

To: Parks and Recreation Commission
From: Lonnie Brokke, Director
Matthew Johnson, Assistant Director
Date: August 31, 2021
Re: Notes for Meeting September 7, 2021

1. Introductions

2. Public Comment Invited

3. Approval of Minutes of the August 5, 2021 Meeting Minutes

Enclosed is a copy of the minutes of August 5, 2021. Please be prepared to approve or amend.

Requested Commission Action: Approve/amend meeting minutes of August 5, 2021.

4. Community Listening Session on the Pocahontas Park Name Conversation

In late 2020, beginning with Commission and community suggestions and City Council support, the Commission began a process to examine the appropriateness of the name of Pocahontas Park.

The Commission utilized the GARE (Government Alliance on Race and Equity) Racial Equity Tool Kit to develop a comprehensive analysis process, which resulted in the Pocahontas Park Engagement and Analysis Plan (enclosed). This process identified the following groups for engagement to better understand the issue and engage with the community:

1. Native American people who live in Roseville
2. Indigenous populations of Minnesota
3. Neighbors of Pocahontas Park
4. Entire Roseville community

Since January, staff and Commissioners have worked to engage each of those groups. A collection of the feedback and materials that the Commission has received to date is included in your packet.

The final identified engagement step in the Pocahontas Park Engagement and Analysis Plan is a listening session in which residents and others would be welcome to come, learn more and share their thoughts.

Notification of the listening session was sent to the neighbors of Pocahontas Park and to those who have contributed previously to the conversation.

Requested Commission Action: Welcome anyone who wishes to share thoughts on this topic and listen to input.

5. Determine Next Steps on Pocahontas Name Conversation

At the January 25, 2021 joint meeting with the City Council, the City Council encouraged the Parks and Recreation Commission to continue with the defined Pocahontas Park Name Engagement and Analysis Plan and consider making a recommendation back to the City Council. As noted in the previous agenda item, since January, a significant amount of community engagement and learning has occurred.

At this point, the conversation and process appears to be narrowed down to two questions:

- 1) Should the name of Pocahontas Park be changed?
 - a. If no – the process is complete
 - b. If yes – then move to number 2 below requiring more Commission work to recommend a new name

- 2) If it is changed, what should it be changed to?
 - a. Commission begins a further process to make a recommendation for a new name

At the August meeting, several Commission members seemed to indicate that they may have enough general information after the listening session to make a recommendation, but were still uncertain of the next steps.

It seems like the next step may be to separate the first and second question as described above and make a recommendation on each at different times.

If you feel comfortable after the listening session to make a recommendation on the first question, then it would be appropriate to schedule a joint meeting with the City Council to share that recommendation and discuss. Then, depending on your recommendation, the second question will be the next step and will require more work and naming policy consideration.

It appears that you could consider one of three recommendations to the City Council at this time:

- Recommend to change the name and propose a new name.
- Recommend to change the name and undertake a future naming process.
- Recommend that the name be left unchanged.

Requested Commission Action: Discuss feedback received to date, consider a recommendation, consider reporting to the City Council in a joint meeting and determine possible next steps.

6. Staff Report

a. New or Relevant Communication and Update Items

- Staff will provide updates on projects that have progressed over the summer.

7. Other

8. Adjournment