

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

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

1. INTRODUCTIONS

2. ROLL CALL/PUBLIC COMMENT

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

Chair Matts-Benson relayed that Commissioner A. Arneson and J. Raygor would be arriving late to the meeting.

No public in attendance.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – NOVEMBER 7, 2024 MEETING

Commissioner Dahlstrom moved to approve the minutes. Commissioner J. Arneson seconded.

Roll Call

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

Nays: None.

Abstain: Boulton.

4. BUSINESS ITEMS

a) DISCUSS COMMISSION GOALS FOR 2025

The Commission reviewed the updated goals for 2025, based on the conversation held at the November 7, 2024, meeting. The Commission discussed the timing and responsibilities listed in the goals document.

Chair Matts-Benson suggested adding the option of inviting Rachel Boggs to present updates regarding volunteers as part of the volunteer goal.

Commissioner Penny requested that his name be included in the goal regarding park connectivity.

Chair Matts-Benson suggested adding participant survey responses and reviewing data from the new registration software once it is implemented, to align with the goal regarding equity.

Commissioner J. Arneson requested to be included in the Envision Roseville and Campus Master Plan goals.

Vice-Chair Beckman requested to be included in the Rosebrook Park planning and Autumn Grove Park planning.

Chair Matts-Benson requested to be added to the Campus Master Plan goal.

The Commission discussed the timing associated with the goals and agreed to revisit the document at future meetings.

b) OVERVIEW OF PARKS AND RECREATION FRIENDS GROUPS

Staff introduced the history of Friends Groups in Roseville, noting the groups' long-standing role in supporting Roseville Parks and Recreation by advancing next-level initiatives. Additionally, the original genesis of these groups was as social clubs. They also advocate for and support community initiatives.

Having three Friends Groups is uncommon for a city of Roseville's size. Over the years, the Friends Groups have collectively invested \$5 million into Roseville.

- What are Friends Groups?
 - Non-profit
 - Volunteer driven organizations supporting parks and recreation systems
 - Supplement municipal efforts with fundraising, advocacy, and project support
 - Promote, preserve, and enhance public spaces
- Why are they important?
 - Fundraising and financial support
 - Volunteer contributions
 - Community advocacy
 - Long-term vision, engagement, and sustainability
- Roseville Central Park Foundation
 - Established: 1964
 - Mission: To develop, enhance, and promote Central Park

- Vision: Maintaining Central Park as a premier urban green space for recreation and nature
- Fundraising initiatives: Partners Club (late September), Park bench program, Arboretum Celebration Walk
- Key past projects:
 - Harriet Alexander Nature Center
 - Muriel Sahlin Arboretum Building
 - Central Park volleyball courts
- Recent projects:
 - Arboretum pathways
 - Arboretum lights
 - Amphitheater improvements
- Friends of Roseville Parks
 - Established: 1969
 - Mission: To support Roseville's 30+ parks ensuring vibrant spaces for future generations.
 - Focus: Beautifying and improving parks through fundraising and community engagement.
 - Signature Events: Tapped and Uncorked, Designer Handbag Bingo (spring and fall)
 - Historical Projects: Inclusive playground, fireplaces in the park buildings, slide at Unity Park, annual funding for Central Park boulevard flowers
 - Recent/Future Projects: Donation for mosaic cairns at Harriet Alexander Nature Center, \$75,000 contribution to Lexington Park Playground (2025), puppet wagon upgrades
- Friends of the OVAL Foundation
 - Established: 2005
 - Mission: To promote, maintain, and improve the John Rose MN OVAL and Roseville Skating Center.
 - Focus: Supporting recreational and competitive skating opportunities while enhancing this unique facility.
 - Annual O&M contribution
 - Has been active in the promotion of the OVAL
 - Financial Investments: Over \$580,000 for maintenance and \$129,000 for promotion and events
 - Community Support: Maintains the SKATETHEOVAL website and webcams
 - Recent Projects: Revitalized the iconic OVAL tree lights, pledged \$40,000 for a new scoreboard (2025), revenue sharing (\$17,451), contributed in 2023 to offset operating expenses
- Challenges Facing Friends Groups
 - Age and attrition

- Societal changes
 - Decline in volunteer availability due to busier lifestyles
 - Other avenues for social interaction
- Need for greater digital engagement and outreach
- Evolving expectations of community involvement
- Perception that Friends Groups are solely fundraisers
- Increasing competition for fundraising
- Staff capacity to support
- Belief that the Parks System is in good shape
- Opportunities for Growth
 - Raising awareness through community campaigns and events
 - Engaging younger generations and diverse volunteers
 - Strengthening partnerships with the City and local businesses
 - Leveraging technology for fundraising and advocacy

Commissioner Dahlstrom suggested adding support for Friends Groups to the 2025 Commission Goals.

The Commission discussed ways to acknowledge the work of Friends Groups in Roseville and explore opportunities to advocate for them in the future.

5. **OTHER BUSINESS**

a) **DEPARTMENTAL UPDATES**

- A copper wire theft occurred in Central Park. Measures are being taken to repair the damage and mitigate the potential for future thefts.
- The Natural Resources Management Plan has been approved by the City Council.
- The full-time position to support 50% Forestry and 50% Natural Resources was approved by the City Council. This position will replace the current 50% Forestry role.
- In the most recent election, the maintenance facility referendum passed, but the license and passport center referendum did not. The City Council is evaluating options on how to move forward.
- The "Light the OVAL" initiative has successfully restored the holiday lighting around the OVAL.
- Wayfinding signs have been approved by the City Council to highlight major attractions in Roseville, including its parks.
- Cookies and Cocoa with Kris Kringle at the Cedarholm Community Building on Saturday, December 7 from 9:00am-12:00pm.
- Holiday Craft Fair at Roseville City Hall on Saturday, December 7, 2024 (10:00am-4:00pm) and Sunday, December 8, 2024 (12:00pm-4:00pm).
- Open Mic Night at Cedarholm Community Building on Thursday, December 19 at 7:00pm.
- The OVAL will have expanded Holiday Hours for public skating.

b) OTHER NEW OR RELEVANT COMMUNICATION ITEMS

6. ADJOURN

Meeting adjourned at approximately 7:42 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Danielle Christensen, Parks and Recreation Department Assistant