

**ROSEVILLE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES FOR
SEPTEMBER 3, 2024 6:30 p.m.**

PRESENT: A. Arneson, J. Arneson, Beckman, Boulton, Brown, Dahlstrom, Kooistra,
Matts-Benson, Penny.
ABSENT: Raygor.
STAFF: Johnson.

1. INTRODUCTIONS

2. ROLL CALL/PUBLIC COMMENT

Roll Call Commissioners: A. Arneson, J. Arneson, Beckman, Boulton, Brown,
Dahlstrom, Kooistra, Matts-Benson, Penny.

No public in attendance.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – AUGUST 8, 2024 MEETING

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

Roll Call

Ayes: A. Arneson, Brown, Kooistra, Matts-Benson, Penny.

Nays: None.

Abstain: J. Arneson, Beckman, Boulton, Dahlstrom.

4. BUSINESS ITEMS

a) REVIEW OF THE INVEST IN ROSEVILLE: PUBLIC SERVICES BUILDING PLAN PROPOSAL

City Manager, Patrick Trudgeon, joined the Commission to discuss the “Invest in Roseville: Public Services Building Plan” proposal:

- Supporting Roseville’s Essential Public Services
 - The city is committed to providing essential public services for all residents and the thousands who work, shop and dine in our city.
 - The city must sometimes make investments in heavily used facilities to continue providing the services residents expect and deserve.
 - The city has outgrown its aging Public Works and Parks Maintenance Facility and License and Passport Center, straining essential operations and services.

- The city proposed a \$76.9 million investment plan to replace both facilities with new ones that will better support city services.
- This November, Roseville voters will consider a half-cent (0.5%) local sales tax to finance the “Invest in Roseville” plan over 20 years.
- Developing the “Invest in Roseville” Plan
 - City leaders and staff worked with residents and experts to identify needs for the Maintenance Facility and License and Passport Center. Space-needs assessments and community input revealed that larger, more efficient buildings would enhance city services and cut costs.
 - Initial conversation on space needs began in 2016
 - Referendum will be on the ballot on November 5, 2024
- Challenges at the public Works and Parks Maintenance Facility
 - The Maintenance Facility is the operational hub for city equipment and vehicles, water and sewer systems, road work, snow removal, and critical maintenance of the city’s 32 parks.
 - The facility has only one-third of the space it needs to operate efficiently.
 - With parts of the building dating to 1957, much of the facility is outdated.
- Challenges at the License and Passport Center
 - As one of the busiest registrars in the state, the License and Passport Center completes 185,000 transactions for driver’s licenses, vehicle tabs, vehicle titles, hunting/fishing licenses, and passport annually.
 - The facility has only half the space it needs to operate efficiently.
- Invest in Roseville Plan
 - New License and Passport Center: Designed for Future Growth
 - The new center will have nearly two times the amount of space at the current facility.
 - More efficient passport and licensing services for thousands of city residents and other Minnesotans.
 - Second floor of building will be used for Park and Recreation programming (i.e. Dance Studio)
 - New Maintenance Operations Center: Streamlining Essential Operations
 - Nearly three times the space at the current facility
 - One-stop-shop for a variety of critical storage, service, and maintenance needs.
 - Cost
 - The total construction cost of both buildings is \$76.9 million
 - The half-cent local sales tax is expected to generate \$76.9 million, plus interest and bond issuance costs, over 20 years.
 - The city chose this financing plan to ensure the projects meet our challenges, while trying to minimize the tax impact on residents.

- Why Local Sales Tax?
 - Cost is spread among residents and nonresidents who make purchases in the city.
 - University of Minnesota – Sales Tax Study found 64% of Sales Tax in Roseville is paid by nonresidents.
- What will happen to Veterans Park
 - Veteran’s Park will be closed to make way for construction of the larger Maintenance Operations Center. To help compensate for this loss, the city is partnering with the Roseville School Board to explore options for developing existing, underutilized green space owned by the district; and reviewing options to develop underutilized space in the parks and recreation system.
 - Parkview School
 - Anpétu Téča Education Center
- Tentative Project Timeline
 - November 5, 2024 – Referendum
 - 2024-2025 – Final Design
 - 2025-2026 – Phase 1: construct north half of maintenance facility
 - 2026-2028 – Phase 2: Demolish existing maintenance facility, construct VFW and License and Passport Center
 - 2028-2029 – Phase 3: Construct remaining maintenance structures, new Veterans Park
- Role as a City Commissioner: Information vs. Advocacy
 - The city cannot use public resources to advocate for passage of sales tax referendum
 - The city can use public resources to inform and engage residents with factual information about the upcoming referendum
 - As a City Commissioner, you should keep this in mind and only provide information about the project and/or direct people to investinroseville.org
 - As a private citizen, you have the right to advocate for or oppose the project

Commissioner Brown inquired about the reasoning behind splitting the sales tax in the referendum. Staff responded that this split is a requirement under the law.

Commissioner Penny asked what the "Plan B" would be if the referendum did not pass. Staff indicated that the updated buildings are essential, and therefore, plans and funding options would need to be revisited to meet those needs.

Chair Matts-Benson asked about the anticipated service disruptions associated with this project. Staff explained that the project timeline is designed to minimize disruptions by completing new buildings before discontinuing services at the existing facilities.

Commissioner Brown asked about funding options to offset the loss of Veteran's Park. Staff clarified that funding for alternate options for Veteran's Park would come from the city, not from the proposed half-cent sales tax.

Commissioner Boulton questioned what role the Parks and Recreation Commission would play in the planning and design of the proposed new park spaces. Staff noted that there would be collaboration on the aesthetics, designs, and amenities proposed in the new park spaces to offset the loss of Veteran's Park.

The Commission discussed the impact of the loss of parkland in the city and potential options to mitigate this loss.

b) ANNUAL DEER MANAGEMENT PROGRAM UPDATE

Staff provided background and an overview of the Roseville Deer Management Program.

According to the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) calculations, Roseville has suitable habitat for 15 to 19 deer. 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 program in which wildlife management staff from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) use rifles to remove a predetermined number of deer from specified sites. This effort aims to bring Roseville's deer population closer to a healthy level.

Staff provided an overview of 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. Due to a lack of snow, no survey was completed in 2024.

During the 2023-24 management season, 19 deer were removed (12 females—9 with two fetuses and 3 with one fetus). A female with only one fetus indicates overall health struggles. Additionally, several adult deer showed signs of having been struck by vehicles. The City received tags to remove up to 49 deer, but weather conditions posed challenges for removals metro-wide.

Given the lack of accurate flyover data, staff must rely on other sources to estimate the current deer population. Anecdotal sources include reported public and staff deer sightings, USDA observations, collision data, the condition of deer harvested in the USDA report, bait consumption, and trail camera footage collected during the season.

Based on the anecdotal data the following conclusions can be made:

- Overpopulation of deer still exists
- Population is becoming more healthy
- Program has entered more of a maintenance mode

Staff proposed the following plan moving forward:

- Request 40 tags
- Manage program using site data (trail cameras, bait consumption, and observations)
- Removals constrained by:
 - Contractor availability
 - Budget
- Continued monitoring

The Commission discussed what surrounding cities do to manage their deer population and the cost of the program. Staff relayed that the cost comes from utilizing the USDA to manage the program and that they also donate the meat to those in need.

Commissioner Brown motioned to recommend that staff request 40 removal tags and utilize real-time data and the budget to manage the actual number of removals.

Commissioner J. Arneson seconded the motion.

Roll Call

Ayes: A. Arneson, J. Arneson, Beckman, Boulton, Brown, Dahlstrom, Kooistra, Matts-Benson, Penny.

Nays: None.

Abstain: None.

c) PREPARE FOR JOINT MEETING WITH CITY COUNCIL ON SEPTEMBER 16, 2024

The Commission reviewed the PowerPoint presentation prepared by staff for the upcoming joint meeting with the City Council.

The Commission discussed how to best approach the topic of being more proactive in acquiring parkland. They agreed to add and adjust the bullets on slide 6 (Other Discussion Topics) regarding the acquisition of additional parkland to include:

- Consider amendment to “willing seller” land acquisition (Master Plan Policy 3.7)
 - Consider a more proactive approach in certain situations.

The Commission agreed that Chair Matts-Benson and Vice-Chair Beckman would lead the discussion on behalf of the Commission, with other Commissioners attending as they are able.

5. OTHER BUSINESS

a) DEPARTMENTAL UPDATES

- Eleven responses have been received from vendors in response to the Request for Proposal (RFP) regarding new recreation software.
- Friends of Roseville Parks will host the Tapped and Uncorked event on Friday, September 13, 2024, at the OVAL.

- The community playground build for the new park located at County Road B is anticipated to take place on September 21, 2024.
- The final neighborhood engagement open house for the Lexington Park Playground will be held in early October, where the final design will be shared.
- A joint meeting between the City Council and the School District was held in August. Both groups emphasized collaboration and building on opportunities to share resources.

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

Commissioner Arneson noted that there is a noise issue at Central Park with the ice cream trucks. Staff responded that ice cream trucks are not supposed to be there, as any food sales in the city require a permit. However, enforcement poses a challenge. Staff acknowledged that they would look into the issue further.

6. **ADJOURN**

Meeting adjourned at approximately 8:09 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Danielle Christensen, Parks and Recreation Department Assistant