

## Osawatomie Trails Task Force

February 6, 2019

Osawatomie Trails Task Force met at 5:00 pm on February 6, 2019, in the conference room at Osawatomie City Hall. Members present were Kari Burchett, Jeff Dorsett, Gary French, Mark Fuchs, Hitomi Lamirande, Jeff Walmann, and Doug Walker. Also present was scribe Karen LaDuex.

Walmann called the meeting to order and asked for committee reports, beginning with **Acquisitions/Property**. Dorsett reported that Joe Booe talked with Mike Ross who said he may sell one to two acres of his property at a price of \$30,000. Dorsett stated that Ross is emotionally attached to the property which he inherited at the death of his mother, Maxine McCoach. Mr. Ross declined an offer to view the parcel in question, causing committee members to wonder if he has a clear idea of what portion of his property the Task Force is wishing to purchase and how little the trail will actually impact the larger portion of the Ross property. It was reiterated that a possible selling point may be to point out to Ross that the trail may act as a buffer between the railroad and the part of his own property that Ross actually uses. Mr. Ross did seem pleased that a bench may be placed in memory of Mrs. McCoach on the purchased property near the trail.

After a lengthy discussion members present reached consensus to make an offer to purchase four tenths of an acre of the Ross property for \$15,000. It was generally acknowledged that the offer may have to be increased to as much as \$30,000 to achieve success. Gary French volunteered to consult with Miami County officials to determine exact location, acreage, and dimensions of the property in question to ensure that what we buy will indeed accommodate our needs. Several task force members offered private funds to finance the purchase. It was noted that \$5000 is available from Kanza Rail Trails Conservancy.

Next **Finance/Fundraising** was called on to report. Members stated that Baehr/Romans Charitable Foundation has a November 1 deadline for applications while the Hawkins Foundation, sharing the same deadline, is likely to act on applications as they are received. After reviewing the bids presented by Hall's Bobcat Service, it was decided to apply to both foundations. Hawkins will be asked for \$25,000 to extend the parking lot at the southwest corner of the Sports Complex to accommodate trail parking and turn around space as well as parking for horse trailers. This amount will cover the Hall's Bobcat Service bid of \$23,020 plus provide contingency funds of nearly \$2000. A submission deadline of March 1, 2019, was set.

A Baehr/Romans application will be submitted at a later date. It will ask for at least \$43,254.85 to fund completion of new trail and culverts needed to connect the trailhead at the Sports Complex to the existing trail.

Doug Walker volunteered to complete the grant applications. They will be submitted by the Osawatomie Trails Task Force on behalf of both USD 367 and the City of Osawatomie. The City of Osawatomie will ultimately own the portion of the trail within the city limits. This means that City Manager Don Cawby must be approached to approve the grant applications prior to submission. As Superintendent of USD 367, Gary French gave his approval for the proposed work to be done on school district property.

It was mentioned that we can apply to Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks, Kansas Health Foundation, and Sunflower Foundation for additional funding in larger amounts. Since grants from these entities are much sought after, it was decided that it may be a good idea to appeal to Assistant to the City Manager Meagan Borth for help in writing these grant applications.

Finally, **Promotion/Communications** was asked to report. Lamirande stated that Wes Duncan has completed a draft of the [www.OzTrails.com](http://www.OzTrails.com) web site. The group agreed that the site will not go live until we have completed the trail to the sports complex.

Signage that gives information regarding the present location of the trail was discussed. McCown has smaller signs that indicate the location of the Flint Hills Trail that are available for installation in town. Walker has a three-foot sign to place where the trail crosses John Brown Highway. He needs posts and labor in order to complete installation.

Walmann ended the meeting by reviewing each committee's assignment(s) to be completed by the next meeting of the task force.

**Acquisitions/Property**

- \*Meet with Mike Ross regarding acquisition of his property
- \*Check with Miami County to determine exact location, acreage, and dimensions of needed portion of Ross property

**Finance/Fundraising**

- \*Meet with City Manager Don Cawby
- \*Complete Hawkins Foundation grant application by March 1
- \*Explore other grant opportunities

**Promotion/Communications**

- \*Establish domain name [www.OzTrails.com](http://www.OzTrails.com) at a cost of \$12/year
- \*Pursue installation of signage in town and at the present eastern terminus of the trail

**Next meeting:**

**Wednesday, March 6, 2019**

**5:00 pm**

**Osawatomie City Hall Conference Room**