

Osawatomie Trails Task Force

March 6, 2019

Osawatomie Trails Task Force met at 5:00 pm on March 6, 2019, in the conference room at Osawatomie City Hall. Members present were Kari Burchett, Jeff Dorsett, Gary French, 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 Mr. Ross accepted the task force offer of \$15,000 to purchase approximately one-half acre at the southernmost tip of his property. Mr. Ross made the agreement with the proviso that OTTF will provide platting and will construct a fence and gate. OTTF also agreed to place on the purchased property near the trail a bench dedicated to the memory of Mr. Ross's mother, Mrs. Maxine McCoach, who formerly owned Mr. Ross's property and lived in the residence on the northern portion. The City of Osawatomie will be the eventual owner of the purchased property.

OTTF must have a land description of the purchased property. If the land has been platted, the description is available for approximately \$200; otherwise, the description must be created. OTTF will consult Dick Allenbrand of Allenbrand-Drews & Associates Inc., a civil engineering and land planning firm in Paola. If a continuous east to west right of way is established through the sports complex, across city property, through USD 367 property, and across what will be the newly purchased city (formerly Ross) property, then boundaries on the Ross portion can be adjusted. Task force members established a goal of April 3, 2019, for the platting, purchase, and transfer of deed.

It was suggested that the City be approached with reference to their establishing an Osawatomie Trail Fund as a line item under Tourism revenue in the budget. This allows for donations which would then be tax deductible.

Walmann will add to the city council agenda an item requesting city funds for OTTF engineering expenses. It was noted that the 2019 city budget allows \$25,000 for trail planning and improvements. French will visit with City Manager Don Cawby about using engineering studies provided by Hall Brothers and by Public Utilities Department Head Blake Madden. As a final option, Walker will contact CFS Engineers of Topeka for a rough estimate of the costs of their providing the necessary engineering. This firm has provided all engineering for the established portion of the Flint Hills Nature Trail.

Next **Finance/Fundraising** was called on to report. Members stated that the Baehr/Romans Charitable Foundation grant application was submitted on March 1, 2019. It asked for \$43,254.85 to fund completion of new trail and culverts needed to connect the trailhead at the Sports Complex to the existing trail.

It was reported that fund administrator Blake Heid professed interest in the project. This approval may very well hinge on approval of OTTF's application for funding from the Web and Gladys Ann Hawkins Foundation. This application must be submitted by March 29, 2019.

Hawkins Foundation will be asked for \$43,254.85 to fund completion of new trail and culverts needed to connect the trailhead at the Sports Complex to the existing trail. Both grants are administered through First Option Bank. It is thought that fund administrators will consider the Baehr/Romans application

after the Hawkins grant has been acted upon. They may agree to fund any shortfall in the Hawkins grant bequest.

Finally, **Promotion/Communications** was asked to report. Lamirande stated that the domain name of the web site has been secured. Lamirande will send a completed draft of the web site to OTTF members. The group reiterated its directive that the site will not go live until the portion of the trail within the Osawatomie city limits has been completed.

Signage that gives information regarding the present location of the trail was discussed. Walker reiterated that sign for the present eastern terminus has been constructed and awaits placement. Lamirande will contact Pat Hoskins with regard to sign installation. She will also ask Trent McCown for promised signage to be placed in town, directing users to the trail.

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

Acquisitions/Property

*Contact Mike Ross bi-weekly

*Contact Cawby re: engineering by Hall and by Madden

Finance/Fundraising

*Contact Miami County Medical Center re: donation

*Write Hawkins grant - \$43, 254.85

* Contact First Option re: donation

*Secure city funds for engineering

*Establish donation line item in city budget

* Contact Miami County Economic Development re: donation

*Write KS Department of Wildlife and Parks Attraction
Development Grant

Promotion/Communications

* Contact Pat's Signs re: placement of sign at present eastern terminus of FHNT

*Contact McCown re: in town signage

*Contact KS Department of Tourism re: free assistance

Next meeting:

Wednesday, April 3, 2019

5:00 pm

Osawatomie City Hall Conference Room