

City of Dubuque
COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

GOVERNMENTAL BODY: Resilient Community Advisory Commission

DATE: June 6, 2019

TIME: 5:00 pm

LOCATION: Main Conference Room

Jules Operations and Training Center, 949 Kerper Blvd., Dubuque IA 52001

MEMBERS PRESENT: Dean Boles, Lalith Jayawickrama, Robin Kennicker, Carrie Lohrmann, Laura Roussell, Leah Specht.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Sara Booth, Adam Hoffman, Jake Kohlhaas

STAFF PRESENT: Gina Bell, Sustainable Community Coordinator

Chair Specht called the meeting to order at 5:07 pm. Bell confirmed the meeting was in compliance with the Iowa Open Meeting Law.

TEST AGENDA

PUBLIC COMMENT: Wanjiku Gatua introduced herself to the Commission. She is working as the Sustainability Fellow for the City of Dubuque this summer. She will focus her work on increasing equity and sustainability in the procurement process.

MINUTES APPROVAL: Motion by Commissioner Roussell to approve minutes. Seconded by Commissioner Kennicker. Motion carries.

SUSTAINABLE DUBUQUE GRANTS – OUTREACH PLAN CREATION: Commission provided ideas of how to attract more projects to apply for Sustainable Dubuque grants. Discussion as follows:

- Farmers Market - booth with brochures from past grantees
- Reach out to schools with suggestion that every school should have a garden and greenhouse and they should all be applying.
- Schools - mailer/ something to pass out
- Share an "Ideas List" of possible projects that an individual or group could apply and implement to show the potential of scope or inspire new ideas and projects.
- Put poster boards up at university and teacher trainings - (use \$\$ to make this - a visual in every school!!)
- A printable poster & share widely. Have Green Iowa put up posters.
- Highlight - a broad swath of funded projects
- WEB of Life at UD - reach-out to them + Jake can help at Loras
- Audubon Society
- Google on City's website - of all past grantees with descriptions (ideally a link to their application and their reports) discussion about quantity - of grant award.
- Imagine Dubuque - pitch it at these outreach events
- Sustainable Dubuque and City's website - if someone Googles Sustainable Dubuque grant
- Neighborhood Association grants - share this information cross referenced; come to an association meeting or reach out to the
- Ask past grantees if we can share their information as a resource
- A video with past grantees sharing what they did (use council clips + and interview)
- KDTH
- City Newsletter - Water bills, etc.
- Facebook/ IG / Snapchat
- Iowa Public Radio / PBS / Iowa Public TV
- send Lalith info for his August faculty meeting

SUSTAINABLE DUBUQUE COMMUNITY GRANT – REPORTS: Commissioners requested a clarification about what was included in the reports. Bell explained that one was an example of a brochure and the file that was unopenable was a thank you note/shared success of Winter Farmers Market (round 18 recipient). Received and filed.

GHG INVENTORY REPORT: Received and filed with the following suggestions: use bar graphs not pie charts to show change and give more information to help understand / interpret as well as offer a comparison to other similar sized cities. Don't like the pie chart usage to show comparative data.

Questions: If US GHG is rising, why is Dubuque different? Are people changing behavior or is it just that there are more renewables + the WRRRC renovation?

CLIMATE ACTION PLAN: Plan for action includes CAP Update and Outreach. The consultant will update the plan – make it more visually appealing as well as update the actions.

Commissioners will have conversations in lieu of the July meeting and Bell will provide questions/conversation starters. Commissioners will capture responses to share at August meeting.

Additional discussion around the Climate Action Plan: What green companies can we attract? New companies? Are we asking those questions? Request was made to include this is the 50% by 2030 Plan. Are we planning for what exists or what is about to come? Can we include the following partners in our CAP work and provide suggestions for their work?

- GDDC
- Chamber
- School District
- Grocery/Industries suggestions
- John Deere - can we see their sustainability plans? Can we see one from HyVee?

Bell will follow up on these requests and report to Commission.

SUMMER MEETING SCHEDULE FOR RCAC: July meeting (which falls on July 4) will be canceled and the Commission will next meet on August 1, 2019. Commissioners will use the time to interview residents about climate change and the upcoming Climate Action Plan.

INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT PLAN: City plans to add 6 pesticide free parks this summer bringing the total to 16. The IPM team will continue to assess if more parks can be added. Commissioners discussed other alternative products we can use and Commissioner Lohrmann suggested instead of considering new products, we consider how we can do things differently. Commissioners also requested we pass along kudos to Leisure Services for all they do to keep our City beautiful and their efforts to adapt and change what they are doing in terms of IPM strategies. AND, keep using goats!

PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS OF SOLID WASTE OPERATIONS & RATE REVIEW REPORT: Commissioners discussed the report and thought it lacked a "Now what?" section. They pondered the effectiveness of a survey and weren't sure of its purpose. What are the next steps? Commission requested that staff member, Bell, reach out to Resource Management staff to help answer these questions. Are budget recommendations in order? What are incentives for businesses that are minimizing waste and packaging? Is there a one-pager that Resource Management Supervisor can share with the Resiliency Commission? Is there a Solid Waste Task Force that can help with a path toward zero waste? How can the commission be more action oriented to assist with a zero-waste movement? Can AmeriCorps Education do a survey of all schools to see where kids are at with climate change? Can Bev Wagner follow up with Cece Darter, a student at Hempstead who is interested in sustainability (former student of Commissioner Specht's)? Conversation moved toward sustainability in education/school system. Commissioner Specht shared that she has embedded sustainability into her English classes.

Commissioner Boles asked, "What are the results of Commissioner Specht's sustainability unit in school?" Commissioner Specht shared that awareness among kids has increased and they have taken what they have learned back home and shared information with their parents.

Commissioners discussed what the recommendation to our school system should be from the Commission? For curriculum. For practices. For adaptation. Community organizers around resiliency are needed. More teacher training is necessary.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS: CDAC - approved 2020 budget forward to Council; significant sized grants to addiction recovery centers - expansion and revamping. The depth of the problem wasn't discussed. They are doing something but unclear how big the problem is. How much more housing do we need? They currently stay full.

Leisure Services - Arboretum has free concerts all summer. They are looking for more fundraising opportunities; there are rental opportunities and they hope to get the word out.

NEXT MEETING: The next commission meeting will occur on Thursday August 1, 2019 at 5:00 pm. The location of the meeting will be at the Jule Operations and Training Center, 949 Kerper Boulevard.


ADJOURNMENT: The Commission adjourned at 6:48 pm.

Minutes approved by: _____



Leah Specht, Commission Chair

Prepared by: _____



Gina Bell, Sustainable Community Coordinator