

**ROSEVILLE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION  
MEETING MINUTES FOR  
JUNE 1, 2021 6:30 p.m.**

**PRESENT:** Arneson, Baggenstoss, Boulton, Brown, Carlson, Dahlstrom, Heikkila, Hoag, Kim, Lenhart, Ybarra

**ABSENT:**

**STAFF:** Brokke, Christensen, Johnson

**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 Commissioners:** Arneson, Baggenstoss, Boulton, Brown, Carlson, Dahlstrom, Heikkila, Kim, Lenhart, Ybarra and Hoag.

Chair Hoag called for public comment by members of the audience. No audience in attendance.

**3) APPROVAL OF MINUTES – MAY 4, 2021 MEETING**

Commissioner Arneson moved to approve the minutes. Vice-Chair Dahlstrom seconds.

**Roll Call**

**Ayes:** Arneson, Baggenstoss, Boulton, Brown, Dahlstrom, Heikkila, Hoag, Lenhart and Ybarra.

**Nays:** None.

**Abstain:** None.

**4) 2020/21 DEER MONITORING AND REDUCTION PROGRAM REPORT**

Staff provided a summary for 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.

Roseville has collaborated with the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Department of Natural Resources (DNR), and Ramsey County to help manage the deer population the last 4

seasons. It was determined that the deer population needed to be managed in Roseville based on the expert 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 four seasons of deer management included the following years:

- 2016/17 – 20 removed
  - 1 night
- 2018/19 – 20 removed
  - 3 nights
- 2019/20 – 46 removed
  - 8 nights – 32 in the first two nights
    - 23 from SE Roseville
    - 23 from NE Roseville
- 2020/21 – 31 removed
  - 11 nights
    - 12 from SE Roseville
    - 9 from NE Roseville

For the 2020/21 season 85 tags were requested from the DNR. However, due to weather and the extreme safety measures that are utilized by the USDA, 31 deer were removed. The USDA provided a harvest log detailing information about the overall 2020/21 program as well as the age, sex and fetus count (if applicable) for the removed deer.

Staff reviewed community input information on the deer as well as data from the Roseville Police Department, MN Highway Patrol and Roseville’s Community Development Department. This feedback is tracked and analyzed on a continual basis.

Utilizing the calculation method suggested by the USDA and the DNR it is recommended to reduce the herd by 49 deer for the 2021/22 season. Below is the calculation method based on the current deer population in Roseville.

Survey – January 23, 2021	41 minimum
Taken since survey	<u>- 8</u> taken
Remaining herd	33
Assume ½ are female (16.5)	
Assume 2 fawns each (add 33)	<u>+ 33</u>
Population	66
Habitat support	<u>- 17</u>
Reduce	-49

Sites again suggested for the 2021/2022 reduction season include:

- Villa Park
- Reservoir Woods Park,
- Owasso Hills Park
- Harriet Alexander Nature Center (HANC)
- Storm Water Pond – utilizing private property for staging

Staff provided detail on a petition that was forwarded through City Council Member Etten on behalf of a local high school student. The petition was signed by 113 people and made the following requests:

- That the city reconsider and evaluate the methods in which deer in the city are reduced
- A desire to have the city look more into the feeding ban as a way to try and control the herd

In a follow up with the DNR, as requested at the joint meeting with the City Council, staff discussed the option of using the sterilization/inoculation technique. However, the DNR again reiterated that this technique would not work well in an open landscape such as Roseville. Rather, it is best utilized within a high fenced area or on an island. In addition, the DNR noted that this method is currently not being used in Minnesota. However, if a test site were ever considered, and there was a humane way to fence in the deer, staff indicated that Roseville would gladly volunteer.

Staff reviewed the feeding ban that was implemented as part of the Wildlife Management Ordinance. As the city is made aware of violations, code enforcement is following up. Additional public education on the feeding ban may potentially be needed.

The Commission discussed the population of the deer, the need to ensure a healthy herd and the importance of trusting the expert recommendations for reducing the herd.

Commissioner Brown motioned to recommend that the city request 50 deer tags from the DNR for the 2021/22 deer reduction program in Roseville, with the understanding that not all tags need to be utilized. Seconded by Commissioner Baggenstoss.

#### **Roll Call**

**Ayes:** Arneson, Baggenstoss, Boulton, Brown, Dahlstrom, Heikkila, Hoag, Lenhart and Ybarra.

**Nays:** None.

**Abstain:** None.

#### **5) PICKLEBALL COURTS DISCUSSION**

- Pickleball Overview
  - 3.46 Million players nationally in 2019
  - Average annual growth rate was 7.2%/year between 2016 and 2019
  - 60% of “core” players are 55+

- The bulk of new and casual players are under 55
    - 34,094 courts nation wide
  - Pickleball in Roseville
    - Currently temporary courts at Evergreen Park and indoor at Brimhall
    - Significant use by both pickleball and tennis
    - Community feedback on the interest to have permanent courts
    - Commission received a petition in July of 2019
  - Possible Conversion
    - 6 Permanent pickleball courts at Evergreen Park
    - Retrofit existing courts – similar layout to what was done with the pickleball courts at Bobby Theisen Park in Shoreview
    - Lit Courts
  - Fairview Tennis Courts
    - 4 Courts
    - Cracked surface
    - Owned by ISD 623
    - Unlit Courts
  - Summary
    - Retrofit Evergreen tennis courts for 6 permanent pickleball courts
    - Repair Fairview tennis courts for tennis (4 courts)
    - Estimated cost is \$75,000 - \$90,000
    - Next Steps:
      - Engage neighborhood
      - Determine financing method
      - Options for future growth

Chair Hoag asked if it would potentially make sense to put the pickleball courts at the Fairview location to accommodate for additional courts in the future. Staff relayed that other communities have reported significant ongoing noise complaints when pickleball courts are located within a close proximity to homes. Therefore, the Fairview location would not be an ideal spot for pickleball due to the closeness of the courts and surrounding homes.

The Commission discussed the balancing act between tennis and pickleball within the city, the unique social aspect of pickleball and the potential option to add lights at Fairview.

Commissioner Baggenstoss noted that it is important to not create a divisive attitude when transitioning over tennis courts to pickleball. He also relayed that he feels it is important to research lighting with the goal of potentially adding it to the Fairview courts. Finally, he advocated for researching options to reduce the pickleball acoustics as this could allow for the opportunity to offer the amenity at additional Roseville Parks and meet the growing need.

Commissioner Brown asked about usage of the tennis courts in the evening. Chair Hoag relayed that on summer evenings either one or both of the tennis courts near his home are always being utilized.

Commissioner Arneson suggested possibly utilizing some of the industrial areas of the community for pickleball as that would solve the acoustic and lighting concerns.

The Commission discussed other potential locations that would work for pickleball. As well as options to test acoustic decibel levels utilizing different parameters such as varied paddle construction or ball materials.

Commissioner Ybarra commented on the importance of completing the Fairview tennis courts before transitioning Evergreen Park to pickleball. This will make sure that the tennis players are not displaced during the transition, which will help to ensure a more harmonious transition for both pickleball and tennis players.

Commissioner Baggenstoss motioned to recommend moving forward with pursuing the plan as presented with the possible addition of lights being considered at the Fairview tennis courts. Seconded by Commissioner Arneson.

### **Roll Call**

**Ayes:** Arneson, Baggenstoss, Boulton, Brown, Dahlstrom, Heikkila, Hoag, and Ybarra.

**Nays:** None.

**Abstain:** None.

## **6) STAFF REPORT**

### **a) NEW OR RELEVANT COMMUNICATIONS AND UPDATE ITEMS**

- Operational Update
  - Most COVID-19 restrictions are ending
  - Summer program registrations continue
    - Program registrations are almost back to pre-pandemic levels
  - Facility Rentals are available and starting to increase
  - Rosebrook Park wading pool is open
  - Skate Park is open
- Thanks to all of the volunteers who came out to plant the flowers along Lexington Avenue as part of the Flower Power planting volunteer event on Saturday, May 22
- Rosefest
  - Wednesday, June 23
    - Discover Your Parks – Villa Park

- Thursday, June 24
  - Touch a truck
  - Kids Garage Sale
  - Golden Rose Medallion Hunt Kick-off
  - Concert in the Park – Blue Groove Bluegrass Band
- Friday, June 25
  - 9 and Dine on a Dime Golf at Cedarholm
  - Superhero Carnival
  - Family Free Skate at the Roseville Skating Center
  - Calvary Community Theater in the Park
  - Golden Rose Medallion Hunt
- Saturday, June 26
  - Run for the Roses 5K
  - Calvary Community Theater in the Park
  - Backyard Campout
  - Golden Rose Medallion Hunt
- Sunday, June 27
  - Rosefest Golf Tournament
  - Porsche Car Show (tentative)
  - Teddy Bear Band (2 shows)
  - Golden Rose Medallion Hunt
- Unable to offer in 2021
  - Parade – postponed to 2022
  - Party in the Park (fireworks) – postponed to 2022
  - Taste of Rosefest postponed until fall 2021
- The summer concert series “Live at the Rog” will be held every Tuesday, Thursday and Sunday from June 13 – August 15

## 7) OTHER

Staff gave a special thanks to Youth Commissioner Kim and relayed that tonight would be his last meeting serving as Youth Commissioner as he is preparing for college in the fall. The Commission thanked Youth Commissioner Kim for his time and dedication to the Parks and Recreation Commission. They also specifically commended him for bringing forth the Pocahontas Park name concern and for his continued leadership on the project.

Meeting adjourned at 7:47p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Danielle Christensen, Department Assistant