or very good

- b. People asked for actionable steps
- c. Travel Dubuque's calculated economic impact on the local community was \$126,000 in restaurants/hotels/etc

4. Goals and Priorities worksheet

- a. Success for 2024-25 fiscal year: Listening to city departments as well as getting feedback from different groups in the community, GHG inventory and accessibility, Sustainable Dubuque grants, Urban Ag guide, a rep from the commission served on the YCAF proposal review committee.
- b. Long term concerns and goals: Tree canopy in Dubuque, alternative transportation, concerns about tariffs – sustainable local economy (local food, secondhand goods, etc), looking into leased land owned by the city

Old Business:

- Workplan and Subcommittees
- YCAF update from Michelle
 - a. If all proposed projects are funded, we would be at \$69,559 allocated, which leaves us \$15,000 left to be spent down
- Officer roles for RCAC – annually choose chairperson and appoint secretary

Commissioner Reports: How Did I Show Up?

- Rachel: The missions repair shop is opening this Saturday @ the Missions store 2. Open Wednesdays and Saturdays 10-2p.
- Robin: Debate about allowing dogs at Eagle Point Park, survey went out to residents about whether they wanted to allow dogs at Eagle Point Park. Recommendation was made that dogs are still not allowed.

Important Dates

- Tree plantings
 - 4/26 – Arbor Day
 - 4/28 – Fire station 2
 - Community Orchard on Hill St.
- Plant Swap
 - Dimension brewing noon-2

Next meeting date: The next commission meeting will occur on June 5, 2025, at 5pm at the Jule Operations and Training Center (JOTC) in the Circle Conference Room, 949 Kerper Blvd

ADJOURNMENT: The Commission adjourned at 6:58 pm.

Minutes approved by:  _____

Jacob Kohlhaas, Commission Chair

Prepared by:  _____

Michelle Kim, Climate Action Coordinator