

**ROSEVILLE**  
**REQUEST FOR COUNCIL ACTION**

Date: 1/25/21

Item No.:

Department Approval

City Manager Approval



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Item Description:      Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting with the City Council

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1    **BACKGROUND**

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

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5    With the COVID-19 Pandemic, 2020 has been an unusual year making joint meetings a challenge.  
6    The last joint meeting was held in October of 2019. However, the Commission still has been  
7    working in adjusted ways and making progress.

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9    At this point, the Commission is interested in catching up, briefly sharing with you what they  
10    have been working on, upcoming items (highlighted below) and, in particular, take some time to  
11    discuss and seek specific guidance on a discussion they have been having regarding the  
12    Pocahontas Park name (see attachment).

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14    The following is an overview of what they have been working on and their anticipated upcoming  
15    work items:

16        Community outreach activities:

- 17            ○ Limited due to COVID-19

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19        Involvement Activities from November 2019 – October 2020

- 20            ○ Reviewed, discussed, provided advice and contributed to the following:
- 21                ■ Project, program and facility review on various areas of the department
  - 22                ■ Chair Hoag and Commissioner Dahlstrom participated on a Forestry Task  
23                    Force with the PWET Commission representatives
  - 24                ■ Reviewed and provided a recommendation on an accelerated Emerald Ash  
25                    Borer Program
  - 26                ■ Reviewed and provided a recommended on significant project  
27                    contributions by the Friends of Roseville Parks (FOR Parks) and the  
28                    Roseville Central Park Foundation
  - 29                ■ Reviewed and made recommendations on the Deer Monitoring and  
30                    Reduction Program
  - 31                ■ Received presentation of Minnesota Recreation and Park Association  
32                    (MRPA) Award of Excellence

- 33           ▪ Heard a report and provided suggestions on the Bennett Lake Water
- 34           Quality
- 35           ▪ Began a review of the Pocahontas Park name as suggested by some
- 36           community members
- 37           ▪ Reviewed and provided a recommendation on the Park Dedication rates
- 38           ▪ Heard a report and provided suggestions to the Natural Resource
- 39           Stewardship Network
- 40           ▪ Had ongoing discussions and provided advice on City Legislative Priorities
  - 41           • Guidant John Rose Minnesota OVAL State Bonding (successful)
  - 42           • Cedarholm Golf Course Liquor License (successful)
- 43           ▪ Reviewed and made recommendations on specific Park Dedication items:
  - 44           ○ Park Dedication Review and Recommendation – Lexington
  - 45           Woods – SE Corner of Lexington Ave. and Cty. Road C2
  - 46           ○ Park Dedication Review and Recommendation – Midland
  - 47           Legacy Estates - 2395 County Road B West
- 48           ▪ Welcomed a new commission member

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50 Anticipated work items:

- 51           ○ Pocahontas Park name
  - 52           ▪ This item came up as some community members expressed concern to the
  - 53           commission that the name may be offensive, suggesting that the
  - 54           commission address it in some way.
    - 55           • In the process of gathering more information about the issue, the
    - 56           Commission has thus far:
      - 57           ○ Heard a brief history of who Pocahontas, the person was.
      - 58           ○ Utilized the Government Alliance on Race and Equity Tool
      - 59           kit to develop a possible action plan (attached).
      - 60           ○ Heard from a leader of a Native American organization
      - 61           regarding their thoughts on the issue.
      - 62           ○ Received preliminary feedback from members of the
      - 63           community regarding the issue.
    - 64           ▪ Possible next steps for examining the issue may include:
      - 65           • ???
      - 66           • ???
  - 67           ○ Revive efforts on the:
    - 68           ▪ Accelerated Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) Program
    - 69           ▪ Third party vendor at Cedarholm
  - 70           ○ Review, discuss, provide guidance and advice on:
    - 71           ▪ Seasonal deer monitoring and reduction effort
    - 72           ▪ State Bond improvements to the Guidant John Rose Minnesota OVAL
    - 73           ▪ Community expressed shortage of Pickleball Courts
    - 74           ▪ FOR Parks funded inclusive play structure
    - 75           ▪ Central Park Foundation funded Muriel Sahlin Arboretum lighting project
    - 76           ▪ Capital Improvement Plan (CIP)
    - 77           ▪ Park Dedication annual rate review
    - 78           ▪ Park Dedication items that come up
    - 79           ▪ COVID-19
  - 80           ○ Hear reports and provide ongoing advice into various areas of Roseville Parks and
  - 81           Recreation

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- Revive ongoing community outreach as allowed – DYP, Community Park Builds, Special Events, Natural Resources Restoration Program

Prepared by: Lonnie Brokke, Staff Liaison

- Attachments:
- A. Pocahontas Park Name Discussion GARE Exercise
  - B. Commission minutes - September, October, November and December of 2020
  - C. Deer reduction letters
  - C. ????

# Pocahontas Park Name - Community Engagement and Analysis Plan

UPDATED December 28, 2020

## Background

Pocahontas Park, located on 2540 Pascal, has been in the Roseville Parks and Recreation system since the 1960s. Its original naming did utilize a community process.

Recently, some community members have expressed some concern that the name may cause harm to Native Populations. Community members noted the following concerns:

- Pocahontas, the person, has no direct ties to Minnesota, Minnesota's current Native populations or the indigenous populations who originally inhabited Minnesota.
- The popular, commonly told, narrative of Pocahontas' life focuses primarily on her assimilation to European culture such as her conversion to Christianity and taking a European name. The version of events told by her tribe (The Powhatan) says that Pocahontas was exploited and victimized by the European settlers.

Although there have been some preliminary general comments from the community, the topic has not been widely discussed in a formal way. In accordance with the Government Alliance on Racial Equity (GARE) Toolkit, and City standards for engagement, it has been suggested by the Parks and Recreation Commission that a comprehensive engagement process be undertaken to ensure that the:

- Issue is thoroughly understood.
- Impacted populations are aware of the conversation and have the opportunity to participate.
- Recommendations are thoroughly vetted and that feedback of all Roseville residents is considered.

## I. Objective

To engage the impacted communities to assess the impact of the name on their feeling of being "welcomed, included and respected" in Roseville, including the:

- Native American people who live in Roseville
- Indigenous populations of Minnesota
- Neighbors of Pocahontas Park
- Entire Roseville community

Utilize the process as a potential opportunity for education on Native Americans in Minnesota for the Parks and Recreation Commission and the Community.

Develop relationships with the Native Community that can lead to greater long term, ongoing engagement.

## II. Data

**History of Pocahontas as a Person:** A history of Pocahontas as a person was shared at the Parks and Recreation Commission meeting on September 1. [View the meeting minutes of that discussion.](#)

**Native American Population in Roseville:** 168 (2010 Census), estimated 217 (2018 – US Census Bureau estimate).

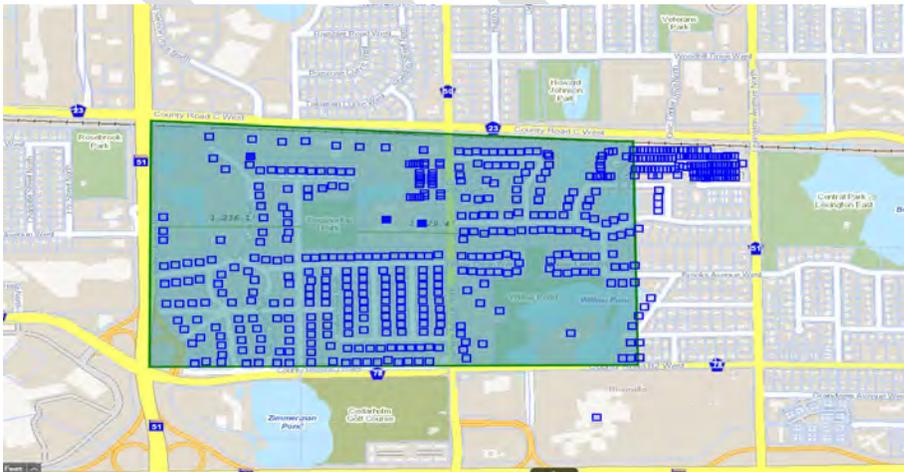
### Native American Population in MN:

| Populations of color as a proportion of Minnesota's total population: 1990-2010 |  |         |         |                              |
|---|--|---------|---------|------------------------------|
| Race/Ethnicity  | Proportion of Total Minnesota Population |         |         | Percent Growth of Population |
|   | In 1990                                  | In 2000 | In 2010 |                              |
| African-American*   | 2.2 %                                    | 3.5 %   | 5.2 %   | 189.0 %                      |
| American Indian   | 1.1 %                                    | 1.1 %   | 1.1 %   | 22.1 %                       |
| Asian   | 1.8 %                                    | 2.9 %   | 4.1 %   | 177.8 %                      |
| Hispanic  | 1.2 %                                    | 2.9 %   | 4.7 %   | 364.4 %                      |
| White   | 94.4 %                                   | 89.4 %  | 85.3%   | 9.5 %                        |

\* Includes African-born Americans. Source: US Census Bureau. (2011).

### Pocahontas Park Neighborhood:

An estimate found that nearly 700 Roseville addresses would likely consider Pocahontas Park to be their neighborhood park. This analysis of “neighborhood park” was comprised of walkability (distance and absence of significant barriers) and residents for whom Pocahontas Park is their nearest park.



**Total Population of Roseville:** 33,660

### III. Engagement

Based on the information provided above, the following groups and strategies have been identified for engagement. Next to each strategy, a proposed responsible person is listed in parentheses. For further commentary/methodology, see **Section V. Implementation.**

#### **Native Americans who live in Roseville**

- Engagement Strategies:
  - Public notice that the Parks and Recreation Commission is seeking comment on the issue (Staff)
  - Project webpage (Staff)
  - Public meeting (likely virtual due to COVID 19) (Staff/Commission)
  - Connecting through personal resources
    - Wild Rice Festival Participants (Staff)
  - City newsletter (Staff)
  - Target: minimum 10 people.

#### **Native Americans who live outside of Roseville but have expertise on impacts of names on a population**

- Engagement strategies
  - Specific invitations:
    - Minnesota Indian Affairs Council
      - Shannon Geshik discussed with the Commission on December 1, 2020.
    - Roseville Area School Native American Parent Group
      - Shannon Geshik discussed with the Commission on December 1, 2020.
    - U of M American Indian Studies leaders/faculty
    - Minnesota Historical Society
    - St. Paul Public Schools Indian Education Program
    - Native Governance Center
      - Staff spoke with Executive Director, Wayne Ducheneaux in November.
  - Target: 2 or 3 experts

#### **Neighbors of Pocahontas Park**

- Engagement method
  - Direct mailing

- Electronic notice
- Listening session
- City newsletter
- Direct Engagement
- Target: 25 people

#### **Roseville residents beyond the park neighborhood**

- Electronic notice
- Listening session
- City newsletter
- Web page
- HRIEC
- Commission members outreach (Commission members)
- Target: 50 people

#### **Sufficient Engagement Will Have Been Accomplished When:**

- A significant number of each of the stakeholder groups above have provided input (see “targets” above).
- Impacted groups such as neighbors, Roseville’s native community and the greater Roseville community is aware of the issue and conversation.

### **IV. Analysis**

Parks and Recreation Commission Members shall review and analyze the data collected and make a recommendation to the City Council to either keep the name the same, change the name or engage in further conversation on the issue. If the commission recommends a name change, the City Council may ask the Parks and Recreation Commission to continue this process to recommend a new name to the city council.

It is important to note that the City’s Racial Equity Narrative will be utilized in the analysis of the data and the provision of a recommendation. This process is not intended to be a simple “straw poll” on the issue.

### **V. Implementation**

The proposed process consists of (completed items *italicized*):

- **PLAN DEVELOPMENT**

- *November 5, 2020* – Parks and Recreation Commission developed draft Engagement Plan. Agree that plan will continue to evolve as more information is learned.
  - **January/February 2020** – Joint meeting with City Council to update on feedback received and seek feedback.
- **INFORMATION GATHERING**
    - *December* –
      - *Commissioners heard from Shannon Geshik of the Minnesota Indian Affairs Council, a Roseville Resident and member of the Roseville Indian Education Parent Committee and Roseville resident.*
      - *Staff Spoke with Wayne Ducheneaux from the Native Governance Center.*
    - **Community Listening Session (February/March)**
      - Share feedback that has been received
      - Invite neighbors to participate
        - Direct mailing to neighborhood
        - Targeted mailing to Native American community (if possible)
        - Social Media/Nextdoor
      - Invite Native American residents to participate
      - Utilize existing contacts at school district(s)
  - **WEBSITE (February/March)**
    - Overview of the discussion of the issue and updated
    - Offer opportunity for residents to submit their feedback (both open ended and a survey)
  - **WRITTEN FEEDBACK (February/March)**
    - Mail a survey to target populations
      - Park neighborhood (as defined above)
      - Indigenous Roseville residents
    - Allow experts to submit written feedback
  - **IN PERSON ENGAGEMENT**
    - The COVID 19 pandemic causes challenges to other vehicles for engagement that may be used. Examples could include in-person community meetings and engagement at community events. Staff and the commission will continue to analyze the viability of safely using these methods.
  - **DELIBERATION AND RECOMENDATION**

- Once sufficient engagement with all target populations has been reached, the Parks and Recreation Commission will analyze the data received and develop a recommendation for City Council. Their recommendation shall ensure that impacted communities' input and racial equity considerations are included in their recommendation.

## VI. Accountability

The above process will strive to meet the following tangible benchmarks to ensure that it meets the objective listed in section I.

- Notify all neighbors within the defined “neighborhood” of the conversation and provide them an opportunity to participate in the conversation.
- Receive feedback from:
  - 10 Roseville residents who are Native American.
  - 2 Native American experts.
  - 20 Neighbors of the park.
  - Provided the opportunity for all Roseville residents to participate in the process.
  - Provided the opportunity for feedback on the final proposal before it is implemented.

**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](http://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

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

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

Chair Hoag called for public comment by members of the audience. No one indicated a desire to speak.

**3) APPROVAL OF MINUTES – SEPTEMBER 1, 2020 MEETING**

Commissioner Baggenstoss moved to approve the minutes. Commissioner Lenhart seconds.

**Roll Call**

**Ayes:** Arneson, Baggenstoss, Brown, Dahlstrom, Heikkila, Hoag, Lenhart, O'Brien and Stoner.

**Nays:** None.

**4) POCAHONTAS PARK NAME DISCUSSION**

Staff provided the racial equity narrative that was adopted by the City Council and information from the Government Alliance on Race and Equity (GARE) to the Commission. GARE is a national alliance of Government entities making a commitment to achieving racial equity. Agencies who join GARE commit to putting focus on normalizing racial equality by using their influence for change. The city became a member of GARE in 2018.

The Racial Equity Tool Kit is used by GARE to articulate the process and its impacts prior to implementing a change. Staff suggested that this tool be used to understand and analyze the Pocahontas Park name project and noted that they will be sending out a questionnaire related to the

Racial Equity Tool Kit via e-mail for the Commission to fill out prior to next month's Commission meeting.

The six areas that are reviewed as part of the GARE Racial Equity Tool Kit include:

- Objective: What is the desired result of what is being proposed?
- Data: What data is relevant? Who does the data tell us in the impacted group?
- Engagement: How are you most affected communities targeted? Must be a planned and thorough approach.
- Analysis: How will the proposal increase or decrease racial equity? What are the potential unintended consequences? Does the objective, impacts and engagement plan align?
- Implementation: What is the plan? Is it realistic? Adequately resourced including personnel?
- Accountability: How will actual impacts be evaluated/addressed? What is the communication strategy? How can we leverage inroads made in the process into the future?

The Human Rights Inclusion and Engagement Commission (HRIEC) has also put together an Engagement Best Practices (draft) document that has been presented to the City Council. This document has valuable points on community engagement that should be remembered during this project:

Quality Engagement...

- Ensures quality decision making
- Engages community members who are impacted
- Creates broader diversity of opinions/views prior to decision making
- Increases public understanding/support of the process

Engagement Best Practice:

- Be intentional about engagement and outreach (utilize planning tools)
- Identify existing assets and leverage them for effective engagement
- Go where the people are (will need to be creative with this during Covid-19)

The staff proposed process for this project could potentially include the following steps:

- Process conversation – Oct. 6
  - Commissioner input (due by Oct. 13)
- Process developed/presented based on feedback – Nov. 3
- City Council input – Nov. 30
- Process revision and/or finalization – TBD (based on the City Council's input)
- Implementation and assessment

The Commission discussed the origin of the current name and the request to change the name.

Commissioner O'Brien commented that she believes the GARE toolkit is a good way to move forward with this process. Her understanding of the current issue is that there are two parts to the project. First, a fair number of people have expressed that they find the name Pocahontas Park hurtful and the Commission and city need to listen to their concerns as no name in Roseville should cause hurt or harm. Second, is what direction should be taken for renaming? Should indigenous peoples be honored with the name or is there another route that should be utilized?

Commissioner Baggenstoss noted that he believes the park name should honor local indigenous people and the city/Commission should reach out to groups in the area who can bring those voices forward.

Commissioner Lenhart agreed with both Commissioners O'Brien and Baggenstoss on changing the name due to it causing harm and that engagement is extremely important in this process. She also added that she would like to understand the history of the land and any connection to American Indian tribes who were here pre-European settlement as the park already has a connection to American Indian history and she would like to see that same sentiment leveraged in an updated way.

Chair Hoag reminded the Commission that if they have any questions on this issue they should reach out to staff directly and not CC all Commissioners. He also asked if any other Commissioners would like to present at the City Council meeting on this topic as he may have a conflict during that timeframe. Vice-Chair Dahlstrom volunteered to help.

Commissioner Stoner suggested that context be included in all communication about the name change project so as to avoid any potential misunderstandings.

#### 5) **PARK DEDICATION ANNUAL RATE REVIEW**

Staff provided background on Park dedication including:

- Land – set by ordinance in code
- Cash – set by resolution
  - Resident – \$4,000/unit
  - Non-Residential – 10% of Fair Market Value (FMV)
- Last increase was in 2017

Park Dedication is defined in state law. Requirements include a Comprehensive Plan and a Parks and Recreation System Master Plan as well as a Capital Improvement Program to indicate need.

Staff reviewed a comparison of recent residential and non-residential properties that were eligible for Park Dedication and potential different ways to assess collections. Including:

- FMV
- Flat Rate Percentage

- Per acre rate
- Per 1,000 sq. ft. (non-residential)

Staff discussed a comparison of other metro cities Park Dedication rates. The average 2020 residential rate is \$3,329 of the metro cities surveyed.

Chair Hoag noted that it does not appear that the League of Minnesota Cities formula that the Commission reviewed last year has been adopted by other cities in the metro based off of the comparison chart. He also added that as the last increase was in 2017, the city may be due for a cost of living increase. However, it does appear that the current rate is right in the middle of the metro rates.

Staff relayed that they are continuing to look at the League of Minnesota Cities formula. However, at this time some parts of the method need further examination and explanation before staff would feel comfortable with moving forward.

Commissioner Baggenstoss stated that based off of the metro cities comparison chart it appears that some cities have built in a system for single family vs. multifamily residences and vice-versa. He questioned what the City of Roseville's priority would be.

Commissioner Stoner analyzed the metro cities comparison table and relayed that a rate of \$4,500 would put Roseville's Park Dedication rate in the upper 75% of cities. Stoner offered that a \$500 increase is appropriate for residential rates because Roseville does not use FMV and land prices are increasing along with Roseville placing a high priority on its parks compared to other cities. In addition, he noted that the non-residential rates appear appropriate to other cities.

Commissioner Brown questioned what justification would need to be provided by the Commission to increase the rates. Staff responded that it would be based off of the needs laid out in the Master Plan.

Vice-Chair Dahlstrom stated that a \$500 increase would be 12.5% which he feels is too high. He would support an increase of 2%-4%.

Commission Heikkila asked if staff has ever spoken with developers to understand their feelings or feedback on potential increases.

Vice-Chair Dahlstrom relayed that he felt that developers and the Builders Association may view a 12.5% increase as too high and they may start lobbying for a change in the laws to limit the Park Dedication fees. Dahlstrom stated that he believes that a consistent incremental increase each year would be a better approach to reach the 12.5%.

**ROSEVILLE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION**  
**MEETING MINUTES FOR**  
**November 5, 2020 6:30 p.m.**

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

Chair Hoag called for public comment by members of the audience. No one indicated a desire to speak.

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

Commissioner O'Brien moved to approve the minutes. Vice-Chair Dahlstrom seconds.

**Roll Call**

**Ayes:** Arneson, Baggenstoss, Brown, Dahlstrom, Hoag, Lenhart, O'Brien and Stoner.

**Nays:** None.

**4) POCAHONTAS PARK NAME DISCUSSION**

Staff began with a discussion on the process, reiterating that this is the Commission's process and that the goal is to find an option that meets the needs of the Commission and community in order to best evaluate the Pocahontas Park name and its potential change. In addition, Staff briefly summarized the information provided at the last meeting regarding the engagement tools that will be utilized for this process including:

- Racial Equity Tool Kit
- Human Rights Inclusion and Engagement Commission's (HRIEC) Engagement Best Practices (draft) document

The goals for the meeting to move the item forward included:

- Facilitate a conversation that allows the Parks and Recreation Commission to sort out its process
- Summarize feedback in GARE format
- Establish targets/goals

- Discuss implementation format and next steps
- Look for blind spots – what are we missing?

Staff presented a draft objective for this project based on feedback that the Commissioners sent in. The draft objective statement staff provided for review was:

To engage the most affected communities to assess the impact of the name on their feeling of being “welcomed, included and respected” in Roseville, including the:

- Native American people who live in Roseville
- Indigenous populations of Minnesota
- Neighbors of Pocahontas Park
- Entire Roseville Community
- Other??

Staff added that the draft objective coincides well with the main Community Aspiration for Roseville: “As a community we aspire to be welcoming, inclusive, and respectful.”

Commissioner Lenhart said that she is hopeful that the people of Roseville will learn more about the history of the indigenous people, their history and culture through this process.

Commissioner Baggenstoss agreed with Commissioner Lenhart and suggested that the education piece be added to the objective so it is focused on through the process, not just at the end.

Commissioner Lenhart noted that historians or non-profits may also be valuable experts.

Data options discussed by the Commission included:

- Data on population included in packet
- Commission has received comments and feedback (through a full call for feedback hasn’t been put out yet)
- Need:
  - Opinions or target demographics
  - Other

The Commission discussed contacts to gather additional information from the Native American Community. Potential organizations and contacts discussed:

- Minneapolis American Indian Center
- Minnesota Indian Affairs Council
- St. Paul Schools American Indian Education

Commissioner O’Brien added that the community perhaps may not have engaged with these groups and that this will be a learning process. She questioned why the Commission is starting from scratch and why she personally is starting from scratch in her familiarity with these groups and their offerings and programs. Finally, she added that she feels like this will be an eye opener for many, in a good way.

Staff agreed that the hope is that this process will create long term relationships.

Potential engagement targets discussed included:

- Native Americans who live in Roseville
  - Website
  - Newsletter
  - Direct outreach through community contacts
  - School district group
  - HRIEC
- Native Americans with expertise
  - Direct outreach/initiatives
  - Existing resources
- Neighbors of Pocahontas Park
  - Direct mailing/survey
  - Electronic Notice
  - Events
  - Social Media
- Roseville residents as a whole
  - Website
  - Newsletter
  - HRIEC
  - Multicultural Advisory Committee
  - P&R Commissioners soliciting feedback
  - Newspaper
  - Nextdoor App
- Other
- Thoughts on prioritizing
- Thoughts on benchmarks/targets

Commissioner Baggenstoss reiterated that it is very important to send a positive educational message to residents as you only get one first impression.

Commissioner Lenhart suggested potentially having a strategic message available prior to a newspaper picking up the story.

The Commission discussed next steps for moving forward in the process.

Commissioner Lenhart noted that it may be nice to have an ongoing relationship with some experts.

Chair Hoag relayed that he would appreciate having a dialogue with an expert to allow the Commission to ask questions and understand the concerns from an alternate perspective.

Staff asked the group how you prioritize which experts to reach out to.

Commissioner Baggenstoss said that he feels you should invite many voices to the table to allow for the organic flow of voices. He added that it is a better problem to have too many voices than too few.

Commissioner Brown suggested that it may be helpful to understand the process that was used to rename the Bde Maka Ska Park in Minneapolis.

Vice-Chair Dahlstrom noted that he feels the Commission should reach out to institutions rather than individuals as he believes this will allow for more voices to be heard.

Commissioner O'Brien stated that she agreed with Vice-Chair Dahlstrom. Also, she referenced an e-mail the Commission received from Shannon Geshick, Executive Director of the Minnesota Indian Affairs Council, who urged the Commission to reach out to members of the Dakota tribe as experts. O'Brien felt that Ms. Geshick could be a knowledgeable resource to utilize for this project.

Commissioner Stoner mentioned that former Parks and Recreation Commissioner Jamie Becker-Finn may also be a good resource.

Staff revisited the Roseville Inclusion Statement with the Commission along with other potential considerations to think about during this process, including:

- Broad cross sections of feedback
- History of Park/community/equity
- Other considerations that we may not know about
- Racial Equity Action Plan

Commissioner Lenhart advocated for collaborating with the HRIEC on this process. Her proposed ideas included inviting the HRIEC members to the next Parks and Recreation Commission meeting and then to potentially have a joint meeting with them in the future.

Youth Commissioner Kim added that it is important to remember that education is not all about History. By acknowledging and teaching about indigenous people's current state in MN it can connect the effects of History.

Staff relayed that the joint meeting with the City Council will be scheduled for early 2021.

#### 5) **2021 DRAFT MEETING CALENDAR**

The Commission reviewed the 2021 draft meeting calendar. There were no objections to the draft meeting dates.

Commissioner Baggenstoss suggested that the joint meeting with the City Council be on June 7, if possible.

#### 6) **STAFF REPORT**

##### a) **NEW OR RELEVANT COMMUNICATIONS AND UPDATE ITEMS**

- Inclusive Playground

Staff showed the Commission new images, and a video, of the expanded inclusive play structure that was designed for Central Park Victoria West. The new structure will provide additional inclusive opportunities for all ages via turf, poured in place rubber ground material, connected ramps and accessible equipment. The expansion and updates are made possible via a generous donation from FOR Parks and will provide seamless play for all people.

In addition, three to four fitness pods will be added throughout Central Park as part of this project. Staff asked the Commission for any location recommendations that they may have for the pods.

Commissioner Baggenstoss thanked all who are involved with this project. He especially called out the idea of universal design. Noting that nothing makes someone feel more like they belong than when you take away the feeling of them being left out.

- Cedarholm Golf Course is back open again after the snow event and will stay open as long as weather permits.
- The Guidant John Rose MN OVAL is tentatively scheduled to open on Friday, November 13.
- The second track of the pump track at Autumn Grove Park has been completed. A special thanks to all of the volunteers who helped make the additional loop!
- Adult softball is just finishing up their season thanks to the nicer weather.
- The Guidant John Rose MN OVAL has been approved in the Governor's bonding bill for \$3.9 million. It is anticipated that most of the identified projects will be completed in 2021 and 2022.
  - Commissioner Stoner clarified that items 1-6 of the Guidant John Rose Minnesota OVAL Project and Cost List 1-15-19 (Modified 7-1-20) are approved items within the Bonding Bill. Staff agreed, adding that they are working with the state on the agreement and will suggest that all items remain on the list to work down in priority order as far as the \$3.9M goes. Staff discussed options, including joint procurement.
- The City Services General Fee Schedule will go to the City Council on Monday. The Commission's recommended \$250.00 Park Dedication increase is included in the fee schedule.

7) **OTHER**

Commissioner Arneson inquired about the updated signs and when they may be going in at the Harriet Alexander Nature Center. Staff relayed that the artist and the contractor have both declined to move forward with the project. Therefore, staff will be picking the project up again but will need to utilize different options to complete it.

Meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Danielle Christensen, Department Assistant

The Commission discussed the option to increase Park Dedication and the risks of increasing by a large amount versus incrementally.

Commissioner O'Brien agreed that land prices are going up and that it does make sense to increase the rate. However, she feels that a 5% increase this year would be appropriate. She added that the Commission looks at Park Dedication rates each year and the rate can be increased again next year when society is a little more settled.

Commissioner Lenhart asked who pays the Park Dedication fee. Staff responded that the developer pays the fee and then passes it on in the property sale price.

Commissioner Arneson reminded the Commission that Roseville is landlocked with finite land to develop.

Stoner recounted to the Commission that when he started serving on the Commission that the rate that was being charged was well below average, even when the city was providing an above average park system. He stressed that the Commission should not be afraid to charge more as the city provides more and Roseville can justify the higher rates. However, he does understand that it makes sense to increase the rate in smaller increments each year and he advocated that the Commission increase it yearly so as to avoid having to do a larger rate correction after a few years.

Chair Hoag motioned to recommend an increase of \$250 in Park Dedication for the residential land rate from \$4,000 to \$4,250 to the City Council. Seconded by Commissioner Stoner.

#### **Roll Call**

**Ayes:** Arneson, Baggenstoss, Brown, Dahlstrom, Heikkila, Hoag, Lenhart, O'Brien and Stoner.

**Nays:** None.

#### **6) STAFF REPORT**

##### **a) NEW OR RELEVANT COMMUNICATIONS AND UPDATE ITEMS**

###### *Operational Update*

- ALL programs, events and rentals are modified and have safety plans
- Indoor fall programs have started and have very good participation
- Larpen"TOUR"
  - Parks and Recreation staff participated in this community event with crafts and outreach
- Fall photo shoot
  - New offering at the Arboretum. All slots were filled.
- Halloween Spooktacular – Sat. Oct. 24 (1 – 4 p.m.)
  - Pre-registration required

### *Skating Center*

- Skate park season ends – Oct. 11
- MN OVAL winter prep
- Figure Skating School (230 signed up for the fall session)
- Open hockey and public skating
- Banquet room increase in requests

### *Cedarholm*

- Building Use
- Golf Season
  - Green fees up 15%
  - Fall registration up 25%

### *Projects*

- Tennis court resurfacing and repair
- Youth bike track – Pump Track at Autumn Grove
  - Thank you Matt Johnson for leading it from the city perspective
  - Thanks to Derek Brown, a neighbor for leading from a volunteer perspective
  - Thanks to all the volunteers!
- Natural Resources Group
  - Tree planting
  - Thanks to Jim Taylor and Rachel Boggs for organizing
  - Thanks to all the volunteers!
- Muriel Sahlin Arboretum Lighting Project
- Orchard harvest
  - With the help of volunteers and Wells Fargo Bank, who contributed the funds, the orchard idea went from conception to fruition. Those volunteers and contributions made it possible to donate 100lbs. of fruit to Second Harvest Heartland from the Orchard this year.

## 7) **OTHER**

Meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Danielle Christensen, Department Assistant

- 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](http://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

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## Contact Parks and Recreation Commission

Please complete this online form and submit.

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**Subject:** Pocahontas Park

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### Contact Information

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**Name:** Kathy Ramundt

---

**Address:** [REDACTED]

---

**City:** Roseville

---

**State:** MN

---

**Zip:** 55113

---

**How would you prefer to be contacted? Remember to fill in the corresponding contact information in the fields below.** Email

---

**Phone Number:** [REDACTED]

---

**Email Address:** [REDACTED]

---

**Please Share Your Comment, Question or Concern**

Thank you so much for discussing Pocahontus Park at tonight's meeting. I have heard from multiple people, including some indigenous friends, that that name is very offensive. Given the fact that it has no connection to Minnesota, I sincerely hope that you will move to have the name changed. I imagine it would be a healing move to include indigenous people in choosing a name that reflects their presence in our community.

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## Contact Parks and Recreation Commission

Please complete this online form and submit.

Subject: Pocahantas Park - rename it!

### Contact Information

Name: Jennifer Wedel

Address:

City: Roseville

State: MN

Zip: 55113

How would you prefer to be contacted? Remember to fill in the corresponding contact information in the fields below.

Email

Phone Number:

Email Address:

Please Share Your Comment, Question or Concern

Hello Commission,

I can't attend the meeting this evening. Here is my public comment. Please rename Pocahantas Park. Pocahantas never even traveled to Minnesota, as far as history knows. I recommend/request that the commission research and discover what indigenous nation originally settled or used that land and rename the park accordingly. Also, add a plaque or some other acknowledgement about the original settlement/use of the area by indigenous people. The folks at Mdewakanton would be happy to help, I imagine.

Thanks!  
Jennifer

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**Matthew Johnson**

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**From:** noreply@civicplus.com  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 23, 2020 11:21 AM  
**To:** Matthew Johnson  
**Subject:** Online Form Submittal: Pocahontas Park Comments

Caution: This email originated outside our organization; please use caution.

The following form was submitted via your website: Pocahontas Park Comments

My thoughts and comments on Pocahontas Park:: Where did the name of this park come from? Most of the other parks are named for there location, plot/area location name or our two parks dedicated to our two lost police officers.

I would like to suggest it is time to change the name of this park. Even if there is a same street name around the park, the park itself could be renamed.

I would like Parks and Recreation staff to contact me.: Yes

First Name: Sharon

Last Name: Gerber

Address: [REDACTED]

City: Roseville

State: MN

Zip Code: 55113

Email address: [REDACTED]

Additional Information:

Form submitted on: 9/23/2020 11:20:49 AM

Submitted from IP Address: 174.20.3.238

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**From:** [noreply@civicplus.com](mailto:noreply@civicplus.com) <[noreply@civicplus.com](mailto:noreply@civicplus.com)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 2, 2020 10:41 AM  
**To:** \*RVParksCommission <[\\*RVParksCommission@metro-inet.us](mailto:*RVParksCommission@metro-inet.us)>  
**Subject:** Online Form Submittal: Contact Parks and Recreation Commission

**Caution:** This email originated outside our organization; please use caution.

## Contact Parks and Recreation Commission

Please complete this online form and submit.

---

**Subject:** Pocahontus Park

---

### Contact Information

---

**Name:** Kathy Ramundt

---

**Address:** [REDACTED]

---

**City:** Roseville

---

**State:** MN

---

**Zip:** 55113

---

**How would you prefer to be contacted? Remember to fill in the corresponding contact information in the fields below.** Email

---

**Phone Number:** [REDACTED]

---

**Email Address:** [REDACTED]

---

**Please Share Your Comment, Question or Concern**

Thank you so much for your discussion on Pocahontus Park last night. I really appreciated the fact that Matt Johnson actually read the Powhatan history to inform your discussion. The only thing that was missing was hearing from Indigenous voices that actually live in Roseville, but I was very happy to

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hear Darrell Baggenstoss emphasize the importance of hearing from the non-dominant culture before deciding on a new name. I also want to thank others who made similar comments.

I understand that you could choose to recommend changing the name to something more generic or a name based on current or more recent history. I'd like to suggest that this presents a unique opportunity to recognize and honor the Indigenous people who lived here before the white settlers came and literally stole their land. Looking around Roseville I have not seen anything, anywhere, which recognizes that the Dakota and Ojibwe people. Not as street name, a building, a Heritage Trail marker, nothing. Like other white people, I had never given it a moment's thought until recently, and I was very sad when I visited the Roseville Historical Society last Winter and was told the history begins with Isaac Rose in 1843. I do appreciate that Parks and Recreation hosts Wild Rice Festival and that this year the Music at the Rog included an Indigenous band, and there are probably other things I am missing. What I'd like to see is something permanent that can be used as a catalyst for discussions of the full history of our City.

I'm going to push a little and say I would like to see two parks re-named. One in honor of the Dakota, and one in honor of the Ojibwe. The fact that we have a park named for a woman who was part of an Indigenous nation from the East Coast highlights the fact that many of us have not understood or appreciated that there were more than 500 Indigenous Nations in the US, and many different nations/communities/tribes in Minnesota. If they are discussed at all, they are usually lumped together as Indigenous. How powerful would it be to change that right here, right now, by taking this opportunity to separately honor both the Dakota and Ojibwe. It matters. I know that Don Eubanks who is from Mille Lacs and Dannah Thompson who is White Earth are always very careful to say that they cannot speak for the Dakota.

It could be so beautiful!!! Like the Arts Roseville Mosaic Project at the library, I imagine a project to honor separately honor the Dakota and Ojibwe. If that was at two separate and distinct parks it would be so powerful! It could always be a source of discussion. If it is impossible to imagine two separate parks, I hope in your discussions you will be attuned to the fact that it is important to understand who you are hearing from.

Ultimately I could be completely wrong. Maybe it's not as simple as making the two distinctions or maybe that's not the

most important thing. This is another great example of a white person thinking I know what is needed! Please take this as a suggestion to encourage you to think big at this time and to suggest some questions to ask before making your recommendations.

One other thing I would like to point out is that usually in October the City of Roseville has a proclamation for Indigenous People's Day. . They are usually very generic. I have been pushing the Human Rights, Inclusion and Engagement Commission and the City Council to make all of the Proclamations more meaningful by actually referencing how the proclamations are connected to residents in Roseville, and I have asked them to do programming related to the proclamations too.

I know it's virtually impossible to think you will have a new name by October, but I think it would be great if along with this year's Proclamation, the Mayor could announce the work being done to change the name of Pocahontus Park. I imagine in the future every Indigenous proclamation could include references to the park or parks that honor the Indigenous People and why it is important to have them. The question that we like to ask when we are looking at what the City is doing is "Is whatever this action is meaningful, or it is just 'checking a box' to say we have done something'. You have a perfect opportunity to make the Indigenous People's Day proclamation this year be more than checking a box. I know there's not much time but you could also show that it is possible to move fast when the situation warrants it.

Thank you again for your thoughtful consideration of this park name. The fact that none of you questioned the need to change the name gave me great hope that more and more people in our community, and especially those representing our City, are ready to accept responsibility and do the work to really live up to the Inclusion and Respect Statement.

Thank you.

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Email not displaying correctly? [View it in your browser.](#)

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**From:** [noreply@civicplus.com](mailto:noreply@civicplus.com) <noreply@civicplus.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 2, 2020 6:42 PM  
**To:** \*RVParksCommission <[\\*RVParksCommission@metro-inet.us](mailto:*RVParksCommission@metro-inet.us)>  
**Subject:** Online Form Submittal: Contact Parks and Recreation Commission

**Caution:** This email originated outside our organization; please use caution.

## Contact Parks and Recreation Commission

Please complete this online form and submit.

---

Subject: Pocahontas Park

### Contact Information

---

Name: Shannon Geshick

---

Address:

---

City: Roseville

---

State: MN

---

Zip: 55113

---

How would you prefer to be contacted? Remember to fill in the corresponding contact information in the fields below.

Email

---

Phone Number: *Field not completed.*

---

Email Address:

---

Please Share Your Comment, Question or Concern

As Executive Director of the MN Indian Affairs Council, I suggest that the Dakota tribal nations/ community have an opportunity for input as Roseville is their ancestral lands. As an Ojibwe woman, it makes sense to maybe not rename but rather revert back to the original name.

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Unless restricted by law, all correspondence to and from Roseville City

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**From:** [noreply@civicplus.com](mailto:noreply@civicplus.com) <noreply@civicplus.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 3, 2020 8:15 PM  
**To:** \*RVParksCommission <[\\*RVParksCommission@metro-inet.us](mailto:*RVParksCommission@metro-inet.us)>  
**Subject:** Online Form Submittal: Contact Parks and Recreation Commission

**Caution:** This email originated outside our organization; please use caution.

## Contact Parks and Recreation Commission

Please complete this online form and submit.

---

**Subject:** Discussion of Pocahontas Park

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### Contact Information

---

**Name:** Dannah Thompson

---

**Address:** [REDACTED]

---

**City:** Roseville

---

**State:** MN

---

**Zip:** 55113

---

**How would you prefer to be contacted? Remember to fill in the corresponding contact information in the fields below.** Email

---

**Phone Number:** [REDACTED]

---

**Email Address:** [REDACTED]

---

**Please Share Your Comment, Question or Concern**

I want to thank the Commission for their discussion and informed comments on Pocahontas Park. As a descendant of the White Earth Tribe of Ojibwe, I am very thankful you all identified this as an issue and are pursuing this discussion further, into concrete action. I hope you will work with the HREIC and the Indigenous community to deliver on this significant opportunity.

As was discussed on Tuesday the name Pocahontas Park can

be very triggering for our Indigenous relatives and we want Roseville to be inclusive and welcoming.

As I mentioned in my public comment, the name is harmful in four specific ways.

1.) It contributes to Pan-Indianism which further strips our unique identities and cultural beliefs. Furthermore, it lacks accountability in acknowledging the awful history between America and Turtle Island and it forces the Indigenous community to relive the worst parts of it.

2.) Pocahontas was not her name and does not honor her as much as it does someone else. If we were to continue wanting to honor her, we should use her real Indigenous name, Matoaka.

3.) Pocahontas was not from modern day Minnesota, but from the East Coast. This erases the history of whose land we are on, the Lakota/Dakota, Ojibwe, and Ho Chunk. It'd be a better to honor those Tribes and leaders who truly sacrificed for this land.

4.) Matoaka was the first sister stolen from these lands which sparked centuries of genocide and the modern day Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women's epidemic. We are still losing our relatives to colonization and human trafficking more than any other demographic.

While I write as a resident of Roseville, I believe this issue is important to the entire Indigenous community. We often say, "We are still here". It's because people associate us with ancient history and know only of Pocahontas. This can be very harmful when discussing politics - and social functions of government - if Natives are not included in the discussion. This is one way to have a thoughtful land acknowledge with action, and begin to eliminate the effects of centuries of erasure.

With this in mind, I encourage the Parks and Recreation Commission to advance this discussion to the City Council and consider new names for the park. I personally support sticking to the theme and honoring the Lakota ancestors who sacrificed everything for this land, Roseville.

Chi-Miigwech (Thank you),  
Dannah Thompson

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**From:** [noreply@civicplus.com](mailto:noreply@civicplus.com) <noreply@civicplus.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 3, 2020 8:26 AM  
**To:** \*RVParksCommission <[\\*RVParksCommission@metro-inet.us](mailto:*RVParksCommission@metro-inet.us)>  
**Subject:** Online Form Submittal: Contact Parks and Recreation Commission

**Caution:** This email originated outside our organization; please use caution.

## Contact Parks and Recreation Commission

Please complete this online form and submit.

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**Subject:** Pocahontas park name change

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### Contact Information

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**Name:** Pocahontas park name change

---

**Address:** Ted Tessier

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**City:** Roseville

---

**State:** MN

---

**Zip:** 55113

---

**How would you prefer to be contacted? Remember to fill in the corresponding contact information in the fields below.** Email

---

**Phone Number:** *Field not completed.*

---

**Email Address:** [REDACTED]

---

**Please Share Your Comment, Question or Concern**

As an indigenous man and a Roseville resident I would really appreciate changing the name of this park. There are plenty of find names that could be selected from the Dakota language that would be more appropriate for this land. I myself am Ojibwe But I honor the fact that I live on Dakota land. Please consider showing respect by changing this name.

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**Danielle Christensen**

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**From:** noreply@civicplus.com  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 1, 2020 12:18 PM  
**To:** \*RVParksCommission  
**Subject:** Online Form Submittal: Contact Parks and Recreation Commission

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## Contact Parks and Recreation Commission

Please complete this online form and submit.

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Subject: Park Building Names

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### Contact Information

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Name: Kathy Ramundt

---

Address:

[REDACTED]

---

City: Roseville

---

State: MN

---

Zip: 55113

---

How would you prefer to be contacted? Remember to fill in the corresponding contact information in the fields below.

No need to contact me

---

Phone Number:

[REDACTED]

---

Email Address:

[REDACTED]

---

Please Share Your Comment, Question or Concern

As you consider to discuss re-naming Pocahontas Park, and because we live in Ramsey County, I thought it might encourage you to seriously consider finding ways to honor the Dakota (Sioux)and Ojibwe people, if you see this quote attributed to Alexander Ramsey from the MN Historical Society page for the Alexander Ramsey House: "the Sioux Indians of Minnesota must be exterminated or driven forever beyond the borders of the state."

There is much to atone for in our State. I hope we can take this

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opportunity to do honor them in our community.

<https://www.mnhs.org/ramseyhouse/learn/alexander-ramsey>

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**To:** [\\*RVParksCommission](#)  
**Subject:** Online Form Submittal: Contact Parks and Recreation Commission  
**Date:** Friday, October 30, 2020 8:57:43 PM

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## Contact Parks and Recreation Commission

Please complete this online form and submit.

Subject: Pocahontas Park Re-name

### Contact Information

Name: Kelly Miller

Address: [REDACTED]

City: Roseville

State: MN

Zip: 55113

How would you prefer to be contacted?  
Remember to fill in the corresponding contact information in the fields below.

Email

Phone Number: [REDACTED]

Email Address: [REDACTED]

Please Share Your Comment, Question or Concern

Boozhoo,  
My name is Kelly Miller. I am a resident of Roseville and also an enrolled member of the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe. I am the Director of Department of Indian Work a program of Interfaith Action of Greater St.Paul. As an indigenous women, I feel offended when I learned there was a park in our city named Pocahontas Park. I hope you are aware that her story that Disney told is historically inaccurate. I feel that the park should be renamed and I personally would like to see it be named in Ojibwe. I am aware St.Paul is historically Dakota/Lakota land but the Ojibwe people were also in the area. I am willing to help

advocate for this event, participate and share information with the American Indian community.

Miigwech,  
Kelly

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**To:** [\\*RVParksCommission](#)  
**Subject:** Online Form Submittal: Contact Parks and Recreation Commission  
**Date:** Sunday, November 1, 2020 7:58:53 AM

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## Contact Parks and Recreation Commission

Please complete this online form and submit.

---

**Subject:** Pocahontas Park

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### Contact Information

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**Name:** Kathy Ramundt

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**Address:** [REDACTED]

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**City:** Roseville

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**State:** MN

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**Zip:** 55113

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**How would you prefer to be contacted?** Email  
Remember to fill in the corresponding contact information in the fields below.

---

**Phone Number:** [REDACTED]

---

**Email Address:** [REDACTED]

---

**Please Share Your Comment, Question or Concern**

There is much to be done to educate our community about the history of our land before it became Rose Township in 1850. Our City has an opportunity to address that lack of acknowledgement of that history beginning with re-naming Pocahontas Park. Based on the work that Do Good Roseville has been doing in our community, I want to share the following resources with you and offer to help in any way we can.

I recently attended a program by Dr. Kate Beane, Director of Native American Initiatives at Minnesota Historical Society on place names. She is Dakota. Here is one of her TedTalks "The

Lasting Legacy of Place Names” <https://youtu.be/bBqqVEJ42il>.

Don Eubanks (eubanks289@msn.com). Don is a resident of Roseville and he has served on the Imagine Roseville group. Don is a member of the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe and currently teaches at Metropolitan State University. He has served as the Director of MultiCultural Affairs at the MN Dept of Human Services and on the board of American Indian Family Center. He hosts Counter Stories on NPR. Here is a link to their program: “Counter Stories: Restoring Native American names to Minnesotan landmarks” (which also features Dr. Kate Beane)  
<https://www.npr.org/podcasts/414686898/counter-stories>

American Indian Parent Advisory Committee for ISD623. They meet every third Tuesday  
<https://www.isd623.org/calendar/american-indian-parent-advisory-committee-meeting>

American Indian Cultural Liaison for the school district. Contact information is available at <https://www.isd623.org/node/384>

Corey Yunke, Community Relations Coordinator for Roseville Police Department. The recently created Multicultural Advisory Committee has 2 members who are Native Americans

Jamie Becker-Finn – MN House Representative for 42B. Jamie is a Leech Lake Ojibwe descendent.

Dannah Thompson – Roseville resident and Roseville city council candidate and descendant of the White Earth Reservation.

To connect with Native Americans living in Roseville, find out how the Community Survey was conducted. According to the published survey results in a random sample of 400 randomly selected residents, they were able to ensure they had representation from 2 Native Americans (out of an estimated 217 of 33,000 residents. This shows that it is possible to identify and connect with specific populations. This means you should be able to connect with not only Native Americans, but other non-dominant cultures.

<http://www.cityofroseville.com/DocumentCenter/View/30417/2020-City-of-Roseville-PowerPoint-Presentation>

Engage with the Roseville Library. They are always open to programming ideas. They could help engage the community. Judy Woodward is the History Coordinator at Ramsey County Library. Judy does excellent historical programming and has a wealth of contacts. Her email is: [judith.woodward@co.ramsey.mn.us](mailto:judith.woodward@co.ramsey.mn.us). Carol Jackson is the Adult Programming Manager. Her email is: [carol.l.jackson@co.ramsey.mn.us](mailto:carol.l.jackson@co.ramsey.mn.us).

Dana Healy, the Executive Director of CTV North Suburbs, is very well connected and has many options for community outreach and programming to connect with residents. Her email is: [dhealy@ctvnorthsuburbs.org](mailto:dhealy@ctvnorthsuburbs.org)

Do Good Roseville did a program called "Ask an Indigenous Person" which was a panel discussion. <https://www.ctvnorthsuburbs.org/videos/ask-series-ask-an-indigenous-person/>. You could reach out to the program moderator, Nyia Harris, for contact information for the panelists that participated. Her email is [nyny9980@gmail.com](mailto:nyny9980@gmail.com).

Here is another organization to reach out to: Native Governance Center. They educate, engage, and share information with the broader community around topics related to sovereignty, nation building, and Indian Country. . <https://nativegov.org/programs/> . Their website includes contacts for all of the Native Nations in Minnesota: <https://nativegov.org/resources/>

Dr. Beane's recent program "Reclamation at Bde Maka Ska: Dakota Name Restoration and Community Advocacy in Public Spaces.", listed the following partners:

University of Minnesota's Circle of Indigenous Nations  
Department of American Indian Studies  
The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Advising Office  
College of Liberal Arts President's Emerging Scholars program office  
American Indian Student Cultural Center  
American Indian Science & Engineering Society  
American Indian Cultural House  
Multicultural Center for Academic Excellence, and Housing & Residential Life.

The work you are doing now is a critical step in the City's stated goal to be inclusive. The easy path is to do what we have always done. We can use our tried and true methods to reach out to the community, which will get the same results we have always had and will continue to represent only our predominately white residents. We can simply remove the offensive name and give it a generic new name that takes the path of least resistance and does not require or encourage future community engagement into the full history of our City.

The richness of an individual's life comes from all of the people we know and all of the experiences that we have, and the same can be said for a community. I urge you to be courageous and to use this as an opportunity to acknowledge the full spectrum of people that make up our community and to acknowledge our full history, warts and all.

Thank you.

Kathy Ramundt  
Do Good Roseville

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**To:** [\\*RVParksCommission](#)  
**Subject:** Online Form Submittal: Contact Parks and Recreation Commission  
**Date:** Sunday, November 1, 2020 9:15:08 PM

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## Contact Parks and Recreation Commission

Please complete this online form and submit.

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**Subject:** Renaming Pocahontas Park

---

### Contact Information

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**Name:** Keely Vandre

---

**Address:** [REDACTED]

---

**City:** Roseville

---

**State:** MN

---

**Zip:** 55113

---

**How would you prefer to be contacted?** Email  
Remember to fill in the corresponding contact information in the fields below.

---

**Phone Number:** [REDACTED]

---

**Email Address:** [REDACTED]

---

**Please Share Your Comment, Question or Concern**

Thank you so much for hearing and moving forward with community feedback about the concerns that run deep about the naming of this park that has always felt wrong and harmful to our family and many others that we know, and as a resident of this neighborhood I appreciate the plan that those who live nearby will have a chance to share thoughts. I see there are mentions of ways to engage Indigenous voices from Roseville and beyond and want to stress that this is the most important component of this entire project - to hear directly from those people most impacted by colonization, including this kind of name appropriation that continues to this day, about what changes (to

the name, but also to the usage of this park, the kinds of signage/history/) would have the most impact and how to ceremonially signify those changes if there is a way to do that during COVID. Thank you!!

Keely Vandre

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**To:** [\\*RVParksCommission](#)  
**Subject:** Online Form Submittal: Contact Parks and Recreation Commission  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 3, 2020 1:14:55 PM

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## Contact Parks and Recreation Commission

Please complete this online form and submit.

Subject: Community Engagement around Pocahontas Park

### Contact Information

Name: Dana Healy

Address: [REDACTED]

City: Roseville

State: MN

Zip: 55113

How would you prefer to be contacted?  
Remember to fill in the corresponding contact information in the fields below.

Email

Phone Number: [REDACTED]

Email Address: [REDACTED]

Please Share Your Comment, Question or Concern

Hello Commission,  
My name is Dana Healy, and I am the Executive Director of CTV North Suburbs in Roseville.

Understanding the Commission may be looking into engaging more voices around the renaming of Pocahontas Park, I wanted to offer to host a zoom based listening session via CTV, to engage in a thoughtful, productive conversation around the park. If this is something the Commission would find beneficial for the community, please let me know.

Thank you.

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