

1 **ROSEVILLE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION**
2 **MEETING MINUTES FOR**
3 **FEBRUARY 3, 2015**
4 **ROSEVILLE CITY HALL ~ 6:30pm**
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6 **PRESENT:** Bogenholm, Diedrick, D. Holt, M. Holt, Doneen, Gelbach, Newby, Stoner
7 **ABSENT:** Azer, Wall, both notified staff about being unable to attend
8 **STAFF:** Anfang, Brokke
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11 **1. INTRODUCTIONS**
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13 **2. ROLL CALL/PUBLIC COMMENT**

14 No Public comment at the start of meeting. Over 50 community members in attendance, many reserved
15 their comments for later in the meeting.
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17 **3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – JANUARY 6, 2015 MEETING**

18 January 6, 2015 minutes passed unanimously.
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20 **4. DEER POPULATION DISCUSSION**

21 Commission Chair D. Holt briefed those in attendance on the process the Commission has followed
22 studying issues related to the deer population in Roseville. Holt also directed community members on
23 how the meeting was to be conducted and guidelines for their participation in the meeting.
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25 Brokke briefed the Commission and attendees on the Ramsey County Wildlife Management Program
26 & DNR criteria and data. The decision to control wildlife is left to the individual communities in
27 Ramsey County.
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29 Brokke also addressed questions raised by community members attending the January 6, 2015
30 Commission meeting.
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32 All presentation materials were included in the Commission packet and were made available online at
33 the City of Roseville website.
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35 Commission Chair D. Holt followed with the acknowledgement and comments on the work
36 Commissioners Stoner & Newby did with staff to research wildlife feeding bans. T. Newby introduced
37 the fact finding process while J. Stoner summarized the findings found from surveying surrounding
38 communities.

39 T. Newby emphasized, that their work addresses a possible comprehensive ordinance that addresses a
40 range of wildlife with exception for song birds.

- 41 • D. Holt inquired into the process for enacting such an ordinance.
 - 42 ○ Brokke explained how background information would be shared with the City Council,
 - 43 upon their direction the City Attorney would draft an ordinance that addresses wildlife
 - 44 management.

45 Commission Chair D. Holt opened the floor for comments by Community Members at 7:05pm.

- 46 • Roger Toogood shared photos of a neighborhood deer feeding station with the adjacent foot
- 47 prints and droppings as well as photos of a group of 6 or more deer gathering in his back yard.
- 48 • Toogood also shared a letter from a University of Minnesota Veterinarian that addressed issues
- 49 of disease carried by deer.

- 50 ○ Toogood recognized that he was speaking for himself as well as a group of neighbors
51 who were not able to make it to tonight’s meeting. All are in support of an ordinance
52 banning deer/wildlife feeding.
53 ▪ Toogood also spoke to the need for some sort of harvest as well as the feeding
54 ban to manage Roseville’s deer population.
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56 Commissioner Newby referenced that a controlled hunt could be added to the feeding ban ordinance.
57 Discussion followed on the timing of a hunt and how the soonest timing for this would be next fall.
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- 59 • Mary Jo Schreiber recognized the depth of knowledge by Commissioners and extent of research
60 done by those working on this topic. Ms. Schreiber is concerned about possible safety issues
61 with the Metro Bow Hunting Resource Base based on photos and information found on their
62 web site. Schreiber also feels the sharp shooting option is disturbing. Ms. Schreiber asked all to
63 keep in mind the need to find balance between human life and property and hopes we can
64 coexist with the deer. Schreiber also commented on the use of planting options that are deer
65 resistant.
66 ○ Ms. Schreiber supports a feeding ban.
67 • Melissa Jordan shared recent driving issues in Roseville that have involved deer and pointed out
68 the lack of warning/awareness signs for deer along roads in areas of Roseville that have a
69 heavier deer presence.
70 ○ Ms. Jordan supports a feeding ban.
71 • Ginger Seybold lives by a homeowner who feeds the deer. She feels that because of this feeding
72 there is an overpopulation of deer in her neighborhood leading to deer obstructing the walking
73 path of walkers. She referenced a specific instance where the deer were protecting their young
74 and became aggressive to her while she was walking her dog.
75 ○ Ms. Seybold supports efforts to thin the deer population so the community and deer can
76 better cohabitate.
77 • Andy Krawczyk has a deer feeder, supports a gun hunt rather than a bow hunt and supports a
78 feeding ban. Suggests trying the feeding ban before considering a hunt.
79 • Lee Lundin appreciates the beautiful environment in Roseville and loves the deer. Ms. Lundin
80 urged the commission to recognize that there are several points of view. Ms. Lundin described
81 her neighborhood as a calm, rational group. “Roseville is not a kill community.”
82 ○ Ms. Lundin supports a feeding ban.
83 • Kris Simonson loves the wildlife in Roseville. Kris commented that there is a problem with the
84 quantity of deer created by human actions. Ms. Simonson is in favor of a feeding ban for all
85 wildlife. The problem has gone on too long resulting in the overpopulation of deer in Roseville.
86 ○ Ms. Simonson encourages the use of a 2 prong approach that uses a feeding ban to
87 maintain the population followed by control methods to reduce the population.
88 • Adele Kaufman is worried about personal safety because of the deer in Roseville.
89 ○ Ms. Kaufman supports a feeding ban and methods to thin out the herd.
90 • Mary Lou Mohn is concerned that Roseville is becoming a deer park. You cannot scare deer
91 any longer; the deer are becoming too tame. Ms. Mohn wondered if the recent coyote problem
92 in the City is related to the increased deer population.
93 ○ Ms. Mohn is interested in the City looking at comprehensive wildlife management
94 including support of a feeding ban and methods to cull the herd.
95 • Jamie Becker-Finn has seen 21 deer at one time near her home in Roseville. Becker-Finn is a
96 life-long deer hunter. Recognized the threat of lymes disease from deer.

97 ○ Ms. Becker-Finn encouraged the City to enact a feeding ban as soon as possible and
98 added the need to include in the ordinance a timeline and measurable that triggers future
99 hunt if needed.

100 Commissioner D. Holt asked about how we might go about getting info on the effectiveness of a
101 feeding ban.

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103 Commissioner Gelbach recognized the need for setting objectives tied to the feeding ban ordinance that
104 would lead to a future hunt if needed.

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- 106 • Laura Sigler commented that she appreciated the Commissions efforts to address this issue.
107 Sigler’s findings lead her to oppose a hunt and especially a bow hunt. Bow hunting is extremely
108 inhumane. She recommended if the City is considering any kind of hunt they should look to
109 sharp shooters. Her findings also say there is no proven linear link between deer and lymes
110 disease. Ms. Sigler questioned if society was looking for an easy answer to the deer population
111 with a hunt and if there is a lack of tolerance for the animal.
 - 112 ○ Ms. Sigler supports a feeding ban. Ms. Sigler also suggested more education in addition
113 to the feeding ban. She believes a feeding ban should lead to the deer dispersing.
 - 114 • Terry Moses stated he thinks a feeding ban is a good idea but feels more drastic action is rash.
115 Mr. Moses question if there is more to the deer problem than just the growing numbers. Moses
116 also voiced his belief that Ramsey County has been directed to manage the deer and inquired
117 into why Ramsey County isn’t handling the issue rather than the City.
 - 118 ○ Many Community members spoke to the fact that the County and DNR do not act on
119 these issues that the responsibility has been directed to the individual municipalities in
120 Ramsey County.
 - 121 ○ John Baker added his feeling that part of the problem is that the County has directed
122 Cities to take care of the issue within their jurisdiction. He questioned if neighboring
123 community actions have led to Roseville’s growing deer population.
 - 124 • Roger Toogood returned to the table to comment that it appears as if the recommendation to the
125 Council is to ban feeding deer in Roseville he suggested the Commission add a means for
126 harvesting the deer after 2 years if the feeding ban does not manage the deer population.
 - 127 • Timothy Callaghan informed the group that his experiences say that the deer are not going to eat
128 the items people are talking about. Wood chucks will eat everything. Callaghan also disputed
129 the connection between deer and lymes disease. Callaghan asked what the majority of Roseville
130 wants done? Callaghan suggested that a survey needed to be done to know what Roseville
131 wants done with the deer. Callaghan also complained that he was unable to access documents
132 and meeting materials on the City website.
 - 133 ○ Mr. Callaghan would not support a wildlife feeding ban, he would support a deer
134 feeding ban.
 - 135 ○ Following Mr. Callaghan’s comments about the inability to access the City website
136 many in attendance disputed this fact and supported easy access to the materials.
 - 137 • Eric Figgins shared possible projection of deer growth in Roseville if nothing is done. The
138 potential growth is dramatic.
 - 139 ○ Mr. Figgins supports a feeding ban.
 - 140 • Martin Jeffers commented that too many people treat deer like pets. Deer are too tame in
141 Roseville. Mr. Jeffers has seen 21 deer in the pond near his home.
 - 142 ○ Mr. Jeffers supports a feeding ban.
 - 143 • Kyle Wilson shared numbers that demonstrated the significant growth in the number of deer
144 over time. Mr. Wilson sees a problem in reducing the deer population.

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- Lou Bushard supports a feeding ban, culling and coordinating with neighboring communities to manage deer in Ramsey County.
 - Tim Eckert inquired into whether Roseville has had a hunt in the past and wondered why it has taken so long to get to a point where we need a hunt. It is nice to see deer and likes living in the beauty of nature.
 - Mr. Eckert thinks a feeding ban may help.
 - Peter Rhodes commented that we as a society have made areas in Roseville more attractive to deer by adding grass and removing mature trees.

154 Community comment wrapped up at 8:35am. Commission took a 5 minute break at this time.

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156 Commissioner Doneen began the follow up discussion asking how do we want to address the outcomes of a feeding ban? Do we want to do something proactively at this point?

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- Commission Chair D. Holt suggested a small group of Commissioners work with Director Brokke to pull together analysis and a comprehensive plan for the commission to consider at the next meeting.
 - Commissioner Gelbach added his interest in seeing all encompassing considerations that don't limit and give more options.
 - Commissioner Newby injected his concerns over a timeline just based on effect on the deer population and doesn't take into consideration the lessening/elimination of the conflicts caused.
 - Commissioner Stoner opined an observation that the feeding ban has almost no down side. Comments from community members at last month and today's commission meeting show a strong interest in supporting the feeding ban. Today's meeting has included increased support for a hunt of some sort. Stoner feels there are 3 points/areas to address;
 - Location matters. Address the deer problem based on issues in specific areas.
 - Validity for testing the feeding ban. Can we get good information in a given time frame? Can we get measurable data?
 - People appreciate knowing they were listened to. This is demonstrated by including a potential for a hunt in the ordinance. Concern that moving forward with a feeding ban now and future hunt considerations a timed poorly and lead to possible further delay.
 - Commissioner Doneen would like to see us explore coordinated efforts between municipalities and Ramsey County officials.
 - Brokke to arrange a meeting with D. Holt, Stoner & Newby to pull information together for Commission review at the March meeting.

183 5. **PARK & RECREATION RENEWAL PROGRAM STATUS**

184 Brokke summarized Renewal Program progress.

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- Projects are moving along. Many are approaching completion with punch list items and spring site work remaining.
 - An area of special note; \$267,000 in Natural Resource grants have been secured to expand Natural Resource management opportunities.
 - Villa Park Neighborhood Preview was held on January 28. Great turnout, over 80 people visited the new park building.
 - The Mounds View property south of Autumn Grove Park has been officially purchased by the City and is now part of the parks & recreation system.

193 ○ Anfang added that 36 facility reservations have been taken in the past month. 25% of
194 these reservations are facilitating community groups and local organizations.
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196 **6. STAFF REPORT**

- 197 • Busy weekend at the Skating Center, Daddy Daughter Dance on Friday Night, Girls Section
198 Hockey Game on Saturday and National Long Track Speed Skating competition on Saturday &
199 Sunday.
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201 **7. OTHER**

- 202 • D. Holt inquired into the status of the Golf Course operations report. Brokke updated the
203 Commission on staff progress in compiling the information and added that he was meeting with
204 the City Manager, City Finance Director & Golf Course Superintendent the next day.
205 • D. Holt announced the three open Commission seats. Two of the three are full term positions
206 (three years) while one of the seats is a partial term. Applications are available online at
207 cityofroseville.com.
208 • Stoner thanked Parks & Recreation Department Assistant, Kara Thomas, for her work in
209 researching & compiling information on local deer population, issues and municipality actions.
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211 Meeting adjourned at 9:25pm

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213 Respectfully Submitted,
214 Jill Anfang, Assistant Director