

**CITY OF ROELAND PARK, KANSAS**  
**GOVERNING BODY WORKSHOP MINUTES**  
**ROELAND PARK CITY HALL**  
**4600 WEST 51<sup>ST</sup> STREET, ROELAND PARK, KS 66205**  
**February 5, 2024, 6:00 P.M.**

- Michael Poppe, Mayor
- Emily Hage, Council Member
- Benjamin Dickens, Council Member
- Jan Faidley, Council Member
- Jennifer Hill, Council Member

- Tom Madigan, Council Member
- Jeffrey Stocks, 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  
Stocks

**Safety**

Madigan  
Hage

**Public Works**

Faidley  
Raglow

(Roeland Park Governing Body Workshop Meeting Called to Order at 7:19 p.m.)

**I. MINUTES**

**A. Governing Body Workshop Meeting Minutes January 16, 2024**

The minutes were approved as presented.

**II. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

**1. Review Nall Ave Phase 1 Design Concepts**

Dan Miller, City Engineer, noted the Governing Body had a discussion at their previous Workshop regarding an 8-foot multi-use footpath along the Nall Avenue STP project. He was asked to look into outside funding to help support the work to be done. He said one option is to return the MARC funds, not do the project in 2025, and reapply for the 2027-2028 round of transportation funding. The downside to this would be there is no guarantee that funding would be granted again. He did add that MARC does rank more favorably projects that include multi-modal transportation, but again, there is no guarantee of that funding, and they will be waiting an additional two years to construct the project which does need street maintenance at this time.

Mr. Miller said they are not eligible for Johnson County CARS funding for the project, but a new program has been established through KDOT which is a cost-share program. He said the multi-use trail would be eligible for that. KDOT accepts applications twice a year and they reply relatively quickly. It is a 15 percent local match with a \$1 million limit. He said the disadvantage to the cost-share program is that it is extremely competitive and looks to emphasize job growth and retention. He is unsure how to show that on this project. He said they still need to acquire the easements for the project, but the timeline gives them an opportunity to find out if KDOT will help fund the project.

A second item of Council concern was regarding sharrows and bike accommodations along Nall. He noted that there is currently on-street parking on the west side of Nall. One option is Share the Road signage on Birch to 55<sup>th</sup> and then over to Maple and take it to Johnson Drive. They would need to consult with the City of Mission as that includes streets in their City. He said they are obligated to put

up Share the Road signs on Nall, but there is no reason they cannot do them for other routes. And if Mission is willing to do the same, there is no reason signs could not be in those other areas.

CMBR Faidley added that Maple is in Mission and did not see the signs as feasible since it is not their city. She said that once they get to 55<sup>th</sup>, it becomes a question of marking sharrows and she would need to think about that and whether they could even coordinate with Mission.

CMBR Hill said that they do have the money in the budget to pay for the pathway. City Manager Moody said the resources will be available at the time this project is to take place, and it does not cause other projects to be pushed off. CMBR Hill said she feels this is important and goes to what they value as important. The pathway is important to install down Nall as it leads to the park. She would like to move forward knowing they can afford it, and this should be a priority for them.

CMBR Hage said she has been looking at the trees and has a lot of concerns about the trees that would need to be removed. She added that it would change the landscape along Nall. She stated that she lives on Nall and already encourages her children to ride on Birch. She feels torn about the loss of the tree canopy that is an integral part to their neighborhood.

CMBR Madigan echoed CMBR Hage's comments. He recently drove down Nall and noticed several homes right up to the street. He said they are making a lot of assumptions that a bigger sidewalk is going to give them a bigger benefit. He was hesitant to spend \$1.5 million of work on an assumption. He also said there was no data that it will improve life along Nall. He has looked at both Birch and Maple and believes they should reach out to the City of Mission. He said they should also look at other routes in the City that could be share routes.

CMBR Raglow said she too struggles with this. She said it is a great idea, but the downsides she sees are the impact on the tree canopy and the cost. She's also struggling with Phase 2 and the cost of 51<sup>st</sup> to the dead end.

Mayor Poppa asked where the sidewalk would be in Phase 2. Mr. Miller said it has not been designed but the desire is for the east side of the street. Mayor Poppa said he is falling on the side of not the right time and not the right project.

CMBR Lero stated he was in support of the project but having one section of 8-foot path does not solve the problem as it does not go all the way to the park and requires taking out the trees. The sidewalk plan is making the 8-foot path an orphan sidewalk.

CMBR Faidley asked if they would be compromising Phase 2 if they use the funds. City Manager Moody said that is difficult to address. He anticipates for the second phase of Nall to the north they would apply for funding through STP, the same funding source as Phase 1. He said that is a more expensive part as the scope anticipates reconstructing the road, a sidewalk, and redoing driveways. They do not have an estimated project cost at this point. He cannot say whether they will need the \$1.5 million for the fund or whether they would be successful obtaining STP funding. Again, he was pleasantly surprised they received the funds for Phase 1.

After discussion amongst the Governing Body, the majority chose to stick with the 5-foot sidewalk plan.

City Manager Moody said Mr. Miller will proceed with the sidewalk designs on the east side. After the plans have been developed, there will be a review by the Governing Body and then they will meet with the neighbors.

CMBR Faidley asked if they can look into coordinating with Mission on signs and bike routes. City Manager Moody said they absolutely would and noted these fit in with the bike plan for the region as well.

## **2. Discuss Plantings for 2024 Roe Boulevard Landscaping Project**

Mr. Miller noted the Governing Body approved the contract for Blue Cedar Landscaping to replace the trees along Roe Boulevard. The decision was also made to remove the sod in the islands as they are difficult to maintain due to their narrow size. The plant suggestions given to the Governing Body included an effort to add and maintain color through the season on the islands and do not require a lot of maintenance. He added that he had a preconstruction meeting this morning and Blue Cedar is ready to order the trees.

Regan Pence, landscape architect for Lamp Rynearson, reviewed with the Governing Body the current plantings and layouts of the islands and showed his recommendations of what could be added.

CMBR Lero asked if there is something they can do other than mulch such as different plantings or hardscape such as cobblestone. Mr. Pence said that mulch is the most cost-effective and he was to focus on items that were also relatively low maintenance.

City Manager Moody said that the additional plantings along Roe Boulevard and in their parks has been substantial over the last few years. He reminded the Governing Body of the reports from Public Works on the hours that are dedicated to maintaining those plantings. He said they are not trying to increase the time Public Works spends maintaining the City's landscaping. City Manager Moody also said he is not opposed to cobblestones but asked that they remember the size and the possibility of them ending up in the street.

The Governing Body discussed the several types of planting options they were presented as well as the use of mulch and possibly cobblestones.

City Manager Moody said they do have extra funds available in the TIF 1 fund and that no major project has been identified for use of those funds. He again cautioned the Governing Body to consider what is placed in the medians and the impact it has on the manpower in the Public Works Department.

CMBR Faidley said as liaison to the Arts Committee, she could ask them if they were interested in putting art in the median again as they have had it there before. She said it adds a visual interest where there are no plants. She said the committee does have several pieces that do not have a location for placement as of yet.

CMBR Hill said she appreciates the clumping of plants. She also noted that the plants around the northern sign into the City are sporadic. She liked what is planted there and asked if they will fill in. And if they do, they will not need to add in as much mulch.

Mr. Pence said they will not grow to be large plants.

CMBR Hill recommended grass types that do not need to be mowed such as mondo grass. She asked from a sustainability lens what green effect would there be by adding cobblestones. Mr. Pence said that from a heat island perspective it would not have a significant effect as they have an asphalt road. He also noted that they would be adding prairie dropseed which is a clump grass, and the other plantings are also lower maintenance.

CMBR Dickens said he does not like the brown mulch for the median and would like to see art put back, but following further discussion could see the benefit when the trees are planted and in bloom.

Mayor Poppa said he does enjoy the stark surface noting that they will have trees with the green along the parkway which is a good feel without junking it up underneath. Mr. Pence said they can always come back and put in more trees or plantings.

CMBR Hage asked what steps they need to take to move forward and would it be viable for Council to spend X-amount of dollars and get recommendations based on that amount.

Following further discussion of plant options, the Council agreed to move forward with what they have now and to ask the Art Committee for their input on art placement. They noted that they can always change that at a later time.

City Manager Moody said they would also present some cobblestone renderings.

CMBR Hill said they should just let the plants grow in and see if they want to do anything later.

### **3. Discuss Limitations on 2025 Objectives**

City Manager Moody asked if the Governing Body would like to self-impose objectives or set a budget limit on the development of the 2025 objectives.

CMBR Raglow said she is open to limiting it to one objective per Councilmember.

CMBR Dickens agreed as they already have a weighty list. He asked about being given the opportunity to pair with another Councilmember for an objective.

CMBR Hill said she was curious why they would need limitations. She didn't know that the Councilmembers needed a budget limit and could present their suggestions and they could discuss and decide what they wanted.

CMBR Faidley noted when they were short-staffed it was difficult to do a full slate of objectives and that people did get together and also with the committees worked collaboratively on an objective.

Mayor Poppa has supported one per Governing Body member in the past. He said that even when they are fully staffed it is almost impossible to accomplish everything in one year. He would be in favor of limiting to nine from the Governing Body as a whole and then evaluate them as a body on the merits.

CMBR Hage asked if they have ever discussed a budget for objectives recognizing that different things come from different budget areas. City Manager Moody said they have not generally set a limit on objectives in total or individually.

CMBR Faidley said she believes staff enjoys seeing their ideas and coming back to the Governing Body which ones they can realistically do.

City Manager Moody said most of the big-ticket projects are already capital projects and the objectives submitted by the Governing Body for the most part have been reasonable.

CMBR Hage asked if something isn't captured at that moment on the objectives, is there an opportunity to bring an item forward to an agenda throughout the year.

City Manager Moody said they have had items come up that would have been great objectives, but were not at the forefront at the time, but those items have moved through Workshop and the Council decision-making process. He said that can at times challenge staying on track with the identified objectives.

CMBR Madigan said he remembered once someone had 27 different items. They have also had several big-ticket objectives come through but after discussion, it was decided they do not need it that year. He said the Council has policed itself well. He does see a problem where people are afraid to speak up against someone's idea because they are afraid their idea will be shot down. He did not see a reason to limit anything as they have all taken the objectives reasonably and have been doing a rather good job.

CMBR Dickens also noted they do not need to submit something. He agrees they have policed themselves well and does not want to put a lot of work on City staff and suggests one objective per Councilmember and one per ward.

CMBR Hill said she does not want to limit their ideas to come up with creative things and would like for them to generate as many ideas as possible.

Mayor Poppa said these are not pet projects, but they do have residents speaking with them and a lot of objectives come as a result of those conversations. He felt that limiting the objectives restricts the voice of the residents and he doesn't want to limit that engagement. He recommended keeping it the same as last year and for them to continue to use their common sense.

CMBR Raglow said they have done a good job as a Governing Body policing themselves and they do hold each other accountable. She said they need to be realistic and considerate of staff's time and agreed with CMBR Hill that they do not want to feel limited in what they can pick and choose on what they put in place while also being cognizant of the limitations.

City Manager Moody said he receives the submittals, reviews them, asks any questions if he has any, and makes sure the justifications are hitting some of the questions that would be raised. He wants to make certain the objective is refined enough and there is enough information for those who will be deciding on it. They will be presented at Workshop for discussion of the implementation process and the budget. To date, they have only broken up objectives in two or three phases and have never said they are not going to do it because it is too expensive.

CMBR Hill said they approved things that they nixed later on because they were too expensive or for other reasons. She suggested Councilmembers keep a notebook to remember what they have put forward and what the status or decision is.

Following the discussion, the Governing Body decided to continue to govern themselves in the objective process.

### **III. NON-ACTION ITEMS**

*There were no minutes presented.*

### **IV. ADJOURN**

CMBR Raglow adjourned the meeting.

(Roeland Park Workshop Adjourned at 8:34 p.m.)