

**CITY OF ROELAND PARK, KANSAS  
CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
ROELAND PARK CITY HALL  
4600 WEST 51<sup>ST</sup> STREET, ROELAND PARK, KS 66205  
August 7, 2023, 6:00 P.M.**

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Michael Poppa, Mayor</li><li>• Trisha Brauer, Council Member</li><li>• Benjamin Dickens, Council Member</li><li>• Jan Faidley, Council Member</li><li>• Jennifer Hill, Council Member</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Miel Castagna-Herrera, Council Member</li><li>• Tom Madigan, Council Member</li><li>• Michael Rebne, Council Member</li><li>• Kate Raglow, Council Member</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Keith Moody, City Administrator</li><li>• Jennifer Jones-Lacy, Asst. City Admin.</li><li>• Kelley Nielsen, City Clerk</li><li>• John Morris, Police Chief</li><li>• Donnie Scharff, Public Works Director</li></ul> |
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**Admin**  
Dickens  
Rebne

**Finance**  
Hill  
Castagna-Herrera

**Safety**  
Madigan  
Brauer

**Public Works**  
Faidley  
Raglow

(Roeland Park Council Meeting Called to Order at 6:00 p.m.)

**Opening Remarks**

Mayor Poppa called the meeting to order. He provided an update on the officer-involved shooting in Mission at the QuikTrip. Roeland Park Police responded to provide perimeter assistance but were not involved in any gunfire. He stated a Fairway police officer was critically wounded. He said their thoughts are with the officer, his family, and the Fairway Police Department. He added that upon hearing the call for assistance, Roeland Park officers courageously and without hesitation responded to help. He said these brave actions are reflective of the men and women in law enforcement in our community and throughout this country who put on the badge knowing the potential dangers they may face in the course of their duties. (Officer Jonah Oswald later died from his injuries.)

(Moment of silence)

**Pledge of Allegiance**

Mayor Poppa led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Roll Call**

City Clerk Nielsen called the roll. All Governing Body members were present. Staff members present were City Administrator Moody, City Attorney Felzien, Public Works Director Scharff, Police Chief Morris, and City Clerk Nielsen.

**Modification of Agenda**

*There were no modifications to the agenda.*

**I. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Due to the large number of those wishing to speak, Mayor Poppa asked speakers to limit their comments to three minutes and reviewed the procedures for public comment.

*Public Comments regarding traffic safety concerns*

**Michelle Daugharthy** (5146 Buena Vista) Ms. Daugharthy said on July 15<sup>th</sup>, her daughter and friends had a lemonade stand on Buena Vista when tragically a car swerved onto the sidewalk and struck one of the children. They received a quick response from police and emergency services who, she added were very compassionate. She also added that her daughter was almost hit in the same area in the crosswalk in a different incident. She said the cars are reckless and speed on Buena Vista. She said the City was responsive in their requests for additional signage at the crosswalk but more needs to be done. The area is a common place for school children to walk. She asked the Governing Body to revisit the issue of speed bumps, tables, or a roundabout as she does not want to see more children hurt on Buena Vista.

**Jon Daugharthy** (5146 Buena Vista) Mr. Daugharthy added to his wife's comments and thanked the Council for passing the Complete Streets ordinance. He agrees with the concerns for residents along Buena Vista and looks forward to having the Complete Streets principles reinforced along Buena Vista. He noted that over 2,100 cars travel Buena Vista street in a day, which he attributes the traffic to an on-ramp being developed and Buena Vista being a cut-through traffic to Shawnee Mission Parkway. He too would like to see more traffic calming measures due to the children in the area and also to reduce the increase in property damage.

**Karen Grotewohl** (5049 Parish) Ms. Grotewohl spoke representing Parish south of the school. She noted that traffic overall has increased in this part of the City. She presented a petition with 25 signatures from those on her block that all are in support of two speed bumps on Parish. She also noted that Wells is another street that is presenting a traffic problem.

**Travis Daniel** (5136 Catalina) Mr. Daniel said the traffic is most challenging on Buena Vista and he too has concerns. He expressed his appreciation to the Governing Body for their response regarding traffic. Unfortunately, the measures taken have not done what they hoped it would also like the issue to be revisited for more traffic calming measures.

**Elizabeth Daniel** (5136 Catalina) Ms. Daniel also wanted to reemphasize the comments of those that live along Buena Vista and Catalina. She said the crosswalk and additional signage have helped, but does not address the issue of the number of cars, their speed, and distracted drivers. She would personally like to work with the City Council to find solutions to redirect traffic to main thoroughfares and not through the residential streets, so they will be a safer place for the children.

**Christie Brunner** (5005 Buena Vista) Ms. Brunner also wanted to bring more awareness to this area, noting that a large percentage of people are not going the posted 25 miles per hour. She has even seen people passing other cars. She thanked the City for putting up signs but noted they had been run over.

Mayor Poppa said that under his Mayor's Report, he would be providing an update regarding Buena Vista. He added that the safety of their residents is the City's top priority. Mayor Poppa said that after the recent incident on Buena Vista, staff reached out to their City engineers who will be bringing further recommendations back to them. The Governing Body will also be discussing what else can be

done at an upcoming Workshop. He said their Councilmembers can let them know when that discussion will be so they can be a part of that conversation. He also stated that they want to do everything they can to make it safer for the residents of Roeland Park. Mayor Poppa thanked everyone for coming out tonight and expressing their concerns and ideas regarding this area.

*Public comment regarding working definition of antisemitism*

**Judy Ancel** (via Zoom from Kansas City, Kansas) Ms. Ancel encouraged Roeland Park not to pass the IHRA definition of antisemitism and recommended they find one that is less politicized and more in line with American values. She said that this definition was brought forward to discredit anyone who does not support the Israeli government and would make any Jew or anyone in Roeland Park antisemitic by saying that Palestinians have a right to self-determination.

**Sid Shniad** (via Zoom from Vancouver, BC) Mr. Shniad said the Committee on Israel and Jewish Affairs launched a national campaign to adopt the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) definition of antisemitism because it explicitly confirms that antisemitism is antizionism. He is a founding member of Independent Jewish Voices Canada and advocates for justice and peace for everyone in Israel and Palestine and rejects the view that antizionism is antisemitism and therefore opposes the IHRA definition. He said that antisemitism is hatred and targeting of Jews because they are Jews and is a form of racism. The definition has no defense of Palestinians and is an infringement on the freedom of speech.

**Joyce Jackson** (via Zoom) Ms. Jackson said the people who created definition were trying to commemorate the Holocaust. She said there were two main dangers to the approval of the definition as it will be used as tool to silence criticism of Israel. She said that university academics will be sanctioned for raising the Palestinian narrative and it will also restrict free speech. The second problem is that weaponizes the idea of antisemitism. It criminalizes speech and the advocacy of Palestinians and those working in solidarity with them, which makes it difficult to attack actual antisemitism. She said she realizes the City Council has the best intentions, but asked them to please not endorse the IHRA definition.

**Joseph Hassan** (11329 King, Overland Park) Mr. Hassan said that he is from Egypt, an area where there is high antisemitism, and the idea is forced on them. After moving to America, he discovered through experience that this is completely opposite of what he had been taught. He asked the Council to adopt the IHRA definition as they are seeing a rise in antisemitism, and he is also scared for Egypt.

**Moussa Elbayoumy** (2200 Rodeo Dr. Lawrence) Mr. Elbayoumy from the Kansas Chapter of the Council on American-Islamic Relations called upon the Council to reject the adoption of the antisemitism definition. He applauded them for thinking about doing something about antisemitism, which he stated is a real problem, but he wants to make sure they do the right thing. He stated that adoption of the IHRA definition makes antisemitism worse rather than better. The IHRA definition is good on its face but puts a lot of restriction on the American citizens' ability to use their First Amendment rights in favor of Palestinians or in criticism of the Israeli government, which is a foreign government.

**Kyle Russell** (3509 W 48<sup>th</sup> Terr.) Mr. Russell said he supports his friends in the Jewish community in the rise of antisemitism in the United States. He said he has read the document and it does not state that criticism of the government is antisemitism. He said that holding the Israeli people responsible for what the government is doing would be antisemitism. He added that a large portion of the Jewish

community agree with the statement. It has also been adopted by the State of Kansas and the Johnson County Commission. Its adoption is a non-legally binding statement that cannot infringe on the rights of anyone. Mr. Russell urged the Council to support the adoption resolution.

**Jason Krakow** (5440 Belinder, Fairway) Mr. Krakow said that Roeland Park has been welcoming to them as Jewish Americans. He said he experienced antisemitism but not in the same form as his grandparents. He said they are also experiencing an unprecedented increase of antisemitism in this country. Mr. Krakow is the Jewish Community Relations Chair in Kansas City, and on behalf of the united institutional Jewish community, he asked that Roeland Park join with other local cities, the State of Kansas, states, and 40 countries around the globe who have adopted this non-partisan, most widely accepted definition that fights antisemitism. He said it helps to define what the hatred is so they can work together to defeat it.

**Lisa Bernard** (8215 W 99, Overland Park) Ms. Bernard said she is a board member of the Jewish Community Relations Bureau, a Shawnee Mission School District Parent Liaison and has been meeting with the district's DEI team to advocate for religious accommodation for all. She said she is committed to the fight against antisemitism. Her own children have experienced antisemitism because of their Jewish heritage and support of the Israel nation. She said she also resists the efforts to politicize the issue of antisemitism. And by adopting this IHRA language definition, the Council has an opportunity to stand up for the children and survivors in the community.

**Barry Kaseff** (6508 Overhill, Mission Hills) Mr. Kaseff said as a member of the Jewish community he is fighting antisemitism. He also noted that they have to have an armed guard at synagogue and at the Jewish Community Center. He said that passing this definition is important because it brings awareness and definition for those that don't know. The Jewish community cannot do this fight on their own and they need to address it where it is happening. He also added that the Jewish community needs to be able to define their own oppression.

**Neta Meltzer** (7604 W 140 Terr, Overland Park) Ms. Meltzer said that the IHRA is necessary for the community. They have yet to solve the problem, but antisemitism hasn't always looked the same and it is important therefore to have a definition that encompasses antisemitism. One form of antisemitism is antizionism, the delegitimizing of the state of Israel. Zionism is not anti-Palestinian, but is for the legitimization in their homeland. She said that antisemitism is not a disagreement with the government or its policies, but the belief that the state of Israel should not exist along with the erasure or connection to their Jewish homeland, and an exclusion of Jews in various spaces due to proclaimed or perceived identification as Zionists. She said that antizionism is antisemitism. She said the IHRA definition is needed as they have to be able to address when they do not feel safe.

**Sarah Markowitz** (7322 Washington, Kansas City, MO) Ms. Markowitz said she is the Director of Programs for the Jewish Community Relations Bureau (AJC). She said that Jewish students were surveyed as to what they were seeing in the schools. Eighty-nine (89) percent of students said they encountered some form of racism at school, and she provided the recent example of a Roeland Park student on Snapchat posting antisemitic remarks. The same thing happened in Blue Valley High School where hate images were posted. She said that 70 percent of those surveyed students experienced antisemitism views from students and teachers. She said the definition is their best tool and hopes the Council recognizes the need for them to adopt this.

**Orli White** (8212 W 97 Terr, Overland Park) As a freshman at Shawnee Mission South, she encouraged the passing of the definition as she has experienced antisemitism. In an Arabic class she was taking a map was shown of the Middle East and there was no recognition of Israel but only Palestine implying that Israel is not a legitimate state. She said this makes them feel othered and a target of harassment by erasing Israel off the map. She said that Jews know antisemitism better than anyone else and the IHRA definition is most accurate in its explanation. She said antisemitism takes on many forms and they want to know that their community is protected.

**Rabbi David Glickman** (14200 Lamar Overland Park) Rabbi Glickman from the Congregation Beth Shalom worked in partnership to help present the definition. He said that IHRA definition is unique in that all major denominations and movements have signed on. He said at the meeting tonight, they have been hearing from radical fringe movements that are antizionist in nature. He said that antisemitic attacks based on Jewish support is not unique. He said the Blue Valley Schools clubs exclude pro-Zion students. He asked for the Council's support as the IHRA has the support of a diverse Jewish group who are notorious for not agreeing on anything.

**Eric Jacobson** (Kansas City, MO) Mr. Jacobson asked for the support from the Council and said he felt the criticism had been addressed. He reiterated there is nothing in the language to quash free speech or speaking out against the Israeli government. It is to help identify what antisemitism is and that law enforcement needs those examples. He said that an actual crime has to be committed before this could be in effect.

**David Soffer** (8333 W 102<sup>nd</sup>, Overland Park) Mr. Soffer said he worked with Governor Kelly on passing the language. He has also worked with federal, state, and local government officials for the past 15 years representing the Jewish communities to governing bodies. He said the world turned a blind eye toward antisemitism and the Holocaust, but it is on the rise again. He said they need to fight back through education and discussion by using this definition. Jews themselves need to be able to define antisemitism based on experiences and what they have witnessed against Jewish people around the world. As leaders, the Council has the ability to stand with them against the hate.

**Emma Jacobson** (6220 W 121 St., Overland Park) Ms. Jacobson spoke to antisemitism in the community and specifically the shootings at the Jewish Community Center and Village Shalom. She said there is a discrimination of Jewish students from social spaces because of their religious connection to Israel. The IHRA language states the right to criticize the government. She did not believe they should be denied the right to self-determination to their ancestral homeland, which is antisemitic. She said this promotion of inclusion of minority communities seems to exclude the Jewish community and that being a Zionist is becoming a slur. Ms. Jacobson said she promotes education and a two-state solution. She said the definition is not about politics, policies, or the government, but about protecting the Jewish community.

**Bob Hill** (121 W 48th St. Kansas City, MO) Mr. Hill, minister emeritus of Community Christian Church and co-chair of the Martin Luther King interfaith service with Judy Hellman reminded everyone the IHRA definition is supported by 40 countries and the European union. The United States government has passed this as well as the State of Kansas. It is the gold standard definition of antisemitism and a guiding resource to help whether crimes committed are from an antisemitic bias. He said antisemitic acts have risen in the last several years to unprecedented levels. Since its adoption by Kansas, the criticism of Israel has not been squelched or criminalized in the state.

**Barbara Isaacson** (9008 Cottonwood St. Lenexa) Ms. Isaacson said she is a member of Resurrection Church in Leawood and a member of Strangers No More, a group of over 100 women who listen and learn about different religious beliefs. She said their group was a byproduct of the killing of three people at two Jewish establishments and there is a need to dispel myths about one another's religions. She encouraged the Council to support their efforts to combat antisemitism. She said when there is hate, racism, and injustice everyone needs to act. They need to listen to the Jewish community and support their request for a definition of antisemitism for their safety.

**Sam VonEnde** (10246 Conser St, Overland Park) Ms. VonEnde is an attorney who has advised the Constitutional Court of Jordan, and involved with the peace talks in Myanmar, and the Truth and Reconciliation Commissions in Liberia. She said she is heartened by the support for this language, but is disheartened by those actively taking the time to oppose the Jewish community's definition of antisemitism. They are looking for allies. It is disappointing to see organized opposition efforts to fight antisemitism. Ms. VonEnde said the opposition claims that the definition equates criticism of government as antisemitism. The conversation they are having is not about governmental policy. She also added that the IHRA definition works within the First Amendment.

## **II. Consent Agenda**

- A. Appropriations Ordinance #1025**
- B. Council Minutes July 24, 2023**

**MOTION:** CMBR MADIGAN MOVED AND CMBR RAGLOW SECONDED TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS AS PRESENTED. (MOTION CARRIED 8-0.)

## **III. Business from the Floor - Proclamations/Applications/Presentations**

### **A. Habitat for Humanity Update on Down Payment and Home Improvement Program**

Lindsey Hicks provided an update on the major and minor home repair projects. She said since April when they announced their partnership, they have had more than 72 inquiries. More than 30 of those inquiries were for the down payment assistance program. Of the 72 inquiries, 24 were outside of their scope of work. They identified 32 households with viable projects which are now going through the income verification. The final application component is a verification process for the workers to make sure they are creating viable partnerships. Five projects have been completed. Two are approved, one for a complete roof replacement and one for siding, paint and gutter repair. Projects include along with roof replacement, wood rot, HVAC replacement, and home repairs. She anticipates they will use all of the funding by the end of the year. She said that given the amount of dollars required, they most likely will have to find additional funds to support completion of the projects.

CMBR Faidley said there is obviously a need for this program. Ms. Hicks said the need is definitely there. They have not done any more marketing or outreach since their initial social media push. CMBR Faidley said they should look at continuing this program and discuss it at a future meeting.

CMBR Rebne asked what other sources of funding they have looked into. Ms. Hicks said they are having funding from the City but there is a possibility of CDBG funds and private partnerships.

Mayor Poppa saw that after the launch there were so many applications right away. He thanked Ms. Hicks for her administration of the program.

Ms. Hicks said the volume of applications is taking 60 to 90 days to work through, which is longer than they anticipated, while the money is being spent quicker than they thought.

## **B. 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Social Media Update - Katie Garcia**

Katie Garcia, the City's Public Information Officer reviewed the second quarter stats for the City's social media accounts. She said that Google Ads is new for Q2. They ran five jobs and two of them have been filled. The numbers look good with regard to clicks. Their social media accounts focused mainly on hiring, holidays, and proclamations. The email report shows a 50 percent open with most people continuing to access from a desktop.

The top posts in the second quarter were in regard to the immigration law change, improvements at R Park, and Habitat for Humanity. The City posted a wide variety of posts, and their audience numbers are up across the board. She said they are starting on a great third quarter.

CMBR Dickens asked for information about Threads. Ms. Garcia said that when it was introduced a lot of people signed up for it, but the user base has dropped off dramatically. She said it is something they could talk about though if the Council was interested.

CMBR Faidley asked if anything has changed with the name change of Twitter to X. Ms. Garcia said that nothing seems to have.

CMBR Raglow asked about the City's presence on Instagram. Ms. Garcia said they have 3,100 followers on Facebook with 112,000 engagements. They have 781 followers on Instagram with 12,000 engagements. Facebook is their main channel, but Instagram gives them an extra boost.

CMBR Rebne asked about her work on Project Rise and a collaboration with small businesses. He also stated he was not clear on how to engage Ms. Garcia if he wanted to make a post. Ms. Garcia said they will be talking about what they want their business engagement strategy to be for 2024. She added that CMBR Rebne could contact her or City Administrator Moody to make a post, but items need to go through admin.

City Administrator Moody said he would prefer the information flows through staff before going to Ms. Garcia.

Mayor Poppa asked in regard to the job postings if they were able to track whether an application was submitted. Ms. Garcia said it's possible, but it is harder to put in conversion tracking.

## **C. JCRB/AJC Presentation on IHRA Antisemitism Definition**

Gavriela Geller, Executive Director at JCRB/AJC, is representing IHRA on the working definition of antisemitism. Ms. Geller thanked the community who came to speak in support of the definition. She said she is proud to support the only nationally recognized definition of antisemitism that every single Jewish organization in Johnson County supports. She said there are always fringe voices in the community, but no other definition has support of the mainstream Jewish community. She said their experiences of antisemitism are a guiding framework and are important that officials and law enforcement have this definition as a guide for them in their work.

She also spoke to those who shared their current day experiences and said she was disheartened that any group would take the time to actively oppose efforts to combat antisemitism.

The conversation has been that about 2 percent of the U.S. population receives 60 percent of all the religious based hate crimes in this country. They are working for ways to protect the community when 41 percent of Jews feel less safe today and there are no points in the definition restricting speech or punishment. Antisemitism is happening and they need to do something which is why they need a definition.

She begged the Council for their support and again thanked the community for being there.

(The Governing Body took up the Consent Agenda)

#### **IV. Ordinances and Resolutions**

##### **A. Resolution 705 Adopting the IHRA Definition of Antisemitism**

Mayor Poppa thanked everyone who had come to speak and realizes it takes courage to stand up and make their comments. He added that whether or not the Council adopts the definition, it has nothing to do with politics. He said it is not a statement about the Israeli government, but it about protecting their community members and friends in the Jewish community. He said that antisemitism is racism.

He said that in creating a definition, they first need to identify what the problem is that they are seeking to define. What the IHRA definition does is it seeks to define antisemitism through the lived experiences of the people who are being discriminated against. It is a tool used to identify bias, to help understand motives, so they can address them moving forward.

CMBR Madigan said when he was in school years ago, he had Jewish friends that had comments levied against them and that it disturbs him 70 years late it continues. He said the kids don't think this up themselves, but that it comes from the home. He honestly thought they were past this.

CMBR Raglow echoed Mayor Poppa thoughts. She gave kudos to everyone who showed up, especially the teens and young adults. She said she is proud to support the Jewish community by passing this.

CMBR Brauer also thanked everyone for their courage in showing up and showing solidarity. It saddens her to hear the stories shared and also knowing it is a small fraction of what is actually endured. She recognizes the definition may not be perfect even though it is the most widely accepted. She said her apology for what the Jewish community endures will be in the form of a vote.

CMBR Rebne also appreciated the bravery of all who came and spoke, especially the young people. He said he understands the anxiety that comes with that. He said that while they want to stand with the Jewish community, he was moved and compelled by things recommended to him such as the Jerusalem Declaration of Antisemitism. He said one of their concerns is that it includes all communities and that no communities are harmed in the passing of it. If they pass something that supports the Jewish community, one of the things is to make sure it does not harm an additional marginalized community. He has reservations around the IHRA by things he has read from the Jewish Voices for Peace, and finds their argument compelling. He also finds Human Watch, the ACLU, the UN special rapporteur to Israel, and their speaker from CAIR all compelling as well as some of the other speakers.



He does want to fight antisemitism in Roeland Park and recommended another definition to the Governing Body if they would accept an amendment to what is proposed by IHRA.

CMBR Castagna-Herrera said she is from a marginalized community as well and has experienced racism daily. She said the stories heard tonight are heart wrenching. She is also aware of how it makes other groups feel like the Palestinians. She appreciates the Jewish community coming together for a declaration and she is very impressed. She wished that her community could come together like this.

CMBR Rebne moved to replace the IHRA definition with the Jerusalem Declaration on Antisemitism quoting, "Antisemitism is discrimination, prejudice, hostility or violence against Jews as Jews or Jewish institutions as Jewish."

CMBR Faidley said there are 15 points that go with the Declaration where the IHRA has 11 points. She inquired if the amendment would be the entire document.

CMBR Castagna-Herrera feels that the ACLU does not support the one we're voting on. She said it is good to vote on one that is supported.

CMBR Rebne said he did not have the 15 points memorized, but would read them into the record if asked.

CMBR Dickens asked for clarification that CMBR Rebne's request was to replace the IHRA definition with the Jerusalem Declaration on Antisemitism and CMBR Rebne said that is correct.

CMBR Faidley asked Ms. VonEnde if she had any insight that the American Bar Association was discouraged by the ACLU use of their definition.

Ms. VonEnde said the ACLU has discouraged adoption of the IHRA definition and references potential harm to freedom of speech. Unlike everything else, it fails to include a single reference in the document to an incident that is demonstrative of the claim, which the document lacks entirely. She said it is hard to point to incidents where the IHRA definition has chilled speech.

CMBR Rebne asked for comments from the representative from American Islamic relations as they gave time to the American Jewish Committee (AJC)

CMBR Hill said this is inappropriate.

Mr. Elbayoumy stated what has been repeated is only hypothetical, and that it does not criminalize free speech is totally false. There is no law saying if you do this you won't be punished. It only takes someone to be afraid to speak up that they would be ostracized. It is happening. There have been numerous incidents where this particular definition was used to suppress speech mostly on university campuses by students and staff where community college was organizing to speak about Palestinian rights and the conflict between Palestinians and Israelis. Two days before the event the university intervened and closed the event and banned the speakers from being on campus. This was at New York and California colleges. The Nakba event that Palestinians believe is a day that harmed them with the creation of Israeli independence was to commemorate and organized by a state representative. The Speaker of the House in Washington, D.C. would not allow the event on grounds of the U.S. Capitol as he believed it to be antisemitic.

Ms. VonEnde said the IHRA definition is not stifling. All it takes is free speech to be scared. She said anyone has the right to be as racist and outspoken as they want. If the general feeling of society is that racism is wrong, if you're disliked because of your racist views; that is civil society at work. She said they all have a responsibility to ensure that society is held to high standards. The Jerusalem Declaration has no consent or support by the community. The voice from the Jewish community should be centered around their definition of Jewish hate.

**MOTION:** CMBR REBNE MOVED AND CMBR MADIGAN SECONDED TO THE ANTISEMITISM LANGUAGE DEFINITION FROM THE JERUSALEM DECLARATION ON ANTISEMITISM IN LIEU OF THE DEFINITION FROM THE INTERNATIONAL HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE ALLIANCE (IHRA). (MOTION FAILED 2-6 WITH CMBRS FAIDLEY, DICKENS, HILL, RAGLOW, BRAUER, AND MADIGAN VOTING NO.)

**MOTION:** CMBR HILL MOVED AND CMBR DICKENS SECONDED TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 705 ADOPTING THE IHRA WORKING DEFINITION OF ANTISEMITISM. (MOTION CARRIED 6-2 WITH CMBR REBNE AND CASTAGNA-HERRERA VOTING NO.)

Mayor Poppa thanked everyone for coming. He expressed his thanks to the Governing Body for their work on this.

(Off record talking)

#### **B. Ordinance 1047 Remote Meeting & Attendance Policy**

CMBR Faidley thanked CMBR Hill for all the work she put in on this policy.

**MOTION:** CMBR MADIGAN MOVED AND CMBR FAIDLEY SECONDED TO APPROVE ORDINANCE 1047 REMOTE MEETING AND ATTENDANCE POLICY. (MOTION CARRIED 8-0.)

#### **C. Ordinance 1048 Amending Standing Committee Term Rotation Schedule**

Mayor Poppa said this item was pointed out to them by CMBR Madigan when they were adopting the new LKM updated code.

CMBR Faidley asked if in Section 1, Paragraph 4 keeping the date beginning January 1 would affect anything. Mr. Felzien left everything as is and did not believe it was material.

**MOTION:** CMBR DICKENS MOVED AND CMBR RAGLOW SECONDED TO APPROVE ORDINANCE 1048 AMENDING THE STANDING COMMITTEE TERM ROTATION SCHEDULE. (MOTION CARRIED 8-0.)

#### **V. Mayor's Report**

Mayor Poppa reported that the Barn Players have terminated their contract to purchase the Southridge property as there were ongoing issues with utilities and supply chain.

CMBR Faidley asked if it was actually the cost or supply chain issues. Mayor Poppa responded it would be \$15,000 for supply chain products that would take an additional eight to ten months.

## **VI. Reports of City Liaisons and Committees**

### **A. Sustainability Committee**

Megan Reavis, Chair of the Sustainability Committee, said they had a table at the R Park concert where they gave away native plants. They also fielded questions on what to plant, where, and how to care for plants. They also provided resources from different organizations including Ripple Glass, local trails, Contain the Rain, and Sleepyhead Beds. She said they plan to expand the resources they're providing.

The committee continues to write articles for *The Roeland Parker*, and they have received good feedback on their previous articles.

Plans are in the works for their biannual litter cleanup that they hope to do in the fall with more promotion to reach a wide audience.

CMBR Faidley said she is looking forward to the Climate Summit with Climate Action KC on September 9<sup>th</sup>, and that Roeland Park is one of the sponsors.

### **B. Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee**

Haile Sims, Chair of the DEI Committee, noted the name change of their committee. Their main focus is to get the community to participate in the many diverse events around KC Metro area. They have recently attended a Cinco de Mayo event and encouraged people to watch the documentary "Imagining the Indian" for which they held a coffee and conversation afterwards.

Mr. Sims also attended a racial equity roundtable hosted by UCS in May.

In June, they attended Pride celebration and Juneteenth.

Mr. Sims encouraged the community to attend upcoming events.  
Ethnic Enrichment Festival in Swope Park, August 18-20

Fiesta Hispania, September 16-18

Faith in Blue, October 7. They will be partnering the Roeland Park Police Department and asked the community to come out and get to know the police department and other first responders.

CMBR Faidley asked Mr. Sims if he has had any response for any new members to the committee following information in the newsletter. Mr. Sims said they are still looking. He said it is a great committee and they have done a lot with their small group, but he would love to talk with anyone who is interested.

## **VII. Unfinished Business**

*No Unfinished Business was discussed.*

## **VIII. New Business**

### **A. Approve Interlocal Agreement with Mission for 2024 CARS Johnson Dr/Roe Blvd Project**

Public Works Director Scharff said this is a standard agreement used with neighboring cities for joint projects. This will be a split/share signal Johnson Drive and Roe. Mission will get all of the upfront costs minus CARS and 50 percent of remaining construction will be Roeland Park's share.

CMBR Faidley said that stretch south of Johnson Drive is atrocious for anything other than vehicular traffic and asked if they are looking at any other options towards Complete Streets. Public Works Director Scharff believed they would be adding a sidewalk on the east side of Roe Boulevard. CMBR Faidley thanked him for the work to get Complete Streets done.

**MOTION:** CMBR REBNE MOVED AND CMBR BRAUER SECONDED TO APPROVE THE INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT WITH MISSION FOR THE 2024 CARS JOHNSON DRIVE/ROE BOULEVARD PROJECT. (MOTION CARRIED 8-0.)

#### **B. Approve PIO Service Agreement for 2024**

CMBR Faidley told Ms. Garcia she has been worth her weight in gold. She has heard how well they communicated with residents following the recent storms. She said the people were so impressed despite the size of their city and is, in part, due to her work. She said she appreciates what she is doing.

Ms. Garcia said it has been great working with the City all these years.

**MOTION:** CMBR HILL MOVED AND CMBR DICKENS SECONDED TO APPROVE THE 2024 PIO SERVICE AGREEMENT WITH GATHER MEDIA. (MOTION CARRIED 8-0.)

### **IX. Reports of City Officials**

#### **A. 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Financial Report**

City Administrator Moody said it is a very positive report. Property tax receipts are on pace to meet 2023 budget projections. Sales taxes are also up, and they expect to exceed 2023 projections. Franchise fees are on budget with the largest coming from electricity. Court fees are not meeting projections and is attributed to a reduced police force. They have, however, accounted for the reduction of court fines.

City Administrator Moody reviewed the different funds. He also said there will be enough to finish the improvements to the new Public Works facility. They are seeing a downward trend in building permits which is likely related to an uptick in interest rates.

#### **B. 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Public Works Report**

Public Works Director Scharff reported they are at full staff. He provided a breakdown of staff hours which are largely dedicated to parks and green space maintenance. He also said they are continuing with their safety inspections of parks and other areas in the city.

The street maintenance program with McAnany starting with UBAS and full depth asphalt replacement will be starting soon. They are a little behind schedule on street sweeping due to the recent storms. Public Works Director Scharff said the Canterbury project is going well.

CMBR Dickens said he got a new driveway.

Public Works Director Scharff also said the hardscape will be completed soon.

City Administrator Moody said the project has been exceptional with very rapid progress. There was great effort to work with the neighbors with as little of an inconvenience as possible. It will make a huge impact on the appearance of neighborhood when completed.

At the new Public Works facility, the demo is complete, and the maintenance is done. They will begin the rough-in next.

The 48<sup>th</sup> Street project will begin later this summer. They have received confirmation from the Evergy subcontractor that there are minor tweaks to be made to the existing box.

The CARS project with Fairway at 53<sup>rd</sup> Street is complete with some minor restoration left to do.

CMBR Hill asked if the dead trees in the median on Roe will be replaced and if they are under warranty. Public Works Director Scharff said they will be replaced but are not covered by a warranty.

CMBR Madigan said the residents remarked how great Public Works did after both storms.

(Applause for the Public Works crew)

CMBR Rebne said he appreciated the picking up of the tree debris. He did get some calls from residents wondering if they were missed as their debris has been sitting out for over a week. Public Works Director Scharff said they did one thorough pickup of the City and largely the east side. If someone was missed by accident or they didn't have time to put their debris out, they can call Public Works and put in their name and address, and when they think their debris will be out. Public Works will schedule a time to come by. They are actively working on those cases.

CMBR Faidley asked about people who aren't able to get their debris into the dimensions needed. City Clerk Nielsen is putting a spreadsheet together with names and addresses and taking information on those calls for Public Works.

### **3. City Administrator's Report**

City Administrator Moody said the duct bank work is progressing along the east side of Roe Boulevard. They will see mounds of material because they are digging the trench to put the ducts in. The last six feet of depth is rock which has to be removed. Not all of the material will go back into the hole and EPC will likely take some of that material to their site at The Rocks.

### **4. Mayor Comments**

Mayor Poppa stated he received word that Fairway Officer Oswald succumbed to his injuries. He said their thoughts were with his family, the City of Fairway Police Department, and all of the officers in Northeast Johnson County, adding that when they work together the city lines disappear. He thanked


Chief Morris for his work and that of his department. He said they understand their job is not safe sometimes and he appreciates them.

CMBR Madigan requested putting the flag at half-staff. City Administrator Moody said they could do that.

**Adjourn:**

**MOTION:** CMBR DICKENS MOVED AND CMBR HILL SECONDED TO ADJOURN. (MOTION CARRIED 8-0.)

(Roeland Park City Council Meeting Adjourned at 8:59 p.m.)

  
Kelley Nielsen, City Clerk  
Michael Poppa, Mayor