

**City of Dubuque  
COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES**

**GOVERNMENTAL BODY:** Resilient Community Advisory Commission

**DATE:** June 4, 2020

**TIME:** 5:00 pm

**LOCATION:** Virtually – Go to Meeting platform

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

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** n/a

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

**GUESTS PRESENT:** n/a

Vice Chair Kennicker 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:** n/a

**MINUTES APPROVAL:** Commissioner Reber motions to approve the April 13, 2020 minutes. Seconded by Commissioner Jayawickrama. Motion carries.

**DART REPORT:** Commissioners discussed the focus on neighborhood development to build resilient communities, especially in times of pandemic. Commissioners agreed that work should assess where existing groups are and support them as well as note where groups do not exist and how commission can assist. Commissioners want to take action!

Request that Neighborhood Specialist, Jerelyn O'Connor present to RCAC on history / development of neighborhood associations and share her expertise of how we can support resiliency in neighborhoods.

**LEED FOR CITIES:** RCAC task is to think (over the coming year) about how can we measure ourselves and compare ourselves to other places? Can it be a mix of tools? Research how other cities are rating themselves. Spend the year thinking about the indicators we find interesting. What are we already collecting? What does LEED want? What is overlap with poverty reduction plan and what would be useful to the city? Commissioners noted that in the past, STAR Communities was used as a starting point and moved RCAC and City forward. Potentially indicators from CAP could be the focus.

**CAP REVIEW PROCESS:** Staff invited Commissioners to review the Climate Action Plan.

**SUSTAINABLE DUBUQUE GRANTS:** Next round is September 15, 2020, pending budget. Action items Commission needs to do before then:

- Improve rubric and scoring: Commissioner Kohlhaas and Eudaley-Loebach will help work on this task.
- Address issue of unused grant money: Make sure grantees know it is a “use it or lose it” basis and encourage people to apply for only what they are sure they can use and use what they were granted.
- Other improvements: how to fill out the budget (and improve the budget form), include question if grantee has been awarded a Sustainable Dubuque grant before and were they successful in using the funds requested. (Staff can track and provide this information during review.)

**COMMISSION GOALS FY21:** See attachment + Climate Action Plan

Commissioners want to finish hearing from departments that overlap (RCAC goals with council goals) – referring to the list already created including a follow up with Public Works and consider for future RCAC Meetings:

- City staff to ask RCAC to help – here is what the RCAC can do for X department?
- How do we establish a way for getting better input from the community to pass along?
- As we get to know city departments better, how can we better represent the community?

**COMMISSIONER REPORTS:**

Historic Preservation – Craig – approved a city request for demolition.

Commissioner Boles (CDAC) – kudos to Housing as they have been very quick to change and very adaptable during COVID-19.

Commissioner Kennicker (Parks and Rec) – Golfing is very popular. Pools are not open. Playgrounds still closed. Parks did not get to hire seasonal workers.

**NEXT MEETING:** The next commission meeting will occur on Thursday, August 6, 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 6:45 pm.

Minutes approved by:

  
Robin Kennicker, Interim Commission Chair

Prepared by:

  
Gina Bell, Sustainable Community Coordinator