

Roseville Parks and Recreation
Commission Meeting
Tuesday, April 1, 2014
6:30 P.M.
Roseville City Hall
2660 Civic Center Drive

AGENDA

1. Introductions
2. Public Comment Invited
3. Approval of Minutes of March 4, 2014
4. Introduction and Oath of Office for New Commissioner
5. Dale Street Fire Station Property Park Dedication
6. Park Board Continued Discussion
7. Park and Recreation Renewal Program Update
8. Staff Report
9. Other
10. Adjournment

Roseville Parks and Recreation
“Building Community through People, Parks and Programs”
www.ci.roseville.mn.us

*Be a part of the picture...get involved with your City... Volunteer!
For more information, call Roseville Parks and Recreation at 651-792-7006
or check our website at www.cityofroseville.com
Volunteering, a Great Way to Get Involved!*

MEMORANDUM

To: Parks and Recreation Commission
From: Lonnie Brokke
Date: March 17, 2014
Re: Notes for Commission Meeting on Tuesday, April 1, 2014

1. **Introductions**

Commissioners and staff will be introduced.

2. **Public Comment Invited**

Public participation and public comment is encouraged.

3. **Approval of Minutes of the March 4, 2014 Meeting**

Enclosed is a copy of the minutes of March 4, 2014. Please be prepared to approve or amend.

Requested Commission Action: Approve/amend meeting minutes of March 4, 2014.

4. **Introduction and Oath of Office for New Commissioner**

Terrance Newby was appointed to the Parks and Recreation Commission by the City Council on Monday, March 24, 2014. Chair Holt will officially swear in Newby. We welcome him to the Commission and thank him for his interest in Roseville Parks and Recreation. Newby and all Commissioners will briefly introduce themselves and their background.

Requested Commission Action: Welcome to Terrence Newby and brief introduction of all Commissioners.

5. **Dale Street Fire Station Property Park Dedication**

The Roseville Housing Redevelopment Authority (HRA) has been working through a community process to consider redeveloping the former Dale Street Fire Station. They have selected the Greater Metropolitan Housing Corporation as the developer.

The role of the Commission is to discuss and make a recommendation from a Park Dedication perspective, specifically recommending either land or cash in lieu. The Park Dedication Ordinance is in your packet.

Enclosed is a description of the project, location map and a site plan. The specific site location includes 2335 and 2325 Dale Street and 657,661,667 and 675 Cope Avenue.

This is a 3 acre site being redeveloped into a 25 unit mixed residential development. The cash amount is 25 units x \$3500 = \$87,500 vs. the land amount is 10% of 3.0 acres = .30 acre.

Greater Metropolitan Housing Corporation is requesting that cash be accepted in lieu of the land dedication.

This area is located in Constellation G. There are no specific plans for a parcel in this area. For reference and guidance, in your packet is specific information from the Master Plan including the constellation map and goals and policies related to parks and open space acquisition.

Requested Commission Action: To make a recommendation to accept land or cash in lieu of land dedication to satisfy the Park Dedication requirements.

6. Park Board Continued Discussion

At your March meeting you reviewed all previous materials and learned additional legal information that a Park Board beyond advisory is not allowed in a Plan B City such as Roseville.

After your discussion, you were interested in further information as to how the HRA was able to be established and what would the process be if Roseville wanted to establish a Park Board beyond advisory capacity.

Attached is a resolution that created the HRA. Essentially, State Law specifically allows for a Plan B City to establish an HRA. This is not the case with a Park Board.

Attached also is a memo from City Attorney Mark Gaughan that outlines the options, and identifies a possible approach should Roseville choose to move in this direction.

Requested Commission Action: Discuss, identify areas of additional information needed and consider next steps.

7. Park and Recreation Renewal Program Update

Project proposals are being received. By your April meeting date, all 11 packages will be in and in the process of being evaluated.

Staff will provide you with the most up to date information at your meeting. A recommendation is expected to be presented to the City Council in April 2014.

Any additional information on the Renewal Program will be shared at the meeting.

Requested Commission Action: Hear latest information, discuss and provide advice.

8. Staff Report

9. Other

10. Adjournment

**ROSEVILLE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
DRAFT MEETING MINUTES FOR MARCH 4, 2014
ROSEVILLE CITY HALL ~ 6:30pm**

PRESENT: Azer, Boehm, Diedrick, Doneen, Gelbach, D. Holt, M. Holt, Stoner
ABSENT: Simbeck, Wall notified staff about being unable to attend
STAFF: Anfang, Brokke, Evenson
OTHERS: Tom Turba

1. INTRODUCTIONS

2. ROLL CALL/PUBLIC COMMENT

Tom Turba spoke to the Commission on behalf of the Friends of Lexington Park.

The Friends of Lexington Park (FLP) are interested in raising money to add a climbing feature (rock/boulder) for older children and teens in Lexington Park. To date, FLP has raised \$14,000 and looks to raise the additional funds needed to purchase a play feature of this type. A donor has come forward and committed to matching funds in an effort to help the Friends of Lexington Park meet their goal.

The Friends of Lexington Park hope this project can be completed with the Renewal Program projects taking place in the park this summer.

Tom Turba is managing the fund raising efforts and suggested that community members interested in contributing to this project contact him directly at TNTurba@comcast.net.

Lonnie Brokke thanked Tom and the Friends of Lexington Park for their longtime support of Lexington Park.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – FEBRUARY 6, 2014 MEETING

Commission Recommendation:

Minutes for the February 6, 2014 meeting were approved unanimously.

4. PARK BOARD DISCUSSION

Brokke updated the Commission on the latest legal information on the Park Board. Because Roseville is a Plan B City, a City Manager form of Government; it is not eligible for Park Board status without Legislative action. Currently the City Council cannot relinquish authority of parks and recreation to another group.

Commissioners inquired into how the HRA came to be; the HRA was approved through the legislature.

- Commissioners voiced their interest in knowing more about the process the HRA went through to achieve board status – when did this take place, how extensive was the effort...What would the process look like?
- Commissioners questioned whether they, as a group, are interested in moving forward in support of a park board.
 - o D. Holt commented on how the current Commission acts more like a Board than a Commission.
 - o Stoner recognized that we are about a year out on the legislative timeline for an action like this.

- o All agreed that the Park Board discussion should be included on the April agenda and the Commission should prepare to have the topic at the joint Council/Commission meeting in June.

5. **MINNESOTA PROJECT: MURIEL SAHLIN ARBORETUM/COMMUNITY ORCHARD**

Brokke explained that staff had recently been approached by the “Minnesota Project” organization about the potential of establishing a fruit orchard at the Muriel Sahlin Arboretum as part of a “Fruits of the City” program.

Brokke commented that this project would complement the Arboretum as an education component, involve local volunteers, fence installation to assist with protection of the existing tree nursery, and is consistent with the edible gardens that currently exist.

- The budget on a project like this would ultimately be approximately \$100,000. The Minnesota Project would work to apply for grants to support necessary funding and be involved with supplying of volunteers to establish and maintain the site into the future.

Commissioners voiced the following inquiries;

- Doneen wondered how the community would be involved in the project.
 - o Brokke spoke to the volunteer aspects as well as education opportunities for area youth and adults.
- Azer commented on the potential for involvement by community members who are recent immigrants to the area.

Commission Recommendation:

Azer moved that Parks and Recreation continue to pursue the Fruits of the City program. Second by Gelbach. Motion passed unanimously.

6. **PARKS AND RECREATION RENEWAL PROGRAM UPDATE**

Brokke informed the Commission that eleven renewal program proposal packages are available for the local contracting community; all proposals are due within the coming month.

- Staff will bring more information on the proposals to the April meeting.
- Staff are planning to take the projects to the Council April 7 and April 14.

Doneen inquired into plans for Southwest Roseville.

- Brokke spoke about possible pathway linkages along County Road B between Cleveland and Highway 280.
- Staff are continuing discussions with property owners for a possible land purchase in the area.
- Brokke also shared the possibility of the Historical Society moving into the Evergreen Park building as a permanent display and operations site.
 - o The Historical Society addition combines nicely with the Southwest Neighbors interests in bringing more passive activity options to Evergreen Park.
 - o Evergreen Park compliments the Historical Society in that it provides them visibility to a wide spectrum of the community.
 - o In addition, students at Brimhall School will benefit from access to a Historical component.

7. **STAFF REPORT**

Brokke reported;

- Annual Tree Sale continues through Mid-April.
- Weather Update:

- o OVAL was originally scheduled to close March 2 due to weather conditions, staff has extended the season by one week without using the condensers to refrigerate the ice.
- o Neighborhood rinks are open; we have continued to clear the snow whenever possible. Staff schedules ended mid-February.
- Currently, there is one Parks and Recreation Commission open. Applications are due by March 5.

Meeting adjourned at 7:45pm

Respectfully Submitted,
Jill Anfang, Assistant Director

DRAFT

**ORDINANCE 1278
AN ORDINANCE AMENDING
TITLE THREE, SECTION 1103.07
PARK DEDICATION**

THE CITY OF ROSEVILLE ORDAINS:

Section 1103.07 of the Roseville City Code is amended to read as follows:

1103.07: PARK DEDICATION:

- A. Condition To Approval: As a condition to the approval of any subdivision of land in any zone, including the granting of a variance pursuant to Section 1104.04 of this Title, when a new building site is created in excess of one acre, by either platting or minor subdivision, and including redevelopment and approval of planned unit developments, the subdivision shall be reviewed by the Park and Recreation Commission. The commission shall recommend either a portion of land to be dedicated to the public for use as a park as provided by Minnesota Statutes 462.358, subdivision (2)(b), or in lieu thereof, a cash deposit given to the City to be used for park purposes; or a combination of land and cash deposit, all as hereafter set forth.
- B. Amount To Be Dedicated: The portion to be dedicated in all residentially zoned areas shall be ten percent (10%) and five percent (5%) in all other areas.
- C. Utility Dedications Not Qualified: Land dedicated for required street right of way or utilities', including drainage, does not qualify as park dedication.
- D. Payment in lieu of dedication in all zones in the city where park dedication is deemed inappropriate by the City, the owner and the City shall agree to have the owner deposit a sum of money in lieu of a dedication. The sum shall be reviewed and determined annually by the City Council by resolution. (Ord. 1061, 6-26-1989)
- E. Park Dedication Fees may, in the City Councils sole discretion, be reduced for affordable housing units as recommended by the Housing and Redevelopment Authority for the City of Roseville.

Ordinance 1278 Effective date. This ordinance shall take effect upon its passage and publication

Passed by the City Council of the City of Roseville this 24th day of February, 2003.



GREATER METROPOLITAN HOUSING CORPORATION

15 South 5th Street
Suite 710
Minneapolis, MN 55402

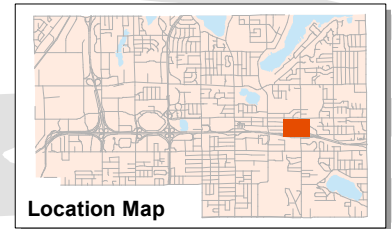
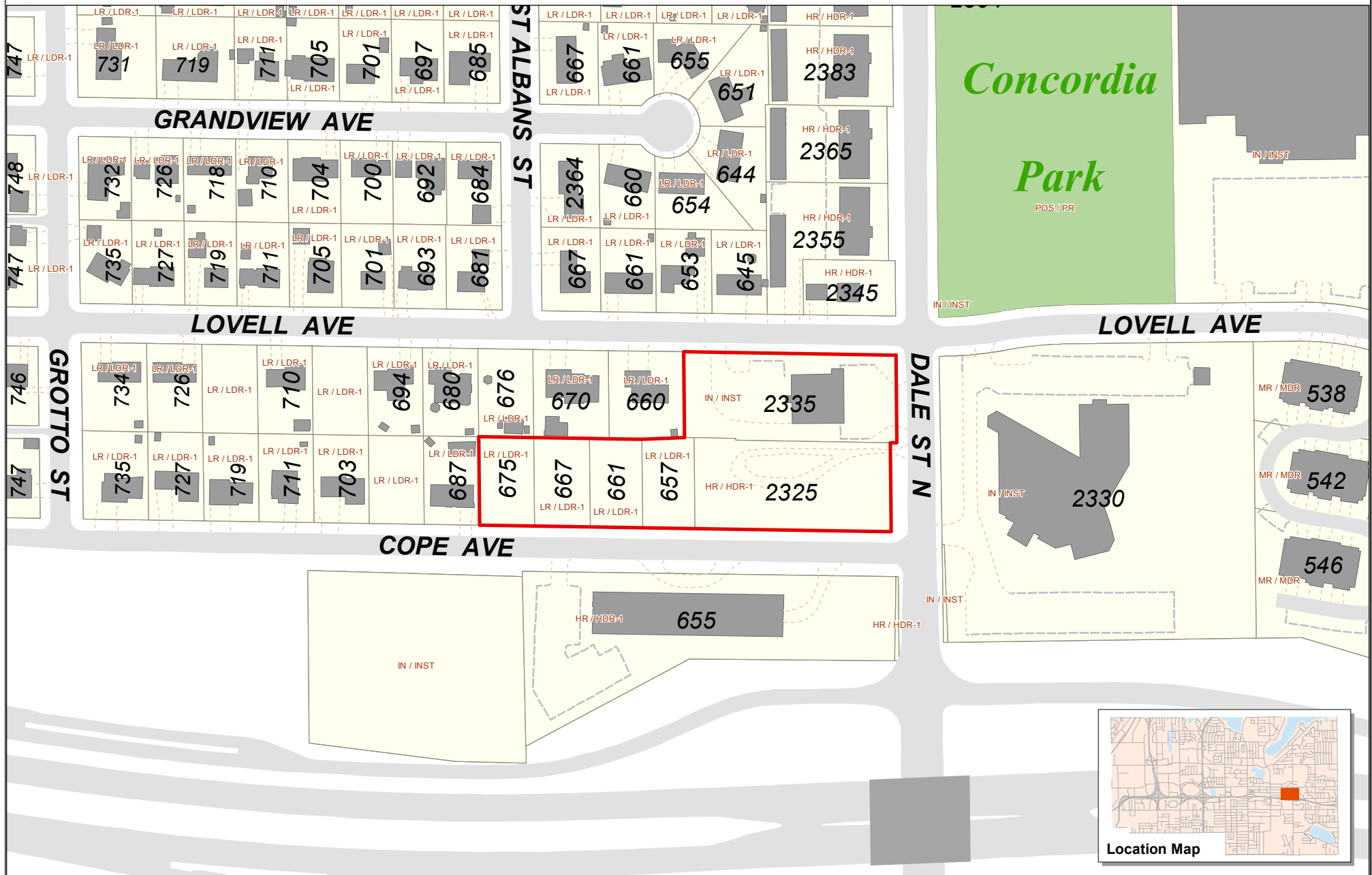
phone: (612) 339-0601
fax: (612) 339-0608
www.gmhchousing.org

Greater Metropolitan Housing Corporation (GMHC) has been selected to redevelop the 3-acre site of the former Dale Street Fire Station into a 25-unit mixed-residential development. This project has been the result of the Roseville Housing and Redevelopment Authority's Corridor Development Initiative (CDI) process and their subsequent RFP. GMHC was selected as the preferred developer and the enclosed site plan has been the result of several community meetings and meetings with city staff.

The proposed mixed-residential development has 9 row house style townhomes along Dale Street broken into two buildings; one containing 4 units and the other 5 units. Behind the townhomes are 10 single family detached homes in a courtyard configuration. The center courtyard green space will be shared by all the homes. Along Cope Avenue are 5 single-level townhomes and one single-level single family home. The proposed development will also incorporate landscaping and rain gardens throughout the development while preserving trees wherever possible.

Based on the RHRA's guidance, GMHC would like to pursue cash in lieu of land for the park dedication based on site constraints and proximity to existing parks. GMHC has incorporated the \$3,500 per unit cost into cost conversations with the HRA and City Council.

Attachment A for Planning File 14-004



Prepared by:
Community Development Department
Printed: February 18, 2014



Site Location

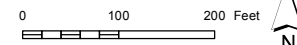
LR / LDR-1 Comp Plan / Zoning Designations

Data Sources

* Ramsey County GIS Base Map (2/4/2014)
For further information regarding the contents of this map contact:
City of Roseville, Community Development Department,
2660 Civic Center Drive, Roseville MN

Disclaimer

This map is neither a legally recorded map nor a survey and is not intended to be used as one. This map is a compilation of records, information and data located in various city, county, state and federal offices and other sources regarding the area shown, and is to be used for reference purposes only. The City does not warrant that the Geographic Information System (GIS) Data used to prepare this map are error free, and the City does not represent that the GIS Data can be used for navigational, tracking or any other purpose requiring exacting measurement of distance or direction or precision in the depiction of geographic features. If errors or discrepancies are found please contact 651-792-7085. The preceding disclaimer is provided pursuant to Minnesota Statutes §466.03, Subd. 21 (2000), and the user of this map acknowledges that the City shall not be liable for any damages, and expressly waives all claims, and agrees to defend, indemnify, and hold harmless the City from any and all claims brought by User, its employees or agents, or third parties which arise out of the user's access or use of data provided.



mapdoc: planning_commission_location.mxd

Attachment B for Planning File 14-004



Prepared by:
Community Development Department
Printed: February 18, 2014



Site Location

Data Sources

* Ramsey County GIS Base Map (2/4/2014)
* Aerial Data: MnGeo (4/2012)

For further information regarding the contents of this map contact:
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0 50 100 Feet



LOVELL AVENUE

DALE STREET NORTH

COPE AVENUE WEST

25 UNITS @ 8.5 UNITS/ACRE
MEDIUM DENSITY RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT (MDR)



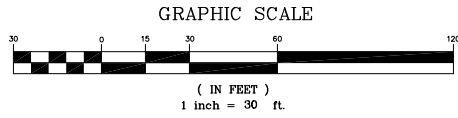
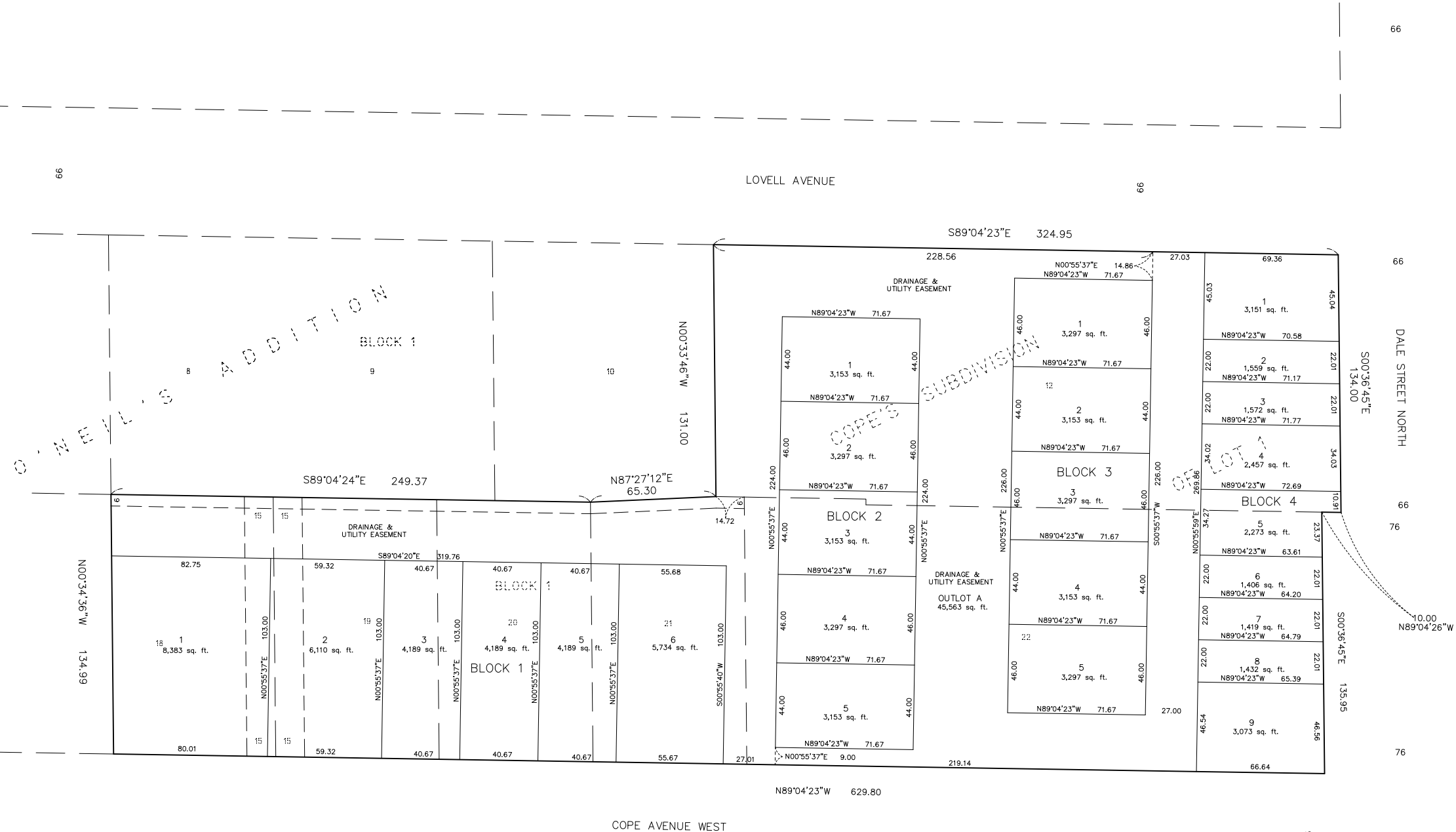
ROSEVILLE

Greater Metropolitan Housing Corporation

03.03.2014

CERMAK RHOADES ARCHITECTS

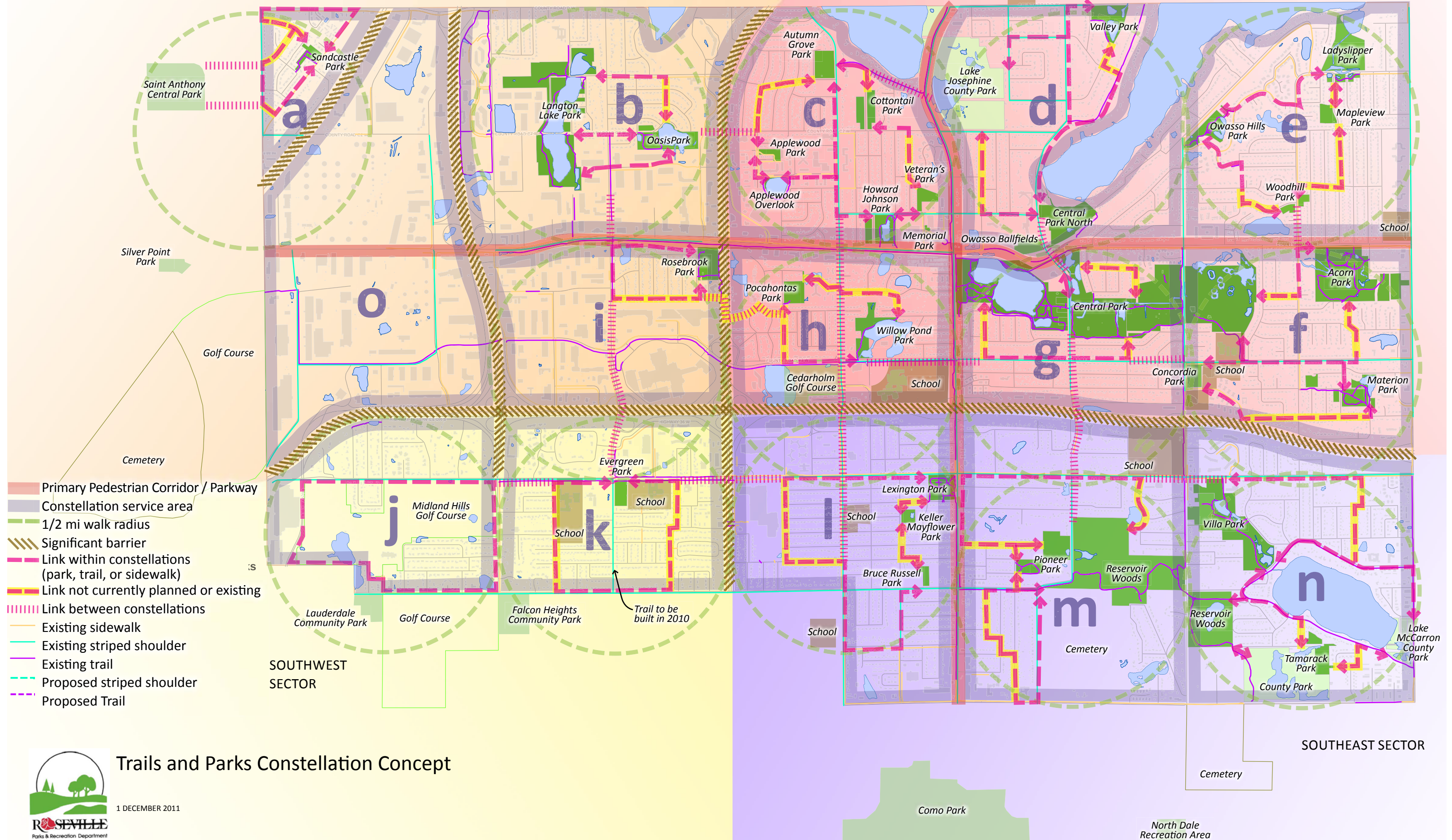
PRELIMINARY PLAT: FIRE STATION ADDITION



Client GREATER METROPOLITAN HOUSING CORP. 15 SOUTH FIFTH STREET, SUITE 710 MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55402 612-339-0601 ext 16	Design by	Original date	I hereby certify that this plan, specification or report was prepared by me or under my direct supervision, and that I am a duly Licensed Professional Engineer under the laws of the State of Minnesota.  Jonathan L. Farosi Date: 3-5-14 Minnesota Reg. No. 16464
	Drawn by 	Revisions	
LAKE AND LAND SURVEYING, INC. SURVEYING/CIVIL ENGINEERING 1200 CENTRE POINTE, SUITE 275 ST PAUL, MN 55102 PHON: (651) 776-8211	Survey book No.		Page title PRELIMINARY PLAT
	S.A.P. number 2013.147		Sheet number 2 of 4

NORTHWEST SECTOR

NORTHEAST SECTOR



Goal 2

Parks Development, Redevelopment, and Rehabilitation

Provide a high-quality, financially sound system of parks, open spaces, trails, and waterways that meets the recreation needs of all city residents, offers a visual/physical diversion from the hard surfacing of urban development, enhances our quality of life, and forms an essential part of our community's identity and character.

Policy 2.1: Evaluate and refurbish parks, as needed, to reflect changes in population, age, and diversity of residents, recreational activities preferred, amount of leisure time available, and best practice designs and technologies, and asset management strategies.

Policy 2.2: Orient parks and programs equally to youth activities that focus on community building activities teaching them life-long skills, and exposing them to a variety of recreation experiences, and to adult activities which accommodate adults' needs for wellness and provide a range of social interaction opportunities.

Policy 2.3: Focus parks on passive and active recreational activities and activities that take advantage of the unique natural features. Pursue opportunities for incorporating art and cultural programs, which enrich citizens' mental and emotional well-being, as a complement to primary

physical focus of parks and recreation programs.

Policy 2.4: Organize all parks and facilities so that a component is provided for informal, non-programmed activities—those open to anyone in the community, at any time.

Policy 2.5: Maintain parks and open space according to the standards outlined in the Park Maintenance Manual which recognizes that levels of service must be provided based on the intensity of use and purpose of the site.

Policy 2.6: Use innovative methods for park and facility improvements that offer lower lifecycle costs, even if the initial cost is higher. Develop park and recreation facilities that minimize the maintenance demands on the City by emphasizing the development of well-planned parks, high-quality materials and labor-saving maintenance devices and practices.

Policy 2.7: Promote and support volunteerism to encourage people to actively support Roseville's parks and open spaces.

Policy 2.8: Encourage the preservation of features in parks considered to be of historic or cultural value, especially those features that do not conflict with other park uses and activities. Consider the potential of historic landscapes in parks, including agricultural landscapes or features. Work to perpetuate those landscapes and other features of historic or cultural significance when they are identified through recognized investigations.

Goal 3

Parks and Open Space Acquisition

Add new parks and facilities to achieve equitable access in all neighborhoods, accommodate the needs of redeveloping areas, and meet residents' desires for a range of recreation opportunities serving all ages, abilities, and cultures.

Policy 3.1: Ensure that no net loss of parkland or open space occurs during alterations or displacement of existing parkland and open space. If adverse impacts to parkland or open space take place, ensure that mitigation measures include the acquisition of replacement parkland of equal or greater size and value.

Policy 3.2: As areas of Roseville evolve, and properties undergo a change of use and/or density, land should be dedicated to the community for park purposes to ensure adequate park facilities for those new uses.

Policy 3.3: Determine potential locations and acquire additional park land in neighborhoods and constellations that are lacking adequate parks and recreation facilities.

Policy 3.4: Determine locations for new park and recreation facilities in redevelopment areas as part of the redevelopment process and use the park dedication process to acquire appropriate land.

Policy 3.5: Make continued effective use of the Park Dedication Ordinance. Park land dedication will be required when land is developed or redeveloped for residential, commercial, or industrial purposes. Review annually park dedication requirements in order to ensure that dedication regulations meet statutory requirements and the needs of Roseville.

Policy 3.6: Use park dedication funds to acquire and develop new land in addition to other funding sources.

Policy 3.7: Acquire properties necessary to implement adopted park concept plans and in Roseville's Comprehensive Land Use Plan, and consider other additions based on needs identified in the sector or constellation concept. Acquire land on a "willing seller" basis unless otherwise determined by the City Council.

Goal 4 Trails, Pathways, and Community Connections

Create a well-connected and easily accessible system of parks, open spaces, trails, pathways, community connections, and facilities that links neighborhoods and provides opportunities for residents and others to gather and interact.

Policy 4.1: Develop, adopt, and implement a comprehensive and integrated trails, pathways, and community connections system plan for recreation and transportation uses, including separate facilities for pedestrians, and bicyclists (including off-road unpaved trails for bikers and hikers that offer new challenges while protecting resources).

Policy 4.2: Develop, adopt, and implement a Trails Management Program (TMP).

Policy 4.3: Advocate the implementation of community parkways on the County Road C and Lexington Avenue corridors to accommodate pedestrian and bicyclist movement and inclusion of community character and identity features.

Policy 4.4: Maintain the trail and pathway system through all seasons.

Policy 4.5: Make the park system accessible to people of all abilities.

Policy 4.6: Align development and expansion of non-motorized trails, pathways, community parkways, and other routes with the need to provide connections to and within parks, to open spaces, recreation facilities, and key destinations, as well as between neighborhoods, constellations, and sectors.

Policy 4.7: Educate the public on the advantages and safe use of non-motorized trails, pathways, and community parkway connections.

Policy 4.8: Develop clear and communicative signage and kiosks for wayfinding.

Planned Unit Development Agreements and instruct the City Planner to prepare all final documents for recording. Roll Call, Ayes: Kough, Klausing, Schroeder, and Kysylyczyn. Nays: Maschka.

M. Approving Payment of Bills

Kysylyczyn recognized Maschka. Maschka indicated he meant to pull from the Consent Agenda Item L. and not M. Kysylyczyn asked Maschka what his issue was. Maschka opposed payment of the legal service bill from Keith A. Niemi.

Klausing also opposed payment of the Niemi bill.

Schroeder supported payment of the Niemi bill.

Kysylyczyn commented on the nature of the ethics complaint that Niemi worked on.

Klausing stated that Kysylyczyn must recuse himself from voting on payment of the Niemi bill due to a potential conflict of interest.

Kough commented that Kysylyczyn was entitled to legal counsel.

Kysylyczyn moved to approve item M., the payment of bills. Roll Call, Ayes: Kough, Schroeder, and Kysylyczyn. Nays: Klausing and Maschka.

IX. Approval of Minutes

Minutes

A. City Council Meeting Minutes of June 10, 2002

Schroeder moved, Kysylyczyn seconded, to approve the minutes of the Meeting of June 10, 2002. Roll Call, Ayes: Kough, Klausing, Schroeder, Maschka and Kysylyczyn. Nays: none.

X. Other Business

A. Continuation of Housing Redevelopment Authority HRA Discussion (HRA) Discussion

Judy Florine, resident, asked for an explanation of the specific advantages of an HRA, and for the organizational chart for the proposed HRA.

Al Sands, resident, spoke in favor of an HRA, in favor of being gentle on an HRA levy, and in favor of delayed assessments for home improvements.

Paul Bredow, resident, asked about Roseville benefits from an HRA. He wants to see the City continue to prosper.

Kough commented on the advantages of an HRA and the possible composition of an HRA Board.

Klausing commented on the advantages and disadvantages of an HRA from his perspective. He suggested creating a Housing and Redevelopment Committee to study the issue for several months and then reporting back its findings to the Council; if the Committee favored an HRA and the Council agreed, the Committee itself could become the HRA Board.

Schroeder supported an HRA for reasons dealing with fiscal disparity funding and timing issues.

Joseph Mascioski, resident, commented that Roseville was behind the times and needed to move forward now with an HRA.

B. Resolution Creating a Roseville HRA

Kough moved, Kysylyczyn seconded, adoption of a resolution creating a Roseville Housing and Redevelopment Authority.

Discussion ensued among Councilmembers about a possible HRA levy, timing issues, and composition of the HRA Board.

Roll Call, Ayes: Kough, Schroeder, and Kysylyczyn.
Nays: Klausing and Maschka.

**Resolution 10011
HRA**

**City of Roseville
County of Ramsey
State of Minnesota**

Resolution No. 10011

Resolution Declaring the Need for a Housing and Redevelopment Authority to Function in the City of Roseville, Minnesota

BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council (the "Council") of the City of Roseville, Minnesota (the "City"), as follows:

1. On May 13, 2002, the Council adopted a resolution calling a public hearing on the question of the need for a housing and redevelopment authority to function within the City pursuant to the provisions of the Municipal Housing and Redevelopment Act, being Minnesota Statutes, Sections 469.001 to 469.047.

2. At the Council's meeting held on this 10th day of June 2002, a public hearing was held on the abovementioned question and on the question of the adoption of this resolution, and opportunity to be heard at the public hearing was granted to all residents of the City and its environs and to all other interested persons. Notice of the public hearing was published in a newspaper of general circulation in the City not less than 10 days nor more than 30 days prior thereto.

3. The Council hereby finds that within the City (a) substandard, slum, or blighted areas exist which cannot be redeveloped without government assistance and (b) there is a shortage of decent, safe, and sanitary dwelling accommodations available to persons of low income and their families at rentals they can afford.

4. Based in part on the foregoing findings, the Council hereby declares that there is a need for a housing and redevelopment authority to function in the City.

5. The Council hereby determines and directs that, in accordance with and upon satisfaction of the requirements of Minnesota Statutes, Section 462.003, the Housing and Redevelopment Authority in and for the City of Roseville, Minnesota, be and hereby is activated and authorized to function within the City.

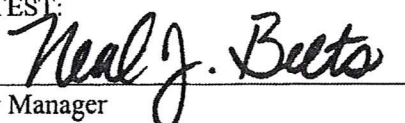
6. The City Manager is directed to cause a copy of this resolution to be published forthwith in the official newspaper of the City and, following such publication, to file a certified copy of this resolution in the office of the Commissioner of the Department Trade and Economic Development of the State of Minnesota, in accordance with Minnesota Statutes, Section 469.003, Subdivision 4.

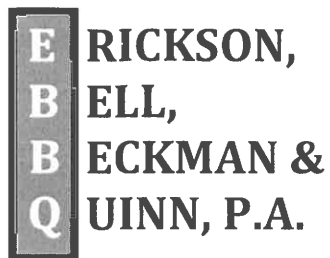
7. This resolution shall be effective upon the above-mentioned publication thereof in the City's official newspaper.

Adopted by the Roseville City Council this 17th day of June, 2002.


Mayor

ATTEST:


City Manager



1700 West Highway 36
Suite 110
Roseville, MN 55113
(651) 223-4999
(651) 223-4987 Fax
www.ebbqlaw.com

James C. Erickson, Sr.
Caroline Bell Beckman
Charles R. Bartholdi
Kari L. Quinn
Mark F. Gaughan
James C. Erickson, Jr.

Robert C. Bell
(1926-2014)

March 14, 2014

Via U.S. Mail and Electronic Mail

Mr. Lonnie Brokke
City of Roseville
2660 Civic Center Drive
Roseville, MN 55113

Mr. Pat Trudgeon
City of Roseville
2660 Civic Center Drive
Roseville, MN 55113

RE: Park Board Legislation
Our File No.: 1011-00186

Dear Pat and Lonnie:

Lonnie asked me to put into writing the process that would be necessary for the City of Roseville to establish a Park Board with all of the powers governing such a board under Minnesota Statutes. Under state law, a Park Board possesses full, absolute, and exclusive control over all property set aside for park purposes. To that end, a Park Board is authorized to employ its own personnel, undertake construction projects, purchase supplies and equipment, and generally maintain and care for park property. Under Minnesota Statutes section 412.621, however, an Optional Plan B City cannot have a Park Board:

“In any [Optional Plan B City] there shall be no...park board...except for the administration of a function jointly with another political subdivision. The council itself...shall govern and administer...parks...as fully as other municipal functions for the administration of which no independent boards are authorized by statute for cities generally. The council may, however, create boards or commissions to advise the council...”

Under this section, then, the City can create a Park Board if it joins this function with another political subdivision, such as a neighboring community. The City also may have an advisory commission for the parks, which Roseville already possesses. Or, the City could renounce its Optional Plan B form of government and re-form under a governing scheme that permits Park Boards.

The only other alternative for the City, if it wishes to create a fully-empowered Park Board, would be to gain statutory permission from the state legislature. Specifically, the City would need a special law to be enacted that permits the City of Roseville to create a Park Board despite the fact that it is an Optional Plan B City. The process to gain such statutory permission would be as follows:

1. The City will need to be united in its pursuit of statutory permission for a Park Board. I would suggest that such unity could be demonstrated through the Parks Commission adopting a resolution declaring its support for Park Board legislation, followed by a similar resolution adopted by the City Council. Because this is a purely political pursuit, it would be important that these resolutions be adopted in a near-unanimous fashion. If the City's leadership is divided on this issue, then the prospects of gaining legislative support diminish.
2. Armed with the demonstrated support of City leadership, one or more local legislative representatives will need to shoulder the burden of authoring a bill and undertaking the burden of getting the bill passed through appropriate committees within their chamber of the legislature, followed by a majority vote of the entirety of the chamber. Then, the bill will have to pass by majority vote in the other chamber of the legislature and, finally, signed into law by the Governor. Along the way, City leadership and the community as a whole will likely need to lobby the legislature to support the bill. The first step in this process, however, will be to convince at least one local legislative representative undertake this project.

I hope this information is helpful. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions.

Very truly yours,

ERICKSON, BELL, BECKMAN & QUINN, P.A.



Mark F. Gaughan

MFG/kmw