

City of Dubuque
COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

GOVERNMENTAL BODY: Resilient Community Advisory Commission

DATE: December 6, 2018

TIME: 5:00 pm

LOCATION: Conference Room 105
Intermodal Transportation Center, 950 Elm St, Dubuque IA 52001*
*new location

MEMBERS PRESENT: Dean Boles, Sara Booth, Ben Darr, Lalith Jayawickrama, Robin Kennicker, Leah Specht.
Absent: Carrie Lohrmann, Laura Roussell **Resigned:** Steve Drahozal

STAFF PRESENT: Gina Bell, Sustainable Community Coordinator

Co-Chair, Ben Darr called the meeting to order at 5:09 pm. Bell confirmed the meeting was in compliance with the Iowa Open Meeting Law.

PUBLIC COMMENT: State Representative Chuck Isenhardt shared he was dismayed by the new location. His reason for attending was to share that he is the ranking member on the Iowa House Budget subcommittee for Natural Resources, Environmental Protection and Agriculture and he wanted this group to keep this in mind as they continue to work on their priorities. Additionally, he shared about the bottle bill and Droppet, a new redemption service – asking this group if RCAC is interested on sponsoring a visit on behalf of the community to learn about their technology. Group was supportive of learning more. He also mentioned that a member of the State of Iowa Youth Advisory commission wants House to introduce legislation requiring restaurants to only provide single use plastics (straws) when requested.

MINUTES APPROVAL: Robin motioned to approve the November 1, 2018 meeting minutes. Dean seconded. The motion passes unanimously.

SUSTAINABLE DUBUQUE COMMUNITY GRANTS, PART 2: Short discussion regarding why there is a “part 2” to the grants – two grant applications were found in a spam folder. Commissioner Darr had questions about the budget in the proposal of the Winter’s Farmers Market. Staff member, Bell, explained the budget and reimbursement process. Boles motioned to make recommendation to Council to approve the grant, Kennicker seconded, motion passed.

CLIMATE ACTION PLAN INFORMATION AND PLANNING: Bell presented an overview of the climate action plan; asked for input. Discussion around timeline, public input and what will be included in the plan was discussed. Commissioner Boles shared that he doesn’t want to spend money on a consultant just to get the stock language at the beginning of every Climate Action Plan – instead of the stock language of “this is what is going to happen” he wants it to focus on adaptation and mitigation strategies. Others agreed. Boles wants to have an Iowa Climate Action Plan or something more cohesive beyond just the City, in the name of efficiency. Commissioner Kennicker suggested we work with the League of Mayors who are already sharing resources and ideas. Commissioner Jayawickrama shared that we already have experts in the area who can help. Commissioner Booth suggested working with extension services across state lines to address our regional issues. Commissioners agreed that focusing on impacts of climate change at a very local level are necessary for the plan. Planning committee suggestions from the Commissioners include: someone from the economic and planning side – John Gronen, someone from Chamber of Commerce. Commissioner Darr agrees we should work for a timeline that could provide a draft to City Department Managers in time for 2020 budget cycle.

Link to the current [Climate Action Plan](#).

SUSTAINABLE DUBUQUE COUNCIL WORK SESSION: Bell updated commissioners on the November 26, 2018 Sustainable Dubuque Council Work Session. The topic was Social and Cultural Vibrancy and Council heard reports from the DREAM Center, The Community Foundation & Convivium as well as Sustainable Dubuque Community grantee, Dubuque Urban Farm.

STAR COMMUNITY AND LEED FOR CITIES UPDATE: Bell explained the merger of STAR Communities with the

LEED for Cities. The City will recertify under the STAR rating in 2019 and keep rating for the next four years. At that time, Commission and staff will determine next steps/cross over to LEED for Cities.

SUSTAINABLE PRACTICES ON CITY FARMLAND UPDATE: Bell shared the updates made to City Farmland leases via recommendations by the Resilient Community Advisory Commission.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS:


Boles focused on lead levels, noting that the Iowa Department of Health standards are different than the Center for Disease Control which are different from HUD's. How can we make these standards the same?

Darr reported that he attended the Housing CHOICE Voucher meeting and requested an update from Housing, focusing on the new inspection system and the state of affordable housing in the City.

NEXT MEETING: The next commission meeting will occur on Thursday January 3, 2019 at 5:00 pm. **The location of the meeting will be at the Jule Operations and Training Center, 949 Kerper Boulevard.** This is a new location and will be the ongoing location for the Resilient Community Advisory Commission meetings. There is ample parking and the doors can remain unlocked.

ADJOURNMENT: The Commission adjourned at 6:58 pm

Minutes approved by: _____



Leah Specht, Commission Chair

Prepared by: _____



Gina Bell, Sustainable Community Coordinator