

**ROSEVILLE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES FOR
JUNE 6, 2023 6:30 p.m.**

PRESENT: Arneson, Beckman, Boulton, Baggenstoss, Brown, Dahlstrom, Matts-Benson, Raygor
ABSENT: Ybarra
STAFF: Anderson, Johnson

1) INTRODUCTIONS

2) ROLL CALL/PUBLIC COMMENT

Roll Call Commissioners: Arneson, Beckman, Boulton, Baggenstoss, Brown, Dahlstrom, Matts-Benson, Raygor.

Chair Dahlstrom called for public comment by members of the audience.

Laura Palmquist and Amanda Becker of the Human Rights, Inclusion and Engagement Commission joined the meeting. They formally invited the Parks and Recreation Commissioners to walk in the Rosefest Parade to advertise commission recruitment.

3) PRESENTATION OF MINNESOTA RECREATION AND PARKS ASSOCIATION (MRPA) AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

Staff introduced Jason Hicks, the Parks and Recreation Assistant Director for the City of New Brighton, MN who was presenting the award on behalf of the MRPA.

Hicks provided background on the MRPA, the Awards Committee and the Award of Excellence program. The City of Roseville was awarded an Award of Excellence in the “Sponsorships and Partnerships” category for the Healing Garden project that was done at the Muriel Sahlin Arboretum in 2022.

Director Johnson acknowledged staff members Anderson, Taylor and Sullivan as well as the Ramsey County Master Gardeners for their initiative and commitment to the project

4) APPROVAL OF MINUTES – MAY 2, 2023 MEETING

Commissioner Boulton moved to approve the minutes. Commissioner Beckman seconded.

41
42 **Roll Call**

43 **Ayes:** Arneson, Beckman, Boulton, Baggenstoss, Brown, Dahlstrom, Raygor.

44 **Nays:** None.

45 **Abstain:** Matts-Benson.
46

47 **5) BUSINESS ITEMS**

48 a) **CITY COUNCIL REVIEW OF COMMISSIONS**

49 City Council member, Jason Etten, joined the Commission to discuss a review of the overall
50 roles and vision of the City Commissions.

51
52 Council Member Etten tasked the Commission to look over Roseville City Code 201 and any
53 City Code that is relevant to the Parks and Recreation Commission. While reviewing the City
54 Code he asked Commissioners to think about the following questions:

- 55 • What is good?
- 56 • What needs to be changed?
- 57 • What might be removed?
- 58 • What might be added to better serve the community?
59

60 Council Member Etten added that potential feedback might include items such as: a redline
61 version of the City Code that pertains to the Parks and Recreation Commission, potential task
62 force ideas, next steps for the Natural Resource Renewal Program, etc.
63

64 The Commission discussed ideas that would potentially fall under the scope of this project.
65

66 Commissioner Baggenstoss inquired why the review is taking place. Council Member Etten
67 relayed that other Commissions had brought forward ideas to change or update specific items
68 pertaining to their Commission.
69

70 Council Member Etten added that the timing for the Commission to review and discuss feedback
71 would be over the next few months.
72

73 b) **URBAN FORESTRY AND THE ACCELERATED EMERALD ASH BORER PROGRAM**

74 Steff provided background on the Parks and Recreation Departments management of the City's
75 Urban Forest.
76

- 77 • Why Urban Forest is important
 - 78 ○ Environmental Impacts
 - 79 ■ Tree cover provides a variety of ecosystem service benefits in cities, including
 - 80 reducing air pollutant concentrations.
 - 81 ○ Economic Impacts

- Property values, tourism and outsider visitation rates are higher in areas that have tree cover.
- Wellness Impacts
 - People who live closer to tree density have better mental health.
- Equity Impacts
 - Areas that have higher concentrations of people of color and lower socioeconomic status have lower tree cover.

Roseville has held Tree City USA designation from the Arbor Day Foundation for 29 years.

- Roseville's Forestry Program Background
 - Managed in Parks Division
 - Director/City Forester
 - Parks Superintendent
 - Part-time Forestry Coordinator
 - Maintenance Staff
 - AmeriCorps Staff
 - Contractors
 - Public Trees
 - Park Trees
 - Boulevard Trees
 - Other Public Spaces
 - Does not include private trees or trees on County right of way
 - Disease and Hazard Tree Program

Staff provided a copy of the Street Tree Species Distribution Map that the parks department utilizes to ensure the tree canopy is diverse within the city.

- Accelerated Emerald Ash Borer Program Background
 - First discovered in MN in 2009 and Roseville in 2013
 - In 2013-2021 731 public ash trees were removed as they began to show signs of deterioration and 450 were planted.
 - March 2022, entered into an agreement with Tree Trust to complete the Accelerated EAB Program.
 - Program called for:
 - Removal of 914 ash trees
 - Treatment of 238 ash trees
 - Planting of 1,152 trees
 - Subsidize 450 private trees
 - Program planned a total of 914 removals, 1,602 plantings and a program cost of \$1,409,473.

- Accelerated Emerald Ash Borer Program Summary
 - Public ash trees as of program onset – 1,152
 - Removals – 914
 - Treated – 238
 - Plantings – 1,152
 - Subsidized private trees – 450
 - Anticipated completion in 2025 (three-year program)
 - Funded through CIP, Tree Preservation and grant funding
 - Program began in May, 2022
 - Accelerated EAB Program Removal Overview
 - Prioritized highest-risk ash trees first, then efficiency
 - Multi-point notification
 - Completed more than 50% of planned removals
 - Stump grinding
 - Following removal, tree stumps will be ground, and the area restored. During the winter months, this process may be delayed due to snow cover and/or frozen ground.
 - Accelerated EAB Program Planting Overview
 - Planting species predetermined
 - Planting by plan
 - Multi-point notification
 - Volunteer plantings
 - Staff thanked all of the volunteers who have planted trees as part of the Accelerated EAB Program.
 - One year of upkeep
 - All trees are warrantied for 1 year through the contract with Tree Trust
 - Education
 - 2022 Planting Source:
 - 12 Gravel Bed
 - 80 Annual Park Planting
 - 316 Tree Trust Contract
 - Accelerated EAB Program Treatment Overview
 - 79 treatments in 2022
 - Two-year treatment cycle
 - Estimated ongoing cost of \$17,000 per year following the program
 - Private ash trees
 - Owner responsibility
 - Tree Trust provides a 10% discount on removal
 - 450 trees sold for \$40 each through Accelerated EAB Program
 - New: Received 300 free trees through an additional grant

- Other EAB related Information
 - Program Consideration
 - Utilizing City staff, Tree Trust staff and AmeriCorps staff to conduct ongoing inspection and restoration
 - Two AmeriCorps staff dedicated to watering, pruning and training
 - Gravel bed nursery
 - Ongoing treatment
- Post EAB Planning
 - Species diversity
 - Climate resilience
 - Equity in forestry
 - Effective management
 - Updated tree inventory
 - Urban Forest Master Plan

Chair Dahlstrom asked if there were temperature concerns with planting more diverse climate trees. Staff relayed that any trees planted for climate resiliency would be from just outside of the current tree species range in Roseville and as a result there are not climate concerns with the plantings.

Commissioner Beckman asked if once the Accelerated EAB Program is complete will the focus move to address the next potential tree infestation. Staff relayed that they continuously work to be aware of impending tree threats and plan for them accordingly.

Commissioner Beckman also asked what the Commission can do to prepare for future infestation. Staff relayed that Commissioners can work to encourage members of the public to reach out to the city to provide information regarding any ash trees that may need to be removed. In the long term, Commissioners can work to highlight potential future infestations, such as the Asian Long Horned Beetle, with staff and the City Council.

Commissioner Boulton thanked staff for the informative presentation and positively acknowledged the aggressive approach to planning trees as part of the Accelerated EAB Program. He also asked how private ash tree removal is enforced. Staff answered that once the city is notified of a hazardous private ash tree a staff person goes out to assess the condition of the tree. If the tree is deemed hazardous a notification is sent to the homeowner. If the tree is not subsequently removed the city would work to remove the tree via the abatement process. Any tree appeals would be remedied via the Tree Board (Parks and Recreation Commission).

Commissioner Boulton inquired if there was an assistance program for homeowners who need to remove private trees. Staff responded that currently there is not an assistance program.

208 6) **STAFF REPORT**

209 a) **DEPARTMENTAL UPDATES**

- 210 • Over 100 volunteers participated in the flower planting along Lexington Ave. in Central Park
- 211 on May 20.
- 212 • Eighty-three residents hosted garage sales as part of the citywide garage sale event on June 1-
- 213 3.
- 214 • Roseville Area Fastpitch hosted their annual tournament the “Roseville Rumble” on June 3-
- 215 4.
- 216 • The Summer Entertainment series begins on June 11 at the Frank ROG Amphitheatre.
- 217 • Juneteenth Celebration on June 19 at Central Park Lexington.
- 218 • Rosefest begins June 22 and includes a 5K/10K, parade and culminates with Fireworks on
- 219 July 4.
- 220 • Roll-in movie “Encanto” on June 9 (7:30 p.m.) at the Guidant John Rose MN OVAL.
- 221 • The citywide Race and Equity update PowerPoint was provided in the Commission packet.
- 222 Staff encouraged Commissioners to watch the May 22, 2023 City Council meeting where the
- 223 update was presented.
- 224 • Staff invited Commissioners to join them at an HRIEC Commission meeting on June 21
- 225 (6:30 p.m.) to provide background and request a land acknowledgment to be used for Keya
- 226 Park and throughout the whole city.
- 227 • The remaining \$800,000 that the city was seeking for the Guidant John Rose MN OVAL was
- 228 not included in this year’s bonding bill.
- 229 • The sales tax referendum was authorized for the City of Roseville to fund the Campus Master
- 230 Plan. The referendum will take place in 2024.
- 231 • Commissioner Arneson shared the results of the Envision Roseville process (thus far) that
- 232 pertain to the Parks and Recreation Commission, including the following key themes:
- 233 ○ Transportation and Infrastructure: Safe and efficient transportation for all people.
- 234 More accommodations for people walking and biking.
- 235 ○ Green Space and Environmental Conservation: Preserve and maintain natural spaces.
- 236 Proactively address climate change.
- 237 ○ City Parks, Facilities, and Programming:
- 238 ■ City parks – Protect/preserve/improve/increase access to city parks.
- 239 ■ Community spaces – Create more/preserve community gathering spaces.
- 240 Friendly to all ages and cultures.
- 241 ■ Community programming – Invest in community programming to bring
- 242 people together. All ages/abilities/cultures. More multicultural programming,
- 243 sports, etc. Programming for older kids. More recreational opportunities for
- 244 diverse cultures and family entertainment.
- 245 ■ Community facilities – Specific suggestions for facilities like a community
- 246 center, splash pad, dog park, and mountain bike facility.
- 247

248 Next steps, are to target demographics who were underrepresented in the above data
249 collection.
250

- The first community meeting was held for the new park at 381 County Road B. Three potential concept plans will be presented to the community at the next meeting on June 14 at Appétu Téča Education Center.
- Tio's restaurant opened at the Cedarholm Community Building. They are open daily from 11a.m. – 9p.m.
- Staff encouraged Commissioners to sign up to attend the upcoming Discover Your Park events.

b) **OTHER NEW OR RELEVANT COMMUNICATION AND UPDATE ITEMS**

Staff relayed that there will be no Commission meeting in July.

7) **OTHER**

Meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Danielle Christensen, Department Assistant