MINUTES
Rosenwald Community Advisory Board

Thursday, August 20, 2026 – 6:00pm
Mary C. Jenkins Community Center

Members Present:	Pamela Holder, Co-Chair, Council Member Edith Darity, MCJCC Board Member Karen Darity, MCJCC Board Appointment Ella Jones, Citizen Member Victor Foster, MCJCC Board Appointment Morgan Monshaugen, Citizen Member
Members Absent:	Randy Lytle, Co-Chair, MCJCC Board Member Gary Daniel, Council Member Mayor Maureen Copelof, Ex-Officio
Staff Present:	Wilson Hooper, City Manager Tyree Griffin, Community Center Director Shawnee Cummings, Assistant to the City Manager
Media:	Jonathan Rich

A. Welcome & Call to Order

Board Co-Chair and Council Member Pamela Holder called the meeting to order at 6:00pm.

B. Certification of Quorum

Assistant to the City Manager, Shawnee Cummings, certified that a quorum was present.

C. Approval of Agenda

Mr. Foster moved, seconded by Ms. Jones to approve the agenda as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

D. Approval of Minutes – May 21, 2026 Meeting Minutes and July 16, 2026 Session Notes

Mr. Foster moved, seconded by Ms. Karen Darity to approve the minutes of the May 21, 2026 meeting as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

It was also motioned and seconded to approve the session notes of the July 16, 2026 meeting as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

E. Feedback on Silversteen Picnic Shelter Lights

Mr. Hooper said he received the latest drawings from the Architect today and they are almost construction ready. Before design is complete, the architect needs some feedback on the lighting. On the surface, the details are related to lighting, but they affect the character and the purpose of the structure.

Mr. Hooper's asked how long, if at all, should the lights be on for normal use of the facility. For example, should the lights be on during regular park hours (6am-10pm), should there be dim passive lights that are always on, or bright lights like the inside of a room for security purposes. He said he would like to hear the group's thoughts.

Ms. Karen Darity said she thinks we need 3 categories: security lighting, event lighting, and passive lighting. Ms. Holder asked if passive lights will be on all the time. Mr. Hooper said he would recommend it and if so, they will double as security lights.

Mr. Foster recommended having both passive lighting and motion-activated lights to discourage people from hanging out there at night and to help provide security for neighboring homes. Mr. Monshaugen agreed but stated that we should make sure the lights are pointing down and not at neighboring homes. The Committee agreed. Ms. Holder asked if the lighting becomes too disturbing for the neighbors, can the passive lights be put on a timer. Mr. Hooper said yes, and if they are, it can be connected to a literal timer where the lights turn on at a certain time or they can be photovoltaic where they turn on after the lighting outside has dimmed. Mr. Griffin said the lights at MCJCCC are photovoltaic and Ms. Holder said we should have the same at the pavilion. Mr. Hooper said he will have them design that so it is available.

For events, Ms. Karen Darity asked if the lighting can be on a dimmer for different types of events. Mr. Hooper said yes, and asked if can lights are okay, as opposed to lights that illuminate the general area or spot lights. The Committee agreed.

Ms. Karen Darity recapped that there will be 3 types of lights:

- Dim passive lighting on the exterior/perimeter, including facing the neighbors but pointed downward, and with the option for a photovoltaic timer.
- Can lights for events that are on a dimmer and can be adjusted.
- Motion-activated security lighting.

Ms. Karen Darity asked if overhead fans were incorporated. Mr. Hooper said no, as they are a little risky and maintenance heavy, but the shelter will be open to allow for air flow. Ms. Holder asked if fans can be added later. Mr. Hooper said he believes so, as they are going to add electrical service to be able to power a food truck, equipment for live music, and presumably fans. He added that fans are not that heavy and he thinks the architect said the trusses could handle the weight, but he will check.

Mr. Hooper explained that the most visible change to the design is that the parking spaces at the bottom have been converted into a single, parallel handicapped space that cuts down on the drainage and grading challenges because the space does not jut

as far into the property. He added that the early projected cost for construction will be about $400,000, but it may change a little with the lighting preferences.

Ms. Karen Darity asked who did the architectural drawings. Mr. Hooper said Melanie Spreen and John Koury with May Collaborative, and they subcontracted the grading to High Country Engineering and the architectural work to Wheelhouse.

F. Bathroom Signage at Silversteen Park

Mr. Griffin said we have started communicating to the public via social media that the external bathrooms at MCJCCC are now open in the evenings and on the weekends. He shared the signs that will be installed at Silversteen Park and said the bathrooms will be open 8am-8pm during the summer and 8am-5pm in the winter. Mr. Griffin will open the bathrooms each morning and the Police Department will lock the bathrooms each night. The goal is to let the public know that the bathrooms are available, to bring some of the foot traffic to MCJCCC, and to encourage people to feel comfortable coming to the building. Ms. Holder asked if this is until we get a restroom at the park. Mr. Hooper confirmed. Mr. Foster said it would be in addition to restrooms at the park, as the MCJCCC bathrooms will stay open to the public.

Ms. Karen Darity asked if there could be a designated pet area, as she has noticed people allowing their pets to take care of business in the lawn behind the community center and they want to keep it clean for kids. She said we have bags at the top of the sidewalk and hopefully that encourages people to pick up. She suggested moving the bags down the sidewalk to discourage people from using the center's lawn. Ms. Holder said they had that issue at the church and had to talk to the pet owner. Mr. Griffin said he would ask Public Works about moving the bags.

Committee Comments

Mr. Hooper asked about the history of the Edna Glaze playground. Mr. Foster said Edna Glaze went missing and they never found her, so the City commemorated her by creating the Edna Glaze playground. It was discussed that the playground is the City's and Ms. Edith Darity said it should be kept up, as she has noticed that it has been neglected for several years. Mr. Hooper said he asked about the ownership because the City does not own the property and it is owned by WNCSource. Ms. Karen Darity said when WNCSource had the Rosenwald Block Grant to help restore the water and sewer, they were trying to purchase property from the Church to be able to establish a new playground. WNCSource was unable to purchase the property so they created the Edna Glaze playground on that site.

Ms. Karen Darity said the Edna Glaze playground is not really used because there have been needles found and the equipment is for little kids. Ms. Edith Darity said the equipment needs to be upgraded, the property needs to be inspected for bees, and the bushes need to be trimmed so people cannot hide in the park to do drugs. Mr. Hooper asked if drug use is still an issue there. Ms. Karen Darity said she is unsure now, but it used to be. Ms. Edith Darity said the park needs attention and it

deserves to be respected. Ms. Holder said Edna Glaze's daughter still lives a couple houses down from the park. Mr. Hooper thanked the Board for the information.

Mr. Hooper explained that the work on Hillview Culvert is delayed 4-6 weeks, as the location of some of the pipes was off by a few feet. One is a water pipe and the City is working with the contractor to relocate it. The other is a gas pipe that Enbridge will relocate, and they have started, but it will take a while. Mr. Hooper said he does not know if Enbridge's work will affect the community, but we will let everyone know when we find out. The water line relocation should not affect the community. The project is projected to be complete in late October or early November.

Mr. Foster noted a stormwater issue on Oakdale St. in the yellow house that is directly across from Bethel A Church and said there is so much water that goes right over the sidewalk and it is flooding the yard and the porch. He said he recalls hearing that the sidewalks on that street were not in consideration to be raised up because they were not causing any issues. Mr. Foster said there is a culvert across the street that picks the water up from the Bethel A Church side and sends it over to the house. Ms. Holder said she thought they had talked to the Mayor and fixed the issue. Mr. Foster said they just talked about it. Mr. Hooper noted the issue and there was additional discussion about how raising the curbs could help direct the water.

G. Public Comment

No members of the public spoke during public comment.

H. Set Date for Next Meeting

The next meeting was scheduled for Thursday, September 17, 2026 at 6:00pm at the Mary C. Jenkins Community Center.

I. Adjourn

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:36 pm.

Minutes Approved: October 15, 2026

X _____
Pamela Holder, Co-Chair, City Council Member
Randy Lytle, Co-Chair, MCJCC Member

X Shawnee A. Cummings
Shawnee Cummings
Assistant to the City Manager