

To: Parks and Recreation Commission  
From: Lonnie Brokke Director  
Matthew Johnson Assistant Director  
Date: May 24, 2021  
Re: Notes for Meeting on Tuesday, June 1, 2021

**1. Introductions**

**2. Public Comment Invited**

**3. Approval of Minutes of the May 4, 2021 Meeting Minutes**

Enclosed is a copy of the minutes of May 4, 2021. Please be prepared to approve or amend.

**Requested Commission Action:** Approve/amend meeting minutes of May 4, 2021.

**4. 2020/21 Deer Monitoring and Reduction Program Report**

The deer reduction effort for the 2020/21 season is complete. Information is included in your packet related to the Deer Monitoring and Reduction Program to include maps, deer survey and sighting information and the 2020-21 summary report and harvest log from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).

The reduction took place on 11 occasions between December 7, 2020 and March 31, 2021. There were 31 deer taken from the city from the following locations:

- 12 from the Reservoir Woods area (Reservoir Woods Park (11)/Villa Park (1))
- 19 from the Owasso area (Owasso Hills Park (11), Western Pond (3) and the Nature Center (5))

On February 22 and 23, 2021, Ramsey County completed a flyover of Roseville to count the number of deer with 41 counted in Roseville. The deer count map is included in your packet.

As suggested and requested by the City Council, the Roseville Deer Monitoring and Reduction Program is an ongoing effort with review, input, advice and recommendations from the Parks and Recreation Commission. Also suggested, was that the program gather and utilize advice and information from experts at the (USDA), the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and Ramsey County. This would include surveying, determining herd size, arriving at a reduction number and selecting safe and efficient locations to implement the reduction program.

This upcoming 2021/22 season will be the fifth season of the program and the reduction number is yet to be determined. While the population is still higher than recommended in relation to identified available habitat (see included map), progress is continuing.

In the NE Sector of the city, specifically near Mapleview Park and Ladyslipper Park, residents still report seeing a significant number of deer walking the streets and in yards. These park areas are not conducive for providing a reduction effort. Although nearby, last

season for the first time, we utilized private property for staging and an adjacent storm water area along Western Avenue where a large population of deer were identified in the 2020 survey data. Three deer were removed from this area.

At this point, we have:

- continued to work with the DNR/USDA/Ramsey County (experts) to review the program, progress and plan for the upcoming season
- studied the current population survey resident input and observation information
- revisited other possible methods for deer herd management

Included in your packet is a petition forwarded from City Council Member Jason Etten requesting that the city reconsider and evaluate the methods in which deer in the city are reduced. This request also includes a desire to have a feeding ban.

At your joint meeting with the City Council, it was also suggested specifically that we reevaluate the sterilization/inoculation method.

For your information, I am providing the 3/9/15 final summary report that was done as part of an extensive community process in determining the current approach for reducing the herd. The identified options included sterilization and feeding ban and are outlined in the report.

A feeding ban was implemented as part of a Wildlife Management Ordinance (included in your packet). As the city is aware of violations, code enforcement is following up. This appears to be working well.

In a follow up with the DNR, the sterilization/inoculation technique specifically would not work well in an open landscape like in Roseville. A high fenced pen situation may be different. There are no cities or vendors currently doing this or has it ever occurred in Minnesota that anyone is aware of.

As part of an overall program evaluation process, we regularly and annually have conversations with the DNR and USDA about methods and options. Overall, nothing has changed since the 2015 report to suggest that anything different that is allowed and/or more efficient be done in Roseville.

Our next steps in planning for the upcoming reduction season (12/1/21 through 3/31/22) is to:

- review the program (staff will plan to provide an overview at your meeting)
- consider locations
- identify an appropriate number to reduce the herd

The overall vision/goal of the program is to maintain a healthy and reasonable size herd. That is achieved by working with the DNR, USDA and Ramsey County on an ongoing maintenance program.

Based on science, statistics and expert advice; the calculation method below has been suggested as a reasonable way to arrive at the number of tags requested for the season and ultimately the desired number of deer to reduce the herd by. The method has been used for a few years and seems to provide good management guidance. Reduction efforts still prioritize females but will also purposefully include some males.

Survey – January 23, 2021 –	41 minimum
Taken since survey –	<u>- 8</u> taken
Remaining herd	33
Assume ½ are female (16.5)	
Assume 2 fawns each (add 33)	<u>+ 33</u>
Population	66
Habitat support	<u>- 17</u>
Reduce	-49

Cost is also a consideration. The USDA charges for actual time and materials only. The following are the costs incurred for each of the three completed seasons and the upcoming budget for this fifth season:

<u>Season</u>	<u>Number of Deer Taken</u>	<u>Cost</u>
2017/18	20	\$ 3,771.70
2018/19	20	\$ 7,363.65
2019/20	46	\$15,200.00
2020/21	31	\$15,104.00
2021/22	TBD	\$17,000.00 BUDGET

Roseville has a thoughtful, sensitive and incremental program; taking 20 deer the first season, 20 the second season, 46 the third season and 31 this last season. Requesting the tags does not necessarily mean that they will be used similar to this past season where 85 tags were requested and 31 deer were taken.

**Requested Commission Action:** Discuss and provide advice/recommendation on program, locations and a reduction number.

## 5. Pickleball Courts Discussion

Pickleball has been an ongoing sport of interest in the Roseville Community for a number of years. Although it has been thought of as a sport played by an older demographic in the past, in recent years the sport has grown significantly at all age levels. [Click here for a short video about pickleball.](#)

Because of increased interest and resident requests, in 2015 pickleball lines for four portable courts were overlaid on the two Evergreen Park tennis courts to allow for multi-use with tennis. A portable pickleball equipment box was made available on site for players to use as a set up and take down as needed. Currently, the Evergreen Park courts are prioritized for tennis 50% of the time and pickleball 50% of the time.

As the popularity of pickleball has grown nationally and in Roseville specific, there has been an increase in use at the Evergreen Park portable courts. As interest has grown in Roseville, players have explicitly expressed concerns that the portable set up and take down of equipment is unstable and not meeting the needs and expectations.

Over the years residents have regularly and consistently requested that permanent pickleball courts be constructed somewhere in Roseville. In 2019, a petition containing a mix of residents and non-residents was submitted to encourage the city to look at a more permanent situation to accommodate the demand for pickleball. We continue to hear from them. They specifically suggested that the two tennis courts at Evergreen Park be converted to six permanent pickleball courts. See the example in your packet of the Shoreview courts layout where they did something similar.

While there are six other park sites for playing tennis in Roseville, they are not in the SW sector. Without any accommodations for tennis, this would displace any tennis players at the Evergreen Park site. Tennis is also in high interest and demand in Roseville.

Not far from the current Evergreen Park tennis courts behind the Fairview Community Center there are four tennis courts that are owned by the Roseville School District that are in disrepair. At this time, they have no plans to make improvements. In order to accommodate the tennis need in this area of Roseville, we have had agreeable conversations with the School District to allow the city to improve the courts and then allow the city to advertise them to be open to the public for use. It should be noted that the two Evergreen Park tennis courts are lit and the four Fairview Community Center courts are not lit.

At previous commission meetings and at your January 2021 joint meeting with the City Council, it was discussed that permanent pickleball courts were of interest in the community and that there was a desire to identify options and costs. Since that time, more exploring has occurred with the following options and costs identified:

Pickleball Options and Costs 5-24-21

Site	Option	Costs	Considerations
Evergreen Park	Convert two lit tennis courts to six pickleball courts	Estimate: \$35,000	- Is currently being used as pickleball and works well - Proximity to homes is far enough away to avoid noise issue
Fairview Community Center	Improve the four existing non lit tennis courts	Estimate: \$40,000	Improvements made by the city
Autumn Grove Park – south of Lydia	Construct six new	Estimate: \$225,000	Noise concerns (paddle and ball) with proximity to homes

Various other tennis sites (6) in Roseville parks. All but one are lit	Make joint use for pickleball and tennis	Estimate: \$2,000 per site to include pickleball lines and lock boxes with portable equipment	Currently strong interest is for permanent pickleball courts to avoid the regular set up and take down
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### Suggested Approach

It is suggested that the initial short-term step may be for the city to:

- convert the two existing Evergreen Park tennis courts to six pickleball courts
- invest in improvements to the four Fairview Community Center tennis courts to satisfy the tennis need in the SW sector of Roseville and make them available to the public

The total estimated cost to satisfy the existing need and interest in pickleball while still providing tennis opportunities in the SW sector of Roseville is around \$75,000–\$90,000. The project is anticipated to be paid for with a combination of Park Improvement and Park Dedication Funds.

Long term it may make sense to continue to monitor how the need is being met and make this topic of conversation a part of the planned 2022 city visioning process prior to moving forward with any other new additions.

### Equity Considerations

The suggested approach aims to increase opportunities and resources for the entire Roseville Community. According to U.S. Pickleball, 60% of core players (those that play more than 8 times per year) are older than 55 years of age. This is a demographic that Roseville Parks and Recreation currently has less direct programs and services for than many younger demographics.

At this time, national or local racial demographic information about pickleball participation is not readily available. Staff have reviewed the proposal for adverse consequences that could impact underserved populations and did not find any areas of concern.

**Requested Commission Action:** Discuss, provide feedback and possible recommendation on the options and suggested approach.

## 6. Staff Report

### a. New or Relevant Communication and Update Items

## 7. Other

## 8. Adjournment