

Osawatombie Trails Task Force

December 6, 2018

Osawatombie Trails Task Force met at 4:00 pm on December 6, 2018, in the conference room at Osawatombie City Hall. Members present were Kari Burchett, Jeff Dorsett, Mark Fuchs, Hitomi Lamirande, Trent McCown, George Pretz, Jeff Walmann, and Doug Walker. Also present were scribe Karen LaDuex and *Miami County Republic* reporter Doug Carder.

Prior to the meeting Task Force members met at the Osawatombie Sports Complex and hiked west from the complex to the present eastern end of the trail. They viewed the property upon which the final portion of the trail will be built, connecting the present trail to the proposed trail head at Osawatombie Sports Complex. Along the way, the group discussed actual trail location and strategies for construction.

Walmann called the meeting to order and discussion of the trailhead and integration into Osawatombie proper immediately ensued. Mark Fuchs suggested that loops for exercise hiking be added adjacent to the sports complex. McCown noted that the hardwoods and other trees near the complex are a selling point, making a one-mile loop even more attractive to those who view themselves not as hikers but as recreational walkers. Burchett suggested connecting the trail to the Hickory Valley subdivision, possibly utilizing Seventeenth Street.

Because the group recognizes the advantages of tying the trail to the sports complex, the idea of establishing a trail head on the Ross property was rejected.

Walmann then called for committee reports, beginning with **Acquisitions/Property**. Dorsett reported that, though Mike Ross initially refused to sell at all, he recently offered his property at a price of \$30,000. Dorsett stated his belief that Ross is open to negotiation. Walker suggested that Dorsett meet with Gary French, Nick Hampson, and Steve Law to outline strategy before Hampson and Law meet with Mike Ross for further negotiation. 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.

It was noted that purchasing a bit more railroad property might preclude the necessity of buying the Ross property. The railroad contact person is Lindsey Douglas. Possibilities include Rail Bank and/or Rails with Trails. City Manager Don Cawby may be called on to arrange a meeting with the Union Pacific Railroad.

Next **Finance/Fundraising** was called on to report. Dorsett posed the question of where the committee would get \$30,000 should buying the Ross property at that price become a necessity. It was stated that Kansas Rails to Trails Corporation will donate \$5000. Possible financing sources may be the local trusts: Baer, Hawkins and Roman.

It was postulated that \$250,000 may cover the costs of building the entire stretch from the proposed trailhead west to the eastern end of the completed portion of the trail. A major issue is the creek crossing where installation of two squash pipes may suffice in place of building a bridge. Exercise loops and signage may require additional funding. The committee was reminded that Miami County may sell AB3 (baserock) for a good price.

It was stated that this committee will operate a two-pronged approach: property acquisition and engineering. Typically, a city maintains trail within its city limits.

Finally, **Promotion/Communications** was asked to report. Lamirande stated that a web site and a Facebook page are being established. This committee will provided Wes Duncan with information for the web site. Questions from the public will be filtered through the Facebook page where they will be answered by Burchett, Duncan and/or Lamirande. When an estimated timeline is established, it will be posted.

This committee also wishes to develop and publish informational pamphlets. Lamirande suggested developing a centralized list of volunteers who wish to aid the task force in its efforts. Signage that gives information regarding the present location of the trail was discussed. McCown stated that signage exists and is available for installation.

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

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| Acquisitions/Property | *Hampson and Law will meet with Mike Ross regarding acquisition of his property |
| Finance/Fundraising | *Contact three local entities which are sources of grants
*Explore other grant opportunities |
| Promotion/Communications | *Establish domain name www.oztrail.com at a cost of \$12/year
*Pursue installation of signage in town and at east end of completed trail |

An ongoing meeting date of the first Wednesday of the month was established.

Next meeting:	Wednesday, February 6, 2019
	5:00 pm
	Osawatomie City Hall Conference Room