

CITY OF ROELAND PARK, KANSAS
GOVERNING BODY WORKSHOP MINUTES
ROELAND PARK CITY HALL
4600 WEST 51ST STREET, ROELAND PARK, KS 66205
August 5, 2024, 6:00 P.M.

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Michael Poppa, Mayor• Benjamin Dickens, Council Member• Jan Faidley, Council Member• Emily Hage, Council Member• Jennifer Hill, Council Member | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Matthew Lero, Council Member• Tom Madigan, Council Member• Kate Raglow, Council Member• Jeffrey Stocks, Council Member | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Keith Moody, City Administrator• Jennifer Jones-Lacy, Asst. City Admin.• Kelley Nielsen, City Clerk• John Morris, Police Chief• Donnie Scharff, Public Works Director |
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(Roeland Park Governing Body Workshop Meeting Called to Order at 7:23 p.m.)

I. MINUTES

A. Governing Body Workshop Meeting Minutes July 15, 2024

The minutes were approved as presented.

II. DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Presentation on the Nall Park Master Plan Update

Greg Van Patten from Lamp Rynearson provided an update on the Nall Park Master Plan. He said this was also discussed at Workshop meetings in April and May. There was also a site visit to the park where they received feedback, and they took a survey at the concert in R Park. Results were positive for an adventure playground that incorporates the hill slides and the use of the natural topography at the park. The thought was to add play features for older children in contrast to R Park that is designed more for younger children. There was support for improving connectivity into the park and opinions were mixed on the addition of a dog park.

CMBR Faidley asked for a definition of a natural dog park. Mr. Van Patten said that is using the natural ground and elements versus having artificial turf or concrete.

Mr. Van Patten showed a potential park layout with elements that was broken into zones. He also said they have applied for TAP (Transportation Alternatives Program) funding for ADA improvements at the park.

Mayor Poppa asked if removal of the roundabout would make it difficult to get out of the park. Mr. Van Patten said he does not know who is using the roundabout at the end of Nall.

CMBR Madigan said the plan shows to remove the roundabout and return it to greenspace. He also asked what a pump track is, and Mr. Van Patten said its purpose is for cycling. CMBR Madigan also noted that the tree in the roundabout was dedicated to him and his family, and the other tree is dedicated to former Mayor Marquardt and his family. He wanted to know what would happen to those trees. Mr. Van Patten said the pump track could go around those trees, and they would propose not to disturb them. If it is a concern, then they can be fenced off.

CMBR Hage said people go sledding at Nall Park because the grade of road is steep. She noted that cars get stuck in the snow on Nall and use roundabout to get back up. She recommended that they be more intentional with treating the road if they remove the roundabout.

CMBR Faidley asked if this plan had been approved by the Parks committee. Mr. Van Patten said this is an update for the Council and he has a schedule at the end of his presentation.

CMBR Faidley also noted that the pump track is to be located behind houses and that the area currently is mostly turf with art pieces. She noted the area is heavily used by daycare children and those in summer programs. It is not a greenspace that is not being used. She recommended talking to those who do use that area.

CMBR Hill said there is a pump track currently at the park and trails and are they in a state of keeping them. Mr. Van Patten said that those in Zone 1 do need maintenance. CMBR Hill asked if the current pump track in front of the trees is gone. Mr. Van Patten said that is up for discussion. Mr. Marshall added that the other area shown on the plan was voted to be a more popular area than the existing track location.

CMBR Lero said they do have a work plan for the trails. They do want to see a pump track because the trails are more advanced. A pump track gives people a place to learn and gain skills so that they can take on the more advanced trail.

Mayor Poppa said he is looking forward to hearing from the Parks Committee.

CMBR Madigan said he has spoken with several vets, and they do not like dog parks. It was noted that all Councilmembers except one were against a dog park. He said that most people do not understand the ramifications of taking a dog into that environment.

CMBR Hill said there are a lot of viruses found in a dog park, some of which can be fatal. She would like to see some research on how to clean up or protect from viruses at a dog park.

CMBR Raglow said she loves dog parks but does not want to see one in Nall Park due to the size. She recommended Shawnee Mission Park dog park.

CMBR Hage said she too is excited to hear what the Parks Committee would think of the plan. She was on the Parks Committee for three years and this plan is very much in alignment with what they envisioned for Nall Park. She asked if this plan is feasible to implement. City Manager Moody said they have \$1 million set aside for Nall Park improvements.

Mr. Van Patten commented that he does not have any cost estimates, but they will be brought forward when they bring a plan to the Council for approval.

CMBR Raglow said when she was on the Parks committee that they were leaning more towards the natural elements.

CMBR Hill commented on using the natural hills for slides, noting that Roanoke Park is a good example of how to incorporate those features into the landscape.

Mr. Van Patten showed the timeline with an anticipated approval of the plan by the City Council in September.

2. Discuss Tree Preservation Policy Following Ward Meetings

CMBR Raglow stated that each ward held a meeting to discuss the proposed tree policy with their constituents. She also agreed with Mayor Poppa that this is a topic they discuss a lot and at times it too can be emotional.

City Manager Moody said the redline attached to the agenda packet represents feedback from the residents. They have used the work and information collected to develop a sample ordinance to reflect those changes.

Mayor Poppa noted this is a brand-new ordinance adding there was a lot of good in the previous iteration. Current feedback has been incorporated in this new ordinance.

CMBR Madigan asked about the three-tree rule. Mayor Poppa said this deletes it from the ordinance and appropriately places it in the fee schedule.

CMBR Faidley said their current tree inventory is two years old, and the trees have changed. She questioned whether there should be an updated list. City Manager Moody said they use the GIS system for locating trees. He did not know if there is a cost-effective way to keep it current and acknowledged that they have not been updating it.

CMBR Raglow suggested they move the tree inventory discussion to another Workshop item.

CMBR Lero likes the three-tree rule but said that enforcement is important.

City Manager Moody reminded everyone this tree ordinance was developed for public right-of-way and front yard trees only as they are more visible and easier to identify. It was also to make sure that trees were not being removed unnecessarily for construction and addressed aging trees as well as tree maintenance and concerns pertaining to tree health.

Mayor Poppa reviewed the redline changes in the proposed ordinance.

There was discussion of a tree fund and CMBR Lero asked if this could be used for general maintenance or only for tree removal. Mayor Poppa said that is the question and noted if they can keep up with the maintenance, then they are not having to cut them down.

There was general discussion of the placement of new trees, maintenance, and the proper number of trees due to lot size restrictions.

CMBR Faidley would like to see fines going into a tree fund but that they also dedicate monies during their budgeting process.

Mayor Poppa continued reviewing the redlines.

CMBR Faidley asked how they could hold a developer accountable. If an ordinance is on the books, they will have to make sure they protect those trees and get permission first to take them down and/or replace them. Mayor Poppa said a lot of times to get around this the contractor will take a tree down or accidentally bump into it before seeking that building permit.

CMBR Hill asked if having this ordinance in place would prevent the tree removal from happening. Mayor Poppa said it would not, but it would require a notice that the tree is gone.

CMBR Raglow said they cannot separate the laws between homeowners and commercial, but could they consider higher fines for developers. Mayor Poppa said his understanding is they could not but there could be a triggering circumstance.

CMBR Hage said that Prairie Village has a scale for the construction being done on a property regarding trees.

CMBR Lero added that the percent of the disturbance is what triggers their rules.

Mayor Poppa said they could have that apply for every property where a certain percent of the site disturbed.

CMBR Hill said in the event of a tear down/rebuild, the fee would go to the homeowner who allowed it to happen.

CMBR Lero asked if there was any talk in this process before of stressing the need to get trees planted now to keep the tree canopy. He said if they do not start planting now, then they will have 50 years with only baby trees. He said they need to look at the life of their trees and start looking at that ahead of time. He said this could be a use of the tree fund. He also directed the Council to look at Kansas City's tree program.

City Manager Moody asked what Kansas City's mechanism is for renewing their canopy before its depletion. CMBR Lero said they are just planting a lot of new trees.

Mayor Poppa asked if Sustainability had a master plan in the works. CMBR Dickens said he did not recall but he would check on that.

CMBR Raglow recommended they discuss Kansas City's tree plan during their tree inventory discussion. Mayor Poppa said the ordinance needs to be in effect before a master plan is done. CMBR Raglow said they all go hand in hand together.

CMBR Madigan said that real estate agents are being discouraged from using the term "master" bedroom/bathroom and suggested using "primary" plan and they might want to look into that going forward.

CMBR Hill would like the Sustainability committee to investigate groups that would be willing to donate trees. She noted the Arbor Day Foundation has done things in Johnson County with more substantially sized trees compared to what is mailed to someone's home.

CMBR Faidley said she is the secondary on the Sustainability Committee and they have a saying that the best time to plant a tree was 50 years ago and the second-best time is today. She said there really is not a bad time to plant a tree, but they are looking at diversity for their area, but fall is the preferred time. She also noted that there is not enough supply of the “free” trees to meet the demand, and they go very quickly.

CMBR Raglow said they are in agreement the Parks and Sustainability Committees will work on this primary plan. CMBR Faidley said it is really a progressive plan to replace the tree canopy.

CMBR Hage noted that the Bradford pear trees are now considered an invasive species. She also said it is important to acknowledge the impact of poorly maintained trees and maybe that tree fund could help with some of those costs. She notes that Everygy is on a four-year rotation for trees but asked if the City has a plan for maintenance in the right-of-way.

City Manager Moody said they budget \$5,000 annually for right-of-way trees and trees on City property. Mayor Poppa said that most outages are because of backyard trees.

CMBR Madigan asked if they have changed what is defined as a protected area. Mayor Poppa said it is only up to the front of the residence and the side yards for those who live on a corner.

Mayor Poppa said he wants to get something to the City attorney to better identify their intentions.

CMBR Hill said that nuisance tree needs to be defined. Mayor Poppa recommended including condition, danger or will the tree fail to be included in that definition.

CMBR Hill also wanted to make sure people know that they are not forcing someone to cut down a good tree.

CMBR Raglow said a hazardous or high-risk tree should be included. Mayor Poppa said the condition rating would trigger the risk. CMBR Raglow recommended education around the rating.

Mayor Poppa said the education could include what the certified arborist’s rating system would be.

CMBR Raglow said that even after it goes to the City attorney it will not happen overnight. They still have Sustainability working through things as well as Parks. CMBR Raglow reiterated she is a strong proponent of education and would like to make sure they incorporate the feedback into the ordinance or education.

CMBR Faidley would like input on what is ordinance language and what is actually policy. She said that an ordinance is a structure and the internal policy is what matters.

CMBR Faidley said that things are evolving and the push 25 years ago for the pear trees is they are now invasive and taking over from native plantings.

CMBR Raglow said she is glad they are talking about this and taking a less punitive approach but would also like to spend time talking about how to get funds for the tree fund for that tree maintenance. She would consider supporting something in the budget for that. She also noted that not everything is ordinance related and becomes more policy.

III. COMMITTEE MINUTES

No minutes were submitted.

IV. ADJOURN

CMBR Raglow adjourned the meeting.

(Roeland Park Workshop Adjourned at 8:46 p.m.)