

**ROSEVILLE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES FOR
February 2, 2021 6:30 p.m.**

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

ABSENT:

STAFF: Brokke, Christensen, 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 – JANUARY 5, 2021 MEETING

Commissioner Heikkila moved to approve the minutes. Vice-Chair Dahlstrom seconds.

Roll Call

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

Nays: None.

Abstain: None.

4) REVIEW OF 2021 DRAFT PARK PROJECT AREAS AND APPROACH

Park Superintendent, Jim Taylor greeted the Commission and introduced the park projects work plan for 2021. The overview of the Park Projects Areas and Approach includes:

- Focus
 - Taking care of existing assets
 - Proactive and preplanning well in advance
 - Sharing status and information

- 2021 Park Improvement Projects
 - Playground safety surface
 - Revolving schedule/inspection
 - 2021 Identified parks:
 - Sandcastle, Howard Johnson, Bruce Russell, Langton Lake North, Materion, Rosebrook, CP Dale Street, Upper Villa
 - Tennis and Basketball Court
 - Crack seal and color
 - Acorn
 - Fencing
 - Curling/bending, leaning posts, etc.
 - Central Park near the volleyball courts
 - Facility Improvements
 - Arboretum drinking fountain
 - Arboretum Pavilion painting
 - Tennis backboards
 - Boardwalk repairs and upkeep at the Harriet Alexander Nature Center (HANC)
 - Landscape Mulch
 - Replenish landscaping mulch at scheduled sites, mulch trees, Discover Your Park (DYP) preparation
 - Amenities
 - Replace/repair: Grills, drinking fountains, picnic tables, benches, soccer goals
 - Ag Lime for Pathways/Ballfields
 - Upper Villa
 - Langton Lake
 - Sign Program
 - Replace and update outdated or worn signs
 - Landscaping and Site Work
 - Bleacher pads (Dale, Rosebrook, Langton)
 - Oasis Park drainage
- Capital Improvement Items
 - Vehicle and equipment
 - 1 Truck replacement
 - 1 Trailer replacement
 - Playground Replacement – Community Builds
 - Owasso Hills Park
 - Pioneer Park
 - Looking ahead – Lexington, Owasso Ballfields, Rosebrook, Pocahontas, Applewood Parks
 - Fence Replacement

- Concordia Park
 - Unity Park
 - Landscaping improvements
 - Pickleball
 - Process and planning
- Park Maintenance Operational
 - Central Park Shelter Near Volleyball Courts
 - Roof
 - Paint
 - Building Repairs and Painting
 - Foundation siding
 - Lions Shelter painting
 - ROG siding
 - Veterans Building painting
 - Nursery
 - Enhance/reintroduce nursery bed for 30-40 trees at the Arboretum
- Park Maintenance Operational Projects
 - Natural Resources Management Program
 - Continue transitioning to Roseville management
 - Expand volunteer leadership and volunteer led events
 - Continue evolution of a year to year maintenance plan
 - Emerald Ash Borer
 - Treatment in select locations
 - Removal of hazard trees
 - Replacement
 - Buddy trees
 - Accelerated Plan
 - Ongoing Operations and Maintenance
 - Paint portions of park buildings
 - Arboretum fountain repairs
 - Trash and recycling enhancements
 - Park Maintenance Operational Projects - Outside Funding
 - Foundation Playground and Bathrooms (FOR Parks)
 - Playground enhancements
 - ADA bathroom upgrades
 - Arboretum Lighting (CP Foundation)
 - Phase 2 of the Arboretum lights
 - HANC Entrance Sign and Lighting (Potential outside and city funding)
 - Add an ornate entrance sign
 - Explore HANC parking lot and trail lights

- MN OVAL Project- State Bond Funds
 - Repairs based on Condition Assessment Report

Commissioner Arneson inquired about the frog pond fountain and if there had been a debris cage added. Staff responded that materials for a new cage that will filter better was delivered late in the season last year and that it will be added this spring.

Commissioner Lenhart asked what type of engagement would be included with the work planned for Pocahontas Park. Also, she suggested the addition of more natural play spaces at the park. Staff relayed that updating the playground at Pocahontas Park is anticipated in the next few years based on the age of equipment and previous surveys. Adding that all playgrounds in the city are inspected quarterly and provided a rating score which is tracked and monitored. Once a playground is identified as needing to be replaced, the community is engaged as part of the Parks and Recreation Community Engagement Plan and together with the community a replacement plan for the structure is made.

Commissioner Lenhart mentioned the age of some of the equipment that is located at Pocahontas Park and that it may be good to get the communities opinion on the older equipment when undergoing upcoming community engagement.

Chair Hoag noted how much some residents are attached to “classic playground equipment” like the Central Park Rocket Ship or merry-go-rounds that are located throughout the city.

Commissioner Stoner asked about the changes to recycling in the parks. Staff responded that the biggest change has been the recycling company calling to say that certain park barrels have been contaminated with trash. When that happens that whole barrel has to be dumped into the trash and can't be recycled. Even with the contamination issues happening more frequently staff still feels that recycling in the parks is a worthwhile program.

Commissioner Stoner also asked about the entrance sign at HANC and if the signs that were previously shown to the Commission are still the starting point for the future sign. Staff responded that the previous designs are still the starting point for the future HANC signs.

5) **FOLLOW UP TO JOINT MEETING WITH THE CITY COUNCIL**

Chair Hoag relayed that a City Council member reached out to him after the joint meeting to say they were very supportive of the initiatives that the Commission brought forward.

Commissioner Baggenstoss noted that he was very proud of Youth Commissioner Kim for what a great job he did presenting before the City Council and also for bringing the idea to the Commission originally.

The Commission discussed the City Council's response to the Pocahontas Park name discussion including their discussed support of potentially changing the Park Naming Policy.

Commissioner O'Brien added that she was impressed with the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) presentation. She reiterated that the Commission has diligently kept the item before the City Council for years. However, she was now potentially seeing more urgency behind the issues with the City Council as a council member made the comment that the "trees were dying and need to come down".

The Commission discussed EAB and how to relay the urgency of the dying trees to ensure they don't become a safety hazard and that Roseville's canopy is not decimated.

Commissioner Arneson noted that the City Council had brought up the topic of if there was another way to trigger Park Dedication.

Commissioner Baggenstoss added that the Commission had previously discussed potential ways to capture Park Dedication. Therefore, he feels the Commission should look further into this topic.

Staff provided potential next steps for the Pocahontas Park name discussion, including:

March 2 – Invite another Guest or Two

- Member of the Dakota Tribe
- Native Governance Center Rep
- Minnesota Historical Society
- Compile info heard through members of the public
- Review proposed web page
- Other

April 6 – Discussion/Prepare for Listening Session

- Develop language for invitation(s) for listening session
- Confirm who will be invited
- Confirm format of listening session

May 4 – Listening Session

June 1 – Discussion

- Naming Policy
- Recommendation

Chair Hoag noted that he would appreciate hearing from a couple more local experts before making a recommendation.

Commissioner Arneson agreed with Chair Hoag on hearing from additional experts. He also reminded the Commission that at the meeting with the City Council it was mentioned that the

Dakota do not name things after people. He acknowledged that this made him start to think about what the Dakota name would be for “rose” or some other meaningful word to the area.

The Commission discussed options for outreach to the indigenous and larger community.

Commissioner Stoner conveyed that he feels the Commission should try to follow the Park Naming Policy, rather than change it, as it has a lot of latitude for options and it was created as a guiding tool to ensure consistency for the park names in Roseville.

Commissioner Lenhart communicated that she feels the Pocahontas Park timeline may be ambitious and she would prefer additional community engagement. She also inquired if the new Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Consultant that the city is working with could help to manage the listening sessions, write the invitations or help to create a survey to gather additional feedback. Finally, she reiterated that she would be interested in understanding the history of the vegetation and land uses for the Pocahontas Park area.

Youth Commissioner Kim questioned how difficult it may be to create a survey that could be distributed by local native groups as an additional way to gather feedback.

Chair Hoag suggested that Pocahontas Park be one of the DYP locations this year.

Commissioner Brown added that the idea of a dual name both in English and Dakota might be an interesting way to go about naming the park.

Commissioner Baggenstoss expressed that he feels that the Commission is doing a lot of talking when they need to do a lot of listening. He feels the first step is to listen to culture bearers and leaders and to let them guide the Commission. He added that past systems have been setup to propagate whiteness and that previous actions may feel comfortable. However, it may not be comfortable or easy for the groups that the Commission is trying to invite into the civic process. Finally, he offered that the Unity Park process was successful because the outreach met the target community where they were, rather than asking them to drive somewhere or fill out a survey.

Staff shared that they will be working with the Administration and Finance Departments to understand financial opportunities for EAB in order to bring funding options before the City Council in the next few months. Staff will also be researching costs for pickleball, potential triggers for Park Dedication and inoculation options for the deer herd. Additional information on these topics will be brought to the Commission in subsequent meetings.

Commissioner O'Brien questioned where Roseville currently stands on the deer reduction program. Staff responded that 23 deer have been removed over 5 nights (13 in the Reservoir Woods Park area and 11 in the Owasso Hills Park area).

Commissioner Lenhart asked what the buck vs. doe count has been for the reduction program. Staff responded that there have been 9 with antlers and 14 antlerless removed.

Staff thanked the Commission for sharing their knowledge and taking the time to represent the Parks and Recreation Commission before the City Council.

6) STAFF REPORT

a) NEW OR RELEVANT COMMUNICATIONS AND UPDATE ITEMS

- Operational Updates
 - Parks
 - Ski and snow shoe rentals
 - Picnic shelter reservations will open on March 4
 - Neighborhood rinks open (warming houses closed) – pleasure rink and hockey
 - Park Buildings with limited capacity and restrictions
 - Park Building restroom hours (7 a.m. – 7 p.m.)
 - HANC open T, TH and Sat 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.
 - Off leash dog park in Roseville at Reservoir Woods Park
 - Dogs must be on leash at all times in city parks
 - Recreation
 - Registration Continues for recreation programs
 - Youth – age 4-13
 - Tennis, ages 5-12
 - Kickball, ages 5-12
 - Youth Basketball, ages 4-9
 - Youth Volleyball, ages 5-13
 - Art
 - Parent/child
 - Doodlebugs and Flutterbys
 - Spring Break
 - Slime-tastic
 - How to Draw and Paint a Unicorn
 - Canvas and Clay Camp
 - New virtual chair yoga
 - Adult trips
 - (Virtual) Bakery Bus in a Box – Feb. 18
 - (Virtual) Churches and Chocolates – Mar. 16

- (In-Person) DayTrippers Theatre, May 20
 - Adult Pickleball
 - Bowling for older adults
 - Adult Volleyball (60 teams) and Adult Basketball (12 teams) and Broomball (8 teams)
 - Upcoming registrations for Adult Softball, Sand Volleyball and Summer Soccer – Begins Mar. 10
 - AARP Tax-Aide drop off services
 - Thinking about planning for summer
- Cedarholm
 - Candlelight snowshoeing event – additional event added Feb. 19
 - Planning for golf league registration
 - Building use with limited capacity
- Skating Center
 - OVAL Public Skating remains at 100 people per session (some sessions less based on other activities on ice), pre-purchased tickets required
 - Refrigeration system was turned on
 - Arena is almost completely back open (RAYHA, skate school, High School hockey, etc.
 - High School hockey games
 - Walking track open to public 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. Monday – Friday ONLY (sign-in and out required)
 - Indoor public skating available, pre-purchased tickets required
 - Banquet rooms are back open but with limited capacity
- Natural Resource Event – Saturday, Feb. 20, 2021
 - Villa Park – drag and stack
 - Register with Volunteer Coordinator Rachel Boggs at 651-792-7028 or Rachel.boggs@cityofroseville.com
- Parks and Recreation Commission applications
 - Two vacancies
 - Commissioners Stoner and O’Brien will be leaving the Commission
 - Applications due Mar. 10, interviews Mar. 15
 - Cityofroseville.com

Commissioner Lenhart thanked staff for the maintenance and conditions of the outdoor skating rinks this winter. She relayed that her family has been utilizing the rinks and they have been great. She also asked for any updates on summer camps. Staff responded that they are anticipating the conditions may be improved this summer with operations more close to normal, based on the recent positive vaccine news.

Chair Hoag asked for a quick snapshot on what may be on next month's agenda. Staff advised that there will be an election of Commission Officers (Chair, Vice-Chair and Ethics Representative), the Pocahontas Park name discussion and Carrie Anderson the new Recreation Superintendent may join the meeting to discuss the upcoming summer programs.

Commissioner Arneson asked if there have been any updates on the Park Dedication parcel located near Eustis and County Road B West. Staff responded that their understanding is the parcel is still under contract and that the developer is continuing to work through potential options for the land.

7) **OTHER**

Meeting adjourned at 8:34 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Danielle Christensen, Department Assistant