

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