



October 29, 2024 RP DEI Committee- Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Carrie, Jennifer, Emily, Haile, Jeff, Roginia

Other Present:

Members Absent: Harold

- Follow up from last month's business
 - Approve [September minutes](#)
 - *Emily motioned to approve, Haile seconded*
- [City/Council Updates and Follow-up](#)- read September sections. Time for questions.
 - *The council reviewed September updates, allowing time for questions. The Nall Park Master Plan included a discussion on accessible playgrounds, though the path to Boulevard Apartments and Nall Park was not addressed. Discussion on Chapter 5 of the Fireworks Code was postponed to the next meeting. Grant program updates were also covered, including adjustments to the Property Tax Assistance program, now setting income limits at 80% of 2024 HUD rates, with properties capped at 125% of the median household income. The NHN grant program was revised to permit only one grant every three years. Finally, there was a push for improved marketing and awareness, emphasizing the need for accessible and translated application forms.*
- Updates from last month
 - *During the Johnson County DEI Committee update, Haile announced plans to present the 2025 action plan to the commission next week. The recent Trunk or Treat event was successful, with over 60 flyers distributed and new committee interest generated through city communications and social media. Jennifer shared insights from the Welcoming Cities Lunch & Learn, highlighting how Gardner and Dodge City, with majority Hispanic populations, have adapted communication strategies to improve engagement. Welcoming Cities certification efforts require significant investment but offer tools the committee could utilize. Emily and Carrie shared feedback on the recent implicit bias training, noting that while insightful, the session could benefit from increased interactivity.*
- Reappointment: Please email Kelley Nielson at knielsen@roelandpark.org to be reappointed for 2025.
- November/December meeting dates: *The Committee decided on a December 10th meeting in a social meeting (e.g. dinner out).*

Goal 2: Open lines of communication with each section of Roeland Park's community:

- Reminder to add items to the [Comms Google Doc](#) for November social media, Dec/Jan Roeland Parker (due Nov 4th)

- November social/email ideas included Native American Heritage Month, Trans Awareness Month and Veterans Day, along with some related events.
- Dec/Jan Roeland Parker ideas included celebrating all year-end holidays, not just Christmas (e.g. Hannukah & Kwanzaa spotlights too); Carrie sharing a counseling activity around the festival of lights; Another call to action for committee members in the new year.

Goal 1: Assess city council initiatives with an equity lens

- Historical Committee Land Acknowledgement
 - Carrie shared the final Land Acknowledgement statement from the Historical Committee. The focus is to inform and affirm that RP has Indigenous relationships in our history. Given this focus, Haile raised the question- should it be called something other than Land Acknowledgement then? Perhaps Land History? The DEI Committee does not want to slow this process but will share this feedback with the Historical Committee and possibly seek Curtis' input.
- [City Code Chapter 8 Articles 1-6](#)
 - DEI Committee feedback is captured in the table below
- [Council Equity Questions](#)
 - Rubric for council/staff- 2 questions
 - DEI Committee feedback is captured in the table below

Committee Feedback For City Council

<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Land Acknowledgement</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● With the focus being to inform and affirm that RP has Indigenous relationships in our history, should it be called something other than Land Acknowledgement? (e.g. Land History?)
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>City Code: Article 8, Chapters 1-6</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Section 3, Line E- All grass or weeds or other unsightly vegetation not usually cultivated or grown for domestic use or to be marketed or for ornamental purposes; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ See if Sustainability committee wants to review this ● Sec. 8-304. Right of Entry. The public officer has the right of access and entry upon private property at any reasonable time for the purpose of making inquiry and inspection to determine if a nuisance exists. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ This seems concerning- provide more specific procedures for right of entry ● Sec. 8-305. Order of Violation. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Provide notices in Spanish and add call out for support with translating ● Sec. 8-307. Failure to Comply; Penalty. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Remove mention of imprisonment ● Sec. 8-502. Anti-Rodent Construction. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Confirm these controls are safe & up-to-date (poison consideration for humans, pets) ● Sec. 8-605. Determining Condition of Structure. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Is there any support for residents in place for really extreme unfit structures? (E.g. temporary housing) ○ Propose to remove "morals" from intro paragraph ○ Walls, sidings or exteriors of a quality and appearance not commensurate with the character of the properties in the neighborhood;

- These seem pretty subjective and more about aesthetics as opposed to safety.
How much does “character” of the rest of the neighborhood matter?

DEI Questions for Council

- Top 2 DEI Committee Recommended Questions: **7 & 9**
- How will this action affect/serve people and places that are:
 - Low-income (consider: renters, shift work schedules, limited transportation)
 - Communities of color
 - Limited-English speaking
 - People of varying abilities (mobility, vision/hearing impairment)
 - People with marginalized faith traditions
- Has input from people most affected been sought?

Tree Ordinance (Funding specifically)

- \$25,000 for maintenance or trimming of trees
- Cap & match program
- DEI Committee suggests making this a pilot year?

Agenda Items We Didn't Get To in October Meeting:

- Collaboration with other committees (updates) - *didn't cover*
 - Art- Carrie
 - Sustainability- Harold
 - Aquatics Center- Reginia
 - Parks- Emily
 - Historical- already done
- Committee Feedback Review - *didn't cover*
- Upcoming Events: *didn't cover*
 - UCS Racial Equity Roundtable: [How to Create a Culture of Inclusion](#) on November 19, 1-3pm
- Future Items: *didn't cover*
 - Access to Banking
 - ADU as rentals
 - Collaboration with PV and Mission DEI Committee
 - [Welcoming America](#)- certification process