

**ROSEVILLE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES FOR
APRIL 1, 2025 6:30 p.m.**

PRESENT: A. Arneson, Beckman, Botzek, Boulton, Donaldson, Harris, Her, Kooistra, Matts-Benson, Penny.

ABSENT:

STAFF: Thygesen, Johnson.

1. INTRODUCTIONS

2. ROLL CALL/PUBLIC COMMENT

Roll Call Commissioners: A. Arneson, Beckman, Botzek, Boulton, Donaldson, Harris, Her, Kooistra, Matts-Benson, Penny.

Each Commissioner introduced themselves and shared a brief background on their reasons for serving on the Commission, for the benefit of the new members.

P. Vemireddy, Chair of the Equity and Inclusion Commission (EIC)

Attended the meeting to learn more about the Parks and Recreation Commission and to explore potential opportunities for incorporating equity and inclusion into the Commission's work.

D. Heinrichs, 696 Shryer Ave.

Expressed concerns to Director Johnson regarding the safety protocols used by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) during the deer reduction program. Staff noted that the concern would be brought to the USDA's attention and confirmed that a full safety analysis is conducted annually.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – MARCH 4, 2025 MEETING

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

Roll Call

Ayes: Beckman, Botzek, Boulton, Donaldson, Harris, Her, Kooistra, Matts-Benson.

Nays: None.

Abstain: A. Arneson, Penny.

4. BUSINESS ITEMS

a) INTRODUCTION AND OATH OF OFFICE FOR NEW COMMISSION MEMBERS

Chair Matts-Benson administered the Oath of Office to new Commission members Lucinda Botzek, Bryan Donaldson, Jayne Harris, and Chris Her. The Commission welcomed the new members to the group.

b) RECREATION DIVISION OVERVIEW AND UPDATE

Recreation Superintendent Josh Thygesen introduced himself to the Commission and provided a preview of upcoming recreation opportunities. His presentation included an overview of Roseville's recreation staff, as well as details on forthcoming youth and adult sports, programs, and special events:

Youth Sports

- Kicker/Slugger Series at Autumn Grove: Offered over five different mornings and evenings, with 41 sessions available for ages 3–11.
- Roseville Coaches Camp: Eleven camps available for grades K–12.
- Youth and Parent/Child Tennis Lessons: Twenty different lessons offered for ages 4–18.
- RevSports Camps: Nineteen camps available for ages 4–12.
- Gymnastics: Twenty-nine different classes offered for ages 6–14.

Youth Programs and Camps

- Summer Spectacular at Autumn Grove: Monday–Thursday camp running from 8:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. throughout the summer for ages 5–12.
- Friday Field Trips: Eight field trips offered for ages 6–12.
- HANC Camps: Six full five-day summer camps, along with five mini-camps.
- Youth Dance: Fifteen dance offerings for ages 2–18.
- Rec Connect at Unity Park and Tamarack Park: Program held Tuesdays and Thursdays for eight weeks, serving ages 4–15.
- Leaders in Training: A summer leadership opportunity for youth ages 12–14.
- Youth Theater (in partnership with Rosetown Playhouse): Four weeklong camps for ages 7–14.

Adult Sports and Programs

- Bocce Ball: Four leagues offered.
- Adult Softball: 116 teams registered.
- Sand Volleyball: 72 teams registered.
- Adult Soccer: Eight to ten teams participating.
- Tennis Lessons: Eight sessions offered for adults.
- Wellness Classes: Seven offerings, including yoga, tap, and hula.
- AARP Smart Driver Classes: Five classes scheduled during the summer.

- Adult Trips: One trip offered each month.
- Dance: Fourteen dance classes are available for adults.

Special Events

- Discover Your Parks:
 - June 18 – Keya Park
 - June 25 – Langton Lake Park (Superhero Carnival, 6:00–8:00 p.m.)
 - July 9 – Pioneer Park
 - July 16 – Owasso Hills Park
 - July 23 – Unity Park
 - July 30 – Sandcastle Park
 - August 6 – Rosebrook Park
 - August 13 – Evergreen Park
- Puppet Wagon:
 - Tuesdays: 9:30 a.m. at Oasis Park, 10:30 a.m. at Autumn Grove, 11:30 a.m. at Acorn Park
 - Wednesdays: 5:30 p.m. at Central Park Victoria West, 6:30 p.m. at Lexington Park, 7:30 p.m. at Discover Your Parks event
 - Thursdays: 9:30 a.m. at Owasso Hills Park, 10:30 a.m. at Rosebrook Park, 11:30 a.m. at Lauderdale Park
- Live at the Rog:
 - Live entertainment offered on Thursdays and Sundays from June 8 to August 17.
- Rosefest:
 - Scheduled for June 23–29.

Affiliated Organizations

- Youth Athletic Associations
- Community Organizations

Fee Assistance

- Roseville residents with a financial need may be eligible for fee assistance for up to 80% of their program cost, up to \$150 per year
- Eligibility
 - Individuals must reside in Roseville (proof of residency is required).
 - Youth (under age 18) who qualify for free or reduced lunch at school.
 - Adults who can provide an approved explanation of financial need.
 - Fee assistance can be applied to all programs except adult athletics.
 - Applications may be submitted online or in person.

Reach for Resources

- The City of Roseville partners with Reach for Resources to enhance program accessibility for people of all abilities.
- Reach for Resources is a non-profit organization that provides individualized support to children and adults with disabilities participating in recreational programs.
- A total of 175 hours of inclusion were provided in 2024
- Ten children utilized the services in 2024.
- Nine different programs had Reach for Resources participation in 2024.
- Up to 268 hours of inclusion are budgeted for in 2025.

Recreation Updates and Changes for 2025

- Puppet Wagon: New vehicle and adjusted times.
- Adjusted Programming: Modifications to the Kicker/Slugger series.
- Program Location Changes: The Kicker/Slugger program will now be held at Autumn Grove.
- Touch-a-Truck: The first 30 minutes of the event will be sensory-friendly.
- Inclusivity Focus: Enhanced inclusivity in day camps.
- Program Additions/Changes:
 - 7th/8th grade soccer
 - Thursday women's volleyball
 - Men's soccer
 - Adult dance sessions during the summer
 - Nature Center day camps
 - Spring adult basketball league
- DaySmart: Introduction of new registration software.
- Updated Gymnastics Registration Process: Based on strong demand and feedback from participants, priority registration will be offered to residents for the winter session (January 2026).

Recreation Initiatives

- Equity and Inclusion:
 - Implement inclusive strategies across programs.
 - Explore partnership opportunities with seniors, both virtual and in-person.
- Challenges:
 - Rising costs associated with offering programs.
 - Transportation limitations.
 - Increased demand for recreation opportunities throughout the metro area.
 - Facility-related challenges.
- Vision:
 - Programs, especially day camps, will be designed with inclusivity in mind.
 - Free, drop-in programs will be explored to better serve the community.

- A shift toward offering more full-day camps in response to increasing demand.
- Expansion of non-traditional sports opportunities.
- Fostering new partnerships with community resources.

Parks and Recreation Work Experience

- Over 200 seasonal workers are employed annually.
- Positions range from first jobs to roles with high levels of responsibility.
- Work hours vary from a few hours per week to full-time.
- Opportunities for growth within the department, either as a recreation professional or in other areas.

The Commission expressed their appreciation for the many programs offered and acknowledged the noticeable improvement in staff training. They also conveyed positive feedback regarding the addition of more all-day summer camps.

The Commission discussed the change to winter gymnastics registration and considered how this adjustment might impact participation opportunities.

The Commission further discussed how consolidating program locations could enhance certain programs, while also potentially limiting accessibility for some residents.

c) QUARTERLY REVIEW OF PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION GOALS

Staff introduced the Commission goals to the new members and provided brief updates on current progress and upcoming items:

- The June Commission meeting will include tours of Autumn Grove Park (to discuss upcoming Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) items and an underutilized parcel) and Reservoir Woods (to review the evolution of how people interact with natural spaces).
- The installation of the inclusive playground at Lexington Playground is currently underway.
- The systematic installation of bike infrastructure is beginning.
 - The Commission provided feedback on the potential addition of e-bike chargers, bike libraries, and bike fix-it stations in the parks.
- A further draft of the Roseville Strategic Plan will be presented to the City Council at a future meeting. The Commission will have additional opportunities to provide input on the updated drafts.

Staff noted that the bike infrastructure discussion should be considered as a holistic topic for a future Commission meeting. Additionally, staff relayed that the City’s Comprehensive Bike Plan will be presented to the Commission at a future meeting.

Commissioners Botzek and Boulton requested that their names be added to the goal: "Support and grow the Roseville Central Park Foundation, Friends of Roseville Parks, and Friends of the OVAL in their work to enhance the Roseville Parks and Recreation System."

The Commission discussed the roles of diversity, equity, and inclusion within the Parks and Recreation department, and how these principles support the chosen goals and initiatives.

Commissioner Harris requested to be added to any goals related to natural resources.

d) MAINTENANCE AND OPERATIONS CENTER UPDATE

The City issued a Request for Proposal (RFP) to architecture firms to evaluate the condition of the current facilities and explore potential ways to better utilize them. This effort aims to mitigate the impact of not having funding for the license center and wellness studio. The architect who completed the original campus master plan redesign, BKV Group, was selected for the project. It is anticipated that they will provide a report to the City Council in May 2025.

5. OTHER BUSINESS

a) DEPARTMENTAL UPDATES

- Natural Resource Volunteer Event: 23 volunteers recently participated in a Buckthorn removal event at Willow Pond Park.
- Arts @ the OVAL: A total of 524 attendees participated in the Arts @ the OVAL event held on March 15, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Roseville Skating Center.
- Tapping Time: 900 attendees attended Tapping Time on March 22, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., and March 23, from 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., at the Harriet Alexander Nature Center.
- Inclusive Playground Installation: Installation of the new inclusive playground at Lexington Park will begin on April 4, with a community build scheduled for April 24. It is expected to open by mid-May. Special thanks to the Friends of Roseville Parks for their generous \$75,000 donation to enhance accessibility.
- Scoreboard Replacement at the John Rose MN OVAL: A vendor has been selected for the project to replace the scoreboard at the John Rose MN OVAL. Special thanks to the Friends of the OVAL for their \$40,000 donation, and to the Midway Speedskating Club for their \$56,000 donation toward a larger 11 x 39 video board.
- Annual Ice Show: The Annual Ice Show will be held on Thursday, April 10 (6 p.m.), Friday, April 11 (6 p.m.), and Saturday, April 12 (3 p.m.) at the Roseville Skating Center. Over 240 participants will perform in the show this year.
- Roseville School of Dance Recital: The Roseville School of Dance Recital will take place on Saturday, May 3 (4 p.m.), and Sunday, May 4 (2 p.m.) at the Roseville Area High School.
- Outdoor Sports: Both adult and youth outdoor sports are beginning as the weather warms up.

Staff noted that they will send out the sign-up sheet for the Lexington Park playground build event. Chair Matts-Benson expressed her appreciation for the community build events, emphasizing their role in engaging the community in the creation of new playgrounds.

b) OTHER NEW OR RELEVANT COMMUNICATION ITEMS

6. ADJOURN

Meeting adjourned at approximately 8:14 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Danielle Christensen, Parks and Recreation Department Assistant