

City of Dubuque
COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

GOVERNMENTAL BODY: Resilient Community Advisory Commission

DATE: March 24, 2020

TIME: 5:00 pm

LOCATION: JOTC Circle Conference Room

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

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Jake Kohlhaas

STAFF PRESENT: Gina Bell, Sustainable Community Coordinator

GUESTS PRESENT: N/A

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: n/a

MINUTES APPROVAL: Commissioner Boles made the following correction to the March 5, 2020 minutes:

On page three, instead of reading that Commissioner Boles stated “that ~24,000 households qualify” the minutes shall read “of the ~24,000 households in Dubuque, Boles thinks there are probably at least a couple thousand that would qualify because the income guidelines are more than 150% of HUD poverty guidelines.” Motion to accept the minutes with changes by Commissioner Booth to approve March 5, 2020 minutes. Seconded by Commissioner Kennicker. Motion carries.

SUSTAINABLE DUBUQUE GRANTS: Bell shared top scores with Commission. Commission Specht suggested passing off two waste reduction application to DMASWA grants and not consider them further since the funds are so limited.

Commissioners shared concerns that one grantee was for “members only” and discussed if the grants should focus on food access and growing due to the coronavirus as well as other grant opportunities the Commission could share with applicants not chosen. Additionally, the Commission discussed the probability of applicants not being able to complete projects due to coronavirus and requested special accommodations from Council to reallocate funding if this was the case. See attached recommendation to Council.

Commissioner Booth motions to forward the Commission’s recommendation to Council.

Commissioner Eudaley-Loebach seconds.

Motion passes unanimously.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS: Commissioner Boles via virtual chat shared information about the Large Neighborhood Grant Program: *The City of Dubuque and the Dubuque Community Development Advisory Commission are now accepting competitive applications for the Large Neighborhood Grant Program. The deadline for applications is April 13th.*

The program intended to support neighborhood development and provide a direct benefit to low/moderate income individuals or neighborhoods. The maximum grant is \$3,000. www.cityofdubuque.org/neighborhoods.

Additionally, he shared that a City of Dubuque commission this week signed off on a request to set aside nearly \$330,000 in federal funding to support the community’s response to COVID-19. Community Development Advisory Commission members voted unanimously to recommend that the funds received by the city to aid low- to moderate-income residents

be put toward an emergency shelter if one is needed to quarantine at-risk populations in Dubuque. The funding also would provide temporary drive-thru diagnostic testing.

Commissioner Boles asked if the Emergency Operations Center is still open during this emergency because the Commission had visited the EOC early on. He also mentioned that in the DART report there was a recommendation for the EOC to create a plan how to deal with businesses and help them in a structured way and suggested the RCAC revisit the DART report.

Commissioner Boles also offered that the City appoint someone to capture response/information in real time during the coronavirus so when we come out the other side we have a real picture of what went well and what did not.

NEXT MEETING: The next commission meeting will occur on Thursday, May 7, 2020 at 5:00 pm. The location of the meeting will be at the Jule Operations and Training Center, 949 Kerper Boulevard OR held virtually depending on CDC and State of Iowa guidance.

ADJOURNMENT: The Commission adjourned at 6:03 pm.



Minutes approved by: _____

Leah Specht, Commission Chair



Prepared by: _____

Gina Bell, Sustainable Community Coordinator

Attachment