

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Parks and Trees Advisory Committee
Of the City of Roeland Park, Kansas (Annual retreat)
March 10, 2010**

Chair Matt Geary called a meeting of the Parks and Trees Advisory Committee to order at 6:00 pm at the Roeland Park Community Center. Megan England recorded minutes.

Members present- Matthew Geary Chair, David Slocum, Joel Marquardt, Andy Betts, Megan England, Jan Grebe, Kate McLaury, Trudy Nepstad (7 pm)

Staff present- John Carter

- I. Two additions to the agenda were added: 1) retention of a portion of the former elementary school for the purpose of a shelter 2) separation of Art in R Park from the Parks and Trees Advisory Committee
- II. Two modifications to the February 10th meeting were made and minutes were approved pending those changes. Changes: VI.a- Mike Foltz will have an update at the March meeting rather than February.
- III. Introductions
 - a. Members in attendance gave a brief introduction of their personal and professional backgrounds
 - b. Goals- (discussed at the end of the meeting)
- IV. Kansas Open Meetings Act: importance of understanding and adhering to the KOMA was discussed. It was stated as a committee of 11, not more than five members can meet and discuss Park issues outside of a public meeting. This includes all modes of communication including email streams. Should a member of the committee want/need to communicate to the entire body, city staff is happy to pass along the information for them.
- V. Councilmember England gave brief updates to the Council: 1) the property formerly known as Roeland Park Elementary is now protected from development by ordinance. Any new proposals for development would need to go before a vote of the people before the sale is approved by the governing body 2) The Council is in the process of searching for a 3rd party to conduct a Master Plan for the new park and for a company to raze the former school building at the site 3) The issue of the Nall Park Master Plan was brought up at the last Council meeting. Perhaps the Parks Committee should put it on an upcoming agenda for discussion
- VI. Roeland Park will be recognized on March 25th for its merit in Tree City USA. The award ceremony is out of town. If possible, it would be nice if a

member of the Committee could attend. At the time of the meeting, it did not look promising that anyone would be able to.

- VII. (Addition #1) Joel Marquardt made the suggestion to the Committee that before demolition of the building at the new park take place that we consider retaining a portion to use for a shelter. He brought drawings as visual aids. Comments from the committee included: 1) it would be nice to allow this element to be considered by residents throughout the Master Plan process, but that would mean maintaining the entire building through that process and cost unbudgeted taxpayer money to do so 2) the Master Plan process should be allowed to work with a clean slate and not begin with a structure already in place 3) to create a shelter with the same structural integrity as the current building offers would cost a large amount of money 4) thousands of people have personal ties to the building and keeping a portion of it would be a great way to create a unique character to the property as well as respect the history of the property 5) the majority of the Council would not support spending the additional money to keep the building “alive” for any longer than it already has to 6) the proposed idea is not visually pleasing 7) residents will not be satisfied until the entire building is razed 8) there will be upfront costs to retaining the building and converting it into a shelter- we don’t know if that is where we want the small amount of initial money we may or may not have for park improvements to go because the Master Plan processes has not been finalized at this point.

After a large amount of discussion, the Parks Committee ultimately decided against making a formal recommendation of the idea to the Council.

- VIII. (Addition #2) Megan England and Joel Marquardt discussed the idea of separating Art in R Park from the Parks Committee to another committee. Comments from the Committee included: 1) the project is so large that it takes up an extraordinary amount of time of the Parks Committee 2) currently, both Parks and Art in R Park are suffering from a lack of sufficient time and effort 3) many of those on the Parks Committee have no interest in the Art in R Park program and the interests they do have passion and talent for are taking a back seat to the program 4) Megan England and Joel Marquardt took on most of the work for the program in the first place and therefore would think it appropriate if it moved off of the Committee 5) Mr. Marquardt does not have enough time to concentrate on both committees and would be willing to step down from Parks to focus on Art in R Park 6) with the new park and possibly the park on Juniper coming to fruition, Parks will be needing to focus as much time as possible building them up 7) Art in R Park would like to continue to collaborate with Parks to help choose locations for the temporary and long term placement of public art.

After a large amount of discussion, the Parks Committee decided unanimously that it was in the best interest of both parties to separate.

- IX. Mike Foltz was not in attendance to summarize his work on the Public Art Assessment. However, due to discussions immediately preceding this agenda item, it was decided that it was unnecessary to discuss in future Parks meetings. Same for agenda discussion topic: Bicycle Safety Theme
- X. Chris Handzel was not in attendance to help discuss/introduce the Parks Master Plan for the new members of the Committee. Also, time was running short, therefore this agenda item was not discussed and will be brought up at a future meeting.
- XI. The Master Plan Process for the new park was briefly discussed. The process that Nall Park went through was discussed which included a steering committee that was made up of all of the Parks Committee as well as a few members of Council and a few other residents. We would not be sure that this upcoming process would follow the same protocol; however, the Committee could be confident that we would have a strong voice throughout the process.
- XII. Goals: Megan England had a number of goals she would like the Committee to address and/or champion in 2010. She was the only member who listed any goals. They were: 1) create a “recreation” portion of the committee that comes up with programming (events) for the parks 2) revisit the proposed Nall Park Master Plan that was never approved by the Council 3) continue to build a stronger relationship between the Committee and the Council by having a member of the Committee attend and report at one Council meeting a month, summarizing the current focus of and answering questions regarding the minutes to the Committee. Personal face time with different members of Parks is an important means of creating a strong working relationship between the two entities. 4) Continue working towards a workable green space below the water tower on the northeast side of the city 5) beautification of Roe 6) improvements to RP parks and formal adoption of and implementation of the Parks Master Plan 7) make regular recommendations to the Council
- XIII. Mr. Geary adjourned the meeting at 8:00 p.m.