

ROSEVILLE
REQUEST FOR COUNCIL ACTION

Date: January 30, 2023

Item No.: 7.c

Department Approval



City Manager Approval



Item Description: Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting with the City Council Regarding the Name of Pocahontas Park and General Updates

BACKGROUND

Periodically, the Parks and Recreation Commission meets with the City Council to review and discuss accomplishments, activities and work items.

The Commission has participated in and provided input on the following items since the last joint meeting on January 31, 2022:

- Accepted and provided feedback on the Recreation Program review;
- Established Parks and Recreation Commission Goals (Attachment A);
- Reviewed the deer management program and provided recommendation;
- Completed Pickleball Courts at Evergreen Park and renovation of tennis courts at Anpétu Téča Education Center;
- Participated at summer Discover Your Parks events;
- Reviewed and completed recommendations on several park dedication sites;
- Participated in the engagement and community builds for the Owasso Hills and Pioneer Park playgrounds;
- Reviewed the implementation strategy of the Accelerated Emerald Ash Borer plan;
- Reviewed the Guidant John Rose MN OVAL project (substantially complete);
- Accepted two Minnesota Recreation and Parks Association (MRPA) Awards of Excellence:
 - Kite Day in the Park (Category: Excellence in Programs and Events);
 - Central Park Victoria Inclusive Playground Expansion (Category: Partnership and Sponsorship);
- Reviewed and provided feedback for the Parks and Recreation Department's strategic racial equity initiatives and strategies;
- Reviewed and provided guidance on the Cedarholm Community Building Kitchen/Grill vendor Request for Proposal;
- Reviewed and provided feedback on the Central Park Arboretum pathway project;
- Reviewed the 2023 Parks and Facilities work plan.

One item that the Commission has spent a significant amount of time on is the name of Pocahontas Park. The Commission originally began discussing the topic in late 2020 and has completed a thorough process to analyze the current name and recommend a new name. Specifically, the Commission and staff have:

- Utilized the Racial Equity Tool Kit to develop an Engagement and Analysis plan;
- Engaged with Native American individuals and groups who have expertise on issues related to Native American names;
- Consulted a variety of academic sources related to issues of Native American naming including the Reclaiming Native Truths documents, discussions hosted by Dr. Kate Bean of the MN Historical Society and others;
- Mailed to residents in the area around Pocahontas Park (more than 500 letters) to inform them about the process and solicit feedback (fall 2021);
- Had countless conversations at 15 Discover Your Parks events, the Wild Rice Festival and other Parks and Recreation events;
- Posted signage soliciting feedback in Pocahontas Park throughout the summer and fall of 2022.

Ultimately, the process yielded more than 70 suggested names from a variety of sources (Attachment C). Once the names were collected, staff continued to engage with Native American individuals and leaders for their feedback. Ultimately, the Commission recommended the name Keya (pronounced Kay – Ah) which is the Dakota word for “turtle.”

This suggestion was submitted by a neighbor of the park as an acknowledgement of the Dakota history of the land upon which the park resides, and because of the turtles that find their way into the park from the marsh below.

When the list of names were being considered, staff continued to engage with Native American individuals who participated in earlier parts of the process. One specific contact, Maggie Lorenz, has personal expertise on the subject and connected with others in the Dakota community to solicit their feedback. Keya was one of two final suggestions that Maggie recommended.

Ultimately, the name Keya was supported by the Commission for several reasons:

- It reflects the Dakota history of the land in a respectful way;
- It complies with Parks and Recreation Policy #40: Assigning Names to City Facilities (Attachment B). Specifically, the name is based upon an animal.
- It is in keeping with the playful spirit of a park;
- There is the possibility of utilizing a Keya (turtle) theme in the design process for the replacement playground, which is planned for installation in fall 2023;
- The name is supported by the Native American individuals who participated in the process.

In addition to recommending the name Keya Park, the Commission also recommended the development of a land acknowledgement and consideration of additional signage or other educational opportunities within the park.

POLICY OBJECTIVE

Advisory Commissions are established to provide a method for citizen input and are advisory to the City Council. Joint meetings are a useful tool for the Commission to provide input to the Council and receive Council feedback.

The Parks and Recreation Commission’s work regarding the name of Pocahontas Park is consistent with the city’s community aspirations of being welcoming, inclusive and respectful and the city’s Racial Equity Narrative.

82
83 **BUDGET IMPLICATIONS**

84 The items discussed by Commissioners could have a variety of budgetary implications, which would
85 be raised when individual projects or initiatives are brought to the Council.

86
87 A name change to Pocahontas Park could have the following budgetary implications:

- 88 • Replacement park sign (\$5,500)
- 89 • Possible interpretive signage (Estimated \$5,000)
- 90 • Additional Keya themed items in the playground (Estimated \$20,000)

91
92 As details of the plan emerge, a specific funding source will be identified.

93 **RACIAL EQUITY IMPACT SUMMARY**

94 The Commission understands the key role that Parks and Recreation services have in creating equity
95 in our community. Throughout the year, equity considerations are discussed as part of specific
96 projects. An overall equity plan and approach was discussed at the October 2022 Commission
97 meeting.

98
99 When considering the Pocahontas Park name conversation, the Commission considered equity
100 impacts throughout the process in a variety of ways. Specific attention was paid to Native Americans
101 who live in Roseville and beyond, based upon the current Native American name of the park.

102 Specifically, the following steps were taken:

- 103 • Created and executed an Engagement and Analysis Plan that was guided by the Government
104 Alliance on Racial Equity: Racial Equity Toolkit;
- 105 • Researched issues related to Native American name use ;
- 106 • Made contact with a variety of Native American individuals and organizational leaders,
107 including members of the Dakota and Ojibwe tribes; and
- 108 • Continued engagement with Dakota individuals as names were considered.

109
110 Although no feedback is completely homogenous, the general consensus was:

- 111 • The name Pocahontas is not appropriate for the park, as Pocahontas the person had no ties to
112 Minnesota and the use of her name furthers stereotyping and marginalization of present-day
113 Native Americans;
- 114 • A new, more appropriate, Native American name should be considered;
- 115 • If a Native American name is selected, it should be Dakota as the park is located on
116 historically Dakota land; and
- 117 • General support of the name Keya Park and the recommendations that the Parks and
118 Recreation Commission made.

119 **STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

120 Discuss the Commission's work with the Parks and Recreation Commissioners.

121
122 Consider a motion to change the name of Pocahontas Park to Keya Park.

123
124 **REQUESTED COUNCIL ACTION**

125 Receive Commission updates and provide feedback on any items. Suggest any items that you would
126 like the Commission to explore in the coming year.

127 Consider a motion to change the name of Pocahontas Park to Keya Park.

128 Prepared by: Matthew L. Johnson, Parks and Recreation Director

129 Attachments: A: 2022 Parks and Recreation Commission Goals

130 B: Parks and Recreation Policy #40: Assigning Names to City Facilities

131 C: Name Suggestions and Associated Feedback

132 D: Presentation

2022 Parks & Recreation Commission Goals - Final 5/3/22

Goal		Timeframe	Action Steps	Assigned	Progress
1. On-going Parks and Recreation Goals					
#1.a	Find ways to be visible in the community utilizing an "equity lens"	Short Term Goal: Place special emphasis on equity to reach and understand the needs and barriers of underserved communities in Roseville. Long Term Goal: Track progress via equity analysis.		Matts-Benson	
#1.b	Understand resident's experiences with their local parks. Work to find the voice of underrepresented or unheard people or groups. Foster a sense of belonging.	Short Term Goal: Review data and demographics, create subcommittee, Check with the Human Rights Inclusion and Engagement Commission on potential collaboration Long Term Goal:		Lenhart Baggenstoss	
#1.c	Continue to support and advise Parks & Recreation staff on already identified projects and potential opportunities.	Short Term Goal: Research non-traditional recreation opportunities. Long Term Goal: Bring new ideas, projects or opportunities to the Commission for discussion and education.		Arneson Boulton	

2. Equity and Engagement					
#2.a	Pocahontas Park Naming Project	Short Term Goal: Complete engagement process and solicit naming ideas. Long Term Goal: Complete renaming process.		Lenhart Baggenstoss	
#2.b	Find and support ways to get residents outdoors	Short Term Goal: Long Term Goal:			

3. Natural Resources					
#3.a	Focus on green spaces. Specifically, native animal habitat and climate change.	Short Term Goal: Long Term Goal:		Hoag Brown	
#3.b	Support and participate in the Natural Resource initiatives of the Parks and Recreation Department (Natural Resource Stewardship Program, Accelerated EAB Project, etc.)	Short Term Goal: Long Term Goal:		Hoag Brown	

4. Visioning and Planning					
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#4.a	City Visioning Project	Short Term Goal: Help to find ways to ensure the underserved communities in Roseville are engaged with during the City Visioning Project. Long Term Goal: Track progress via equity analysis.		Dahlstrom Arneson Brown	
#4.b	Campus Master Plan Project	Short Term Goal: Long Term Goal:		Dahlstrom Matts-Benson	

**Roseville Parks and Recreation Department
2660 Civic Center Drive - Roseville, Minnesota 55113
651/792-7006**

OPERATING POLICY # 40

DATE: October, 1988

POLICY TITLE: Assigning Names to City Facilities

PURPOSE: From time to time there is a need to name City of Roseville parks and recreation facilities. The adopted policy contains an orderly process for accomplishing this need.

DESCRIPTION:

The following policy adopted by the City Council on October 5, 1988, shall be used for assigning names to city Parks and Recreation facilities:

It shall be the policy of the City of Roseville to refer to the Parks and Recreation Commission, any activity involving the naming or changing of names of any city-owned parks or recreational facilities.

The Commission shall recommend to the City Council for approval, names for new sites, facilities or portions of facilities. This includes any changes in names to existing facilities.

The naming of parks and recreational facilities will be given consideration by the Parks and Recreation Commission based on the following factors:

- natural habitat, i.e., vegetation, terrain, animals, etc.
- geographic location, i.e., street names, directions, etc.
- appropriate non-descript terminology, i.e., acronyms or joining of two words or names or activities, etc.

Only under certain and exceptional circumstances will consideration be given to the names of individuals (alive or deceased) and/or organized groups, associations or businesses. To be considered the individual, group, association or business must have made a significant and exceptional contribution to the site involved or to the community as a whole. Such contributions, (immediate or deferred) should be for recreation purposes and may include:

- substantial financial donations
- substantial property donations

In addition, recognition plaques, memorial plaques or dedications may be placed throughout the Park and Recreation system by the Parks and Recreation director and with the recommendation of the Parks and Recreation Commission.

Suggested New Names for Pocahontas Park	
Name Suggestion	General Feedback/Reason for the Name/Comments
Friendship Park	You should change the name
Sacajawea Park	I think the name should be changed
Hilltop Park	Name should be changed
Aspen Tree Park	
Hidden Gem	It's off the beaten path and back in a neighborhood
88 flowers	Because it makes me think of flowers
Jungle Park	The playground is kinda colored like a jungle
Emily Park	It is a name of lots of great people. It sounds happy. It is fun to say.
Pollinator Park	Because we need pollinators in our community. We can use it to educate, too!
Edgewood Park	Edge of the woods
Raiders	Roseville Raiders
Gophers	We are close to the UofM in Roseville
Honeydew Park	Name is not appropriate
Sacajawea Park	
Sacajawea	Change the name.
Sacajawea Park	I think it's a good idea to change the name.
Friendship	Parks bring friendship
Friendship Park	
Pascal Park	Name of street, Actually sounds really good, right?
Dakota Field	
Fairy Blue	
Desnoyer Park	After Stephen Desnoyer - first settler family in 1843.
First Nations	
ROSEPOINT PARK	If you pick a native name PLEASE choose one that is easily to pronounce!
Veterans Park	You're taking away Veterans Park on Woodhill with your proposed Civic Master Plan. Replace the park in question with a New Veterans Park and maybe add a Veterans Memorial. Just a thought -

Tiwahe	I think the park should be renamed to Tiwahe (Tih-wah-hay) Park, because Tiwahe is the Dakota word for family. The specific definition is "(n) household, members of the family in the household." This park is on the ancestral homelands of the Dakota people, so using a Dakota word for the new park name would be honoring not only the ancestors who lived here before, but the Dakota people that are still here today. In addition, it is a simple name that explains the main use of the park as a family park!
Keya (turtle), Hinhan (owl), All Welcome	I live across the street from the Park and beg you to make the name simple, if you choose to change it. If you want a Dakota word, try Keya (turtle) as there have been such in the little pond. Hinhan (owl) would also be good - I hear them hooting from the neighbors' trees in the night. If an English word, how about All Welcome? But please I urge you not to pick a word such as you have given to the former community center. You must not know American speakers if you don't know the word will be soon butchered; it may even morph into
Wildflower Park	For the plantings near the woods.
Twin Birch	
Rose Pointe Park	
Woodland Park	
Woodhaven Park	
Deerwood Park	
Wodaota Park	Dakota word for "peace"
Husby Park	After the builder of many home in the neighborhood of Pocahontas park.
Foxtrot Park	After the fox family that lived down the road.
Green Loaf Park	
Pascal Park	Because it's on Pascal St.
Sunrise Park on Pascal Street	I have lived near the park for 35+ years, my children grew up playing at the park. I walk early, every morning, and have seen some beautiful sunrises coming over the park.
Three Sisters Park	The "three sisters" here are corn, beans, and squash. A number of Native American tribes interplanted this trio because they thrive together, much like three inseparable sisters. Not only would the name pay homage to a historical tradition of homestead/farming which is true to Roseville roots, but it would also encourage others to try a three sisters garden at home -- and to learn about our history.
Transmission Line Park	
Monarch Park	Because the Monarch Butterfly was recently put on an endangered species list and the park could be a good place to incorporate awareness as well as plants the monarchs need to survive
Mapleview (Maple View)	There is an abundance of maples in the neighborhood! The squirrels love them.
Whitetail Park	
Pascal Park	Name of street it's on, has a nice ring to it, pretty neutral
The Oasis	My favorite park to play tennis with friends, see deer and enjoy the beautiful area!
Hidden Gem	My favorite park to play tennis with friends, see deer and enjoy the beautiful area!

Hidden Hideaway	My favorite park to play tennis with friends, see deer and enjoy the beautiful area!
Shadow Lawn Park	
Husby Park	Builder of all of the homes in the neighborhoods surrounding the park. Relevant to local city history. I don't think anyone really knows about him unless you bought a house in this neighborhood.
thaspáŋhu	Means goldenberry in Dakota
Native Park	Or any Native plant nearby. Because of native influence of why it was originally named.
Rose Park	We live in Roseville!
Dakota word for "Oak" Tree	Oak trees are important for wildlife and it would be good to use the Native American word to help teach people about their culture.
Koda	It is the Dakota word for "Friend" and it is easy to spell and remember.
	Go to Fort Snelling, find large map on wall, look, think of names
Skatapi	(pronounced shkaa daabi) It is Dakota for play.
Sierra Belle	Means black beauty
Cloud	
Rosetown Park	Old school city name
Peggy Flanagan Park	
Pocahontas Park	It was named for a reason
Powhatan Park	The name "Powhatan" is the tribe that Pocahontas was from/part of. Her father was the chief of the tribe.
Udyana	Sanskrit word meaning a joyful & pleasant place for a walk
Green Park	
	because its Dakota land. I have visited the site and think that the following names would be appropriate.
Dakota Makoce Park	Translation Place/Land
	the Dakota name for bergamot because there is a lot of it at the park. I have visited the site and think that the following names would be appropriate.
Wastemna Park	
Elk Medicine Park	Elk Medicine is an English translation of a Dakota name for bergamot which is present at the park. This would be in English to avoid people mispronouncing the Dakota word. I have visited the site and think that the following names would be appropriate.
Rose Petal Park	
Zoogipon Park	Ojibwe word meaning it snows
Manoomin Park	Ojibwe word for Wild Rice
Parkie McPark Park	
Pocket Park	This area is supposedly a pocket neighborhood so the name is descriptive of the location.

Rose Hill Junction	Each also has a whimsical quality that is appropriate with a children's playground setting. My 4 children play at Pocahontas Park regularly and had a great time coming up with the below submissions. park is on a high part of the neighborhood - junction is a more old timesy term, but could fit the vibe of a children's playground)
Rose Hill Commons	Each also has a whimsical quality that is appropriate with a children's playground setting. My 4 children play at Pocahontas Park regularly and had a great time coming up with the below submissions. park is on a high part of the neighborhood - junction is a more old timesy term, but could fit the vibe of a children's playground) Rose Hill Commons (see above, commons is another way to discuss the meeting area of a park in a neighborhood) Rose Hill Park (see above, could always stick with the traditional park)
Rose Hill Park	Each also has a whimsical quality that is appropriate with a children's playground setting. My 4 children play at Pocahontas Park regularly and had a great time coming up with the below submissions.
Praire Rose	Or perhaps that Dakota word for Praire Rose if that exists
Susu's Park	It's the name of my dog and she really loves the park.

Parks and Recreation Commission Joint Meeting

January 30, 2023



Discussion Overview

- Review of work completed in 2022.
- Deliver recommendation regarding renaming Pocahontas Park.
- Discuss a couple of Commission priorities moving forward.

2022 Commission Highlights

Established a list of Commission goals and focus areas (included in your packet)

2022 Parks & Recreation Commission Goals - Final 5/3/22					
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4. Visioning and Planning					

2022 Commission Highlights

Attachment D

Opened Dedicated Pickleball Courts at Evergreen Park



2022 Commission Highlights

Attachment D

Reviewed and Provided Feedback on the OVAL Project



2022 Commission Highlights

Attachment D

Reviewed Parks and Recreation Equity Initiatives and Plan



2022 Commission Highlights

Attachment D

Reviewed and Provided Feedback on the Parks and Recreation Project Plan



2022 Commission Highlights

Participated and Engaged with the Community at Parks and Recreation Events and Projects



Pocahontas Park Name Conversation



Engagement Process

- Developed based on Government Alliance on Race and Equity: Racial Equity Toolkit
- Engaged with:
 - Native American individuals with expertise on the subject
 - Native American residents in Roseville
 - Neighbors of Pocahontas Parks
 - Roseville residents in general
- Reviewed articles and other resources that dealt with the use of Native American names
- A two-year community engagement included community events, posters, mailings, meetings, media and more

Community Engagement Outcomes



- Received 71 name suggestions that covered a broad cross-section.
- Feedback from Roseville Community as a whole was widespread and varied greatly.
- General feedback from Native American individuals (both Dakota and Ojibwe) was that a Dakota name could be appropriate.
- Reduced list from 66 to five finalists.
- Ultimately recommended one: Keya Park.

Engagement Process

- Developed based on Government Alliance on Race and Equity: Racial Equity Toolkit
- Engaged with:
 - Native American individuals with expertise on the subject
 - Native American residents in Roseville
 - Neighbors of Pocahontas Parks
 - Roseville residents in general
- Reviewed articles and other resources that dealt with the use of Native American names
- A two-year community engagement process included community events, posters, mailings, meetings, media and more

Parks and Recreation Commission Recommendation

Based on the work and engagement completed over the past year, the parks and recreation commission recommends:

- Change the name of Pocahontas Park to Keya Park;
- Consider the use of additional signage or pieces that educate the community regarding the history of the land and Dakota people;
- Consider developing a land acknowledgement to be used in the park and other important locations.



Q&A or Discussion

2023 Priorities

City Campus Master Plan and Veterans Park

- Commission has some concern about the loss of parkland but understands that the city has maintenance needs.
- It is important that park amenities lost by the proposed maintenance facility be accounted for in the ongoing master plan.

Continued engagement with Envision Roseville and the use of information learned to determine next steps in the Parks and Recreation system.

THANK YOU

Parks & Recreation