

CITY OF ROELAND PARK, KANSAS
GOVERNING BODY WORKSHOP MINUTES
ROELAND PARK CITY HALL
4600 WEST 51ST STREET, ROELAND PARK, KS 66205
May 5, 2025, 6:00 P.M.

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

(Roeland Park Governing Body Workshop Meeting Called to Order at 7:26 p.m.)

I. MINUTES

A. Governing Body Workshop Minutes April 21, 2025

The minutes were approved as presented.

II. DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Discuss Covered Bench Options for Bus Stops

Mayor Poppa opened the discussion noting that this item comes from an objective brought forward last year by CMBR Dickens.

Public Works Director Scharff said that staff reached out to several vendors to identify what options are available as well as pricing for eight of the bus stops in the City. He asked for feedback from the Governing Body options provided. He reviewed placement of benches noting that some would require right-of-way easements. He also showed them assorted styles and the options that are available. Of note was the Noblewins product, which is made with recycled wind turbine blades.

CMBR Madigan asked why the width fluctuates on the Noblewins product. Public Works Director Scharff said that the turbine blades themselves are angled.

CMBR Lero liked the idea of mixing styles. He said the Arcadia style is cool. And since it is smaller, it could be put in a lower ridership area.

CMBR Hill also liked the idea of using Noblewins. She said they look and feel different, and bringing in art is important. She believed the other options to be ordinary.

CMBR Hage also liked the design and found them attractive. She did express that they do not provide protection for those in a wheelchair or for a stroller.

CMBR Madigan asked if the bus stops are marked and City Manager Moody responded that they are.

CMBR Stocks said art is something to consider. He said that they are seeing an increase in shopping carts now that they have the bench on Roe in front of McDonald's and wants them to take that into consideration.

Public Works Director Scharff then reviewed locations where benches could be placed along Roe as well as what would be required for their installation.

Following his presentation, Public Works Director Scharff asked for input from the Governing Body on which option they preferred, how many benches they would like to see, and at which locations. He also asked if they would like to see waste receptacles added.

CMBR Lero asked what the additional cost would be to get the Arcadia style powder coated or epoxy coated. Public Works Director Scharff said that is already something that they do. CMBR Lero added that it makes sense to have a better surface for whatever they decide to adhere to it.

CMBR Dickens said he would be in favor of waste receptacles at each stop. Their goal is to increase ridership wants to give riders an option to throw away their trash.

CMBR Faidley also supports waste receptacles but recognizes that it will take additional staff time to maintain them. She inquired if there are considerations for someone in a wheelchair getting out of the elements or even accessing a shelter. Public Works Director Scharff said that some do have a shorter bench and could leave a wider area for someone to see refuge.

CMBR Madigan asked how many bus stops there are in the City. City Manager Moody said they have a total of 16 stops. There is already a shelter at the stop on Johnson Drive. CMBR Madigan said he would be in support of eight benches.

CMBR Hill said that Noblewins has one option that includes a swing. She inquired as to whether they could just use the shelter with no swing to make it more accessible. She said she loves the idea of this product as it goes with what the City stands for in that they are recycled materials, support sustainability and are good for the environment.

Mayor Poppa asked about the warranty of the different products. Public Works Director Scharff did not include that in his presentation but will gather that information and provide that to the Councilmembers. Mayor Poppa said that he also likes the Noblewins product but does not know if it is functional. He said the options are tall and intrusive and wondered about sight lines, especially if placed in front of someone's house. He noted that Kansas City has wrapped their standard shelters and maybe they could be asked about their shelters or they could find something else that is accessible and aesthetically pleasing.

CMBR Madigan asked why they couldn't mix the different styles. He suggested artistic designs for the business district and ones that blend in more for the residential areas.

CMBR Hill also wanted to reiterate that some of these shelters will be in front of people's homes and that they would probably provide their input.

CMBR Lero said it is important to provide riders with an ADA accessible shelter. He also said that Option #2 is the most intrusive and that it won't get the positive attention that they are looking for. He

also said the Arcadia style needs the bench as it is part of the structure and cannot be removed, but it is less obtrusive than Option 2 or 3.

CMBR Hage said the highest ridership is in front of businesses. Some, no matter how nice they are, will still be in someone's yard. She does not know if their ridership warrants a large structure when the bus line says it does not warrant them. They are walking a fine line encouraging the use of public transportation and they see spots that have no daily ridership. Her preference would be to focus on spots with the largest ridership. They also need to be thinking of all the people and all of the ages and cannot make a choice based purely on aesthetics. She also noted that an option would be for groups like non-profits to buy an advertisement or a poster to put in the shelter. She said there are other creative ideas they can look at.

CMBR Dickens said his biggest concern is that he wants some sort of covered benches for the riders. He loves artistic ones, but they are not ADA friendly. He just wants people to get out of the weather but wants them practical and usable by all residents.

CMBR Faidley clarified that the green dots on their map do not indicate that there is no ridership at those stops, but that there is no data collected.

CMBR Madigan questioned whether reaching out to businesses has been considered for their input or an opportunity for advertisement. City Manager Moody said they spoke to the businesses as part of their Planning Sustainable Places. They also were not in support of bringing the bus traffic off Roe to the side street.

CMBR Dickens asked the age of the information on ridership. Public Works Director Scharff said it has been a while. CMBR Dickens asked if Mr. Scharff could obtain more updated ridership statistics.

Mayor Poppa steered the discussion toward placement of the benches. There was consensus to have a shelter in front of Sunflower Medical and in front of those businesses that have the highest ridership. They agreed to prioritize those and the business district in general.

CMBR Hage asked if they were using cost or ridership numbers as the deciding factor. Mayor Poppa said that ridership is the priority and then costs for up to eight stops.

All Councilmembers agreed on having waste receptacles. Staff will reach out to KCATA to get up-to-date data on ridership at all locations. Public Works Director Scharff will also look for a more utilitarian design that can be retrofitted.

Public Works Director Scharff asked if the Governing Body wants a uniform structure or something that has a bench affixed with an open spot or just a shelter and the ability to add benches. The priority is to get a cover first with an ability to add benches later.

CMBR Faidley expressed concern about the Handi-Hut's one year warranty and wanted to see others.

Public Works Director Scharff said he is not advocating for any one style, but did want to point out that with Noblewins, all the special pricing goes away as of May 31st. If they went for eight pieces, it would increase their discount to 20 percent.

There was agreement to place this item on New Business at the May 19th City Council meeting.

III. COMMITTEE MINUTES

There were no committee minutes attached.

IV. ADJOURN

Mayor Poppa adjourned the meeting.

(Roeland Park Workshop Adjourned at 8:18 p.m.)