

ROSEVILLE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES FOR
September 1, 2020 6:30 p.m.

PRESENT: Arneson, Baggenstoss, Brown, Carlson, Dahlstrom, Heikkila, Hoag, O'Brien, Stoner
ABSENT: Kim, Lenhart
STAFF: Anderson, Brokke, Christensen, McDonagh, M. Johnson, R. 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, Brown, Carlson, Dahlstrom, O'Brien, Hoag, and Stoner.

Staff present on the call: Anderson, Brokke, Christensen, McDonagh, M. Johnson, and R. Johnson.

Chair Hoag called for public comment by members of the audience.

E. Djevi, 1056 Sharon, thanked the Parks and Recreation Commission for their discussion on the name Pocahontas Park at the meeting this evening. He recommended that the Commission reach out to people in the community who are of Native American heritage and include them in the renaming process.

D. Thompson, 2425 Co. Rd. B2 W., shared that she is a descendant of the White Earth Ojibwe tribe and wanted to relay how significant it is to her that this is on the Parks and Recreation agenda and thanks the Commission for putting it there. She added that in reference to the name Pocahontas Park she believes it contributes to Pan-Indianism as it places all Native Americans in the same category when there are hundreds of different tribes throughout the United States. In addition, the name also contributes to erasure by not honoring the tribes from Minnesota, as Pocahontas was from the East Coast. Thompson also relayed that Pocahontas' name was actually Matoaka and noted that if the name is kept the city should honor her by using her actual name. However, she again reiterated that Pocahontas was from the East Coast and she feels it is important to honor the native people of Minnesota, specifically the Lakota peoples whose land Roseville is on. Finally, Thompson shared that many native communities refer to Pocahontas as the first victim of human trafficking and she feels that the use of her name for this park is very disrespectful. Thompson understands that there is

no action planned at the meeting tonight. However, she is hopeful that this discussion opens the door to begin changing the name and that the points she has made are considered.

K. Vandre, 2458 Holton St., lives in the neighborhood of Pocahontas Park. However, she does not feel comfortable using the name Pocahontas Park and just refers to it as “The Park” to her young children. She works with many tribal communities within the state of MN and has the same concerns that have already been mentioned by other community members during this meeting. However, she also feels that the Commission should take up a consideration of what a land acknowledgement would mean to reflect our heritage in MN. In addition, she suggested a statement that looks at how settler colonialism has contributed to all of the reasons that we are here and to look at what a land acknowledgment would look like to rename this park and all other parks in Roseville. She stated that this goes along with all of the racial and equity work that has been spurred this summer within the community.

3) **APPROVAL OF MINUTES – AUGUST 6, 2020 MEETING**

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

Roll Call

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

Nays: None.

Abstain: Arneson, O’Brien.

4) **PRESENTATION OF MINNESOTA RECREATION AND PARK ASSOCIATION (MRPA) AWARD OF EXCELLENCE**

Staff introduced Tracy Peterson, Awards Committee head with the Minnesota Recreation and Parks Association (MRPA) and Parks and Recreation Assistant Director for the City of Edina, MN who was presenting on behalf of the (MRPA). Peterson provided background on the MRPA and the Awards Committee which oversees professional awards for individuals and the Award of Excellence program which recognizes projects. The Cedarholm Community Building and Golf Course was nominated, and won, an Award of Excellence under the “Administrative and Management Strategies” category. Peterson congratulated Roseville Parks and Recreation on their innovation to see Cedarholm beyond a golf facility, by creating ways to make it a year-round facility that focuses on lifelong fitness and recreational opportunities. In addition, to creating a recreation space Peterson noted that Cedarholm has also become a gathering place providing residents a sense of community via new program offerings outside of golf.

Brokke thanked Peterson for taking the time to present the award and thanked staff for their commitment and initiative to the project.

5) BENNETT LAKE WATER QUALITY REPORT

Ryan Johnson, Environmental Specialist, introduced himself to the commission. Johnson provided the definitions of two terms that would be used during his presentation on the Bennett Lake Water Quality. The two terms are listed below:

- Impaired: When a water body fails to meet standards set by the MPCA, it is listed as an impaired on the MPCA 303(d) Impaired Waters List and a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) study is required
 - Required by Section 303(d) of the Federal Clean Water Act
- TMDL – Total Maximum Daily Load: Water quality study to determine allowable pollutant loading from point and nonpoint sources determine allowable pollutant loading from point and nonpoint sources to lakes/streams so as to achieve the water quality standards.
 - Approved by both the MPCA and the USEPA

The brief history and overview of Bennett Lake consist of the following details:

- Drainage Area = ~780 acres
- Primarily single family residential
- Lake area = 25 acres
- Maximum depth = 9 feet
- During the 1940's Bennett Lake area was only a wetland

Algae blooms happen during the summer months happen as a result of contaminants. One of the main is Phosphorous. For Bennett Lake Phosphorous sources include:

- External
 - Stormwater runoff from hard (impervious) surfaces
 - Soil erosion
 - Pet/animal waste
 - Leaves & grass clippings
 - Fertilizers
 - Point discharges
- Internal
 - Phosphorus can be stored in lake bottom sediments and released when oxygen levels are low
 - Bottom sediment can also be re suspended and bring phosphorus into the water column
 - Carp can stir up lake sediments, causing turbidity and phosphorus release
 - Macrophyte die off

Staff provided graphs showing the rates of Chlorophyll (1985-2019) Phosphorus (ug/l) (2003-2019) and Secchi Disk Transparency (2003-2019) in Bennett Lake.

- Projects to help phosphorous levels in Bennett Lake include:
 - Fountain in Frog Pond
 - Bubbler Aeration in Bennett Lake (2021)
 - Carp barriers in Frog Pond
 - Filtration basin at Willow Pond
 - Porous Pavers at Cedarholm
 - Chloride reduction via road salt management during winter

For more information www.RWMWD.org has great resources on shallow lakes and Bennett Lake specifically.

The Commission discussed new projects, algae blooms, education for residents on the adopt-a-drain program and Carp reduction.

Commissioner Brown suggested a Carp fishing tournament at Lake Bennett.

6) STAFF REPORT

a) HISTORY OF THE NAME POCAHONTAS AS A PERSON

Pocahontas Park was named in the 1960's after Pocahontas who was a prominent Native American figure.

- Who was Pocahontas
 - A member of the Powhatan tribe
 - Born 1596(?) – 1617
 - Daughter of Chief of Powhatan tribe
 - Associated with the settlers at Jamestown
 - Married an English settler named John Rolfe
 - Went with Rolfe to England in 1616 and died prior to departing on her return trip in 1617
 - Significant figure in American pop culture
- Traditional Narrative
 - 1607: Colonists arrive, early interaction between Pocahontas and Smith
 - 1609 – 1610: Colonists starve
 - 1610 – 1613: Tensions/fighting occurs between the Powhatan and colonists
 - 1613: Pocahontas captured as a prisoner
 - 1614: Pocahontas learns Christianity marries John Rolfe and adopts the name Rebecca. Pocahontas and Rolfe have a child, Thomas.
 - 1616: Couple heads to England and Pocahontas becomes a symbol of peace between the settlers and “Indians”
 - 1617: Pocahontas dies

- After Pocahontas' death, war resumes
- Takeaways:
 - Bridge between two cultures
 - Story of peace
- Powhatan Version of Events
 - Pocahontas name
 - 1607: Native people offer to help starving colonists
 - Early interaction between Pocahontas
 - Pocahontas could not have/did not save John Smith
 - 1609 – 1610: Colonists starve
 - 1610 – 1613: Tensions/fighting occurs between the Powhatan and colonists
 - 1612 – 1613: Pocahontas marries Kocum, has a child
 - 1614: Pocahontas kidnapped, husband killed and forced to give up her first child
 - 1616: Marriage to Rolfe, child Thomas born
 - 1616: Trip to England. We can “civilize” Native Americans. During her time in England Pocahontas learned that England plans to send many more settlers to grow tobacco. She says that she will tell her tribe of these plans.
 - 1617: Pocahontas dies. Speculation that she may have been killed before she returned to the United States in order to prevent her from providing her tribe with the information she learned while in England.
 - Publication of English narrative occurs after Pocahontas and many other key players have died.

Commissioner Heikkila questioned what the city's policy is for naming parks after people. Staff responded that it is currently significant contributions.

Commissioner Arneson noted that if a park name brings bad feelings or shame and it is not related to Roseville he agrees with looking into the process of changing its name.

Commissioner O'Brien relayed that it is appropriate for new names or renaming of a park to come before the Parks and Recreation Commission. She cautioned the Commission to carefully consider how to rename the park. If choosing to consider continuing with a name that honors our native population the Commission should speak with appropriate tribal leadership and gain their input. However, it may also be good to consider using the current criteria laid out in our guidelines so as to avoid potentially choosing a name that could become controversial in the future as peoples viewpoints on names and events change over time.

Chair Hoag requested that staff provide an engagement process and name change recommendation timeline.

Chair Hoag also noted that the Commission received two electronic messages that had similar sentiment to all of the community members who commented at the meeting tonight.

Commissioner Baggenstoss said that he felt it was a good time for the Commission to do some listening to our indigenous community members.

Commissioner Stoner commented that he felt park names serve the main purpose of helping to identify and differentiate parks within the community. If this specific name is causing concerns it should definitely be changed. Youth Commissioner Carlson agreed as it does not meet the current park naming criteria and people are asking for the change.

Commissioner Baggenstoss said that he is excited to bring a decision that is honored and brought forth from an underrepresented group. Also, he reinforced that this will need to be a responsible decision. Not a decision that feels like it is “ours”.

The Commission discussed timelines and process for potentially changing the name of Pocahontas Park.

Commissioner O'Brien commented that it could be decided at tonight's meeting that the Commission would like to move forward with changing the name of Pocahontas Park. In addition, it could be decided if the name should be a generic name or if it should honor a group of people/idea.

Commissioner Hoag cautioned moving forward with any decisions this evening without a timeline from staff on next steps.

Staff reminded the Commission that they are a recommending body and that the first step of any timeline would need to be understanding if this is something that the City Council would be interested in changing.

Commissioner Baggenstoss reiterated that the Commission needs to bring the non-dominant culture voice to the table and make that voice more important than the dominant culture's voice. If we hear from the non-dominant culture and they begin to feel that their voice is trusted in city government that is a win for everyone.

Commissioner Hoag noted that he feels it is premature to bring it to the City Council and he would be hesitant to rush the process.

b) PROGRAM AND FACILITY UPDATE

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

- Summer Review
 - Evaluations from (20% response rate): Tennis, Youth Sports, Youth Golf Leagues, Dance, Roseville Skate School, Art Camps, Sport Camps
 - Do you feel Roseville Parks and Recreation offered a safe program during the Covid-19 Pandemic: 85% Yes, 14% Maybe, 1% No
 - Based on your experience, how likely are you to participate in the future RPR programs during the pandemic: 80% Very Likely, 18% Maybe
 - Some of the maybe's and no's were due to the winter activities being indoor
 - Based on your experience, how likely are you to recommend this program to a friend: 90% likely or very likely to recommend programs to a friend.
- Community programs:
 - Summer Concerts: 2,746 attendance over the summer
 - Roll in Movies: 248 at 2 showings
 - Puppet Wagon
- Fall recreation programs
 - Newsletter is in homes
 - Many of the programs will occur in modified form
 - All programs have a detailed safety plan on the city website
 - All subject to change based on conditions
- Well received so far
 - First day of registration, had more than 480 registrations
 - Have seen increased interest as schools have announced distance learning
 - Not at Pre-COVID levels
- Facilities
 - All rentals
 - Must sign social distancing compliance form
 - Designate a social distancing ambassador
 - Extra communication from staff to renters re: 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
 - 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
- Other Opportunities
 - Volunteer events
 - Tree Planting Sept. 12 (more than 100 trees)
 - NEW! Pictures in the Park
 - 12 of 14 filled
 - Full day Nature Center Camps on Wednesday
 - After school on Tuesday and Thursday
 - Anticipate increased park usage throughout the year
 - Modified Halloween Event
 - Virtual Holiday Craft Fair

b) NEW OR RELEVANT COMMUNICATIONS AND UPDATE ITEMS

- 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. All are welcome to attend one of the meetings below to learn more about the project and provide feedback or utilize the website and survey:
 - Onsite Meeting: Wednesday, September 9 at 5:30, 6:00 and 6:30
 - Virtual Meeting: Thursday, September 10 at 6:30pm
 - Survey: cityofroseville.com/inclusiveplay
- Three “Roseville in Bloom” roses are located throughout the Roseville Park system at the Skating Center, Central Park and Lexington Park.
- The City Council reappointed Youth Commissioners Andrew Kim and Corbin Carlson to the Parks and Recreation Commission. Their new term is set to expire in August 2021.

7) **OTHER**

- Commissioner Brown asked staff about the spraying for invasive plants at Valley Park that inadvertently killed some Horse-chestnut Trees in the process. Staff responded that often natives do come back after a treatment like this. Brown and staff agreed to further look into the issue.

Meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Danielle Christensen, Department Assistant