

**ROSEVILLE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES FOR
January 5, 2021 6:30 p.m.**

PRESENT: Arneson, Baggenstoss, Brown, Carlson, Dahlstrom, Heikkila, Hoag, Kim, Lenhart, O'Brien, Stoner

ABSENT:

STAFF: Boggs, Brokke, Christensen, M. Johnson, Taylor

1) INTRODUCTIONS

Chair Hoag introduced the virtual Zoom format for the meeting due to the COVID-19 pandemic. State Law allows for an exception to in-person public meetings during pandemics to ensure the safety of commissioners, staff and the public. The public was still encouraged to participate in the meeting using the Zoom platform.

2) ROLL CALL/PUBLIC COMMENT

Roll Call Commissioners: Arneson, Baggenstoss, Brown, Carlson, Dahlstrom, Heikkila, Kim, Lenhart, O'Brien, Hoag, and Stoner.

Chair Hoag called for public comment by members of the audience. No one indicated a desire to speak.

3) APPROVAL OF MINUTES – DECEMBER 1, 2020 MEETING

Commissioner Heikkila moved to approve the minutes. Commissioner O'Brien seconds.

Roll Call

Ayes: Arneson, Baggenstoss, Brown, Dahlstrom, Heikkila, Hoag, Lenhart, O'Brien and Stoner.

Nays: None.

Abstain: None.

4) PARK DEDICATION – 196 AND 210 SO. MCCARRONS BOULEVARD

Staff provided a Park Dedication process and option review for the Commission. Staff next gave details on the specific proposal for The Enclave at McCarron's Lake. This request is for a proposed subdivision directly across from Lake McCarrons at 196 and 210 So. McCarrons Boulevard. The proposal includes 20 lots (17 new lots) on 5.42 acres.

This project would qualify for Park Dedication. The cash amount for the 17 additional lots/units would be \$72,250 (\$4,250 per additional lot). The land amount would be 10% of 5.42 acres or .54 acre. The developer has suggested that cash be accepted in lieu of land and be used to help offset the

cost of installing the sidewalk connection in and out of the development. A map was displayed that showed the developers suggested sidewalk connections to the Commission. Staff relayed that it was their understanding that the sidewalk connections may be required as part of the public improvement contract and would be negotiated as part of the final application for this development. Therefore, this item should be treated separately from Park Dedication.

Staff added that this area is located in constellation N. There are no specific plans identified in the Parks and Recreation System Master Plan for parkland in this area.

Commissioner Lenhart asked if there was a proposed location for land.

Commissioner Heikkila commented that the loss of trees will be very apparent to the public with this new development. In addition, he acknowledged that the Parks and Recreation Commission does not have authority over tree removal or planting decisions within new developments.

Commissioner Baggenstoss relayed that he is a part of the Rice-Larpenteur Alliance and that the trail is very enticing. He questioned if the trail is already worked into the development. Staff noted that it was their understanding that it will be part of the Public Improvement Agreement. In addition, staff noted that it would be fair for the Commission to indicate that the trail connection would be a desirable asset to the area if that is how they feel.

Commissioner O'Brien noted that if this trail is part of the Rice-Larpenteur Alliance and City of Roseville's vision she would like to put support for the trail in the recommendation. She added that if the developer ends up giving land to create the trail she would support that land offsetting the Park Dedication monetary amount.

Commissioner Lenhart added that she would like the trail to be publicly available to anyone.

The Commission discussed the trail connection and how that may potentially impact their cash or land recommendation.

Land Developer, Roger Anderson joined the Commission to provide additional details on the development and to answer any questions. He relayed that the connection trail was developed with a staff member from Community Development as a way to complete a link in the City of Roseville's Vision Plan. Mr. Anderson noted that the trail connection will cost about \$35,000 to build, will be approximately 2/10 acre and will benefit the city more than the development. As a result of those factors the Developer is asking for cash in lieu of land to satisfy the Park Dedication requirement. The Commission discussed the trail layout, property use decisions and project timeline with the developer.

Commissioner Baggenstoss asked what would happen to the development if the decision is made to move forward with land to satisfy Park Dedication. Mr. Anderson responded that would be the equivalent of 2-3 lots and depending on their location it would no longer make the development feasible as they are already operating on tight margins. Or he stated that the development may need to be reconfigured to a higher density apartment building to accommodate the land request.

Commissioner Dahlstrom motioned to recommend the acceptance of cash (\$72,250) to the City Council to satisfy the Park Dedication for 196 and 210 So. McCarrons Boulevard, with the caveat that there is a trail included as part of a Public Improvement Contract. Seconded by Commissioner Stoner.

Commissioner Baggenstoss suggested adding “publicly accessible” trail as well as “to meet the Rice-Larpenteur Vision Plan” at the end of the motion. Commissioners Dahlstrom and Stoner agreed to these additions to the motion.

Amended Motion:

Commissioner Dahlstrom motioned to recommend the acceptance of cash (\$72,250) to the City Council to satisfy the Park Dedication for 196 and 210 So. McCarrons Boulevard, with the caveat that there is a publicly accessible trail included as part of a Public Improvement Contract to meet the Rice-Larpenteur Vision Plan. Seconded by Commissioner Stoner.

Roll Call

Ayes: Arneson, Baggenstoss, Brown, Dahlstrom, Heikkila, Hoag, Lenhart, O’Brien and Stoner.

Nays: None.

Abstain: None.

5) NATURAL RESOURCES STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM UPDATE

Staff provided the Commission with an update on the Natural Resources Stewardship Program.

Vision:

- Volunteers, staff and consultants working together to accomplish our goals
- The need to expand beyond the successful third Saturday of the month efforts
- Implement planned structure

Accomplishments:

- Increased number of volunteer led activities throughout the city
- Successful events during COVID-19
- Established protocol and processes to empower our volunteer leaders to be successful
- Implemented quarterly communications newsletter

2021 opportunities:

- Training of volunteer leaders

- Identify and recruit additional leadership
- Further annual work plans with volunteers

Volunteer information:

- Natural resource volunteers are categorized into two main categories:
 - General and volunteer led
- Volunteers doing natural resource work could also be categorized into:
 - Arboretum (Green Team) Volunteers
 - Adopt-a-Park Volunteers
 - Community Service Volunteers
 - Eagle Scout Volunteers

How a volunteer led project is started:

- Approached by a volunteer leader or captain
- Resident driven
- Staff driven
- Plan driven

Volunteer hours:

- 943 total hours (January 2020 – Present)
 - 355 Hours – Third Saturday of the month events
 - 154 Hours – Volunteer led events
 - 346 Hours – Arboretum
 - 88 Hours – Orchard
- Total shifts (January 2020 – Present) – 386
- Unduplicated volunteer count (January 2020 – Present) – 194

Arboretum program highlights:

- Held a socially-distanced recognition event
- Donated over 100 pounds of apples to Every Meal
- No apples were wasted this year. Leftover fall apples were made into apple butter by staff and were given to volunteers as a thank you
- Fresh, herbs, cucumbers, tomatoes, beans, and other small crops were available to Roseville residents daily throughout the summer

Natural program highlights:

- New/initial invasive brush management
 - Acorn Park boardwalk wetland & Central Park (various locations)
- Prescribed burn maintenance (several sites at Central Park)
- Spot treat of herbaceous, invasive weeds
 - Two/three spot treatments at most of the 22 parks in Roseville
- Installation of native flower and sedge plugs at Villa Park
- Foliar treatment of invasive, nonnative brush (all parks in PRP except Villa and Langton Lake)

- Follow-up cut/treat of invasive, nonnative brush (Langton Lake)
- Continued thinning of invasive/nonnative trees (north shore of Bennett Lake)
- Supplemental seeding at select locations (primarily at sites around Bennett Lake)

2020 Socially distanced events:

- Flower Power
- Tree Planting
 - This event brought 19 new volunteers into the Parks and Recreation volunteer pool

Upcoming Projects:

- **1/18** – Martin Luther King planning day at Cedarholm Community Building
- **2/20** – Buckthorn at McCarron’s Property near Villa Park
- **3/20** – Seeding at Villa Park and Reservoir Woods Park
- **4/17** – Rain Garden Cleanup at Lexington Park
- **5/22** – Lexington Flower Planting
- Other projects yet to be identified

Chair Hoag asked if the Martin Luther King Day event may become a virtual event. Staff responded that is an option and the exact plans will be determined as the date moves closer.

Volunteer Coordinator, Rachel Boggs thanked all of the volunteers for their hard work this last year. She noted that at some events there may have been fewer volunteers who participated compared to previous years. However, the amount of hours each volunteer contributed was greater than previous years. Finally, Boggs thanked Parks and Recreation leadership for their gracious work with volunteers and for keeping them safe.

Volunteer Leader, William Jenner joined the Commission to acknowledge the fun that he has volunteering with the Natural Resources Stewardship Program. He noted all of the work that has been completed in removing the Buckthorn in Roseville. However, he added that there is always more to remove. Jenner also commented that the thank you gift of apple butter was delicious.

6) **EMERALD ASH BORER (EAB) PROGRAM UPDATE**

Staff presented an update on the current public Ash Tree inventory for Roseville. To date, 651 Ash Trees have been removed which leaves 1,426 Ash Trees remaining.

Staff provided yearly data for treatments and replacements of Ash Trees.

The Proposed Accelerated Ash Tree Program would include:

- More aggressive
- Buddy tree planting
- Targeted removals
- Not decimate canopy

- Current capacity for staffing and vendors

The Accelerated Approach 2021 and beyond:

	Excess Reserve Amount	Annual Budget Allocation	Remove	Replace	Treat
2021	\$150,000	\$ 50,000	\$135,000 (330)	\$57,000 (126)	\$8,000
2022	\$150,000	\$ 50,000	\$135,000 (330)	\$65,000 (140)	\$0
2023	\$150,000	\$84,000	\$169,000 (420)	\$65,000 (140)	\$0
2024	\$150,000	\$ 50,000	\$120,000 (300)	\$80,000 (175)	\$0
2025	\$ 34,968	\$181,032	\$116,000 (290)	\$100,000 (185)	\$0
2026		\$150,000	\$50,000 (125)	\$ 100,000 (220)	\$0
2026-?		\$112,000		\$112,000 (250)	\$0
TOTALS	\$634,968	\$677,032	\$725,000 (1795)	\$579,000 (1476)	\$8,000

Staff brought up potential discussion topics for the Commission regarding EAB and the Accelerated Approach including:

- Change to the Roseville Urban Forest Landscape
- Example provides for a 6 year program (with residual in final year) to substantially eradicate EAB
- Maintains a reasonable canopy throughout time
- Unusual approach
- Timing - decision made early enough to allow for RFP and selection process for any year prior to implementation

Finally, staff showed pictures of EAB infested trees around the city and of the fall tree planting event. The tree planting event was new in 2020 and staff relayed that they hope to make it a yearly event going forward.

Commissioner Lenhart asked what species are used to replace the Ash Trees. Staff responded that there is a Street Tree Master Plan which ensures that there is extensive tree diversity throughout the city.

7) DISCUSS AND PREPARE FOR THE JOINT MEETING WITH THE CITY COUNCIL ON MONDAY, JANUARY 25, 2021

Staff provided history on the joint meetings between the Parks and Recreation Commission and the City Council. Typically, the Commission meets annually with the City Council in June or throughout the year as topics arise. The last joint meeting with the City Council was October, 2019 with the key topic of EAB. The purpose of the joint meetings are to share past work, upcoming work and to seek guidance on issues.

The Commission reviewed possible items to include and topics to specifically discuss with the City Council. The Pocahontas Park naming discussion and EAB were agreed upon by the Commission as specific topics to present to the City Council.

Commissioner Lenhart suggested that Youth Commissioner Kim lead the discussion on the Pocahontas Park name as he originally brought up the topic to the Commission and he is a good spokesperson for the topic.

Youth Commissioner Kim agreed with Commissioner Lenhart's suggestion.

The Commission discussed how to best present the Pocahontas Park name topic and EAB to the City Council.

Commissioner O'Brien commented that when presenting to the City Council it is most important to come away with an understanding of what the City Council is supporting and thinking. She continued that for EAB the City Council should hopefully be alarmed with what they are seeing/hearing and after the presentation they hopefully ask for a resolution plan. For the Pocahontas Park name discussion it would be beneficial to have the City Council get a good sense of where the Commission is at in their plan and then find out the City Council's feelings about the plan and topic.

The Commission discussed potential City Council responses to the Pocahontas Park naming discussion and potential answers the Commission could use in responding to the City Council's questions.

Commissioner O'Brien added that historically the City Council has applauded community engagement efforts and those plans should be emphasized when preparing for the Pocahontas Park naming presentation.

Chair Hoag suggested Commissioner Baggenstoss assist Youth Commissioner Kim on the Pocahontas Park presentation.

Staff agreed to create a Power Point for Commissioners to present at the joint meeting.

The Commission discussed roles for the joint meeting. Youth Commissioner Kim, Commissioner Baggenstoss and Commissioner Lenhart volunteered to work on the Pocahontas Park naming discussion topic. Chair Hoag volunteered to present on the topic of EAB.

Chair Hoag questioned if a third topic should be included in the presentation. Staff suggested that perhaps pickleball should be included as the community members had previously submitted a petition in favor of the sport.

Commissioner Brown recommended that a slide be included explaining what pickleball is.

Vice-Chair Dahlstrom volunteered to present the introduction, closing or any other parts of the presentation that are open.

Arrangements for the joint meeting were discussed between the Commission and staff including the PowerPoint presentation and the Request for Council Action (RCA). It was agreed that staff would coordinate a time for Chair Hoag, Vice-Chair Dahlstrom, Youth Commissioner Kim and Commissioner Baggenstoss to meet prior to the joint meeting to review. Potential times were discussed and it was suggested that staff send some time options.

8) STAFF REPORT

a) NEW OR RELEVANT COMMUNICATIONS AND UPDATE ITEMS

- Upcoming Parks and Recreation key dates:
 - January 4, 2021 – Practices for youth and adult sports may resume, with significant restrictions
 - January 11, 2021 – Indoor gatherings
 - January 14, 2021 – Games and scrimmages with other teams may begin. Further guidance and restrictions are forthcoming
- What is currently available:
 - Parks, playgrounds, trails
 - Cross-country ski
 - Neighborhood rinks
 - Equipment rentals
 - Open skating at the MN OVAL
 - Open with a natural ice sheet
 - Currently limited to public skating with maximum numbers
 - Public skating tickets can be purchased at skatetheoval.com
 - Temporary check in outside
 - Refrigerated ice sheet anticipated the week of January 10
- The Parks and Recreation brochure was located in the most recent City Newsletter

9) **OTHER**

Commissioner O'Brien asked staff for an update on the deer reduction. Staff responded that the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) had been out three nights and have removed 22 deer between Reservoir Woods Park and Owasso Hills Park.

Meeting adjourned at 8:46 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Danielle Christensen, Department Assistant