

**ROSEVILLE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES FOR
August 6, 2020 6:30 p.m.**

PRESENT: Baggenstoss, Brown, Dahlstrom, Heikkila, Hoag, Kim, Lenhart, Stoner
ABSENT: Arneson, Carlson, O'Brien
STAFF: Brokke, Christensen, Johnson, Taylor

1) INTRODUCTIONS

Chair Hoag introduced the virtual Zoom format for the meeting due to the COVID-19 pandemic. State Law allows for an exception to in-person public meetings during pandemics to ensure the safety of commissioners, staff and the public. The public was still encouraged to participate in the meeting using the Zoom platform.

2) ROLL CALL/PUBLIC COMMENT

Roll Call: Baggenstoss, Brown, Dahlstrom, Heikkila, Hoag, Lenhart, and Stoner.

Chair Hoag called for public comment by members of the audience on any non-agenda items. No one indicated a desire to speak.

3) APPROVAL OF MINUTES – JUNE 2, 2020 MEETING

Commissioner Heikkila moved to approve the minutes. Commissioner Dahlstrom seconds.

Roll Call

Ayes: Baggenstoss, Brown, Dahlstrom, Heikkila, Hoag, Lenhart, and Stoner.

Nays: None.

4) 2020 – 21 DEER MONITORING AND REDUCTION PROGRAM DISCUSSION

Staff provided a summary to the Commission on the history of the deer population in Roseville and prior reduction efforts. Roseville has monitored the deer population since 2004 via the Ramsey County flyover survey during the winter time. The last 7 year population average is approximately 52 deer.

Roseville has initiated efforts via the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) to help manage the deer population the last 3 seasons. It was determined that the deer population needed to be controlled in Roseville based on the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) assessment of deer habitat in the community (15-19 deer can be sustained in Roseville based on the available wildlife habitat) and feedback from residents.

The three seasons of deer management included the following years:

- 2016/2017 – 20 removed
 - 1 night
- 2018/2019 – 20 removed
 - 3 nights
- 2019/2020 – 46 removed
 - 8 nights – 32 in the first two nights
 - 23 from SE Roseville
 - 23 from NE Roseville

Staff noted highlights from the USDA Summary Report for the 2019/2020 reduction which included:

- 21 males
 - 7 juveniles
- 25 females
 - 7 had a fetus (6 were carrying 2)
- 7 out of 46 showed injuries
 - Broken legs, car accident injuries, etc.

According to the Ramsey County survey that was completed on January 29, 2020 there are 59 deer in Roseville. Based on the location of the deer spotted during the survey, staff has been working with the USDA on the potential use of private property in the NE corner of Roseville for future reductions. The use of private property is necessary because previous attempts to reduce deer from Ladyslipper Park were unsuccessful and there is no other appropriate city owned land in the NE corner of the city.

Staff reviewed community input information on the deer that is tracked and analyzed as well as the data from the Roseville Police on the crashes (2) and carcass removals (2) in 2019.

Based on the current deer population in Roseville the USDA and the DNR recommend reducing the herd by 85 deer for the 2020/2021 season. Below is the calculation method that the USDA and the DNR used to arrive at their recommendation:

Survey – January 29, 2020	59 minimum
Taken since survey (last reduction – 2/27/20)	<u>- 8 taken</u>
Remaining herd	51
Assume ½ were female (25.5)	
Assume 2 fawns each (add 51)	<u>+ 51</u>
Population	102
Habitat support	<u>- 17</u>
Reduce	85

Next steps, include determining the reduction locations, considering the use of private property for access and staging and determining the appropriate number of tags to request (considering cost, time and weather).

Sites that are under consideration for the 2020/2021 reduction include:

- Villa Park
- Reservoir Woods Park
- Owasso Hills Park
- Harriet Alexander Nature Center (HANC)
- Storm Water Pond along Western Avenue – utilizing private property for access and staging

The Commission discussed the fetus count, the Roseville Police Department reported car incidents, and ways to live with the deer versus removing them.

Chair Hoag noted that he believes that 85 is slightly high for a removal target.

Chair Hoag read an e-mail on behalf of Commissioner O'Brien who could not be present at the meeting. Her comments are that "she fully supports following the experts guidance". If she were in attendance she would support the removal of 85 as that is what the experts recommend.

Commissioner Dahlstrom cautioned the Commission about "feelings". If the Commission chooses not to go with the recommended 85 deer he questioned how it would be justified. He also noted, that the USDA and the DNR study deer, habitat and lifecycle patterns of deer and they are professionals who are providing a recommendation.

Commissioner Brown stated that he concurs with Commissioner Dahlstrom on trusting the experts and also noted that deer migrate from surrounding cities and that would cause the population to grow in the future.

Commissioner Baggenstoss commented that the Commission can't let feelings get in the way and that they need to stick to the facts and move forward with the recommended number and should target the areas that are known to have larger deer populations.

Commissioner Dahlstrom motioned to request 85 deer tags from the DNR for the 2020/2021 deer reduction in Roseville. The reduction possibly will include the potential use of private property and will have an emphasis on the NE corner of the city. Seconded by Commissioner Lenhart.

Youth Commissioner Kim joined the Commission meeting.

Roll Call

Ayes: Baggenstoss, Brown, Dahlstrom, Heikkila, Hoag, Lenhart, and Stoner.

Nays: None.

Staff thanked the Commission for a great discussion and the community for the ongoing feedback.

5) STAFF REPORT

a) PROGRAM AND FACILITY UPDATE

Staff provided an update on Roseville Parks and Recreation's response to COVID-19.

- Recreation program modifications
 - Health screening
 - More cleaning
 - Physical distancing
 - Physical barriers/reminders
 - Limit interaction of less than 6 feet
 - Staff wear masks indoors and when frequent close interaction will take place
 - Activities outdoors when possible
- Youth Programs began again in mid-June
 - Youth Tennis
 - Youth Kicker/Slugger
 - Art Camps
 - Gymnastics
 - Dance
 - Nature Center Camps
 - Skateboard Camps
- Adult Programs
 - Adult Softball
 - Senior Softball
 - Adult Volleyball
 - Adult Bocce Ball
 - Yoga (virtual and in-person)
 - Natural Resources Program
- Community Programs
 - Summer Concerts
 - Roll-In Movies
 - Puppet Wagon

- Facilities
 - Skating Center
 - Open for rental ice
 - Skating School
 - Walking track is open for reduced hours/capacity
 - OVAL/Skateboard Camp
 - Cedarholm
 - Leagues continue
 - Resumption of use of clubhouse for payments, restrooms and pre-packaged snacks
 - Patio by reservation
- Rental Facilities
 - All rentals
 - Must sign social distancing compliance form
 - Designate a social distancing ambassador
 - Extra communication from staff to renters regarding the rules
 - Picnic shelters
 - Reduced capacities (25%)
 - Indoor Space
 - Small events with effective social distancing plans
 - Physical spacing
 - Reduced capacity
 - Early focus on accommodating already booked events
- Park Usage
 - Open while observing social distancing
 - Affiliated groups are using facilities for practices/league games
 - No tournaments at this point
 - Rosebrook pool closed
- Event Cancellations
 - Discover Your Parks
 - Wild Rice Festival
 - Tapped and Uncorked
- Event Modifications
 - Halloween Event
 - Virtual Holiday Craft Fair

- Upcoming Considerations
 - Offering fall programs
 - Fall/winter athletics
 - MN OVAL Season

A rough draft of the fall activity newsletter is included in the Commission packet.

- Summer Statistics
 - 1,500 adults participated in adult athletics this summer
 - 600 youth participated in youth recreation programs this summer
 - 700 users participated in golf leagues this fall

Staff thanked all of the participants who joined the summer activities. Also, noting that they are working on fall and winter programming while always being mindful of the ever changing COVID-19 situation.

Commissioner Baggenstoss asked how the offerings will change if the trend of cases in Minnesota and specifically the Metro continue to trend upward. Staff responded that Roseville follows the Minnesota Department of Health guidance for programming and activities. In addition, there is not a program offering where participants are in close contact.

b) NEW OR RELEVANT COMMUNICATIONS AND UPDATE ITEMS

- Staff responded to an email received by the Commission relaying that gym fees are assessed to user groups to recoup costs (maintenance, custodial, etc.), not to gain revenue.
- The Friends of Roseville Parks is continuing to have conversations with the city on the enhancement/expansion of the Central Park Victoria playset to create an even more inclusive playset for those with physical and mental disabilities. This project is preliminarily set for an early 2021 build.
- The dirt pump track on the south side of Autumn Grove Park was put in last year. Due to increased use there is interest to pursue a second loop around the pump track. Commissioner Stoner shared that his family just started to use the pump track. He noted there is safe crossing on the street between the parks. He does recommend potentially using dirt without rocks on the track to reduce distractions and potential accidents.
- Staff responded to an inquiry regarding pollinators/pollinator gardens and the herbicides used in city parks. Park Superintendent, Taylor noted that no insecticides are currently used in the parks. All herbicides that are used are done very selectively by a trusted contractor.
- The Lexington Woods Park Dedication parcel is continuing through the due diligence process which is required in order for the city to acquire the property.

- The Midland Legacy Estates development and rezoning proposal at 2395 County Rd. B was denied by the City Council. It was noted that it could come back to the Commission in another form.
- The Cedarholm alcohol legislation was approved.
- A state bonding bill that includes the Guidant John Rose Minnesota OVAL has not been acted on as of yet.
- An Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) update was included in the meeting packet. Staff encouraged the Commission to review the material.
- Staff updated that the City Council is still continuing to meet virtually and has not discussed joint meetings at this point. However, more information on this will be relayed at a later time when the City Council resumes joint meetings as the June joint meeting between the Parks and Recreation Commission and City Council was postponed.

6) **OTHER**

- Commissioner Lenhart inquired about trees that were marked with the green Ash Tree wraps. Staff explained that the green wraps around the trees are to let residents identify which trees are Ash Trees and also provides a visual impact display. Additionally, the wraps have a web link listed on them that provides further educational content on Ash Trees, EAB and information on Roseville's Ash Tree Program which consists of treating (select trees), removal, and replacement.
- Youth Commissioner Kim noted that he has heard that some community members have concerns with the name Pocahontas Park and asked if changing the name would be addressed via the Parks and Recreation Commission. Staff relayed that this may be a good agenda item for the joint meeting with the City Council when that is able to be held.

Meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Danielle Christensen, Department Assistant