

CITY OF DUBUQUE - COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

GOVERNMENTAL BODY: Resilient Community Advisory Commission (RCAC)

DATE: 06/05/2025

TIME: 5:01 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, Nolan Bielinski, Dave McDermott

MEMBERS ABSENT: Sandra Evans

STAFF PRESENT: Gina Bell and Michelle Kim

Kohlhaas called the meeting to order at 5:01 pm

TEST AGENDA

MINUTES APPROVAL:

- Kennicker motions to approve March meeting minutes. Bielinski seconds.
Motion to approve carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT: NA

New Business:

1. Update from WRRC -
 - a. Mr. John Wiley, Industrial pre-treatment coordinator
 - i. A room at the WRRC was filled with methane and a part of the facility at the WRRC exploded on December 4th. Once the explosion happened, they had to stop putting methane gas through the pipeline so currently all the methane is being flared off at the WRRC.
 - ii. WRRC has a couple of options
 1. A whole new capture system to be put in at the WRRC – ideally, some of the gas would be used in the boiler room, but the boiler needs major repair after the explosion.
 2. Another option (about a two-year timeline) would be to rebuild and do direct injection into a pipeline
 - iii. Starting in July, companies that have high strength waste (hauled waste) must have a proven backup plan to where they will divert their waste.
 - iv. Good news on the horizon – all four digestors will be cleaned, which will increase capacity at the WRRC
 2. Goals and priorities workshop
 - a. Some priorities we've talked about
 - i. Talking about a GHG reduction goal that goes beyond 2030
 - ii. Permanency for Climate Action Coordinator Position

- b. Some priorities the commission like to add/discuss
 - i. Facilities update for the WRRCC, specifically to capture energy and use that money to cover other facility expenses
 - ii. Supporting cost saving measures through regularly scheduled maintenance/energy efficiency updates at city facilities (Building efficiency)
 - iii. Green dining alliance – perhaps an opportunity to support restaurant composting
 - iv. Support for alternative transportation education and implementation
 - v. Insulation inspections for rental properties in Dubuque
- c. Kennicker motion to approve goals and priorities, Boeke seconds. Motion carried.

Old Business:

- A) Subcommittee work – pursue or not?
 - i. Decided to do as needed, but after discussing the goals and priority it seems like the commission has a lot to work on in the next year
- B) Officer Roles – choose chairperson and appoint secretary
 - i. Kennicker as a vice chair for the next meeting, and to be the chair in Kohlhaas absence

Commissioner Reports: How Did I Show Up?

Important Dates

- Dubuque County Watershed clean up, June 7th from 9-11a
- PRIDE!
- ALL that Jazz
- Arboretum concerts
- Dubuque Trees Forever – looking for weeding volunteers for community orchard
- July 1, 2025 – Fiscal Year 2026 begins

Staff updates

- Sustainability staff
 - A new Green Iowa AmeriCorps member was added to our team!
 - Michelle to go to Brunei for the State Department YSEALI program

Next meeting date: The next commission meeting will occur on August 7, 2025, at 5pm at the Jule Operational and Training Center (JOTC) in the Circle Conference Room, 949 Kerper Blvd

ADJOURNMENT: The Commission adjourned at 6:51 pm.

Minutes approved by: 

Jacob Kohlhaas, Commission Chair

Prepared by: 

Michelle Kim, Climate Action Coordinator