

**ROSEVILLE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES FOR
November 7, 2019 6:30 p.m.**

PRESENT: Arneson, Baggenstoss, Brown, Dahlstrom, Heikkila, Hoag, O'Brien
ABSENT: Newby, Stoner
STAFF: Boggs, Brokke, Christensen, Taylor,

1) INTRODUCTIONS TO INCLUDE YOUTH APPLICANT

The Commission welcomed Youth Commissioner applicant Corbin Carlson.

2) ROLL CALL/PUBLIC COMMENT

3) APPROVAL OF MINUTES – OCTOBER 6, 2019 MEETING

Commissioner O'Brien moved to approve the October 6, 2019 meeting minutes. Commissioner Dahlstrom seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

4) NATURAL RESOURCES STEWARDSHIP AND VOLUNTEER REVIEW

Commissioner O'Brien introduced the Natural Resources Stewardship Program and provided a brief history.

Staff members Jim Taylor, Park Superintendent and Rachel Boggs, Volunteer Coordinator were available to provide a presentation of the program. The presentation goals were to cover a brief overview of the volunteer program, provide a status report and offer information on how the Commission and public can help.

The following is the vision of the Natural Resources Program: volunteers, staff, and consultants working together to accomplish our goals. Initially, the vision was met with the every 3rd Saturday volunteer events. However, going forward only having a once a month event will not be enough to keep up with the need. As a result, multiple types of Natural Resources Events have been introduced, including:

- Staff/contractor led
- Volunteer led
- Informal
 - Arboretum Green Team
 - Adopt-a-Park volunteers
 - Community service volunteers
 - Eagle Scout projects
 - Informal – self-guided

There are many ways that each of the projects listed above can be initiated, for example:

Staff led:

- Master Plan
- Staff
- Resident recommendation
- Ecologist

Volunteer led:

- Approached by a volunteer leader or captain
- Resident recommendation
- Staff
- Master Plan
- Ecologist

Volunteer Coordinator Rachel Boggs provided information on the value of Natural Resource Events from January 2019-present according to the city's volunteer database, Volgistics. The total volunteer hours are 1,200 and have a value of \$29,120.

Staff provided the following list of upcoming Natural Resource events:

Saturday, November 2 (Volunteer Led)

Cut Drag and Stack Buckthorn
Dale Street Soccer Fields

Saturday, November 9 (Volunteer Led)

Cut, Drag, and Stack Buckthorn
Reservoir Woods Park

Saturday, November 16 (3rd Saturday)

Invasive Brush Gathering and Stacking
Langton Lake Park

Saturday, November 23 (Volunteer Led)

Cut, Drag, and Stack Buckthorn
Central Park Victoria

Saturday, November 30 (Volunteer Led)

Cut, Drag, and Stack Buckthorn
Applewood Park Overlook

Saturday, December 21 (3rd Saturday)

Invasive Brush and Tree Removal
Central Park

The 2019 successes for the Natural Resource Program include: developing sector leaders, recruiting and identifying 12 constellation captains, coordinating and executing volunteer led activities and the establishment of protocols and processes to empower our volunteer leaders to be successful. Areas for continued improvement are the further development of constellation captains (training, communication and leadership), recruiting and identifying additional constellation captains, establishing set area work plans for when Stantec has completed their part in the Natural Resource Restoration Program and increased communication (newsletters, what's happening in the Natural Resources Program, etc.).

Staff went over how the Commission and public can help with this program:

- Attend Natural Resources Events
- Become knowledgeable about the program
- Discuss the program with residents
- Ask questions
- Help us identify areas of need and communicate to staff

Chair Baggenstoss asked how a volunteer group is approved for an event as part of the program. Staff relayed that volunteer leaders would be paired with the group to help them with the event. If a group is interested in volunteering they should contact Jim or Rachel who will help them pick a date and advertise the event.

The Commission and staff discussed the evolution of the program to allow volunteers to be able to remove plants, such as garlic mustard, without city staff approval.

Commissioner O'Brien noted that she appreciated the recognition of the need for more communication and structure as she has heard from several volunteer leaders that they were not sure of their overall role in the program.

Chair Baggenstoss suggested a half page flyer with upcoming volunteer events to hand out at the Discover Your Park events. Commissioner Hoag commented that it could be helpful to utilize the city's listserv to reach out to individual neighborhoods via e-mail when there is an event in their area. Youth Commissioner applicant Carlson suggested posting the volunteer opportunities on AVID, the volunteer portal utilized at the High School.

Brokke thanked the volunteers, Jim Taylor and Rachel Boggs for all the interest, work and progress.

5) **FOLLOW UP TO JOINT MEETING WITH THE CITY COUNCIL**

The Commission agreed that the City Council suggested to move forward with fact finding of additional information on an Accelerated Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) Program and to develop a Request for Proposal (RFP). They agreed that creating the Scope of Work was the appropriate next step.

6) **EMERALD ASH BORER (EAB) PROPOSAL SCOPE OF WORK DISCUSSION**

Staff relayed that they are continuing to work on the EAB Proposal Scope of Work with the thought of bringing it to the City Council in January or February. Discussion occurred with the following key components of the Scope of Work:

- Satisfy Vision
- Minimize impact to canopy
- Ensure diversity – how many growers, what kind of variety and species, how will that fit with the DNR recommendation
- Ensure safety
- Maximize efficiency
- Implementation schedule
- Value add
- Risks
- Multiyear approach
- Notification and education
- Grants
- \$1.3M Program – to be determined

Commissioner Baggenstoss noted that he appreciated that in this plan, as with the Cedarholm RFP, that the vendor expertise is requested.

Staff relayed that they met with seven vendors and provided them with the Draft Accelerated Emerald Ash Borer Plan that was originally brought to the City Council. The plan idea was well received by all of the vendors who thought it was a good approach. In addition, the vendors did comment on the preliminary budget numbers and they did not feel they were out of line.

Commissioner Heikkila asked if any of the vendors have partnered with other cities. Staff responded that they are working with other cities but not in a holistic way like the accelerated plan proposes.

The Commission discussed that it was encouraging to hear the response from the vendors.

7) **2020 DRAFT MEETING CALENDAR**

Chair Baggenstoss suggested the later meeting date in June for the joint meeting with the City Council.

Commissioner Brown moved to approve the 2020 Meeting Calendar as proposed. Commissioner Arneson seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

8) STAFF REPORT

a) OTHER NEW OR RELEVANT COMMUNICATION ITEMS

- Staff shared a recent e-mail related to the deer reduction effort and commented that they appreciate community input and questions on the Deer Reduction Program. The reduction number rationale provided by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) was reviewed again by the Commission. Commissioner Brown noted that this is a learning process and that each year the reduction amounts can be adjusted. Commissioner Baggenstoss reiterated that the Commission does not take this program lightly and they don't want to use their own assumptions over the recommendations of the USDA and DNR.
- Staff relayed that they presented to representatives of the Governor's office on the MN OVAL bonding plan. The presentation was well received.
- On Wednesday, November 13 at 9:40 a.m. the House Capital Investment Committee will be touring the Guidant John Rose MN OVAL. The tour will consist of 20 representatives and staff members and is scheduled for 30 minutes. Staff will provide a brief summary of the facility and plan for a walking tour
- The Guidant John Rose MN OVAL opens on Friday, November 8 at 6:00pm. Roseville's own King Boreas, Monte Johnson will "flip the switch" to kick off the new season
- The Cedarholm RFP inquiries have been very positive
- Open Mic Night at the Cedarholm Community Building will be on November 21 (7:00 p.m.)
- Representatives from FORParks recently toured local all-inclusive playgrounds to get a better understanding of the scope of work and potential locations for the Roseville project
- In 2019, the Central Park Foundation funded a project at the Victoria Ballfields to clean up the apron around the shelter. The next project they have committed to is lighting of the pathways and the parking lot at the Arboretum. The lighting will be similar to what is around Lake Bennett. This is anticipated to be a multi-year project with the parking lot being completed in 2020.

9) OTHER

- Commissioner Heikkila commented that the new informational signs look good in the parks
- Commissioner O'Brien moved to recommend Corbin Carlson as a Youth Commissioner on the Parks and Recreation Commission to the City Council. Commissioner Arneson seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 8:19 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Danielle Christensen, Department Assistant