

**DRAFT Minutes of Meeting of the Parks and Trees Advisory Committee
Of the City of Roeland Park, Kansas
May 13, 2009**

Chair Joel Marquardt called a meeting of the Parks and Trees Advisory Committee to order at 6:00 p.m. at the Roeland Park City Hall. Co-Chair Matthew Geary recorded the minutes.

Members present – Joel Marquardt Chair, Matthew Geary Co-chair, Megan England, Mike Foltz, Jan Greebe, Chris Handzel, Mark Lonesk, Mike Miller, Adrian O’Hara.

Members absent – None

Staff present – Debra Mootz

- I. Old Business
 - a. The April meeting minutes were approved.
 - b. No adjustments were made to the agenda.
 - c. There were no specific suggestions for the City Forester.
 - d. A discussion was held regarding the goals of the committee members. Each committee member discussed the goals that they set forth at previous meetings.
 - i. Mr. Handzel updated the committee on the parks plan.
 - ii. A discussion was held regarding the Roeland Park school site and the plans for turning it into a park, if the sale proceeds. The committee would like to meet at the park in the near future even if good seating and toilets are not available, if good weather is available.
 - iii. Mr. O’Hara and Mr. Miller led a discussion regarding bike lanes in the City. A map was shown with potential bicycle routes. There were no issues brought up with regard to the plan suggested, but the Committee did not endorse the plan yet.
 - iv. The committee discussed the importance of establishing connections between the parks in the City with sidewalks and bicycle paths. Mr. O’Hara will speak to the council about the importance of connectivity in the City.

- e. A discussion was held regarding solar lights for art. It was determined that the lights that were tested will not be suitable to light the art because they are a) difficult to secure to reduce possibilities of theft, b) they are not very sturdy and c) due to their delicate nature, they put undue stress on the Public Works Department to watch out for them.
- f. Ms. England updated the committee on council actions regarding the following topics:
 - i. Discussed possible recycling in Nall Park.
 - ii. Told of available funds for parks for 2010 (which were _____) and the importance of planning and pursuing a place in future budgets. She will keep the committee informed about upcoming deadlines.
 - iii. Gave a status report on the Roeland Park school site proposed sale.

II. New Business

- a. Turkey Creek Trail Corridor - Mr. Miller led a discussion about the corridor and provided a map to the committee, which showed the current plans for the Turkey Creek Trail Corridor which would run near the north end of Nall Park, but would not actually touch the City of Roeland Park. He noted that endorsement would only mean that we as a committee believe the bike corridor would be a positive amenity for our City and that, at this point, we believe connecting our City bike/trail system to this corridor could be a positive move. Mr. Miller provided the committee with a rough draft Resolution of Support regarding the Turkey Creek Bicycle/Pedestrian Trail. All agreed that the committee should not endorse a resolution until a final resolution is given.
- b. Art in R Park
 - i. A discussion was held regarding private funding / sponsorship of the Art in R Park program. The committee did not endorse any specific plan for private funding / sponsoring and discussed that private funding would be good, but that special considerations for a specific entity could have its pitfalls. The committee plans to study the idea determine whether private funding / sponsoring of the program will be beneficial.
 - ii. A discussion was held regarding the timetable for the next round of art submissions. Applications will be due July 18. The committee will make suggestions at the August meeting.

III. The next meeting will be held on June 10, 2009 at the Roeland Park School site (weather permitting).

IV. The meeting was adjourned at 7:37 p.m.