

**City of Dubuque
COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES**

GOVERNMENTAL BODY: Resilient Community Advisory Commission

DATE: September 5, 2019

TIME: 5:00 pm

LOCATION: Circle Conference Room

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

MEMBERS PRESENT: Dean Boles, Sara Booth, Adam Hoffman, Lalith Jayawickrama, Robin Kennicker, Jake Kohlhaas, Laura Roussell, Leah Specht.

MEMBERS ABSENT: n/a

STAFF PRESENT: Gina Bell, Sustainable Community Coordinator

GUEST PRESENT: Candace Eudaley-Loebach

Chair Specht called the meeting to order at 5:05 pm. Bell confirmed the meeting was in compliance with the Iowa Open Meeting Law.

TEST AGENDA

OATHS OF OFFICE: Commissioner Candace Eudaley-Loebach

PUBLIC COMMENT: N/A

MINUTES APPROVAL: Motion by Commissioner Boles to approve June minutes. Seconded by Commissioner Roussell. Commissioner Eudaley-Loebach abstained. Motion carries.

STRATEGIC PLANNING

Staff member Bell explained the activity – Commissioners would pair City Council Goals with RCAC goals as a guidance for future work. Staff will write up and let group react and schedule out plan for next year. It was suggested that we add the RCAC goals to our agendas as reminder during meetings.

Before beginning the exercise, Boles raised the question, “Are we truly changing the directory of the youth in this community?” He elaborated that there are lots of programs and support in the community, but kids are still not proficient in reading nor graduating on time from high school. Things are not improving. What is the measure? What more can we be doing? He shared the example that AmeriCorps is a great thing, but it only helps hundreds of kids instead of thousands (that need this type of support.) The Dream Center serves 180, and they need to serve more. What is the scale we need change? How much money do they need to scale this? Commissioner Boles believes this is a resiliency issue and we need to be thinking bigger especially since no other commission is taking on youth success. School is one piece, but there is also poverty and families and trauma...Boles requested the Resiliency Commission tackle this. He would like to see a joint City Council/nonprofit/school board/business YOUTH SUMMIT. He requested that, as a commission, can we have a goal to understand what is going on with this? Should we invite AmeriCorps and Dream Center to understand their impact?

Commissioner Kohlhaas questioned the Commission’s role in the larger sense of poverty reduction. He mentioned landlords can push off costs to renters (i.e. They don’t insulate because they don’t pay the bills) and suggested the need for a program to address this. He asked, “Can we address the factors that impact people living in poverty - like housing, environment, etc. and address those instead of taking on the education system?” Bell explained that preemption laws do limit what the city can do in some cases related to energy and building codes -International Energy Conservation Code (IECC).

Generally, the conversation posed the question: “What are concrete things we as a commission can do to move the needle?” Bell reminded the Commission that this is what we want to accomplish in our strategic planning session - so we

can advise Council about priorities related to resiliency. Commissioner Eudaley-Loebach mentioned the City's Purchase of Service grants and reporting as a way to check in on what outside groups are doing in the city. Boles shared that visitors to this group has been focused more on environmental sustainability and not just resiliency and there are 12 principles and we should focus on all of them. Lalith asked if poverty is long time Dubuque's or transplants - our best guess is both. (Roussell left at 6:07 pm.)

Commissioners then began exercise for strategic planning as described above. Results below:

RCAC Goals for 2019-2020

1. Opportunities to assist with overall housing and health issues in the City

Alignment with Council Goals and Priorities:

- Brain Health Strategy; Imagine Dubuque implementation; CHANGE program; Dream Center, True North; Poverty Reduction Plan; Major Street Improvement Plan – include complete streets with walkable and bikeable areas for health

2. Measure RCAC Recommendations to Council and their Implementation/Impact

Alignment with Council Goals and Priorities:

- Potentially all – if RCAC makes recommendations; Major Street Improvement Plan which incorporates safe routes to school, bike and pedestrian plans into resurfacing programs.

3. Define Social Capital

Alignment with Council Goals and Priorities:

- Housing inspections; poverty reduction plan, brain health, school resources officers; human resources policies, Bee Branch Healthy Homes; Transit; Imagine Dubuque, Dream Center, Poverty Reduction

4. Poverty Reduction Strategy

Alignment with Council Goals and Priorities:

- Four Mounds, Fountain of Youth, School Resource officers, Housing inspections, Bee Branch Healthy Homes, Poverty Reduction Plan; Dream Center, Debt Reduction; Innovation; Lead Free homes for L/I populations; debt reduction to help lower city costs;

5. Climate Action Plan

Alignment with Council Goals and Priorities:

- Ash Borer, Imagine Dubuque; Street Plan; Parking Ramps; Streets; Leisure Services; Landfill; transit Vehicle Replacement; Street Maintenance (materials used); CHANGE program – home efficiency; Bee Branch Healthy Homes; Riverfront Master Plan; Traffic Signal Synchronization – ensure “smart” signals aren’t just speeding up cars/reducing red safety; Water and Resource Recovery Center; Nutrient Trading; Replanting because of Ash Borer

6. STAR/LEED for Cities Certification

Alignment with Council Goals and Priorities:

- Nothing listed/work overlaps but goal was inadvertently hidden during exercise

Additionally, Commissioners noted more opportunities for recommendations to Council to meet general City of Dubuque Goals 2024: Federal and State Priorities related to sustainability, Summer Intern’s purchasing guidance; partnerships to increase resident engagement and build civic leaders; betterment of health and education systems.

CLIMATE ACTION PLAN (CAP): Jacob Kohlhaas and Candace Eudaley-Loebach agreed to serve as RCAC representatives on the Climate Action Community Team. Other members will join work as they are able. Commissioner Boles doesn’t like that you must give your email to complete the survey. Bell explained that this helps to track/limit folks who a.) are trying to sway the survey and b.) offer rude commentary or personal attacks.

SUSTAINABLE DUBUQUE GRANTS: Kennicker, Boles and Specht will serve on sub-committee. Scores are due September 24th to Bell. Subcommittee will make recommendation to commission at October meeting.

CITY EXPO: Commissioner Specht will volunteer; job includes sharing information, pass out cards, mingle, make buttons, and toothpaste. It would be great if others came and we could work in shifts.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS: Kennicker - reminder October 8th is the primary; actual election is Nov 5th; Council and School Board

Community Development (Boles) – Commission advises on \$1.3M of HUD money and shares how it is spent
Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER) - Information is on website.
CDGB has a plan for citizen engagement and this could provide inspiration for our outreach work.
Additionally, Boles shared he is trying to figure out the graduation rate trend line at the school district. It should be easy, school district should report; but they do not. Boles suggested this directly to the superintendent and School Board President. Things are not getting better for our lowest performing students. He is willing to share his charts/PowerPoint with commissioners if they are interested.

NEXT MEETING: The next commission meeting will occur on Thursday, October 3, 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 6:52 pm.

Minutes approved by: Leah Specht
Leah Specht, Commission Chair

Prepared by: Gina Bell
Gina Bell, Sustainable Community Coordinator