

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

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

1) INTRODUCTIONS

2) ROLL CALL/PUBLIC COMMENT

Roll Call Commissioners: Arneson, Beckman, Dahlstrom, Matts-Benson, Raygor, Ybarra

No public in attendance.

3) APPROVAL OF MINUTES – SEPTEMBER 5, 2023 MEETING

Vice-Chair Matts-Benson moved to approve the minutes. Commissioner Beckman seconded.

Roll Call

Ayes: Arneson, Beckman, Dahlstrom, Matts-Benson, Raygor, Ybarra

Nays: None.

Abstain: None.

4) BUSINESS ITEMS

a) AARP WALK AUDIT PROJECT

Bob Bierscheid was going to attend the meeting to present the AARP Walk Audit Project but was unable to attend due to illness. Staff relayed that they have worked closely with Mr. Bierscheid on the project and would be presenting on his behalf.

The AARP Walk Audit Project is a self-service guide for assessing a community's walkability.

- Who Can Use It
 - The AARP Walk Audit Took Kit has been created for use by individuals, local leaders, large groups and teams of just two people.
 - The information can be used by anyone who is concerned about the safety and walkability of a street, neighborhood or community.
- Why a Walk Audit

- Too many communities in the United States are designed exclusively or almost exclusively for automobile travel, with very little consideration given to the needs of pedestrians.

In October, a small pilot of one or two intersections will be assessed using the AARP Walk Audit. However, the overall goal is to assess the whole city's walkability and provide a final report to the City Council.

- A Walk Audit Is...
 - An activity in which participants observe and evaluate the walkability of a location to identify and document if and how pedestrians can safely travel along a street, navigate an intersection and get from Point A to B and C.
- A Walk Audit Can...
 - Gather input about community infrastructure needs and investments
 - Educate residents about design elements that support safety
 - Empower community members and local leaders to become agents of change
- A Walk Audit Can Lead To...
 - Reduced traffic congestion and pollution
 - Healthier, more active lifestyles
 - Increased property values
 - Safer streets for people of all ages
- Who Can Do a Walk Audit
 - Everyone and anyone
- AARP Walk Audit Process
 - Identify the walk audit location
 - Decide on a type of walk audit
 - Invite people to participate
 - Do Good Roseville, Roseville Sr. Program, Roseville High School
 - Choose dates and times

Chair Dahlstrom asked how people can get involved with the AARP Walk Audit. Staff relayed that anyone who is interested in helping should reach out to Parks and Recreation Director, Matt Johnson.

Vice-Chair Matts-Benson suggested potentially reaching out to local schools and PTA's for volunteers as they may be interested in walkability near area schools.

b) **REVIEW SUMMER ENTERTAINMENT SERIES**

Recreation Superintendent, Josh Thygesen, and Nature Center Supervisor, Deon Haider, introduced themselves to the Commission. Haider oversees the Harriet Alexander Nature Center as well as the Live @ the Rog Concert Series. Staff provided the History and Goals of the Live @ the Rog Summer Concert Series.

- History
 - Offered in Roseville for over 20 years
 - Tuesday/Thursday/Sunday in 2023
 - Sunday (6-8pm) and Tuesday/Thursday (7-8pm)
 - 31 concerts in 2023
- Goals/Objectives
 - Community Engagement: Promote a sense of community and inclusivity by providing residents of all ages and backgrounds with an opportunity to come together, socialize and enjoy music.
 - Arts Entertainment: Offer high-quality, free entertainment and cultural experiences for residents and visitors, and foster an appreciation of different music styles.

A survey was taken by 72 residents to help guide community preferences regarding future Live @ the Rog concerts. The survey results showed blues, rock, acoustic and tribute bands were the top five preferred concert genres. Wind instruments, Creative Crossroads, steel drum and children/family music were ranked lowest for preferred concert options.

When survey participants were asked “What factors impact your likelihood to attend a given concert?” The top responses included:

- Who the performer is
- The schedule (days/times) the event is offered
- Weather

The choices for preferred concert scheduling included:

- 1st Choice: Two concerts per week with a higher budget for booking performers
- 2nd Choice: Two concerts some weeks, three concerts other weeks
- 3rd Choice: One large concert per week, one small
- 4th Choice: Keep the format the same
- 5th Choice: One concert per week with a more expensive performer

As part of the overall assessment of the Live @ the Rog Concert Series staff reviewed 38 music offerings in Minnesota. The review included days, times, number of concerts, cost, food/drink options and who runs the concerts.

Based on the community survey and similar concert options staff is considering the following for the 2024 Live @ the Rog Concert Series:

- Considered for 2024
 - 2 concerts per week
 - 30 concerts down to 20 each summer
 - Thursday/Sunday concerts
 - Thursday: 6:30-7:30 (was 7:00-8:00pm)
 - Sunday: 6:00-7:30pm (was 6:00-8:00pm)
 - Add food trucks to concerts
 - Increased marketing with additional staff time
 - Standardized booking process while also utilizing the bands marketing to increase exposure
 - Transition from Creative Crossroads, while still having acts that are culturally diverse in their performances
 - Increased budget per performance to find higher caliber performers
 - This will improve the likelihood of a larger more diverse crowd at the ROG
 - Quality over quantity to see larger crowds

The Commission relayed that they like the potential considerations for 2024 and specifically liked the potential for food trucks and shifting the concerts times to end earlier.

c) REVIEW CONCEPT PLAN FOR NEW PARK AT 2381 COUNTY ROAD B.

Staff provided a brief history of the procurement of the new park at 2381 County Road B. An open house was held on May 11 for community members to share their ideas for the new park. Feedback from the May 11 meeting was utilized to create 3 potential concept plans. Residents provided feedback on the 3 potential concept plans which helped guide the final concept plan for the new park at 2381 County Road B.

Staff reviewed the final preferred concept with the Commission. The final preferred concept includes:

- Mid-size playground with swings
- Nature walk with native grasses/trees
- Picnic grove with Adirondack chairs
- Small basketball area with three different sized hoops
- Bike rack
- Bump out parking will be added near the park when County Rd. B is redone next year

The next steps for the project will be to bring the preferred concept to the City Council, once the project is approved, construction documents and vendor bids will be collected with an anticipated park opening in 2024.

Commissioner Ybarra asked what surface material would be used for the nature path. Staff responded that the current specifications call for crushed gravel. However, staff relayed that feedback regarding the surface material options are always welcome.

Commissioner Arneson asked if feedback has been received regarding a potential theme for the play structure. Staff noted that the theme has not been fully reviewed by residents. Initial feedback collected has shown a desire for the play structure to look and feel “natural”.

Staff noted that once the project has been approved the Commission will need to recommend a park name to the City Council.

5) OTHER BUSINESS

a) DEPARTMENTAL UPDATES

- Feedback from the recent Wild Rice Festival event was overwhelmingly positive and the event was hugely successful. More than 2,000 people attended the event.
- Tapped and Uncorked was a great event put on by the Friends of Roseville Parks. Proceeds from the event benefit Roseville park projects.
- The Keya Park playground build took place on Saturday, September 30. Interpretive signs and 15 turtle medallions are being placed throughout the park.
- Halloween Spook-tacular event on Saturday, October 28 (1-4pm) at the Harriet Alexander Nature Center.
- The City Council will review the following items in October:
 - Rosebrook Park improvements
 - Potential changes to Rosefest
 - Final review of the concept plan for the new park at 2381 County Road B
 - Potential pathway connections to Oasis Park from Terrace Drive and Lincoln Drive
 - Potential pathway connection into Tamarack Park from Wagner Street

b) OTHER NEW OR RELEVANT COMMUNICATION AND UPDATE ITEMS

6) ADJOURN

Meeting adjourned at approximately 8:05p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Danielle Christensen, Parks and Recreation Department Assistant