

**City of Dubuque**  
**COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES**

**GOVERNMENTAL BODY:** Resilient Community Advisory Commission

**DATE:** November 7, 2019

**TIME:** 5:00 pm

**LOCATION:** JOTC Circle Conference Room

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

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Dean Boles, Sara Booth, Candace Eudaley-Loebach, Adam Hoffman, Lalith Jayawickrama, Robin Kennicker, Jake Kohlhaas, Leah Specht.

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Laura Roussell

**STAFF PRESENT:** Gina Bell, Sustainable Community Coordinator

**GUESTS PRESENT:** Emily Reisch, Sustainability Intern and Kamal Muhammad Raini, International ICMA Fellow from Malaysia

Chair Specht called the meeting to order at 5:03 pm. Bell confirmed the meeting was in compliance with the Iowa Open Meeting Law.

**TEST AGENDA**

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** Emily and Kamal introduced themselves.

**MINUTES APPROVAL:** Motion by Commissioner Kennicker to approve October 2019 minutes. Seconded by Commissioner Booth. Motion carries.

**DEFINING SOCIAL CAPITAL ACTIVITY:**

Commissioners defined social capital during an activity.

**DEFINITIONS:**

- Working together for community benefits. Power to the people.
- It is the glue that connects individuals to create a society.
- Working together as a community to build relationships and maintain positive outcomes.
- Connections between people that create/allow for security and upward mobility.
- Positive benefits that are the results of social relationships.
- How society interacts with society and the different communities included.
- The ability of an individual or group to influence their community or exert influence within that community.
- Having enough funds available to develop social development needs - The total of the non-material things that important to an individual's outcomes and protect her from the worst outcomes such as: education, relationships work experience, mental and physical health, skills and abilities, ability to speak the local language, no minority status counts as social capital.

Commissioners then created a list of words/ideas they associate with social capital. Words with \* were noted more than once as indicated by the number of \* behind the word.

#### TERMS ASSOCIATED WITH SOCIAL CAPITAL:

Quality of life	Function	Involved
Respect	Community***	Integrity
Relationships**	Power	Communication
Connections**	Differential	Environment*
Security **	Adaptable	Economies
Helping	Influence (Circle of)*	Protection
Dependable	Effective	Integrated
Family	Power and Money	Mutual
Friends	Individual	Social structure
Economic mobility	Strength	Identifying /fund social needs*
Benefits	Responsibility	Funds for better giving/charity
Networks	Value	
Together*	Reciprocity	

Bell introduced the overview of the seven community capitals. Commissioner Eudaley-Loebach led an exercise of mapping social capital. After mapping their own social capital/networks, the RCAC discussed social capital using the following questions as guides.

- Do the maps change if there was a disaster? What if there were no phone lines – could you walk to someone in your inner circle? Would you feel comfortable spending time/asking for help under extreme conditions?
- What is social capital? How do we build it? Can we? What does the city have/play? How do we measure it?

Differing ideas around relationship-creation were shared. Commissioner Jayawickrama stated that people move a lot in this country (USA), so it is hard to make connections. In his home country, people could locate his “place” by his last name. Boles countered that cities that have high mobility have quicker connections whereas Dubuque is harder to connect because many residents have never left. Commissioner Kohlhaas offered that cultural capital competes with social capital and Dubuque has a strong cultural capital that may make social capital difficult to obtain.

Bell asked for next steps related to social capital. She explained that the Commission listed defining social capital as one of their priorities. Commissioner Boles sees social capital as tied to economic prosperity and poverty reduction plan and he wants to know what government or non-profits can do to increase this social capital to improve the things which are correlated to be benefits of social capital, such as community involvement, less income inequality, higher graduation rates for low-income students, etc. Commissioner Booth requested that similar to using an equity lens; can the commission consider their work thru a social capital lens? Commissioner Kennicker suggested using Sustainable Dubuque grants to focus on this and to make sure there is a lot of communication and we involved the schools. Additionally, Commissioner Boles would like to hear from the Poverty Prevention consultants and to settle on an index for the Commission to use.

Commissioner Eudaley-Loebach shared the role of municipalities is to provide structure to grow and exchange. Investment in sidewalks, crosswalks, speeds that are conducive to kids safely crossing streets haven’t been implemented (but should) and we need to think about structural safety. The City should evaluate how we physically structure things and how this impedes social interactions and work to create higher frequencies of incidental interactions. For example, Commissioner Eudaley-Loebach continued, when talking to Public Works ask if they are considering all sorts of parts of the puzzle - walk/bike ability + safety and so on.... These are the conversations the Resiliency Commission needs to have to have when departments come to talk to the Commission, especially around infrastructure which will help to improve people’s ability to randomly interact.

Jayawickrama sees communication is key and if we can use our social capital to share our city message - using small groups to disperse the information and using the networks we already have, citing the Bee Branch as a good example of this.

**ARTS AND SUSTAINABILITY:**

Commissioner Boles shared examples of art meets sustainability efforts he witnessed in Madrid, Spain and the commission weighed in on the student showcase for the Growing Sustainable Communities Conference. Commissioners agreed that the showcase should be opened to more ages including grade, middle, high school and college students. It was suggested to work with the art museum on this project. Bell shared that she is also working with the City's Arts and Culture Coordinator on the effort and the Commission agreed it would be good to have the Arts Commission looped in or take ownership.

Bell shared that Art on the River has a theme each year. Last year it was "Mississippi Magnified" focusing on artists and artwork that draw inspiration from the people, culture, beauty and magnitude of the Mighty Mississippi River. The Arts Coordinator is interested in exploring a sustainability theme and wants our ideas. Potential taglines or context.

Bell will send out DART for RCAC to review again.

**COMMISSIONER REPORTS:**

No commissioner reports.

**NEXT MEETING:** The next commission meeting will occur on Thursday, December 5, 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 6:41 pm.

Minutes approved by: \_\_\_\_\_

  
Leah Specht, Commission Chair

Prepared by: \_\_\_\_\_

  
Gina Bell, Sustainable Community Coordinator

