

**ROSEVILLE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION**  
**MEETING MINUTES FOR**  
**August 3, 2023 6:30 p.m.**

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

**1) INTRODUCTIONS**

**2) ROLL CALL/PUBLIC COMMENT**

**Roll Call Commissioners:** Arneson, Baggenstoss, Brown, Dahlstrom, Matts-Benson,  
Raygor, Ybarra

No public comment.

**3) APPROVAL OF MINUTES – JUNE 6, 2023 MEETING**

Commissioner Brown moved to approve the minutes. Commissioner Arneson seconded.

**Roll Call**

**Ayes:** Arneson, Baggenstoss, Brown, Dahlstrom, Matts-Benson, Raygor

**Nays:** None.

**Abstain:** Ybarra

**4) BUSINESS ITEMS**

**a) REVIEW 2022-2023 DEER MANAGEMENT PROGRAM AND DISCUSS POTENTIAL  
2023-24 APPROACH**

Steff provided background on, and overview of the Roseville Deer Management Program.

Roseville has suitable habitat for 15 to 19 deer according to the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) calculation.

Overpopulation leads to an unhealthy herd, starving deer, increased vehicular collisions, property damage and other adverse outcomes.

The City conducts an ongoing, annual deer reduction in which US Department of Agriculture (USDA) wildlife management staff utilize rifles to remove (kill) a predetermined number of deer from predetermined sites.

Staff provided an overview of the deer population data that is periodically collected by Ramsey County. The last reliable count was in 2021, when a minimum population of 41 deer in Roseville was recorded. Ramsey County attempted a flyover survey in 2023 but due to poor conditions, the data was unreliable.

In the 2022-23 management season, 23 deer were removed. The City received tags to remove up to 49. This lower than expected number was consistent with results throughout the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area.

Commissioner Raygor stated that she observed many people feeding deer in her neighborhood.

Staff continued a presentation regarding the forthcoming deer removal season. Given the lack of accurate flyover data, staff are forced to rely on other data sources to estimate the current deer population. Anecdotal sources used include reported deer sightings, USDA observations, collision data, trail cameras and condition of deer harvested.

- Reported deer sightings are consistent with one year ago
- Collision data this year is on a similar pace to last year
- Majority of feedback received is pro reduction effort

Staff discussed the DNR formula for estimating population growth.

Staff proposed a possible approach in which they would request 35 tags, which is equal to the average number of deer that have been removed each of the last three seasons. They would enter the season with the intention of removing 20 to 30 deer, but with the ability to adjust and remove up to 35 deer if conditions on the ground warrant such removals.

Commissioner Raygor stated that she feels that the deer population is too large.

Commissioner Baggenstoss stated that limiting the number of tags to 35 would be a mistake, as he felt that in the early years of the program, staff were limited by the number of tags and were not able to effectively manage the program. He recommended requesting 49 or 50 tags, and managing actual removals based on “real time” site data.

Commissioner Ybarra agreed that 35 was too low of a number.

Chair Dahlstrom asked if staff have the ability to adjust and request more tags during the season. Staff stated that once tags have been requested, additional tags are likely not an option, so the number of tags that are requested would be the maximum number of deer removed.

Commissioner Matts-Benson asked what the budget implications of requesting additional tags is. Staff stated that the budget would not be affected by additional tags. The cost is largely determined by USDA staff hours and actual removals, not the number of tags requested. Staff stated that \$15,000 is budgeted for the 2023-24 removal programming, and staff would plan not to exceed that number. Thus, the actual number of removals could be much lower.

Commissioner Raygor asked what is done with the deer after they are killed. Staff stated that the meat is donated to needy individuals or organizations that help people in need.

The commission and staff discussed whether more should be done to educate the community about the deer removal. Staff stated this is a sensitive issue for many, and too much education can seem cruel, so they aim to be transparent while not overly aggressive with communication. Currently they send a mailing to neighborhoods near the park where removals are undertaken, and signage is placed in those areas.

Commissioner Ybarra motioned to recommend that staff request 49 removal tags and staff should utilize real-time data and budget to manage the actual removal number. Commissioner Raygor second.

#### **Roll Call**

**Ayes:** Arneson, Baggenstoss, Brown, Dahlstrom, Matts-Benson, Raygor, Ybarra

**Nays:** None.

#### **b) COMMISSION DISCUSSION REGARDING COUNCIL REVIEW OF COMMISSION ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

Chair Dahlstrom reminded the Commission of the conversation that Council Member Etten had with them at the June meeting regarding a review of the Commissions role and responsibility.

The Commission discussed some clauses in City Coed that may warrant review.

Commission Arneson highlighted City Code 204.02 C, D, H and K for addition review and discussion.

Commissioner Matts-Benson mentioned she would like to discuss 204.02 C as well, which discusses collaboration between the City and School District. The Commission discussed further.

Commissioner Matts-Benson stated that it is important that the Commission remains abreast of the Campus Master Plan, and that updates to the code should ensure that they are included in those type of issues.

The Commission discussed the extent to which they would want to be included in conversations regarding the Parks and Recreation budget.

Commissioner Matts-Benson recommended considering changes to the wording of 204.02 H. She also mentioned ensuring that updates include important Commission tasks of the:

- Serving as the Tree Board
- Park Dedication
- Deer Management

The Commission discussed these possible additions.

The Commission discussed a general desire to simplify language where possible.

The Commission arrived at the following process to compile feedback, arrive at recommended amendments, and relay them to the City Council.

- The Commission will send any possible written feedback to staff by September 18.
- Director Johnson will attempt to compile the feedback from today's meeting and that received by email.
- Two commissioners (Matts-Benson and Arneson) will meet with Director Johnson to develop a redlined document.
- The redlined document will be brought back to the Commission for review at the September meeting.

## **5) STAFF REPORT**

### **a) DEPARTMENTAL UPDATES**

- Commissioner Raygor and Director Johnson met with the HRIEC asking them to consider taking the idea of a land acknowledgement further.
- Throughout the summer staff have been reviewing the City's Summer Entertainment program.
- Staff are currently reviewing Rosefest as well.
- Two meetings have been held with residents regarding the new park on County Rd. B. Staff will be meeting with the neighborhood one more time in September to discuss a proposed final concept. It will be brought to the Commission for review.
- Staff thanked the Commission for their participation at summer events.

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

- Staff provided a brief Envision Roseville update.
- Staff mentioned that a park tour was planned for the September meeting. Due to an earlier sun set, the Commission decided to begin their September meeting at 6:00pm.

## **6) OTHER**

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Matthew Johnson, Parks and Recreation Director