

CITY OF ROELAND PARK, KANSAS
CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
Roeland Park City Hall
4600 W 51st Street, Roeland Park, KS 66205
Monday, April 5, 2021 6:00 P.M.

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Mike Kelly, Mayor○ Trisha Brauer, Council Member○ Benjamin Dickens, Council Member○ Jan Faidley, Council Member○ Jennifer Hill, Council Member | <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Jim Kelly, Council Member○ Tom Madigan, Council Member○ Claudia McCormack, Council Member○ Michael Rebne, Council Member | <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Keith Moody, City Administrator○ Jennifer Jones-Lacy, Asst. Admin.○ Kelley Nielsen, City Clerk○ John Morris, Police Chief○ Donnie Scharff, Public Works Director |
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Admin
Brauer
Hill

Finance
McCormack
Madigan

Safety
Rebne
Faidley

Public Works
Kelly
Dickens

(Roeland Park Council Meeting Called to Order at 6:00 p.m.)

Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Kelly called the City Council meeting to order and led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call

City Clerk Nielsen called the roll. CMBRS Madigan and McCormack were absent. Staff members present were City Administrator Moody, Assistant City Administrator Jones-Lacy, Public Works Director Scharff, Police Chief Morris, Parks and Recreation Superintendent Nichols, Management Intern Verbrugge, City Attorney Mauer, and City Clerk Nielsen.

Modification of Agenda

There were no modifications to the agenda.

I. Citizen Comments

There were no citizen comments.

II. Consent Agenda

- A. Appropriations Ordinance #971**
- B. Council Minutes March 15, 2021**

MOTION: CMBR HILL MOVED AND CMBR BRAUER SECONDED TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA AS PRESENTED. (THE MOTION CARRIED 6-0)

III. Business from the Floor - Proclamations/Applications/Presentations

A. Report on Regional Climate Action Plan

Mayor Kelly introduced Lenexa Councilwoman Julie Sayers and Joan Leavens, Sustainability and Community Education Coordinator from the Shawnee Mission School District. Ms. Leavens is the Chair

for Climate Action KC. The committee has created a regional climate action plan that has been adopted by MARC.

Ms. Leavens said the report is a result of over 300 meetings with over a thousand people and an online engagement process. The plan is voluntary and flexible and cities are encouraged to make it their own. MARC stands ready to help municipalities through the process. Ms. Leavens said that Roeland Park has been leading the way in this. They already have a solar-ready ordinance, have been working on a complete streets plan, and has partnered with Johnson County Stormwater to incorporate more strategies to reduce greenhouse emissions. She said she is looking forward to what other regions will do. They have acknowledged that doing nothing is harmful.

They conducted a greenhouse gas inventory using 2015 as a baseline. They found that two-thirds of their emissions come from residential and commercial buildings and one-third comes from the commercial sector. They also looked into ways of reducing emissions in buildings and also through planned landscaping.

Another topic is climate risk and vulnerability. Areas that are the highest risk of flood, drought, and extreme heat have the most impact on vulnerable populations and there is much work that needs to be done in this area.

Action areas are outlined in the plan as well as ways to look at collaboration with others and the need to identify community leadership and liaisons.

Transportation is also an area that needs to be addressed. Urban greening and planting trees has many benefits. Trees help to cool the streets which extends the life of the asphalt. It also has co-benefits such as job creation, business development, and more comfortable homes.

Adaptation is a major part of the plan for people to have access to more healthy food. This is accomplished by cities having ordinances that allow backyard farming and gardening. She noted that Roeland Park already allows backyard chickens. She said they need to look for more nature-based solutions such as composting which builds soil health and increases access to healthful food. She also said gardening is a healthy activity. They need to work with the earth as it is constantly working to heal itself.

Another component is leading by example, which Roeland Park is already doing. More items to help are encouraging rain gardens on residential property with possible incentives, strategic planning for transportation and land use, which could include traffic calming.

Local governments can look at the Climate Action Playbook to see what is possible to implement in their city. They should see themselves as partners with Johnson County Health & Environment, Johnson County Stormwater, area school and neighboring cities where they can lead and act.

To view the plan visit: <https://kcmetroclimateplan.org/>

Lenexa Councilwoman Julie Sayers spoke to what Lenexa has done in utilizing the playbook as a guiding document for their governing body. After review, they put together an assessment breaking it into three categories: what they are doing now, what can easily be implemented, and what they could do

on a longer term. From there, they adopted a resolution. They notified their citizens of what they were doing but weren't talking about such as they already had a municipal greenhouse.

CMBR Rebne thanked Ms. Sayers and Ms. Leavens for their presentation and noted that they, and himself, can always do better. He asked if there were any leadership challenges from native peoples in following the climate action plan. He also asked about Evergy's role in moving away from its use of coal.

Ms. Leavens said they reached out to native groups but couldn't speak to how those discussions went. She did say that Evergy is working toward more renewable energy, zero carbon energy. The Shawnee Mission School District has signed on to Renewables Direct and so have other metropolitan cities to encourage Evergy to develop those resources and signing on to Renewables Direct is for them to know there is a commitment to purchase.

Ms. Sayers said that Lenexa has also signed the Renewables Direct.

Mayor Kelly said there is an equity committee for Climate Action KC that is being intentional about the relationships it is forming with those most vulnerable to climate change. As it relates to Evergy, he appreciates them being at the table. As their fuel mixture gets cleaner, the fuel they use gets cleaner. A securitization agreement was signed by the Kansas legislature and is awaiting a signature from the governor that will provide compensation as coal plants retire and investment moves towards more clean energy. They want to let the electric utilities at the table take advantage of more clean energy options in the region.

CMBR Faidley asked what the next steps would be. Ms. Sayers said the Sustainability Committee looks to be the citizens in the Roeland Park community. City Administrator Moody is also very supportive at looking at the options and identifying strategies specific to Roeland Park.

Ms. Sayers recommended creating three areas to identify what they are already doing, easy to reach goals, and long-term goals that may need policy changes and financial support. In any event, they need to make the plan specific to what Roeland Park's capacity is.

CMBR Kelly said as the liaison to the Sustainability Committee they are understaffed with volunteers. He said that Chair Judy Hyde is doing an excellent job, but there is a lot to handle with only four people. He would like to see them be able to increase their membership.

Mayor Kelly said they could certainly do a recruitment for the Sustainability Committee.

Mayor Kelly also thanked Ms. Leavens and Ms. Sayers for what they have done for the region in their work with Climate Action KC.

IV. Mayor's Report

A. Bike Month Proclamation

Mayor Kelly said they have been diligent and intentional about the love of cycling. Roeland Park is making sure the City's infrastructure recognizes the will of the community to be more bike-friendly.

MOTION: CMBR FAIDLEY MOVED AND CMBR HILL SECONDED TO APPROVE MAY 2021 AS BICYCLE MONTH IN THE CITY OF ROELAND PARK. (THE MOTION CARRIED 6-0)

B. AAPI Proclamation

Mayor Kelly said that CMBRS Faidley and Rebne, as well as several other residents, want to take a stand against Asian Discrimination. He said that xenophobia and racism has no place in Roeland Park. The proclamation was also approved by the Racial Equity Committee. He said this is a continued and sincere effort to call out racism and make Roeland Park a community people want to live in.

MOTION: CMBR REBNE MOVED AND CMBR FAIDLEY SECONDED TO ADOPT THE APPI (ASIAN-AMERICAN, PACIFIC ISLANDER) PROCLAMATION. (THE MOTION CARRIED 6-0)

V. Reports of City Liaisons and Committees

A. MARC - Bike & Pedestrian

CMBR Faidley said the notes from the March 10th meeting are in the packet. She did note that the funding they applied for at Nall and Elledge was not approved. She did want to draw attention to the upcoming work that MARC is doing on a complete street analysis. She said by them codifying those principles it makes them more attractive for funds in the future. Updates to the map and bikeway plan from MARC will be coming soon.

B. Community Engagement Committee Update

CMBR Rebne, liaison to the Community Engagement Committee, thanked everyone for a very successful and fun Easter Egg Drop. He said that CMBR Faidley and Ms. Jones-Lacy helped deliver eggs. He also thanked Jan Grebe and Tony Nichols for their help and noted that Lisa Eagle filled eggs. He said they made almost 400 baskets that were left at doorsteps.

Mayor Kelly also expressed his thanks in that they were able to accomplish this event. He also gave a thank you to Laura Savage.

CMBR Hill thanked everyone and said her children thoroughly enjoyed it and it was a great idea. She did note that people were wanting to recycle their eggs to be reused and wanted to know how to return them back to the City.

City Administrator Moody said they can set up collection bins at the Community Center and City Hall.

C. Parks and Trees Committee Report

Committee Chair Laura Savidge reported they have had a turnover of members, but they are still loaded with talent. She also said she couldn't say enough about the good work what Public Works has done to support their parks.

Cooper Creek (CMBR Brauer' objective) Phase 1 is on schedule and on budget. They continue with their eradication of invasive species. Pads have been poured for the new amenities. A split rail will be installed by the end of the month and will serve as a barrier against the creek. The welcome sign on Johnson Drive will also be landscaped soon. They also need to coordinate the removal of invasive

species with the privately owned land to the north and the unincorporated part of Johnson County and that will be done in the fall.

The spring spruce up for Nall Park will be split into two part starting with the removal of dead and dying shrubs and then a planting next spring.

The Gaga ball pit Girl Scout project is set to meet its completion target date of June.

R Park Phase 1 and 2 are continuing. Ms. Savidge is looking forward to Arbor Master treating for the Japanese beetle that does so much destruction. She said that final grading also needs to be completed. Then they will move into the phase of sidewalks and a playground. They have formed a playground subcommittee to investigate all aspects of play structures and they are looking forward to working with Confluence on this part of the project.

Sweany Park received an upgrade of two new benches and a waste receptacle. They have \$2,000 for landscaping and Judy Hyde is designing that. They have also created a task force for a small play structure and Mr. Nichols is working on that budget.

CMBR Faidley asked City Administrator Moody if Arbor Masters has not kept up with their contract. He said that Mr. Nichols is the lead at R Park and he will follow up with the contractors on the landscaping.

Mayor Kelly said there is a lot of work going on in their parks and he appreciates all of the work that Ms. Savidge and the committee are doing.

D. Arts Advisory Committee Update

Michael Poppa from the Arts Committee said they have a call for artists for the wall mural and is working with staff on the staircase project.

The committee is working with George Schlegel's wife Mary on a tribute to Mr. Schlegel for July.

Mayor Kelly thanked Mr. Poppa for the work the Arts Committee does and said they are anticipating a vibrant mural. He said that he has an open invitation to come back to the Council to provide updates.

VI. Unfinished Business

A. Agreement with JoCo for COVID Health Order Enforcement

City Administrator Moody said the agreement to allow Johnson County to enforce their health orders in Roeland Park is a continuation of the order previously approved.

MOTION: CMBR REBNE MOVED AND CMBR DICKENS SECONDED TO APPROVE THE AGREEMENT WITH JOHNSON COUNTY TO ENFORCE THEIR COVID HEALTH ORDER. (THE MOTION CARRIED 6-0)

VII. New Business

A. Approve Annual Cooperative Agreement with Johnson County for Stormwater Best Management Practices Program

Mayor Kelly said the agreement will assist residents with stormwater-friendly methods for management.

CMBR Kelly said he would like to better placement of the types of programs, grants, refunds/reimbursements in a more prominent place than Neighborhood Services.

Mayor Kelly agreed and said they can contact PIO Katie Garcia to help promote those programs and make sure they're seen by residents.

CMBR Faidley asked if they are installing a pollinator plant garden and native trees who would they go to as a resident, the City or Bridging the Gap.

Public Works Director Scharff said they would actually be directed to Bridging the Gap or the Johnson County's website. Bridging the Gap assists the City in approving applications and landscape plans.

CMBR Faidley asked if there is a point person at Bridging the Gap. Public Works Director Scharff can include that information on the City's website.

MOTION: CMBR KELLY MOVED AND CMBR BRAUER SECONDED TO APPROVE THE 2021 STORMWATER BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES COST-SHARE PROGRAM AGREEMENT WITH JOHNSON COUNTY. (MOTION CARRIED 6-0)

B. Committee Appointments

Mayor Kelly recommended the following appointments:

- Sandy Billinger - Parks Committee
- Russell McCorkle - Ad-Hoc Historical Committee
- Marek Gliniecki - Community Foundation
- Diane Mora - Racial Equity Committee

MOTION: CMBR REBNE MOVED AND CMBR DICKENS SECONDED TO APPROVE THE SLATE OF CANDIDATES AS PRESENTED BY THE MAYOR. (THE MOTION CARRIED 6-0)

C. Approve Task Order for R Park Phase 3 Improvements

Mayor Kelly said that Parks and Public Works have done a beautiful job with the first two phases of R Park improvements. The task order for Phase 3 is the design and planning that incorporates CMBR Dickens' objective for fall protection on the playground with work to be completed the summer of 2022.

CMBR Faidley said in conversations with residents they have a number of concerns about moving immediately forward on the construction. She noted that they combined Phase 1 and 2 and moved Phase 3 up which was to be completed in 2023. The sentiment expressed to her is that there has been considerable disruption which is making the park almost unusable. They felt it would be better to put the project back on the original timeline. This would give a chance for the grass to be established before they start tearing up the park.

Mayor Kelly said he too has heard the concerns regarding the timeline for the improvements to the park as well as making sure the improvements are appropriately designed given the desires of the residents and including the new budget objective of playground equipment.

City Administrator Moody said they do not know how long construction will take and whether it will be affected by the traffic garden component. He did add that the timeline is flexible. They would like to have the disturbed areas put back by fall which gives them two seasons for grass to be reestablished. The task order is for the design and not for the construction itself. He said CMBR Faidley makes a good point and they can push construction out as they are disrupting the park for two seasons.

City Administrator Moody said that Confluence has greater experience in playground planning and has worked with them on the comp plan update. Confluence will meet with the Parks Committee. They want to have these experts facilitate the discussion and find out how a green traffic garden lay out with the playground equipment. He said they can expect the planning stage to last about two months.

CMBR Rebne asked if there is an incentive to do construction earlier rather than later and asked what the benefits are for waiting and doing the construction now.

CMBR Dickens remarked that as far as Phase 3 he is of the mind to get it done quickly and he tends to go in that direction. He also said that he does not live in the ward of R Park and appreciates what CMBR Faidley has heard from her residents. He said if it is supported by the residents and the committee does not have a problem moving the development back, even though it's his objective, he would defer to the people.

CMBR Kelly asked if there would be any trouble delaying two weeks to which City Administrator Moody responded there would not be.

MOTION: CMBR KELLY MOVED AND CMBR HILL SECONDED TO TABLE THIS ITEM UNTIL A REPORT IS GIVEN FROM THE PARKS COMMITTEE. (MOTION CARRIED 6-0)

MOTION: CMBR DICKENS MOVED AND CMBR HILL SECONDED TO APPROVE THE TASK ORDER FOR R PARK PHASE 3 IMPROVEMENTS. (NO VOTE WAS TAKEN.)

D. Approve 2021 Streetlight & Traffic Signal Maintenance with Black & McDonald

Public Works Director Scharff said that Black & McDonald has performed exceptionally over the past several years. The agreement they are proposing is to add traffic signal maintenance.

CMBR Faidley said there was a recent issue with the pedestrian crossing at 55th and Roe and could that be addressed by Black & McDonald. Public Works Director Scharff said it could be.

CMBR Kelly requested information on what Black & McDonald did for them last year. He wanted information on how many service calls there were and specifically what work they did. Public Works Director Scharff said their scope of services is included in the staff report. He also said they do monthly night patrols to ensure that streetlights are working and functioning correctly. They also provide the City a 24-hour service. He did say that he will get the information on specifics and disseminate that to the Council.

MOTION: CMBR FAIDLEY MOVED AND CMBR REBNE SECONDED TO APPROVE THE 2021 STREETLIGHT & TRAFFIC SIGNAL MAINTENANCE WITH BLACK & MCDONALD FOR THE ANNUAL COST NOT TO EXCEED \$24,226 FOR STREETLIGHTS AND \$15,800 FOR TRAFFIC SIGNAL MAINTENANCE FOR A TOTAL ANNUAL COST OF \$40,026.20. (MOTION CARRIED 5-1 WITH CMBR KELLY VOTING NO.)

VIII. Ordinances and Resolutions

There were no ordinances or resolutions presented.

IX. Reports of City Officials

A. 2019 GFOA Award for Excellence in Financial Reporting

Ms. Jones-Lacy said this is the 26th year Roeland Park has received this award. They are also anticipating receiving the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award. She said it has been a pleasure to work with Roeland Park and continuing its excellence when it comes to accounting principles.

B. COVID Report

Chris Verbrugge provided an update for the second half of March. He said that Johnson County has approved a new health order to include a mask mandate. Governor Kelly's initiative for a state-wide mask mandate failed on committee but was passed by the Johnson County Commissioners. Mr. Verbrugge encouraged everyone to please keep wearing masks while they are out. On March 29th, they moved to Phase 5, which includes all adults ages 16 and over and are encouraged to get the vaccine. He said that #SleeveUpJoCo is still good to share your photos.

He noted that Roeland Park qualifies for funds under the American Rescue Plan Act and they anticipate an allotment of \$936,000. The City is working on determining what projects are eligible for those funds.

C. 1st Quarter Police Progress Report

Police Chief Morris said he is working with the new police clerk to create new dashboards and data items. They are also working to collect data from their DigiTicket system. With regard to UCR crime, it has been relatively quiet. He said that vehicle thefts continue to be high and they anticipate more incidents as the weather gets warmer. Chief Morris also reviewed the accidents and anticipates them to significant decrease along Roe now that work is complete. He provided arrests stats, citations and warnings, and various violations broken out by race and gender.

Chief Morris said he did not have a quarterly report from the co-responder or animal control but will forward those on when he receives them.

He said the SRO is doing well. He said that Miego is still taking some safety precautions with students and sporting events continue to be limited.

CMBR Faidley - asked location of injury accident. Police Chief Morris 48th and Roe only vehicles, no pedestrians

CMBR Rebne asked to see the breakdown on the DigiTicket in regard to race. He also said that they can see from the breakdown of stats they have it is not in proportion to the racial community in Roeland Park. He also wanted to see what percentages of citations were issued to each group from DigiTicket, and what number of citizens do not live in Roeland Park and where they are from, whether from Missouri, Kansas, and from what county.

Police Chief Morris said that DigiTicket is still formulating those statistics and it costs about \$500 for them to format that every time they request information from them.

Chief Morris said with the warmer weather the patrol bike and motorcycle will be coming out soon.

D. Quarter Progress Report - 2021 Objectives

City Administrator Moody attached a summary sheet for progress on 1st quarter in the packet. He said that 5 out of 12 items have been completed. They have reduced court fines, but they will not know the budget impact until they have a full year's worth of data. He said he is also looking to working more with the Historical Committee.

CMBR Faidley asked how Roeland Park's Economic Development Association is progressing. City Administrator Moody said they haven't made much progress on this. He said that Ms. Jones-Lacy was looking into developing a tool to use the leftover TIF increment but will work with the new finance director on this.

Ms. Jones-Lacy shared that the policy is completed as much as they can and she has shared with Jeff White, their financial advisor. She said this could provide a tool for future development opportunities.

E. Quarterly Progress Report - Strategic Plan

City Administrator Moody said they are keeping the initiatives under in chronological order. Those that have seen completion or progress are marked in green to make it easier to see. Mr. Moody said this is a substantial list and is a great effort in the strategies and financial investments the City has made. He said they would not be able to communicate to residents how much they have done if they did not maintain this great historical document.


Mayor Kelly said the Sunflower Medical building is a nice entryway into the City. He said he appreciates how the work aesthetic matches and they considered the impact it had on Granada and Roe. He noted it is open now before their May construction deadline. City Administrator Moody said a temporary certificate of occupancy has been issued for the main level. The second floor will be for Advent Health. All that services for the entire building are all in place. They anticipate issuing a permanent certificate of occupancy for their May deadline.

CMBR Faidley asked if the no smoking signs have been installed in the parks. Tony Nichols said he picked up the signs and he will get them installed as soon as he can.


Adjourn:

MOTION: CMBR DICKENS MOVED AND CMBR REBNE SECONDED TO ADJOURN. (MOTION CARRIED 6-0)

(Roeland Park City Council Meeting Adjourned at 7:50 p.m.)



Kelley Nielsen, City Clerk



Mike Kelly, Mayor