

**ROSEVILLE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES FOR
OCTOBER 4, 2021 6:30 p.m.**

PRESENT: Arneson, Baggenstoss, Boulton, Brown, Dahlstrom, Hoag, Lenhart,
Ybarra
ABSENT: Carlson, Heikkila
STAFF: Brokke, Christensen, Johnson

1) INTRODUCTIONS

Chair Hoag introduced the meeting and noted that this month’s meeting was an in-person meeting with a virtual option. The public was still encouraged to participate in the meeting using the Zoom platform.

Commissioner Heikkila previously alerted staff that he would not be in attendance at the October Parks and Recreation Commission meeting.

2) ROLL CALL/PUBLIC COMMENT

Roll Call Commissioners: Arneson, Baggenstoss, Boulton, Brown, Dahlstrom, Lenhart, Ybarra and Hoag.

Chair Hoag called for public comment by members of the audience. No audience in attendance.

3) APPROVAL OF MINUTES – SEPTEMBER 7, 2021 MEETING

Commissioner Brown moved to approve the minutes. Vice-Chair Dahlstrom seconds.

Roll Call

Ayes: Arneson, Baggenstoss, Boulton, Brown, Dahlstrom, Lenhart, Ybarra and Hoag.

Nays: None.

Abstain: None.

4) UPDATE ON PICKLEBALL COURTS

Staff provided a brief summarization of the community engagement process that was utilized for the proposed pickleball courts at Evergreen Park. The preferred option was identified through community engagement:

- Evergreen tennis courts transition to permanent pickleball courts
- Upgrade An̄pétu Téča Education Center’s Tennis Courts

- Estimated cost is \$100,000
- Assess and consider options for future growth

Evergreen Park Courts

- Two tennis/four pickleball
- Nearby parking
- Owned by city
- Lighted
- Current home of pickleball
- Convert to 6 permanent pickleball courts
- Face north/south (due to sun angle during play it is important that the courts are north/south facing)

Anpétu Téča Education Center Tennis Courts

- Four courts
- Poor condition
- Unused
- Owned by Roseville School District 623
- Unlit
- Upgrade for Use

Community Engagement

- Posters
- Website
- News update
- Mailing to the neighborhood
- Flyers at the courts
- Community conversations
- Discover Your Parks
- Petition

Community Engagement Feedback Summary

- 75 pieces of written feedback, 47 from residents; other in-person/informal conversations
- Majority of feedback was supportive
- Alternative tennis option in the area was important to many in the neighborhood
- Few mentioned lack of lights in the Southwest as a concern
- Two residents supported the added pickleball option. However, they were opposed to the court upgrade of Anpétu Téča Education Center

Commissioner Arneson noted that the new tennis courts at Roseville Area High School are not available to the public. Therefore, he agrees with the proposal to upgrade the courts at Anpétu Téča Education Center.

Commissioner Ybarra reiterated the importance of timing during the project to ensure there is limited displacement for players of either sport. In addition, she noted that walking or biking access to the courts should be considered. She also relayed that she has been paying attention to the “sounds of pickleball” and does not find the noise offensive. She believes courts could potentially be placed near homes. Lastly, she added that the current project will not address the future demand for pickleball courts and she encouraged a long-term plan.

The Commission discussed the importance of the project timeline, potential lighting options at Anpétu Téča Education Center and possible future locations for additional pickleball courts.

Vice-Chair Dahlstrom moved to approve the recommendation of converting Evergreen Park tennis courts into permanent pickleball courts and refinishing the Anpétu Téča Education Center (Fairview) tennis court to the City Council. Commissioner Brown seconds.

Roll Call

Ayes: Arneson, Baggenstoss, Boulton, Brown, Dahlstrom, Lenhart, Ybarra and Hoag.

Nays: None.

Abstain: None.

5) REVIEW OF THE PARK NAMING PROCESS RELATED TO POSSIBLE RENAMING OF POCAHONTAS PARK

Staff provided a review of the process that has historically been used to name Roseville parks.

Process

- Review of the city policy
- Solicit suggestions
- Discuss the history of the property
- Discuss options for names
- Formulate a recommendation for City Council consideration

Basic Policy Principles on Naming and Examples

- Primary Principles
 - Natural habitat
 - Geographic location
 - Non-descript terms

- Acronyms or joining of two words, names or activities (example: Autumn Grove)
- Significant contribution (example: Bruce Russell and Howard Johnson)

Staff summarized the specific park name process that the Commission utilized for the two most recently named parks, Midland Gardens and Unity Park.

Chair Hoag offered that he thought the policy and process used to name Midland Gardens and Unity Park worked and that it should be utilized again with the naming of Pocahontas Park.

Commissioner Lenhart noted that she believes we are living in a different time than when Unity Park was named. She added that in a “post-George Floyd world” people’s feelings have changed towards the honoring, recognizing and respecting of the Dakota people and their ancestral, traditional and contemporary lands. As a result, she feels that a different process may need to be utilized for the parks name.

Commissioner Baggenstoss asked how the Commission will follow through on the equity work that has already been done during this project. He proposed that a potential follow-through option would be to utilize a Native American led panel to suggest possible names. Also, as suggested by the Metropolitan Urban Indian Group, Baggenstoss believes the Native American led panel should be offered a stipend for their participation.

The Commission discussed the possible next steps in the Pocahontas Park renaming process and if they fit within the current policy.

Commissioner Ybarra relayed concerns with the precedent that could be set by offering a stipend to only one group of city volunteers.

Commissioner Baggenstoss advocated that a stipend would show acknowledgement, value and trust towards a marginalized group in the community.

Chair Hoag relayed his concern with the stipend as it would set several precedents. In addition, he worried that a separate naming sub-group, outside of the Commission, could lengthen the naming process. Finally, he feels that the entire Roseville community should be able to weigh in on the name.

Commissioner Lenhart noted that she supports the idea of giving a stipend as she does engagement work for her job and knows firsthand that a stipend helps to encourage participation and robust feedback. She added that continued community engagement is also needed.

Commissioner Baggenstoss stated his belief that marginalized community members need to feel invited to engage in the process, as previously trust has been broken for them. Also, he feels all community members should be encouraged to participate in the naming process.

The Commission discussed the advantages and disadvantages of utilizing the existing naming policy with potential deviations of:

- Utilizing a Native American led naming panel
- Offering a stipend to panel participants

Chair Hoag noted that he does not believe a stipend is necessary at the beginning of the process.

Commissioner Bolton recognized that he does not have the knowledge to understand or choose an appropriate park name. He suggested consolidating a list of potential names to provide to Indigenous leaders for review.

Staff relayed that several Indigenous leaders had offered to review potential names to provide their perspective.

The Commission acknowledged their consensus in utilizing the existing policy as a framework for the renaming of Pocahontas Park.

Commissioner Arneson asked what the incentive would be for Indigenous peoples (especially those who don't live in Roseville) to participate in the naming process without a stipend.

Commissioner Baggenstoss questioned why the Commission would not ask the City Council to provide a stipend and then let them make the decision.

Commissioner Arneson asked if the Commission was ever approached by a member of the Indigenous community to change the name.

Commissioner Baggenstoss motioned to recommend the City Council support the Parks and Recreation Commission in seeking out Native American leadership for guidance in soliciting and selecting a new name for Pocahontas Park, and offering a stipend for that individual/group. Commissioner Lenhart seconds.

Chair Hoag motioned to amend the current motion by removing the word "stipend". Vice-Chair Dahlstrom seconds.

Commissioner Brown suggested using "consideration of a stipend" in the motion.

Commissioner Baggenstoss asked rhetorically why anyone would have a hang-up on asking the City Council for a stipend.

Chair Hoag offered that his apprehension with a stipend, at this point, is that it limits the process as a foregone conclusion.

Commissioner Baggenstoss relayed his concern that not utilizing a stipend will provide the Commission with only “white” name suggestions. He challenged that voting for a stipend shows leadership and courage.

The Commission discussed adding the stipend as optional in the motion.

Commissioner Ybarra stated that it may be helpful to identify who would receive the stipend, along with a specific dollar amount.

Vice-Chair Dahlstrom added that he is concerned with how a stipend program would be administered. In addition, he feels the Commission will show courage when they chose to recommend a name potentially outside of their comfort zone.

Commissioner Bolton reiterated that he would not feel comfortable in making a name recommendation to the City Council without Native American guidance, and that guidance may not come free of cost.

Chair Hoag requested a roll call on the motion to remove “stipend” from the motion.

Roll Call

Ayes: Dahlstrom, Ybarra and Hoag.

Nays: Arneson, Baggenstoss, Boulton, Brown, Lenhart.

Abstain: None.

Motion to remove “stipend” fails.

Roll was called for the original motion proposed by Commissioner Baggenstoss:

Commissioner Baggenstoss motioned to recommend the City Council support the Parks and Recreation Commission in seeking out Native leadership for guidance in soliciting and selecting a new name, and offering a stipend for that individual or group. Commissioner Lenhart seconds.

Roll Call

Ayes: Arneson, Baggenstoss, Boulton, Brown, Lenhart.

Nays: Dahlstrom, Ybarra and Hoag.

Abstain: None.

Motion passes 5-3.

Staff noted that a clearly defined process will be helpful when relaying next steps to the community, as this will ensure a clear understanding that this is an all-inclusive process.

6) PREPARE FOR JOINT MEETING WITH THE CITY COUNCIL

The Commission determined who will be presenting at the joint meeting with the City Council on Monday, October 25:

Overall Commission Update – Vice-Chair Dahlstrom

Pocahontas Park – Commissioners Lenhart and Baggenstoss

Pickleball – Vice-Chair Dahlstrom

Staff and the Commission discussed adding a note to the joint meeting Request for Council Action (RCA) about the importance of scheduling the pickleball project to limit the time that either sport is displaced.

Staff confirmed that a virtual option would be available for the joint meeting.

7) STAFF REPORT

a) NEW OR RELEVANT COMMUNICATIONS AND UPDATE ITEMS

- Granite City is working to open at the Cedarholm Community Building by January 1, 2022.
- The Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) Accelerated Program - Request for Proposal (RFP) is anticipated to be sent out in the coming weeks.
- Roseville Parks and Recreation has received a \$50,000 grant from the State of Minnesota for planting trees, which will help with replanting trees removed due to EAB.
- Work has begun with the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MNDNR) on the deer reduction program. It is anticipated that the USDA will be out in parks starting around December 1, 2021.
- Halloween Spook-tacular will be on Saturday, October 30 from 1-4 p.m. at the Harriet Alexander Nature Center. Event registration is required.
- Information for the MEA Fall Break camps is available online at cityofroseville.com/parks.

8) **OTHER**

Meeting adjourned at 9:04 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Danielle Christensen, Department Assistant