

City of Dubuque
COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

GOVERNMENTAL BODY: Resilient Community Advisory Commission

DATE: February 6, 2020

TIME: 5:00 pm

LOCATION: JOTC Circle Conference Room

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

MEMBERS PRESENT: Dean Boles, Candace Eudaley-Loebach, Adam Hoffman, Lalith Jayawickrama, Jake Kohlhaas, Leah Specht.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Sara Booth, Robin Kennicker

STAFF PRESENT: Gina Bell, Sustainable Community Coordinator

GUESTS PRESENT: Kelly Larson, Deron Muehring, Eric Schmechel, Gus Psihoyos, Willie O'Brien, Teri Goodman, Ken Miller

Specht called the meeting to order at 5:06 pm. Bell confirmed the meeting was in compliance with the Iowa Open Meeting Law.

TEST AGENDA

OATH OF OFFICE: Craig Reber – offered a brief introduction

PUBLIC COMMENT: Paul Schultz, Green Dubuque President, shared that he attended the Leadership and Government session with Council as well as the work session on solid waste collection. He attended to discuss solid waste automated collection. Shared a handout with questions for the Commission and urged them to consider and make recommendation.

MINUTES APPROVAL: Motion by Commissioner Boles to approve January 2020 minutes. Seconded by Commissioner Hoffman. Motion carries.

HUMAN RIGHTS PRESENTATION:

Kelly Larson, Director of Human Rights gave an update of the Council priorities that overlap with RCAC priorities covered by her department. She spoke of the Dream Center and the Fountain of Youth, The City's Equitable Poverty Prevention Plan work and the Consolidated Plan. These two organizations address these issues by serving ethnic minorities and low-income residents. DC is focused on school performance. FOY is focused on people with criminal history/partners in change.

The Resilient Community Advisory Commission can help by showing support for budget requests through budget hearings.

Commissioner Specht asked how kids get involved with programs?

KL: for the DC they have relationships with schools (referrals) and their church. For FOY, they get referrals from Elm Street Correctional Facility.

Commissioner Reber asked about the overall public perception of these organizations?

KL: I don't know. They do have a waiting list. Serving 200 currently.

Commissioner Hoffman: What is the current City funding they receive?

KL: ~\$15K each through purchase of services grant.

Commissioner Reber: What are their volunteer needs?

KL: I don't know exact numbers, but they do have very specific training and a long-term commitment.

Commissioner Reber: What are the next steps? Does it require a letter from the Commission?

KL: The conversation for the RCAC is what things do you want to do to show support or see how this aligns with your priorities.

Eudaley-Loebach said that RCAC already established its priorities as a group so the Commission can take action. (If something aligns with RCAC goals and Council goals RCAC can make that a priority for action.)

Commissioner Boles: Makes a motion to send a letter to Council to support funding to these groups at a reasonable amount.

Commissioner Reber: Seconds

Motion carries unanimously.

Commissioner Boles will draft letter and send to Bell and Commissioner Specht.

PILOT PROJECT - NUTRIENT TRADING:

Teri Goodman started off with background and funding. Eric Schmechel presented on nutrient pollution, why it is concerning and how the exchange pilot program can help. Willie O'Brien presented regarding permits that the Water and Resource Recovery Center has and what requirements are included because of the Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy.

Commissioner Jayawickrama asked how will WRRRC meet the reduction goals?

WO: Offered to send the Nutrient Reduction strategy to RCAC,

At its most basic: Work with landowners / farmers in the watershed to implement better practices to reduce nutrients flowing into the watersheds.

Requested support/endorsement for their work.

Commissioner Boles motioned to write a letter which outlines that this work coincides with our priorities and send to Bell.

Commissioner Hoffman seconds.

Motion carries unanimously.

Revisit Public Comment request and asked to hear from City Public Works staff before making a decision.

Bell will resend the Foth Report to RCAC for review.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS:

Commissioner Boles - CDBG Consolidated Plan is going to Council at next meeting for adoption. One thing to pass along - the biggest housing problem in Dubuque is cost burden - spending more than 30% of your income on housing. And 26% of Dubuque has this cost burden.

NEXT MEETING: The next commission meeting will occur on Thursday, March 5, 2020 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 7:05 pm.

Minutes approved by: _____



Leah Specht, Commission Chair

Prepared by: _____



Gina Bell, Sustainable Community Coordinator