

**ROSEVILLE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES FOR
MAY 7, 2019 6:30 p.m.**

PRESENT: Arneson, Baggenstoss, Brown, Dahlstrom, Heikkila, Hoag,
O'Brien, Quick, Stoner
ABSENT: Newby
STAFF: Brokke, Christensen, Taylor

1) INTRODUCTIONS

2) ROLL CALL/PUBLIC COMMENT

3) APPROVAL OF MINUTES – APRIL 2, 2019 MEETING

Vice-Chair Hoag moved to approve the April 2, 2019 meeting minutes. Commissioner Stoner seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

4) EMERALD ASH BORER DISCUSSION

Staff provided a summary of the previous month's discussion of cash carry over funds. Noting that excess reserves beyond the target amount could be identified for the establishment of a program to address Emerald Ash Borer in public trees. Currently, in 2019 there is \$82,000 left in the Emerald Ash Borer account. Based on current projections that balance will be down to \$0 by the end of 2019.

To address EAB in Roseville staff presented an option of a 5-6 year Accelerated EAB Program. Below is a table that outlines a possible approach utilizing excess Parks and Recreation reserve funds beyond the target amount and annual budget monies:

	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

*Average cost assumption = \$400 to remove and \$450 to replace.

This program would create a substantial change to the landscape of the Roseville urban forest. However, the above rough draft provides for a 5-6 year program (with residual in final year) to substantially eradicate EAB on public property and maintain a reasonable canopy throughout time.

Staff noted that the recommended procurement method would be through the Best Value proposal process (not low bid). A Request for Proposal (RFP) would include solicitation of a single vendor that could manage a multiyear contract to complete the job.

The above proposal covers public trees on boulevards and manicured park areas (not forested park areas). This does not cover private trees and education would need to be considered for residents on what options are available for their private trees.

Commissioner Dahlstrom asked how accurate the removal pricing is that is listed in the plan. Staff stated that it is current accurate prices based on the current caliper inches of the trees.

Commissioner Heikkila questioned if there is an inventory of the current Ash Trees. Staff confirmed that there is an inventory of all public trees in the Davey Treekeeper tree database.

Vice-Chair Hoag encouraged staff to extend the treatment of trees to help retain the tree canopy for a slightly longer timeframe. Staff confirmed they would be asking the experts to provide proposals that would help achieve Roseville's short and long-term canopy goals.

Commissioner Stoner stated that he would be uncomfortable committing money to tree replacement when we do not know the outcome of the Guidant John Rose Minnesota OVAL bonding at the legislature.

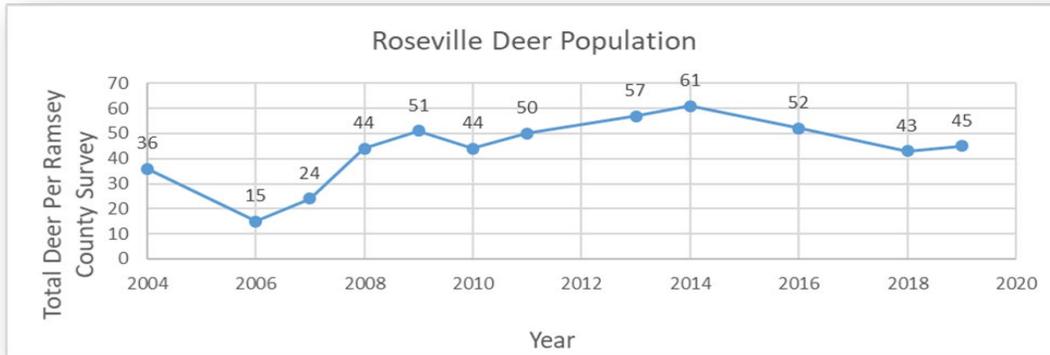
The Commission discussed the potential timeframe for removals and different options for the accelerated program.

Commissioner Arneson proposed the idea of allowing residents to donate or sponsor a tree.

Commissioner O'Brien moved that the Commission talk with City Council at their joint meeting in June of their strong support in using the excess reserve balance beyond the target amount towards helping to solve the Emerald Ash Borer epidemic in the city. Vice-Chair Hoag seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

5) ROSEVILLE DEER POPULATION REPORT

A history of the deer population in Roseville was provided by staff:



In 2017 and 2018/2019 Roseville partnered with the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) on deer reduction programs. Both years, 20 deer were removed from various locations in Roseville (2017: Owasso Hills Park, Leaf Compost Site, Ladyslipper Park, Harriet Alexander Nature Canter; 2018/2019: Reservoir Woods Park and Owasso Hills Park).

The deer habitat in Roseville per the Minnesota Department of Natural Resource (DNR) criteria has been assessed at .77 acres. This amount of habitat can support 15-19 deer.

The Commission reviewed the deer population maps created from the Ramsey County flyovers and the 2018 and Q1 2019 deer feedback maps from residents. It was noted that the majority of calls and feedback has come from the Central Park, Reservoir Woods, Villa Park and Owasso Hills neighborhoods. These are the same locations that Ramsey County observed the majority of the deer during the flyovers.

Commissioner Stoner stated that he feels removing 20 deer for two additional continuous years would help to bring the population under control.

The Commission discussed the reduction numbers and what the optimal reduction amount would be for future efforts. They noted that they are not experts and that they would look to the USDA and DNR to help recommend a reasonable reduction number to get the population under control. In addition, they discussed that an ongoing maintenance program would be necessary to maintain the reduced population.

Staff confirmed that the USDA suggested removing 30-40 deer in one year to help bring the population closer to the optimal habitat number and then continue with smaller yearly maintenance reductions.

Commissioner Brown noted the healthiness of the herd appears to be increasing based on the deer disposition logs from the USDA.

The Commission discussed increased concern in the community and encouraged the public to report deer sightings, concerns or feedback via the online form.

Commissioner O'Brien recommended that a potential Vision Statement for the deer program in Roseville could be "maintain a healthy herd". This recommendation could be achieved by working with the USDA and DNR on an ongoing maintenance program to keep the herd at a healthy size.

6) DISCUSS JOINT MEETING WITH THE CITY COUNCIL

Vice-Chair Hoag suggested moving the cash reserve and EAB items together on the RCA and placing them at the top of the list.

The Commission discussed potentially highlighting the following topics when meeting with the City Council:

- EAB & Cash Reserve
- Bonding Updates
- Roseville Deer Population

Commissioner Dahlstrom asked for further details on GARE.

Staff confirmed the joint meeting date with the Commission will be June 17. The Commission agreed to further plan for the joint meeting at their next meeting on June 4.

7) PRIMER UPDATE – DEFINITION OF CASH RESERVES

At the April 2, 2019 Parks and Recreation Commission meeting cash reserves/cash carry over funds were discussed. Commissioner O'Brien suggested that this term be added to the Primer under the finance section. Below is what Commissioner O'Brien suggested as the definition:

Cash Reserves are funds that are held and carried over for future use. They are necessary to provide for cash flow in between revenue collection periods as well as unanticipated expenses. Reserves are also used to provide up-front monies for new initiatives and program enhancements, and to stabilize programs during periods of declining revenues.

Roseville has a policy that sets the target level of what the cash reserve amount should be for the city as well as various departments. The target level is given as a percentage of the Operating Budget. For instance, the target level for the city is to have cash reserves between a low of 35% and a high of 45% of the Operating Budget.

Annual budget surpluses and deficits affect the amount of cash reserves available for each department. If the surplus or deficit brings the cash reserve level above or below the targeted percentage, the City Council will consider what to do about this at budget time.

The Commission agreed to add the definition listed above to the Parks and Recreation Primer.

8) **STAFF REPORT**

8.A. ONGOING TOPIC OF CITY LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES UPDATE

8.A.i. GUIDANT JOHN ROSE MINNESOTA OVAL CAPITAL BONDING BILL (HF 1345/SF 1486)

The MN OVAL bonding request is in the House Bonding Bill. The Senate still has not heard testimony and does not have a bill at this point. To date, the response has been positive and people are supportive and understanding of the need and request.

8.A.ii. CEDARHOLM LIQUOR BILL (HF 1119/SF 1163)

The Cedarholm Golf Course Liquor License has been included in both the House and Senate omnibus liquor bills. It appears that the timing for the vote on this bill will be at the end of the legislative session.

8.B. OTHER NEW OR RELEVANT COMMUNICATION ITEMS

- Natural Resource Renewal Event at Central Park Lexington on May 11 from 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Future event dates are May 18 from 9:00 a.m. - noon (Central Park Blooming Boulevard Flower Planting).

9) **OTHER**

Commissioner Arneson inquired about the trees around Bennett Lake. Staff confirmed they are for erosion control.

Meeting adjourned at 8:53 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Danielle Christensen, Department Assistant