

**ROSEVILLE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES FOR
OCTOBER 1, 2024 6:30 p.m.**

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

ABSENT:

STAFF: Johnson, Taylor.

1. INTRODUCTIONS

2. ROLL CALL/PUBLIC COMMENT

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

No public in attendance.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – SEPTEMBER 3, 2024 MEETING

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

Roll Call

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

Nays: None.

Abstain: None.

4. BUSINESS ITEMS

a) NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT PLAN UPDATE

The staff introduced the Natural Resources Management Plan, highlighting its importance and benefits for the city's green spaces and community.

- Importance of natural resources stewardship in parks
 - Preserving biodiversity
 - Sustainability and climate resilience
 - Community recreation and enhancement
 - Educational opportunities
 - Long-term park health
- Natural Resource Renewal Program history

- 2014-2022
- Touched nearly every park
- \$2.3 million: \$1.5 million city, \$700,000 grant funded
- Combination of contractor, staff, and volunteer work
- Goals for Natural Resources Management (NRM) Master Plan Update
 - Inventory of natural resources in parks
 - Identify projects (and cost) to preserve, restore and improve natural resources in parks
 - Engage with the community to ensure program goals align with the needs of the community
 - Assess the Volunteer Stewardship Program and provide recommendations
 - Identify resource needs/steps for continued evolution of the Natural Resources Program
- NRM Master Plan Process
 - Task 1: Natural resources field assessment (TAC #1)
 - Task 2: Create NRM maps (TAC #2)
 - Task 3: Park NRP project list refinement (TAC #3)
 - Task 4: Update NRM Plan (TAC #4)
- Role of Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)
 - Provide input on draft Natural Resources Management Plan materials
 - Advise city staff on community perspective to natural resources management
 - Review field investigations and provide input on goals for the next 5-10 years
 - Spread the word about ongoing volunteer opportunities
 - Understand that the TAC is an advisory committee to city staff, city commissions, City Council

Staff provided the Commission with a summary overview of the parks included in the field survey, field inventory and vegetation quality.

- Vegetation Quality
 - 50% of total park acreage has greater than 75% native ground cover
 - Native species richness varies
 - Seeded species are present (providing over 75% cover at some parks)
 - Low native cover in many wetlands due to nonnative cattails and reed canary grass
- Stressors/challenges for Roseville park natural resources
 - Invasive species
 - Ground disturbances and erosion (trails, recreational uses, wildlife)
 - Encroachment (trails, lawn waste, gardening, structures, storage)
 - Hydrology alterations, extreme fluctuations

- Nutrient loading
- Lack of native propagules and plant species richness to respond quickly to disturbances
- Lack of natural disturbance regimes (such as fire)

Staff presented an example of a management unit park map and an activity list to the Commission.

The TAC developed the following vision statement for the Natural Resources Management Program: *Our vision for the future of Natural Resources Management in Roseville Parks is to create accessible, educational, and peaceful natural areas that foster a deep connection with nature. We aim to preserve and restore native plants and habitats, maintain biodiversity, and implement sustainable practices to combat emerging environmental challenges. By establishing connecting corridors and unique natural experiences, we will ensure our parks remain healthy, beautiful, and biologically diverse spaces for all residents to enjoy.*

The staff presented the goals and policies developed by the TAC regarding the Natural Resources Management Program to the Commission.

- New vision for program:
 - Continue areas of program that are working well
 - Increase staff led events to two a month
 - Increase volunteer led events
 - Increase capacity to run additional events by having a dedicated staff member
- What's working
 - The number of volunteer hours continue to grow year over year
 - Strong volunteer leadership base
 - Increased flexibility and added supports for volunteers
 - City Council support
- What needs improvement
 - Increase staff capacity to grow the program
 - Need short, medium, and long term planning of events and projects
 - Recruitment assistance for additional volunteers to carry out the plans
- Next steps
 - Completion of Final Report (November)
 - City Council Review (2024)
 - Inclusion of 50% natural resources position in 2025 budget
 - Develop multi-year work plan and tie it to the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) fund
 - Identify funding
 - CIP
 - Attempt to capture grant funding

Commissioner A. Arneson joined the meeting and suggested promoting the natural resources management volunteer opportunities at Roseville Area High School.

The Commission expressed gratitude to the staff for their efforts on the natural resources in the city parks and discussed potential future natural resources projects.

b) JOINT MEETING DEBRIEF

The Commission discussed the joint meeting with the City Council regarding the proposed community center. It was noted that the Commission felt the idea of a community center falls outside its purview. Additionally, it was mentioned that it is unclear exactly what amenities community members are seeking when they express interest in a community center.

Commissioner Brown inquired about the data collected regarding a community center from the Envision Roseville survey. Staff indicated that while the idea of a community center was mentioned by survey respondents, there was no clear anecdotal evidence of a consensus among them requesting a community center.

The Commission then discussed how to move forward with the feedback received on the community center.

Chair Matts-Benson suggested that a productive next step could be to prioritize items from the SWOT analysis, as recommended by City Council member Etten.

The Commission agreed to bring 3 to 5 goals identified in the SWOT analysis, or potential projects, to prioritize as objectives for the next year to the next Parks and Recreation Commission meeting.

5. OTHER BUSINESS

a) DEPARTMENTAL UPDATES

- Friends of Roseville Parks hosted the Tapped and Uncorked event on Friday, September 13, 2024, at the OVAL.
- The Golftoberfest event was held at the Cedarholm Golf Course on Friday, September 20, 2024. Forty-nine golfers participated in the event.
- The community playground build for Sunset Park was held on Saturday, September 21, 2024.
- The Wild Rice Festival was held at the Harriet Alexander Nature Center on Saturday, September 21, 2024.
- Thank you to the recent volunteers from Terra Firma, Veritas, and Olson Thielen for completing natural resources projects.
- Trees purchased via the 2024 Tree Sale will be available for pick up on Saturday, October 5, 2024.

- The Halloween Spook-tacular will be held at the Harriet Alexander Nature Center on Saturday, October 26, 2024 from 1-4 p.m. Pre-registration required; no walk-ins accepted.
- Open Mic Night is back at the Cedarholm Community Building on the third Thursday of the month through March 2025.
- Fall and early winter programs are now starting.
- Eleven responses have been received from vendors in response to the Request for Proposal (RFP) regarding new recreation software. It is anticipated that a final decision will be presented to the Commission at the next meeting.
- Envision Roseville strategic planning priority meetings have begun.
- Staff will be attending the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) conference in October. It is anticipated that Roseville's Parks and Recreation Department will be awarded reaccreditation through the Commission for Accreditation of Park and Recreation Agencies (CAPRA), administered by the National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) at the conference.

b) OTHER NEW OR RELEVANT COMMUNICATION ITEMS

6. ADJOURN

Meeting adjourned at approximately 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Danielle Christensen, Parks and Recreation Department Assistant