

**ROSEVILLE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES FOR
SEPTEMBER 6, 2022 6:30 p.m.**

PRESENT: Arneson, Boulton, Baggenstoss, Brown, Dahlstrom, Hoag, Lenhart, Matts-Benson, Ybarra

ABSENT:

STAFF: Johnson, Anderson

1) INTRODUCTIONS

2) ROLL CALL/PUBLIC COMMENT

Roll Call Commissioners: Arneson, Boulton, Baggenstoss, Brown, Dahlstrom, Hoag, Lenhart, Matts-Benson, Ybarra

Chair Dahlstrom called for public comment by members of the audience. No audience members were present.

3) APPROVAL OF MINUTES – AUGUST 4, 2022 MEETING

Vice-Chair Hoag moved to approve the minutes. Commissioner Matts-Benson seconds.

Roll Call

Ayes: Brown, Dahlstrom, Hoag, Lenhart, Matts-Benson,

Nays: None.

Abstain: Arneson, Baggenstoss, Boulton, Ybarra

4) PRESENTATION OF MINNESOTA RECREATION AND PARKS ASSOCIATION (MRPA) AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE

Jason Hicks, a member of the MRPA Awards Committee and Assistant Director of Parks and Recreation for the City of New Brighton was present to present two awards to the City of Roseville. Hicks stated that the MRPA Awards are an annual program facilitated by the MRPA to recognize outstanding achievements in the field of Parks and Recreation.

Hicks presented two awards to the City:

- An award for Excellence in Programs and Events for Kite Day in the Park, and;
- An Award of Excellence for Partnership and Sponsorship for the Central Park Victoria Inclusive Playground Expansion.

Staff thanked Hicks and the MRPA for the recognition and asked the Commission to accept the awards on behalf of the city.

5) **REVIEW OF ROSEVILLE’S STRATEGIC RACIAL EQUITY ACTION PLAN, AND PARKS AND RECREATION EQUITY AND INCLUSION INITIATIVES AND STRATEGY**

Staff mentioned that equity has been a priority to the City, and is included throughout the goals that the commission established earlier this year, so it was appropriate to discuss the City’s equity strategy and initiatives.

Staff discussed the census data pertaining to demographics in Roseville. Currently, 29% of Roseville residents identify themselves as non-white, up from 19% in 2010 and 11% in 2000. Additionally, school district and metro-wide trends point toward Roseville continuing to become more diverse. Additionally, an estimated 3,800 Roseville residents identify themselves as having a disability.

Staff discussed the history of developing a formal racial equity action plan.

An overview of the City’s Strategic Racial Equity Action Plan (SREAP) and Equity Narrative were provided. Staff also highlighted the proven positive impacts of parks and recreation participation including mental and physical health, connectedness and even economic impacts, and commented that if we do not have equal participation from historically underrepresented groups, the already existing disparities in those areas will actually increase.

Staff shared what has been done over the past couple of years to remove some barriers to participation including:

- Inclusive Playground at Central Park
- ADA Improvements as projects are completed
- OVAL ramping
- Central Park fitness pods
- Updated restroom signage in several park buildings
- Continued engagement including 2022 playgrounds
- Increased funding and marketing for recreation scholarship program
- Audited and diversified books used for summer programs to ensure adequate representation

Staff discussed how staff are using equity as a factor when determining locations and plans for recreational events.

Staff reviewed programs currently underway that explicitly exist to further equity goals and increase cultural awareness, including:

- Creative Crossroads Summer Entertainment

- Wild Rice Festival
- Chinese New Year at HANC
- Rec Connect Program
- Matt Dumba Hockey Without Limits Camp
- Providing Support for the Juneteenth Event

Staff discussed the effort that is under way to remove racially restrictive covenants from two City parks, Langton Lake and Ladyslipper.

Staff discussed some new data tools including the Trust for Public Land database and My Sidewalk.

Staff discussed possible next steps including:

- Ongoing training
- Improved Data Collection
- REACH for Resources; adaptive recreation service
- Complete Pocahontas Park renaming
- Evaluate scholarship program to maximize impact
- Identify other barriers
- Visioning/needs assessment to identify service gaps
- Continue ADA improvements as funds become available and projects move forward
- OVAL improvements
- Arboretum trails

Several Commissioners expressed their thanks and support for the work that has already been completed and encouraged staff to continue to move forward with the efforts.

Commissioner Lenhart stated that it would be nice to have a map of who uses the parks. She also commented on how one of the key barriers to participation is lack of transportation and she appreciates that we have multiple sites throughout the city where programs and activities are offered.

Boulton commented that he agrees that neighborhood spaces could be nice, but feels that the city would benefit from a centralized location like a community center where more could be offered.

Matts-Benson stated that she understands that future data collection on race and ethnicity is important, but urged caution and sensitivity when acquiring the data so that it doesn't become a deterrent to participation. Matts-Benson also mentioned how appreciative she was that staff immediately adjusted a dance offering after some parents raised some concerns that class times could adversely affect individuals with transportation issues.

Baggenstoss stated his appreciation for what has been done and stated that the Commission needs to make sure that they are hearing feedback for all of Roseville, recognizing that their current make up does not reflect that of Roseville.

Matts-Benson stated that the current offered payment plan, which charges a higher fee for participants who cannot pay the course fee at once, could be an example of a barrier.

Ybarra suggested that the first-come first-serve registration process could also be looked at in terms of equity impacts.

Staff thanked the Commission for the feedback.

6) **STAFF REPORT**

- Staff mentioned that Envision Roseville will be kicking off soon and they will be seeking one individual from the PRC to participate; interested Commissioners should reach out to Director Johnson directly.
- Playground builds are planned at Pioneer and Owasso Hills on October 8. The builds, will focus on people from the neighborhoods who participated in the engagement process.
- The City is seeking applicants for Youth Commissioner in September. Staff urged Commissioners to encourage possible candidates to apply.
- It appears that Granite City will be moving out of Cedarholm later this month. Staff is looking at issuing another RFP for a future vendor later in the year.
- Central Park softball field number 6 is having some issues from concrete that is buried under the field which has pushed up. Staff are looking at all options for the site.
- Staff provided updates on upcoming events and programs including the Wild Rice Festival, Tapped and Uncorked, Golftoberfest and Dance Classes.
- Carrie Anderson has been named the new Assistant Director of Parks and Recreation.

7) **OTHER**

Commissioner Lenhart requested to be notified when the Pocahontas Park conversation would be brought before the Commission, as she is aware of some individuals who would want to comment on it.

Staff stated that there would likely be some update at the October meeting, but it's not clear that is when a formal agenda item would be held as staff want to make sure they have time to process and follow up on any information that is received at the Wild Rice Festival.

Staff clarified that the earliest that they can promise notifying the Commission is the day the packet comes out, which is the Thursday before the meeting. However, staff did state that any individuals are welcome to come to the public comment portion of any meeting to share their perspective.

Chair Dahlstrom reminded the Commission that the next meeting will be on Tuesday, October 4.
Meeting adjourned at 7:55p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Matthew Johnson, Director of Parks and Recreation