

GOVERNING BODY WORKSHOP MINUTES
Roeland Park City Hall
4600 W 51st Street, Roeland Park, KS 66205
Monday, March 6, 2023, 6:00 P.M.

- Michael Poppa, Mayor
- Trisha Brauer, Council Member
- Benjamin Dickens, Council Member
- Jan Faidley, Council Member
- Jennifer Hill, Council Member

- Tom Madigan, Council Member
- Miel Castagna-Herrera, Council Member
- Kate Raglow, Council Member
- Michael Rebne, Council Member

- Keith Moody, City Administrator
- *Open*, Asst. Admin.
- Kelley Nielsen, City Clerk
- John Morris, Police Chief
- Donnie Scharff, Public Works Director

Admin
Raglow
Dickens

Finance
Rebne
Hill

Safety
Castagna-Herrera
Madigan

Public Works
Brauer
Faidley

(Governing Body Workshop Called to Order at 6:48 p.m.)

ROLL CALL

CMBR Hill called the meeting to order. CMBR Dickens appeared virtually, and all other Governing Body members were present.

I. MINUTES

1. Governing Body Workshop Meeting Minutes February 6, 2023
2. Governing Body Workshop Meeting Minutes February 20, 2023

The minutes were approved as presented.

II. DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Discuss 2023 Resident Survey

City Administrator Moody said the survey the Governing Body will be discussing contains questions they ask every time to better gauge their progress and look for trends. There are also questions asked in other cities which provides for them a benchmark is an important component of the survey results.

Ryan Murray from ETC was attending the meeting virtually and was available for questions.

There was Governing Body discussion about the mini surveys conducted throughout the year where people can opt-in to participate after giving their information on the larger survey. CMBR Madigan said he has received comments that some people do not know where they can sign up.

City Administrator Moody said that portion is at the end of the large survey, but asked Mr. Murray if they could put that option towards the front. Mr. Murray said they would be able to do that. He said that the smaller surveys may not be seen due to email spam blockers, which could account for why those who signed up did not receive them.

City Administrator Moody stated they also follow up on social media to help promote the mini surveys. Mr. Murray said that while those surveys are insightful, they are less statistically valid.

CMBR Hill suggested they eliminate the questions about rating fire services as that is not something the City directly provides. After discussion, it was agreed to delete questions 1.9 and 1.10 relating to ambulance and fire, but to keep 5.9 as it relates to Johnson County services.

The Governing Body discussed the use of "NONE" as an option and decided to remove that and adding a 1.13 entitled "Other" to give an opportunity for survey respondents to make their own suggestions.

CMBR Rebne said that Question 4.4 regarding the City's management of development activity was not specific. Following Governing Body discussion, it was agreed to specify development activity as pertaining to residential, commercial, and economic.

Under Question 5 pertaining to Public Safety, they will add the Johnson County Mental Health co-responder to the survey questions.

It was further agreed to remove 5.7 and 5.a and keep street lighting under City Maintenance in 13.a.

CMBR Raglow suggested for 5.6, animal control, it should note that it is not a Roeland Park program, but services are provided through a contract with the City of Mission.

"NONE" would be deleted from Questions 6 and 11 and changed to "Other."

Regarding community events in Question 12, CMBR Hill suggested if they are listing those events, they should be prepared to have them reiterating if they are not ready to do specific things, then they should not be suggested. There was also a brief discussion as to the inactivity of the Engagement Committee.

There was agreement to omit Question 12 noting that past surveys have shown that residents do want to see more community events.

Question 17(03) would be changed to social media versus Facebook. There was brief discussion whether to include all their social media platforms. It was decided to leave it as social media as Katie Garcia, the City's PIO, provides detailed statistics in her quarterly reports to the Governing Body.

Glass recycling would be added to Question 22 as Number 2. Curbside recycling would become Number 3 and everything else would move down one.

CMBR Madigan expressed concerns with the Demographics portion of the survey, specifically with regard to primary household language and gender. Mr. Murray said those questions are optional. He said he does want to keep the race/ethnicity and household income questions to make sure that they have a true representation of the City.

CMBR Brauer said the U.S. census gives them good idea of the representation of their City. She also suggested adding a section to include pets as they are a large part of their community and is important information to know as they continue make improvements to their parks and green spaces, but also for codes. They need to understand the role they play in the family and in the community. Mr. Murray said they can add a section asking if someone owns a pet.

Mayor Poppa said regarding the gender question instead of “self-describe” it could be a non-binary option or gender identity.

CMBR Madigan asked CMBR Castagna-Herrera her option on the language question. She said that people have the option to just not answer if they choose not to. Mr. Murray said that some of the questions are to understand the City’s differences and preferences. It also provides a balance to give the City the most reliable data. He added that to some it may seem intrusive which is why those responses are optional. It was agreed to add language that answering the demographic section was optional.

Regarding Question 37, City Administrator Moody said the most standard current option they are seeing on government forms are M, F, and X as an actual category and not a self-description. The Governing Body agreed to use those choices for their survey.

City Administrator Moody also pointed out the uneven units in the household salary splits. Mr. Murray said he will rebuild those groupings to be more reflective of known statistics.

The discussion moved on to the special questions beginning with the tree survey questions. CMBR Hill said she felt those questions were a little biased and provided a rewording that did not seem so government heavy.

CMBR Raglow said she would like to see private property trees be listed in Question 1.

CMBR Faidley said she would like to advocate for an educational component adding in the tree statistics. She said the main thing against getting this passed is the people need to have more information. Those being surveyed need to understand if they do not protect their front trees, two-thirds of them could be lost. She spoke with the Prairie Village arborist who is also a Roeland Park resident, and she would like to get her to contribute to the City newsletter. Most issues surrounding the removal of trees seem to be from contractors and builders and Roeland Park has not regulations of what can and cannot be done. She said that education is key.

The Arts Committee submitted two questions in one, which allowed for two different responses and only one option to choose from. It was felt the question was to raise awareness of their gallery and programming and the survey is not an appropriate venue to get out that information.

There was additional discussion regarding the tree survey questions. CMBR Hill discouraged using language of regulations, but say they are creating a policy to protect their mature trees.

CMBR Hill added it is important that people don’t feel that something is being done to them.

Mayor Poppa suggested a special survey regarding the City’s arts program.

CMBR Faidley said the Community Center will be close to opening around the time of the survey.

There was a question about Roeland Park being described as a premier city in the cover letter. Mr. Murray said that Roeland Park is a top-notch, premier city in the metro, and he has no problem in saying that.

City Administrator Moody suggested for clarity changing the language to Tree Inventory versus Tree Survey, as he noted the trees themselves were not questioned.

III. NON-ACTION ITEMS:

No items were presented.

IV. ADJOURN

CMBR Hill adjourned the meeting.

(Roeland Park Governing Body Workshop Adjourned at 8:02 p.m.)