

**CITY OF ROELAND PARK, KANSAS
GOVERNING BODY WORKSHOP MINUTES
ROELAND PARK CITY HALL
4600 WEST 51ST STREET, ROELAND PARK, KS 66205
March 17, 2025, 6:00 P.M.**

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

- Matthew Lero, Council Member
- Tom Madigan, Council Member
- Kate Raglow, Council Member
- Jeffrey Stocks, Council Member

- Keith Moody, City Administrator
- Jennifer Jones-Lacy, Asst. City Admin.
- Kelley Nielsen, City Clerk
- Cory Honas, Police Chief
- Donnie Scharff, Public Works Director

(Roeland Park Governing Body Workshop Meeting Called to Order at 7:17 p.m.)

I. MINUTES

A. Governing Body Workshop Minutes March 3, 2025

The minutes were approved as presented.

II. DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Discuss Pilot Program for Additional Engagement Through a New Platform Called Rep'd

Ms. Jones-Lacy introduced a new platform reviewed by staff to increase community engagement. This would be linked to the City's website and gives them the ability to post videos to answer commonly asked questions. There would be a three-month pilot program after which time they could decide whether to add this permanently.

Mark Friese, co-founder of Rep'd, introduced himself and gave information on his background to the Governing Body. The company Rep'd is short for Represented and is powered by AI. The program provides staff with back-end analytics and can provide custom pages for the City. This will be accessible to all residents as no log-in or app download is required. It has also been designed so that staff can quickly create and upload videos to answer questions submitted by the community, or also to provide information they want the residents to have.

CMBR Stocks asked if the AI is trained in City specific policies and ordinances. Mr. Friese said it is trained exclusively on the City, their website, and documents. It is not given unlimited access to the outside.

CMBR Raglow asked if there is a limit on how many videos can be uploaded. Mr. Friese said there is no limit on the number or recording lengths of videos and is an all-inclusive program. Studies have found that if a video is longer than two minutes, people will not watch it. Also, the speed of the video cannot be adjusted. CMBR Raglow asked if someone submits a question would they get a response when it is answered. Mr. Friese said the resident will get a notification when it is answered. Also, the AI can be customized for their community. And if a question is submitted and another resident has the same question, they too can opt to be notified when an answer is published.

Ms. Jones-Lacy said this item is within the City Manager's purview, but staff wanted the Governing Body to see it as they see value in it. The cost would be \$500 a month for the remainder of the year. If they choose to continue with the program, it will be \$1,000 per month in 2026.

There was majority consensus to move forward with Rep'd for the probationary period.

2. Review and Preliminary Approval of 2026 Objectives

City Manager Moody presented the 2026 objectives and asked for input from the Governing Body.

A. Keep Our Community Safe & Secure

1. Place Solar-Powered, Motion-Activated, Flashing Stop Signs at Three Intersections to Increase Safety

Mayor Poppa asked CMBR Madigan if he would be amenable to add additional dollars to this item before it is implemented to do a study to determine what the best practices are in this situation.

CMBR Madigan said this is not a traffic calming measure. He said the three intersections requested (51st and Nall, 51st and Rosewood, and 55th and Juniper) are dangerous as drivers are "blowing through the stop signs." He asked what it is they propose to study to make them amenable.

City Manager Moody said that one of the things Ms. Clayton would look at is the number of tickets that are being issued as well as accidents and their cause. He stated the request is not for constant flashing lights, which are not appropriate for a residential area, but these are motion activated as someone approaches the intersection.

Mayor Poppa stated he supports this objective but added that if there is an opportunity for them to utilize a best practice, then maybe they can find out through a study if there is a better and safer measure. He said a study does not negate this as they all want to find the best solution.

CMBR Faidley asked for clarification as these are all four-way stops. She asked if CMBR Madigan was proposing the signs for the east-west traffic. CMBR Madigan concurred that is what he is proposing.

CMBR Hage stated she does not disagree with the locations but would like them to have criteria for deploying this type of measure in other locations.

The Governing Body agreed there was a benefit to further analysis for the intersections and to see all appropriate options.

2. Equip Police Patrol Vehicles with External Rooftop Emergency Lightbars

There was consensus to move forward with this objective.

B. Prioritize Communication and Engagement with the Community

1. Implement an Annual Committee Volunteer Appreciation Reception

CMBR Faidley stated this is a great idea to give recognition to their volunteers and show them that their contribution truly matters.

There was consensus to move this objective forward.

C. Improve Community Assets

1. Install Irrigation System in R Park to Provide Watering to Landscaping and Soccer Field

CMBR Hage stated she was glad to see this item and noted it is difficult to maintain this space. She said there would be more opportunities to use the field at R Park if it were in better shape. She would also like them to think about this as they work in Nall Park.

Mayor Poppa asked if there would be an annual maintenance cost associated with this. City Manager Moody said they do have irrigation at other parks and can incorporate this cost into the objective.

CMBR Madigan said this would help to take care of the park's landscaping and the soccer field so that it is enjoyable for everyone.

CMBR Faidley expressed concerns from a sustainability aspect. She noted that Public Works is watering during the day and from the top instead of at the roots. She sees water becoming one of our valuable resources in the future. She suggested a move from water dependent landscaping and incorporating more xeriscaping. She also questioned how much money is generated from the rental of the soccer field. City Manager Moody said it does get a lot of use, but they do not have a soccer league that rents it.

CMBR Raglow said the irrigation option makes more sense than having staff water in the middle of the day.

CMBR Hage added that the soccer field is not in good shape or safe.

Mayor Poppa inquired if there are irrigation systems that take advantage of a rain barrel type reservoir as the primary source for water. City Manager Moody said they could do research on the ability to design such a system and could incorporate that into the objective. Mayor Poppa agreed they need to move away from water, but they also need to maintain the park.

CMBR Stocks noted they did not water the native plantings which could not get established. He said that if irrigation is a way to prevent them from having to replace landscaping over and over that long term this is a better strategy. He also said that he likes the idea of being able to capture the rainwater.

There was consensus to move forward with this objective and to wait for more information on collecting rainwater for irrigation.

D. Advance Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

1. Develop a Monarch Butterfly Refuge to Honor Immigrants

City Manager Moody stated he recognized this as a facility, but the purpose is to convey the sentiment.

CMBR Faidley stated that the Sustainability Committee had the idea of the Monarch butterfly garden. They wanted to tie in the concept of migration. A final site has not been determined but they are considering either the east side of the Roe Library or near the overflow parking next to Roesland.

There was consensus to move this objective forward.

E. Provide Great Customer Service

1. Provide Additional Shade Structures and Seating at the Roeland Park Pool

CMBR Faidley asked about the fence modifications at the north end of the pool and expressed concern about using this for private parties as it is on the deep end.

CMBR Hage said it was her impression that this is a freed up space that is currently underutilized.

City Manager Moody said the fence enclosure used to house the blower, and the enclosure is no longer needed. The concrete pad exists.

CMBR Hage suggested dedicating one of the shade structures (cabana) to be for rent and they could generate income from that versus building a new party room.

There was consensus to move this item forward.

F. Cultivate a Rewarding Work Environment

1. Adjusting Elected Official Stipend

CMBR Madigan said he liked Option 2 with one exception in that the Mayor gets a 25 percent increase versus 17 percent for the Council.

CMBR Faidley said she believed the information used came from McGrath study, which shows they are a little behind on what they pay the Mayor.

Mayor Poppa said the same percentage increase should be applied to both the Mayor and the Council.

There was consensus to move forward with this item utilizing the same percentage increase for the Mayor and Council. They will determine specifics during a later discussion.

G. Encourage Investment in Our Community

1. Apply Art Element to the Covered Benches Added at Bus Stops in 2025

CMBR Lero said these would be vinyl wraps added to the bus stop benches that were recently installed. Mayor Poppa said they want to make sure these are not something that can be easily taken away. The wraps are customizable and would be maintained by the Arts committee.

There was consensus to move this objective forward.

H. Work to Implement Strategic Goals

1. Apply to MARC's Planning Sustainable Places Program for a Grant to Fund an Update to the City's Bicycle and Pedestrian Infrastructure Strategy.

There was consensus to move forward with this objective.

Prioritizing Objectives

Ms. Jones-Lacy said there is an option the Governing Body can choose to implement called Prioritize. They did not use it last year but suggested it might be helpful for the objectives. She reviewed how it is used.

Mayor Poppa said this is a powerful way to get real-time resident feedback. It would be helpful to see how the residents prioritize the budget objectives. The program can also be used so they can have online engagement during town hall meetings and informative meetings.

CMBR Hage said she likes this option. She recommends that when showing the cost of budget items, they let residents see what it is in relation to the City's full budget to put it into better context.

CMBR Lero agreed that when talking about an item it is expressed as part of the overall City budget.

Mayor Poppa asked how they would navigate to the page. Ms. Jones-Lacy said they would put in a link like they do for Tax Receipt and Budget Simulator modules. Mayor Poppa agreed that it is nice to see everything in context.

CMBR Faidley asked if there was any engagement on the modules. Ms. Jones-Lacy said they had not had a ton of engagement, but it was the first year.

CMBR Madigan liked that the residents would have the ability to use Prioritize.

CMBR Stocks said how to use the platform would make a great Rep'd video.

CMBR Raglow asked about a time limit for responses. Ms. Jones-Lacy replied that it is up to the Governing Body how they want to structure. In the Budget Simulator module, there is an opportunity to leave comments. CMBR Raglow said if they leave the Priorities open for comment after the Governing Body has taken a vote, it might appear that their opinions have not been taken into consideration. It was recommended that they can open comments again for the next objective season.

There was consensus to move forward with the Prioritize module.

3. Discuss Parking Restrictions on 55th Street between Shawnee Mission Parkway and the Roe Boulevard

Mayor Poppa said that 55th Street is pretty dangerous and expressed concerns about the increase in on-street parking once the multi-family unit is built on Fairway's side of the street. He also suggested that they look more at the bike-ped connections and would like to discuss getting ready for this project

by removing parking from the Roeland Park side of the street. It was noted that Fairway allows for on-street parking on the south side of 55th Street.

CMBR Faidley noted she was contacted by someone who bikes and lives in Shawnee and supports limiting the on-street parking.

CMBR Stocks agreed they would need to engage the neighbors in that conversation.

CMBR Raglow stated they first needed Governing Body consensus for this before speaking with residents.

There was agreement to keep moving forward with this and to continue the discussion.

4. Review Edits to Bike Ped Network Map and Discuss Updating Plan in the Future

Public Works Director Scharff said that City engineers are working on updating the network map reflecting sidewalks and bikeways.

City Manager Moody said the plan is for the updated map to reflect what has changed and what is planned for 2025.

An updated map was shown to the Governing Body.

It was noted they are proposing an 8-foot multi-use path for the south side of 51st in a 2026 CARS project, which is like the one on Nall. The Nall Avenue project reflects sharrows and signage.

There was agreement to table this to the April 7th meeting for discussion when more information is available.

III. COMMITTEE MINUTES

1. **Ad-Hoc Historical Committee Meeting Minutes February 27, 2025**
2. **Aquatic Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes February 11, 2025**
3. **Arts Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes February 5, 2025**
4. **Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee Meeting Minutes February 25, 2025**
5. **Parks and Trees Committee Meeting Minutes February 12, 2025**
6. **Planning Commission Meeting Minutes February 18, 2025**
7. **Sustainability Committee Meeting Minutes February 6, 2025**

All committee minutes are attached to the agenda packet.

IV. ADJOURN

CMBR Raglow adjourned the meeting.

(Roeland Park Workshop Adjourned at 8:52 p.m.)