

**ROSEVILLE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES FOR
September 4, 2018 6:30pm**

PRESENT: Baggenstoss, Bole, Gelbach, Heikkila, Hoag, O’Brien, Quick,
Stoner, Warzecha
ABSENT: Newby
STAFF: Brokke, Christensen, Johnson

1) INTRODUCTIONS

2) ROLL CALL/PUBLIC COMMENT

3) APPROVAL OF MINUTES – AUGUST 2, 2018 MEETING

Commissioner Gelbach moved to approve the August 2, 2018 meeting minutes.
Commissioner Hoag seconds. Commissioner Stoner abstained. Motion passed.

4) GARE OVERVIEW

Parks and Recreation Assistant Director, Matt Johnson, provided an overview of the Government Alliance on Race and Equity (GARE) program that the City is currently participating in. GARE is a “national network of government working to achieve racial equity and advance opportunities for all”. In Minnesota, 14 government units are participating in 2018.

The importance of racial equity include: yielding a better community, more effective provision of services to the community as a whole, and it is morally the right thing to do.

The Roseville GARE leadership team has 14 staff members (two from Parks and Recreation) and includes representatives from each organizational level. To date, the team has learned the history of racial inequity, created informational handouts on Roseville’s demographics, a Racial Equity Narrative and has learned how to utilize the Racial Equity Toolkit.

The role of Parks and Recreation in racial equity is to help strengthen communities, reduce racial anxiety and help to build trust in municipal government. The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) has established Social Equity as one of their “Three Pillars of Impact” of Parks and Recreation.

The future goals for the GARE leadership team include working to normalize, organize, and operationalize. They will be utilizing the racial equity lens and tool kit where applicable. The team will continue with GARE training through 2018, and will develop a Racial Equity Action Plan.

Staff asked Commissioners to consider racial equity implications when advising or making decisions, to participate in community opportunities that positively impact racial equity, and to continue to learn more about racial equity issues.

Commissioner Stoner inquired if we currently track the demographics of participants in Parks and Recreation programs. Staff confirmed that at this time we do not currently collect racial data for program participants.

Commissioner Gelbach noted that he would like to see future goals created sooner rather than later.

Chair O'Brien stated that staff did an excellent job with 1716 Marion Street outreach. However, she cautioned against complacency in reaching out to other underserved community members.

Vice-Chair Baggenstoss suggested the City show vulnerability when asking questions of the public.

5) **ONGOING TOPICS**

a) **Cleveland Avenue and Marion Street Park Site Update and Naming Discussion**

At the August 2, 2018 meeting the Commission agreed to narrow down the name options to 5 potential names for each park:

2134 Cleveland Avenue:

- Midland Park
- Midland Gardens Park
- Midland Parallel Park
- Pollinator Park
- Cleveland Park

1716 Marion Street:

- Marion Hill Unity Park
- Marion Unity Park
- Marion Park
- Unity Park
- Marion Hill Park

Commissioner Gelbach provided the Commission a historical overview and background of each of the 10 names based on his research.

Commissioner Stoner suggested Cleveland Gardens Park because Horace Cleveland was a prominent landscape architect in the area and the fact that this pocket park will most likely always have a garden onsite.

Commissioner Hoag explained that he prefers that individual areas have identifiers. He believes that the 2134 Cleveland Avenue area is the “Midland” area due to the wide use of the name in the area.

The Commission discussed the following rationale for the Midland Gardens Park name:

- “Midland” provides a location marker for the Park
- Midland is a potential nod to the 48th Parallel
- The “Garden” name will differentiate it from the other Midland locations/businesses
- The park will most likely always have a garden on-site

Commissioners Recommendation:

Commissioner Gelbach moved to recommend the name of Midland Gardens Park for the new park at 2134 Cleveland Avenue to the City Council. Commissioner Hoag seconds. All in favor except Commissioner Heikkila. Motion passed.

The Commission discussed the name options for 1716 Marion Street.

Vice-Chair Baggenstoss suggested that plaques should be included at parks that have a backstory as he believes this would help in cultivating a deeper connection to our parks.

Staff responded that there will be an explanation in the 1716 Marion Park of the contributors that were involved in the creation of the park.

Commissioner Warzecha explained that she likes the simplicity of the name Unity Park as unity is the key meaning behind the park and she feels that the name Unity Park makes the greatest impact.

Vice-Chair Baggenstoss suggested Unity Hill Park as it incorporates the Unity name and provides a location marker.

The Commission discussed the pros and cons of the names Unity Hill Park vs. Unity Park.

Chair O’Brien noted that the Unity Park name celebrates the broader unity of the whole city and embraces a larger idea instead of a specific location marker.

Commissioner Heikkila asked about potentially bringing the names back to the partners in the Karen community for input.

The Commission discussed the following rationale for the Unity Park name:

- Honors the partners who made the park possible
- It is simple and provides the greatest impact to celebrate the larger idea of what this park represents

Commissioners Recommendation:

Commissioner Warzecha moved to recommend the name of Unity Park for 1716 Marion Street to the City Council. Commissioner Gelbach seconds. All in favor except Vice-Chair Baggenstoss. Motion passed.

6) STAFF REPORT

- A community meeting was held for the youth pump track proposal on August 23rd. The engagement process has been completed with the community. Volunteer work will begin on September 24-28 to create the pump track pilot program.
- The 1716 Marion Street and 2134 Cleveland Avenue Parks are moving forward. Staff thanked the Public Works staff for their help with the projects.
- Pollinator Garden Planting – September 15th at 2134 Cleveland Avenue (10:00am-12:00pm)
- Community Playground Build – October 15th at 1716 Marion Street (10:00am-complete)
- Wild Rice Festival – September 15th at Harriet Alexander Nature Center (10:00am-6:00pm)
- A reminder of rental opportunities at the Roseville Park Buildings and the Cedarholm Community Building and Golf Course
- Tapped and Uncorked – September 28th at the OVAL (6:00pm-10:00pm)
- Ash tree wraps with information about Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) are being researched by Parks and Recreation staff.

7) OTHER

Youth Commissioner Quick provided a presentation on the impact of plastic straw use. According to his research 8-20 million tons of plastic ends in the ocean each year. By 2050, the oceans will contain more plastic waste than fish. Plastics never fully degrade, rather they turn into micro plastics which are then potentially consumed by animals and humans. Youth Commissioner Quick is working to inform local restaurants and government representatives of the impact of plastic straws on our environment in an effort to get their usage reduced.

Meeting adjourned at 8:21pm

Respectfully Submitted,
Danielle Christensen, Department Assistant