

**CITY OF ROELAND PARK, KANSAS**  
**GOVERNING BODY WORKSHOP MINUTES**  
**ROELAND PARK CITY HALL**  
**4600 WEST 51<sup>ST</sup> STREET, ROELAND PARK, KS 66205**  
**January 16, 2024, 6:00 P.M.**

- Michael Poppa, Mayor
- Emily Hage, Council Member
- Benjamin Dickens, Council Member
- Jan Faidley, Council Member
- Jennifer Hill, Council Member
- Tom Madigan, Council Member
- *Vacant*, Council Member
- Matthew Lero, Council Member
- Kate Raglow, Council Member
- Keith Moody, City Administrator
- Jennifer Jones-Lacy, Asst. City Admin.
- Kelley Nielsen, City Clerk
- John Morris, Police Chief
- Donnie Scharff, Public Works Director

**Admin**  
Dickens  
Lero

**Finance**  
Hill  
*Vacant*

**Safety**  
Madigan  
Hage

**Public Works**  
Faidley  
Raglow

(Roeland Park Governing Body Workshop Meeting Called to Order at 7:12 p.m.)

## **I. MINUTES**

*There were no minutes for approval.*

## **II. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

### **1. Appoint Project Rise Task Group Members**

Mayor Poppa recommended CMBR Lero and CMBR Hage to replace CMBR Castagna-Herrera and CMBR Brauer to the Project Rise Task Group.

All Councilmembers were in agreement.

CMBR Faidley said she very much appreciated Mayor Poppa filling out the questions for the racial equity lens.

### **2. Review Nall Avenue Phase 1 Design Concepts**

Dan Miller, the City’s engineer, provided design options for the Nall Avenue project. He said they are anticipating federal funds in the \$660,000 range. The planned construction is to be done in 2025 and will include some stormwater work, mill and overlay with portions of full depth work, curbs, gutters, sidewalks, ADA improvements, and the installation of Share the Road signs. They will finish with seeding and sodding. The total estimate of the project is \$1.03 million.

He was asked if there can be more Complete Street features on the roadway, including a multi-modal trail on Nall from 51<sup>st</sup> to 58<sup>th</sup> Street. He said they are extremely limited on right-of-way at the north end.

CMBR Faidley thanked Mr. Miller for looking into their request and his work on the project. She noted the street does get a lot of foot traffic as well as cyclists. She noted that adding the 8-foot path would make for safer multi-modal transportation but the cost to \$2.5 million is a huge increase.

CMBR Hage said she lives at 54<sup>th</sup> and Nall, which she acknowledged is a remarkably busy street. She said that everyone on her street would love to see the improvements but agreed that the cost is huge.

CMBR Hill said the design does fit in with the Complete Streets plan and she would hate to see them redo Nall and not include walkability for the City as it is a main thoroughfare. She asked how wide the road would need to be to add a bike lane on the street.

Mr. Miller said that currently they have 11-foot travel lanes. They would need to widen both sides of the road to add bike lanes and still allow for the sidewalk. At this point, the project is bordering on not being feasible.

CMBR Hill noted that in other projects they have looked at eliminating on-street parking and asked for opinions from her fellow Councilmembers.

CMBR Faidley said the street is dangerous and she is open to looking at ways to minimize the hazards.

Mayor Poppa wanted to know if changing course on the 8-foot path was an option and whether that would change the terms of funding. Mr. Miller said he did not believe so, but the project would be designed to meet the federal requirements.

CMBR Madigan said he travels the road a lot and there is a lot of traffic. He noted that on the west side there are a lot of short driveways and people do need to park in the street. He also would see an issue with a multi-use path when it came to cyclists and dog walkers. He added that the price is hard for him to reconcile.

CMBR Dickens also agreed it is a busy street and his car was sideswiped there. He too would love to see the 8-foot multi-modal path, but the price tag is big.

CMBR Hage said it is very noticeable when people who are not familiar with the traffic on Nall try to navigate the street. She said at times it is impassable in places.

Mayor Poppa asked City Manager Moody if they have identified a source for the additional funding if they go with the \$2.5 million project. City Manager Moody said they have the Special Street and Highway Fund and well as the Special Infrastructure Fund as a source. The projected balance of those two funds would be sufficient to cover the deficit over the next three years. He also noted that the Nall corridor is identified in their bicycle and pedestrian master plan, but it does not specify bike lanes in that corridor. He said there are other streets that run parallel to Nall that have less vehicular traffic that could be encouraged to become a route for bicycles.

CMBR Faidley said a lot of those parallel north-south options do not cut straight through which is why cyclists take Nall. She noted that MARC has a plan for MODOT to provide for unfunded needs, and asked if there was an equivalent program in Kansas. Mr. Miller said MARC has Transportation Alternatives funds that could be available.

CMBR Hill thanked CMBR Hage for input on her street and agreed it is important to have an 8-foot multi-use path.

CMBR Lero said as a cyclist, he would be less inclined to ride on a sidewalk and would continue to ride in the street on Nall. He finds that more comfortable than riding on an 8-foot sidewalk. He also said he hated to see them losing so many mature trees and asked if there was a way to put any trees back.

City Manager Moody said they offer to homeowners to place a tree in the location of the resident's choosing. They do that as a matter of practice, and it is usually part of the negotiation for the easement.

CMBR Raglow said this project is a huge benefit. She would like to see other options for funding, and asked Mr. Miller what would be the timeline for approval.

Mr. Miller said he will continue the work but asked the Governing Body to decide in the next 60 days. He said that easement acquisition is a substantial chunk of the time.

CMBR Hage noted that some of the trees that would be removed are Bradford Pear trees.

CMBR Hill asked if they really do need to take down all the trees. Mr. Miller noted that they are mature large trees, and the construction work would be cutting into the roots, and they could not guarantee the survival of the trees.

There was general discussion on digging around the trees and options to not interfere with the roots. The Governing Body wanted to continue this in a future discussion.

CMBR Faidley said she would love to see anything that would make it easier for their pedestrians.

CMBR Hill said there needs to be an easier way to get to Nall Park.

CMBR Madigan said his wife wanted him to ask how Mr. Miller was able to take a picture of Nall without any cars on it. Mr. Miller said it was in the middle of the day and people were people gone.

CMBR Raglow asked staff to find out what funding sources are available in the 60-90 days. City Manager Moody will identify those sources and bring the information back by the next Council meeting. He did not know about the alternative north-south routes but will reach out to the traffic engineer to see if there is something that is possible.

This item is continued to the February 5h Workshop for further information and discussion.

### **3. Review 2024 Legislative Platform**

Mayor Poppa presented the proposed legislative platform specific to Roeland Park. He said it is not meant to encompass every single issue or policy they may be interested in, but serves as a guide for the Council and community, and more specifically, as a guide for staff when there is a request during the legislative session for testimony on an item. Usually there is a short turnaround time for a response, and this would help staff to know where the Governing Body stands on an issue.

CMBR Faidley asked about the status of restrictive covenants legislation, which is something they have advocated for in the past. Mayor Poppa said it is still stuck in committee and has not had a hearing.

CMBR Hage spoke about the Good Samaritan law for overdose patients. She has been speaking with the county and knows this issue is on the radar at the state level. She said that Kansas does not have such a law and it is an especially important piece of overdose prevention.

There was consensus to add the Good Samaritan topic to their platform.

Mayor Poppa said he will add it as mental health and substance use prevention.

There was agreement to put this on the next Consent Agenda.

### **III. COMMITTEE MINUTES**

*There were no minutes presented.*

### **IV. ADJOURN**

CMBR Raglow adjourned the meeting.

(Roeland Park Workshop Adjourned at 8:08 p.m.)