

Osawatomie Trails Task Force

December 4, 2019

Osawatomie Trails Task Force met at 5:00 pm on December 4, 2019, in the conference room at Osawatomie City Hall. Members present were Kari Burchett, Mark Fuchs, Doug Walker, and Jeff Walmann. Also present was scribe Karen LaDuex. Burchett and Walmann exited the meeting at 5:30. At no point were a quorum present.

The minutes of the November meeting were distributed.

Beginning with **Acquisitions/Property**, easements were addressed. Significant progress has been made on property owned by the City of Osawatomie and by the Roseberry family as well as the USD 367 property south of Trojan Elementary. No progress has been made on the USD 367 property between Twelfth and Fourteenth streets. It was suggested that the document(s) with each entity address utility easements as well as trail easements.

Pedestrian bridge progress was discussed. Bids to include constructing abutments, setting the bridge and pouring its concrete deck have been requested from Triangle Builders and from Corey Ohlmeier, a contractor used by Miami County for bridge construction. It was noted that an engineer, perhaps Baldrige, will be employed to obtain core samples that will be used to determine the depth at which the abutments must sit. Base that will support one ton psi must be located.

Walker reported on the status of trail construction which is currently continuing in the section south of Trojan Elementary. He noted that this section is three work days from completion. Brush is being cleared and burned on the former Ross property where a design for connecting the new trail to the existing Flint Hills has been determined. The plan involves digging an extension of the existing drainage ditch which runs south of and parallel to the new trail. The extension will run diagonally in a southwesterly direction from the existing ditch to an existing creek which drains off to the south. This will accommodate drainage along the south side of the trail, including that from drainage tubes that have been installed along the new trail. The fill obtained from the digging of the diagonal ditch extension will be used to bring up to grade the area where the new trail will turn in a southwesterly direction to connect to the existing Flint Hills Trail.

Because CSF doesn't include trailhead design in its contracted work for the State of Kansas, the Task Force requested and has received a proposal for trailhead design from CSF. The proposal includes planning a monument sign, gates, bollards, and parking for horse trailers. Other trailhead features and amenities would be determined once master planning is complete. The total charge proposed for developing the initial Master Plan was \$12,700.

Design for the parking area was discussed. The State Master Plan requires mile markers and the Task Force must determine the placement of Mile Marker 0. The trail currently uses railroad mile markers which denote each location's distance from Omaha, Nebraska. Future mile markers will denote distance from the Osawatomie Trailhead. Ideas included a kiosk which will mimic a railroad depot design and include four to eight panels which will display maps, mileage, trail information, local attractions and local history as well as sponsors/donors who contributed to the effort to build the trailhead and final trail segment. It was suggested that Sarah and Jeff Dorsett might write sign information.

Next **Finance/Fundraising** was considered. Osawatomie Trails Task has an unencumbered balance of \$37,908.95. To date the project has raised \$191,666 and has paid expenses totaling \$153,757.05. Walker will submit the Sunflower Grant application which could eventually provide \$55,000 in funding for construction. Fuchs said the application for a \$2500 WalMart grant is in progress.

With regard to **Promotion/Communications**, Fuchs explained that Paola devised a pool of potential donors. The names were divided among their fundraising group members who contacted each potential donor personally.

The meeting was adjourned with no action taken.

Next meeting:

5:00 pm, Wednesday, January 8, 2020

Osawatomie City Hall Conference Room