

**ROSEVILLE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION  
MEETING MINUTES FOR  
MARCH 7, 2023 6:30 p.m.**

**PRESENT:** Arneson, Boulton, Baggenstoss, Brown, Dahlstrom, Hoag, Lenhart, Matts-Benson, Ybarra

**ABSENT:**

**STAFF:** Johnson, Taylor

**1) INTRODUCTIONS**

**2) ROLL CALL/PUBLIC COMMENT**

**Roll Call Commissioners:** Arneson, Boulton, Dahlstrom, Hoag, Matts-Benson, Ybarra.

Chair Dahlstrom called for public comment by members of the audience. No audience members indicated they wish to speak.

**3) APPROVAL OF MINUTES – FEBRUARY 7, 2023 MEETING**

Vice-Chair Hoag moved to approve the minutes. Commissioner Arneson seconded.

**Roll Call**

**Ayes:** Arneson, Boulton, Dahlstrom, Hoag, Matts-Benson, Ybarra.

**Nays:** None.

**Abstain:** None.

Commissioners Brown and Lenhart joined the meeting.

**4) NATURAL RESOURCES RENEWAL PROGRAM REVIEW AND NEXT STEPS**

Staff provided a history of the natural resource programs in Roseville that formally began in the 1990's and continues currently as the Natural Resource Renewal Program. As part of the renewal program the city entered into a partnership with Stantec Consulting to implement an aggressive natural resources program. The natural resources work aimed to remove invasive plants, restore natives, educate the community, empower a network of community volunteers and set Roseville up for long and ongoing sustainable success. The original program cost was \$1.5 million and an additional \$600,000 of grant funding was secured to continue the program for nearly a decade. The city is nearing the conclusion of the initial Natural Resource Renewal Program.

Staff noted that volunteers have been a key component of the Natural Resource Renewal Program. These passionate volunteers have helped to transform Roseville parks over the years.

Staff introduced Paul Bockenstedt with Stantec Consulting.

Mr. Bockenstedt thanked the Commission for allowing him to join them at their meeting. He provided a PowerPoint presentation on the Goals of the Natural Resources Renewal Project:

- Comprehensive Parks Plan
  - Vision
    - ***Environmental Stewardship.*** We envision our parks as an opportunity to care for our wild places and creatures, where we have been entrusted to manage a resource so future generations benefit from the spirit of nature, and where nature is extended to the experience of every park visitor.
  - Goals & Policies
    - ***Natural resources management.*** Preserve significant natural resources, lakes, ponds, wetlands, open spaces, wooded areas, wildlife habitats, and trees as integral aspects of the parks system.
  - Outcomes
    - Preserve natural assets and significant environmental features...
    - Foster environmental awareness and promote and manage the presence of wildlife and wild places.
  - Long-term View
    - ***Environmental Stewardship.*** We envision parks as opportunities to care for our wild places and creatures, where we have been entrusted with a resource that must be managed and cared for so that future generations will benefit from the spirit of nature, its function, and its regenerative qualities, and where nature is extended to the experience of every park visitor.
  - Create native habitat/plant restoration in all parks
    - Restore and manage natural areas (e.g., forest, prairie, wetland)
    - Native plantings in developed parks
  - 2013 System-wide natural resources evaluation
    - Identified potential projects
    - Assigned priority rankings
    - Identified potential outside funding sources
    - Served as the basis for implementation of the Park Renewal Program Natural Resources Restoration effort

Staff thanked Mr. Bockenstedt for all of his work on the Natural Resource Renewal Program in Roseville.

Commissioner Baggenstoss joined the Commission.

Commissioner Arneson asked how removing buckthorn has changed over the years. Mr. Bockenstedt relayed that previously the tactic was cut and remove. However, it was determined that buckthorn needs to be continuously removed, treated, and native plants need to be added to outcompete with the buckthorn.

Commissioner Lenhart asked what plants are used to outcompete with the buckthorn. Mr. Bockenstedt shared that the plantings are mainly grasses, flowers and sedges.

Commissioner Lenhart relayed that she has some reservations about the Natural Resources Renewal Program ending. In addition, she asked if residents can bring areas forward for natural resource project consideration. Staff relayed that the Natural Resource Stewardship Program will be able to address natural resource concerns in the parks via volunteers or through the on-going contract with Stantec Consulting. Staff added that the program will not be much different than how it is currently operating. The Natural Resource Stewardship Program will work to upkeep the natural resources of Roseville and an ongoing contract with Stantec Consulting will be available for expert guidance and assistance with projects.

Commissioner Lenhart thanked the citizen volunteers and asked if there were meetings for the volunteers. Staff responded that the volunteers meet about once a year.

#### 5) **ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR**

Chair Dahlstrom stated that he would be willing to serve as the Chair for another year. Commissioner Matts-Benson offered to serve as the Vice-Chair.

Commissioner Lenhart nominated Chair Dahlstrom for the position of Chair of the Roseville Parks and Recreation Commission. Commissioner Matts-Benson seconded.

##### **Roll Call**

**Ayes:** Arneson, Boulton, Baggenstoss, Brown, Hoag, Lenhart, Matts-Benson, Ybarra.

**Nays:** None.

**Abstain:** Dahlstrom.

Commissioner Arneson nominated Commissioner Matts-Benson for the position of Vice-Chair of the Roseville Parks and Recreation Commission. Commissioner Lenhart seconded.

##### **Roll Call**

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

**Nays:** None.

**Abstain:** Matts-Benson.

#### 6) **APPOINTMENT OF ETHICS COMMISSION REPRESENTATIVE**

Commissioner Arneson provided background information regarding the Ethics Committee meetings and training.

Commissioner Boulton nominated Commissioner Arneson for the position of Ethics Representative from the Roseville Parks and Recreation Commission. Commissioner Matts-Benson seconded.

**Roll Call**

**Ayes:** Boulton, Baggenstoss, Brown, Dahlstrom, Hoag, Lenhart, Matts-Benson, Ybarra.

**Nays:** None.

**Abstain:** Arneson.

**7) STAFF REPORT**

**a) DEPARTMENTAL UPDATES**

- Staff reiterated the city’s commitment to the success of the Natural Resource Renewal Program.
- Over 370 ash trees have been removed as part of the Emerald Ash Borer Accelerated Program.
- 60 caregiver/child couples recently participated in the Sweetheart Dance on February 24.
- Recreation program registration for summer opened on March 7.
- Recreation summer jobs are currently accepting applications. All are welcome to apply.
- Tapping Time at the Harriet Alexander Nature Center will be on March 25 from 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. and March 26 from 12:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
- Arts at the OVAL will be held at the Roseville Skating Center on March 25 from 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
- The City Council has authorized an agreement with LHB for park planning of the Midland Legacy Estates park parcel.
- The City Council has authorized acceptance of the donation to the Harriet Alexander Nature Center for the proposed public art piece. In addition, the City Council has authorized entering into an agreement to commission artist Lori Greene to create the public art piece.
- The first meeting for the Keya Park playground update had 20 participants attend. Participants shared that they are appreciative that there will be keya (turtle) and Dakota acknowledgments incorporated in the design.

Commissioner Lenhart asked about the legacy playground equipment at Keya Park. Staff relayed that the climber is not able to be salvaged. However, the playground vendor believes that the merry-go-round could potentially be refurbished and reinstalled.

- Commissioner Brown and Vice-Chair Hoag participated on a focus group that provided feedback on the one Request for Proposal submission received for food service at the Cedarholm Community Building Grill. At this time staff will be moving forward with the proposed vendor.
- The initial data collection for the community-wide visioning project named ‘Envision Roseville’ has concluded at this time. The consultant is working on tabulating results of the Phase 1 engagement. These results will be shared during Phase 2 with the community.
- Staff thanked Commissioner Lenhart and Vice-Chair Hoag for their work and support on the Parks and Recreation Commission.

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

Commissioners who are interested in walking in the Rosefest Parade on June 26 should reach out to Amanda Becker with the Human Rights, Inclusion and Engagement Commission. Staff confirmed that they would be sharing an e-mail with additional information.

Chair Dahlstrom thanked Commissioner Lenhart and Vice-Chair Hoag for their service on the Parks and Recreation Commission.

Commissioner Matts-Benson shared that registering for summer programs was very easy with the Roseville Parks and Recreation registration portal. She also shared community feedback regarding how impressed people were with the many summer program offerings through Roseville Parks and Recreation.

Commissioner Lenhart and Vice-Chair Hoag thanked their fellow Commissioners for the enjoyable experience of serving on the Parks and Recreation Commission together.

8) **OTHER**

Meeting adjourned at 7:34 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Danielle Christensen, Department Assistant ä