

**ROSEVILLE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION  
MEETING MINUTES FOR  
JANUARY 6, 2026 6:30 p.m.**

**PRESENT:** Arneson, Beckman, Botzek, Donaldson, Harris, Her, Huntley, Penny.  
**ABSENT:** Boulton, Kooistra, Matts-Benson.  
**STAFF:** Anderson, Elm, Johnson, Matthews.

**1. ROLL CALL**

**Roll Call Commissioners:** Arneson, Beckman, Botzek, Donaldson, Harris, Her, Huntley, Penny.

Vice-Chair Beckman noted that she would be presiding over the meeting in Chair Matts-Benson's absence.

**2. APPROVE AGENDA**

Commissioner Botzek moved to approve the agenda as presented. Commissioner Harris seconded.

**Roll Call**

**Ayes:** Arneson, Beckman, Botzek, Donaldson, Harris, Her, Huntley, Penny.

**Nays:** None.

**Abstain:** None.

**3. RECEIVE PUBLIC COMMENT**

No public in attendance.

**4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Commissioner Penny moved to approve the December 2, 2025 meeting minutes. Commissioner Donaldson seconded.

**Roll Call**

**Ayes:** Arneson, Beckman, Botzek, Donaldson, Harris, Huntley, Penny.

**Nays:** None.

**Abstain:** Her.

## 5. BUSINESS ITEMS

### a) ROSEVILLE SKATING CENTER OPERATIONAL REVIEW

Staff introduced Roseville Skating Center Superintendent Kevin Elm and Recreation Supervisor Jessica Matthews. Elm and Matthews then provided the following presentation to the Commission:

#### **Roseville Skating Center Arena Overview (Established 1969):**

- **Home to Key User Groups:**
  - Roseville Area High School boys and girls hockey
  - Roseville Figure Skating Club
  - Roseville Area Youth Hockey Association
- **Programs Offered:**
  - **Open Hockey:**
    - Approximately 8,500 participants annually
  - **Skatercise:**
    - A fitness-based skating class blending aerobic exercise, dance, and skating skills set to music
    - Drop-in participation available
    - Fridays from 1:00 to 2:00 p.m.
    - Approximately 130 participants annually
  - **Learn to Skate:**
    - Three sessions offered each year
    - Programs available for ages 3–18, with additional adult classes
    - New offering: Synchronized Skating Competition Team
    - Registration totals:
      - 2024: 1,020 participants
      - 2025: 1,125 participants
  - **Public Skate:**
    - Approximately 5,000 public skating participants annually

#### **John Rose Minnesota OVAL:**

- A unique outdoor recreation facility featuring approximately 110,000 square feet of refrigerated ice from November through March. From May through September, the OVAL converts to an aggressive skate park and inline skating facility.
- **Home to Key User Groups:**
  - Roseville Area Youth Hockey Association
  - Midway Speedskating
  - Bandy, including the U.S. Men’s and Women’s National Bandy Teams
- **Programs Offered at the OVAL – Winter:**
  - Recreational Bandy and Try Bandy programs

- Learn to Speed Skate
  - An entry-level speed skating program offered in partnership with the Midway Speedskating Club for participants ages 8 through adult
- Public skating
  - Offered daily from November through early March
  - Approximately 26,000 public skaters participate each season
- **Programs Offered at the OVAL – Summer:**
  - The OVAL transitions from an ice facility to a full skate park during the spring, summer, and fall seasons
  - Skateboard Camp
    - Offered in partnership with the 3rd Lair Demo Team, providing professional instruction and demonstrations
    - Offered for four weeks during the summer
  - Inline Skate Camp
    - Offered in collaboration with the Greater Minnesota Speedskating Association
    - Offered for one week during the summer
  - Summer Inline Series
    - Hosted by the Greater Minnesota Speedskating Association

#### **Roseville Skating Center – Facility Offerings:**

- **Banquet and Meeting Rooms:**
  - Fireside, Rose, Olympic, and Raider Rooms
- **Walking Track:**
  - Free and open to the public
- **Fitness/Weight Room:**
  - Primarily used for off-ice training and practice

#### **Special Events:**

- **Roll in Movies (Summer):**
  - 2025 attendance: 700; free to the public
- **Free Family Skate (Summer):**
  - 2025 participation: 120; free event
- **Run for the Roses and Kids Fun Run (Summer):**
  - 2025 participation: 408; registration fees range from \$8 to \$30
- **Ice Show (Spring):**
  - 2025 attendance: 2,080; pricing varies
- **New Year’s Eve on Ice (Winter):**
  - 2025 participation: 2,000; \$10 per participant
  - Includes both indoor and outdoor skating options
- **Sweetheart Dance (Winter):**

- 2025 participation: 56 couples; \$30 per couple
- **Hockey Without Limits (Winter):**
  - Partnership with the Minnesota Wild
  - 2025 participation: 200
  - Minnesota Wild provided \$1,500 for ice rental

**Recent Projects:**

- Installation of a new OVAL scoreboard
- Arena lighting upgrades
- Purchase of a new Zamboni
  - The City entered into an advertising partnership with Genisys Credit Union, which was selected through a competitive bid process to design the exterior wrap for the new Zamboni
- Upgraded fire alarm panel
- Installation of a new dehumidification system
- Raider Room heat pump upgrade

**Partnerships:**

- **Friends of the OVAL:** Staff expressed special thanks for the significant contributions and ongoing support provided to the Roseville Skating Center and the John Rose Minnesota OVAL.
- **Roseville Area Youth Hockey Association (RAYHA):** 745 hours of ice usage
- **Figure Skating Club:** 601 hours of ice usage
- **Midway Speed Skating Club:** 140 hours of ice usage
- **Bandy:** 165 hours of ice usage

**Roseville Skating Center and John Rose Minnesota OVAL – Strengths:**

- Program participation continues to grow.
- Facilities are being maximized through ice rentals and banquet rentals.
- The venues function as regional facilities with unique amenities that:
  - Serve multiple user groups
  - Accommodate a wide variety of uses and events
- Staff were recognized as a key strength of both facilities.

**Roseville Skating Center and John Rose Minnesota OVAL – Current and Future Challenges:**

- Managing ice availability as programs continue to grow
- Maintaining consistent cleanliness in a high-traffic facility
- OVAL bonding needs, including:
  - Lighting upgrades

- Arena restroom improvements
- Roof replacement
- HVAC unit replacements for banquet rooms
- Facility Age and Infrastructure Considerations:
  - The arena was originally constructed in 1969.
  - Hockey program updates:
    - The Marauders youth hockey program has merged with Mahtomedi Youth Hockey and at the high school level to help maintain program strength.
    - The Boys Hockey (Raiders) youth program has experienced declining participation in recent years, while high school participation remains strong.
  - Existing bleachers are original to the facility and in need of replacement.
  - Locker room space is limited; expansion on the east side of the building may be needed.
  - The arena ceiling requires repainting due to visible rust and peeling paint.

Staff and the Commission discussed the unique nature of the work performed by seasonal employees and noted the strong rate of return from year to year. Staff shared that only two seasonal employees chose not to return for the winter season this year, highlighting the overall stability and retention within those seasonal jobs.

Commissioner Penny asked about the breakdown of resident versus non-resident visitors to the Roseville Skating Center and the John Rose Minnesota OVAL and inquired about comparable facilities. Staff responded that cell phone data indicates approximately 65% of visitors are non-residents. Staff also noted that the most comparable facilities are located in Milwaukee, Wisconsin; Salt Lake City, Utah; and Lake Placid, New York. However, staff emphasized that those facilities are not connected to an indoor ice rink or banquet facilities, making Roseville's amenities unique.

Vice-Chair Beckman asked whether the upgraded scoreboard could create opportunities to host larger competitions. Staff responded that the OVAL is currently a finalist to host two major events, with announcements anticipated in the near future. Staff added that even if the OVAL is not selected for these events, similar hosting opportunities are expected in coming years. They also noted that the enhanced scoreboard has elevated the OVAL's profile with international speedskating and bandy organizations.

#### **b) ROSEFEST 2026 OVERVIEW**

Assistant Director Carrie Anderson joined the Commission to provide a brief overview of planning efforts for Rosefest 2026, scheduled for **Monday, June 22 through Sunday, June 28, 2026**.

Planning efforts are focused on fostering creativity, reviewing event objectives, evaluating current trends, and identifying targeted demographics.

## **Rosefest Recap:**

- **2024 – Noteworthy Modifications:**

- Change to the Party in the Park and fireworks date
- Introduction of Disc Golf and Pickleball Tournaments, and Music on the Patio
- Elimination of the 10K race and expansion of Kids Run opportunities

- **2025 – Program Adjustments:**

- Event offerings were largely consistent with 2024 due to prior success
- Some events experienced decreased participation
- Significant weather challenges occurred throughout the week
- The pickleball tournament was canceled due to low registration

## **2026 – Events Moving or Being Removed:**

- Touch-a-Truck/Kids Garage Sale:
  - Proposed move from Tuesday during Rosefest to **Wednesday, August 19**
- Pickleball Tournament:
  - Low registration and a regional decline in tournament participation

## **2026 – Event Replacements:**

- Nine and Dine will be replaced with a new Junior Golf Tournament

## **2026 – New Additions:**

- Natural Resources Volunteer Event
- Skateboard Competition hosted by 3rd Lair
- Grass Volleyball Tournament

## **2026 – Additional Items of Note:**

- New headline band planned for Party in the Park
- Superhero Carnival to be rescheduled at Langton Lake Park following a rainout in 2025
- Fireworks scheduled for **Saturday, June 27**
- Improvements planned for bike-to-event logistics
- The full schedule is still under development, and additional events or adjustments may be made

Vice-Chair Beckman expressed appreciation that staff incorporated feedback regarding the Touch-a-Truck event, noting that back-to-back youth activities during Rosefest can make participation challenging for families.

Commissioner Donaldson asked about the Rosefest parade and whether its format has been reviewed recently. Staff responded that two years ago, the Parade Committee reduced the number of bands

from 12 to 9 and shortened the parade duration to approximately two hours. Staff noted that specific feedback on the parade format is always welcome.

Commissioner Penny asked whether the parade route has been evaluated. Staff explained that the route was reviewed in recent years due to construction projects near the high school. However, options were limited because few locations offer sufficiently large parking areas at both the start and end of the route. Staff also emphasized that safety remains a primary consideration when evaluating potential routes.

Staff encouraged Commissioners to consider any additional ideas or opportunities that could enhance Rosefest, including ways to engage new or different demographics, expand third-party vendor participation, or address potential gaps in event offerings.

### **c) ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING IN PARKS AND RECREATION**

Staff noted that this item was placed on the agenda at the request of the Commission but also emphasized that it has been on the department's radar. Staff shared the following to inform the Commission of the department's current status and progress on the matter:

#### **Growth in Electric Vehicles**

- Electric vehicle (EV) adoption continues to increase nationally, statewide, and regionally
- Growth is driven by:
  - Lower vehicle costs over time
  - Expanded charging networks
  - State and utility incentives
- Public agencies are increasingly being asked about:
  - Charging availability
  - Role of public facilities and parks

#### **Electric Vehicle Charging – General Overview:**

- Common charger types include:
  - Level 1
    - Standard electrical outlet
    - Very slow charging (often overnight or longer)
  - Level 2
    - Most common public charger
    - Typically takes 3-8 hours (depending on vehicle)
  - DC Fast Charging
    - 30-60 minutes

### **Electric Vehicle Charging – User Experience and Cost:**

- Common pricing models include:
  - Charging by time
  - Charging by energy (kWh)
  - Flat-rate or session-based fees
- Free charging is becoming less common and is typically:
  - Subsidized by grants or utilities
  - Used as a limited incentive rather than a revenue source
  - Longer stay destinations are generally best suited for Level 2 chargers

### **Electric Vehicle Charging in Roseville:**

- Roseville is one of nine “EV-ready” cities in Minnesota
- Roseville zoning requirements include:
  - EV—ready infrastructure for certain new or expanded parking lots
  - At this time, the city does not own or operate any public EV charging stations

### **Electric Vehicle Charging in Parks in Other Communities**

- Staff spoke with two communities that installed EV chargers at park facilities in Plymouth and New Brighton
- Lessons learned:
  - Park charges significantly under-performed expectations
  - Active facilities are the highest use
  - Not financially sustainable for the vendor
  - More effective at locations with street parking/parking scarcity

### **Considerations for Roseville:**

- Roseville would own/operate
- Preliminary cost estimates: approximately \$50,000 per site (order-of-magnitude estimate)
  - Fee structure/cost consideration
- Possible locations:
  - Roseville Skating Center
  - Roseville City Hall
  - Cedarholm Golf Course and Community Building (however, parking is already limited)
  - Parks with amenities that encourage longer stays

### **Next Steps and Current Highlights:**

- The city will continue to:
  - Monitor grant opportunities
  - Explore partnerships and coordination with future facilities

- Consider EV charging in conjunction with the new Maintenance and Operations Center
- Fleet leadership highlights:
  - Roseville operates the state’s second electric fire truck
  - Sever City “get-around” vehicles are electric or hybrid
  - Pickup trucks are currently not viable due to winter plowing needs
  - EV options will continue to be evaluated as fleet vehicles are replaced

Vice-Chair Beckman asked about the break-even point for fee-based charging stations. Staff responded that the specific costs are not yet known, but noted that fees required to cover expenses may exceed what users are willing to pay and could require subsidy.

Commissioner Penny asked whether staff had contacted the City of Shoreview for information on the charging stations at the Shoreview Community Center. Staff indicated that they have not yet done so but committed to reaching out for additional information.

## 6. COMMISSION DIRECTION ON MEMBER INITIATED AGENDA ITEMS

### a) LIST OF COMMISSIONERS SUGGESTED TOPICS

The Commission reviewed the list of previously suggested topics and chose not to add any additional items at this time.

## 7. OTHER BUSINESS

### a) DEPARTMENTAL UPDATES

- A total of 63 sets of cross-country skis have been rented this year, along with multiple snowshoe rentals. Staff noted that these activities are not intended to generate profit, but rather to introduce residents to new recreational opportunities and encourage park use during the winter months.
- The new online registration system, Dash, was recently used for gymnastics registrations and performed well. Some challenges were noted with picnic shelter reservations; however, staff indicated that the fixes are straightforward and will be addressed with Dash programmers. These early issues are expected to help troubleshoot potential challenges ahead of the larger spring/summer registration periods.
- Approximately 2,000 skaters attended the New Year’s Eve on Ice event at the Roseville Skating Center and the John Rose Minnesota OVAL.
- The Holiday Craft Fair was a successful event, drawing approximately 2,200 attendees over two days. Proceeds from the event support the Harriet Alexander Nature Center.
- The Natural Resources Volunteer Event held in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day will include winter seeding of native grasses, followed by brunch. Pre-registration is required for this event.
- Candlelight Snowshoeing is scheduled for January 23 at the Cedarholm Community Building.

- Tax-Aide appointments for senior citizens, offered in partnership with AARP, have opened. Appointments begin in February and run through Tax Day.
- The next Parks and Recreation Commission meeting is anticipated to include agenda items such as a park dedication, discussion of a potential new pathway at Keya Park, a review of Commission goals, and potential Nature Center expansions in collaboration with Roseville friends groups.

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

**8. ADJOURN**

Meeting adjourned at approximately 8:09 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Danielle Christensen, Parks and Recreation Department Assistant