

CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP MEETING

Monday, April 28, 2008

7:00 pm

Andover City Hall

Minutes

Members Present: Mayor Ben Lawrence, City Council Members Caroline Hale, Carol Roberts, Kevin Dreiling, Julie Reams, Clark Nelson, J.R. Jessen

Others in attendance: Management Assistant Sasha Stiles, City Administrator / Clerk Jeff Bridges

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Mayor Lawrence.

Call to Order

The discussion topic for the meeting was the consideration by the Governing Body of assuming management responsibility of the BNSF Railroad through Andover for a future use as a hike / bike, trail project. The City sent letters to the landowners adjacent to the railroad right of way to get their input.

Discussion: Rails to Trails Project – Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad Corridor through Andover

David Alfaro, Director, Butler County Economic Development. Mr. Alfaro stated that the County Commissioners would like to know if the City of Andover would like to assume responsibility for the former Burling Northern Santa Fe Railroad right of way through the City for future use as a trail or pedestrian way. If the City is interested in there is an agreement to transfer responsibility from the County to the City. The County would still maintain ultimate ownership. The City of Augusta has chosen to assume responsibility for corridor through Augusta for trail purposes.

Cecil Karenbarger a member of the Prairie Travelers from Valley Center talked about their group’s desire to have a trail system in the area and that there is Transportation Enhancement grants available from KDOT for the development of the corridor.

Jim Ohmart, 1709 N. Pear Tree Ct., was concerned about maintenance in the future because it has not been well maintained in the past. His concerns were also liability and security. There have been pickup trucks with occupants who use pellet guns on the rail bed and was concerned that it would get worse.

Jesse Hemerick, 205 Arron Drive. He felt that a trail would be a good asset to the community.

Ruth Holliday, 522 East Crestline Road. Mrs. Holliday felt that this is a tremendous opportunity. This would be a source of community pride and the city should take advantage of it.

Casey Seymore, 611 Allison. Lives next to the railroad. He had concerns on maintenance and security. Vehicles have been up and down the right of way and leaving trash and junk. He does not want this trail behind his house.

Chris McCoy, 211 Greenleaf Ct. (Representing Andover Farms Cedar Park Planned Unit Development). He was concerned about security and told the Council his plans for the subdivision.

Dick Howell, on the Homeowner's Association Board of the Savanna Subdivision in Sedgwick County. He is supportive of the using the rail corridor for a trail because he bikes and hikes and would like to have it available for him and his family to connect to locations in Andover.

Julie Lee, 1145 N Prairie Creek Road. She is concerned over trash and who is going to take care of the trail. There are already sidewalks and she is concerned about additional people walking through her property. (The railroad bisects her property).

Ken Houston, 1635 N. Andover Road. Some of the land was condemned and not sold to the railroad. He was also concerned that a trail would make his property taxes go up.

Teresa Rogers, 619 Allison. Safety and security are her issues. There are vehicles that travel up and down the rail bed now. The rail bed is very close to her backyard and is concerned about people in her back yard.

Jim Steward, 523 Allison. He has safety and maintenance concerns. He has seen people on the rail bed and does not know how this will be policed in the future if it is turned into a trail.

Larry Gilchrist, 1708 N Sugarberry Ct. There is wildlife along the corridor now that will probably continue if a trail is developed. When the human activity begins the wildlife will disappear.

Sharon Turner, 304 Cactus Court. Mrs. Turner thinks that a trail will be a good idea. More park and recreation options the better.

Glen Snodgrass, 1627 N. Andover Road. There are some areas that are wider than are not necessary for the trail that could be returned to the property owners.

Ron Roberts, 505 Allison. He has the same concerns that the other property owners have. Dogs along the current corridor are a problem also.

Debbie Dolecek, Andover Historical Society. There has been vandalism on the Historical Society's property from activity on the rail bed. Would like to make sure the historical property is not further damaged from the trail activity.

David Martine, 1236 Prairie Creek Road. He is not in favor of having a trail through or next to his property.

Jack Brouhard, 1645 N. Church Street. He has 525 feet adjacent to rail road. Asked questions about maintenance and told the City Council some history of the corridor.

Debbie Dolecek, Andover Historical Society. She is concerned that the historic character of the area near Main and Harrison Streets would be changed if this trail went in.

Brian Hinson 1707 N. Sugarberry Ct. He is concerned about security and privacy to his property if the trail was constructed. He also asked where would people park who wanted to use the trail.

David Alfaro, Butler County Economic Development. Will talk to County Engineer about putting up some barriers to keep vehicles off of the rail bed.

Mayor Lawrence stated that the Council will review the information and get their questions to Mr. Alfaro in order to make an informed decision. Hopefully they will be in a situation to give the County and answer in the next 30 days.

Motion by Council Member Nelson, seconded by Council Member Reams to recess to Tuesday April 29, 2008, Andover City Hall, 909 North Andover Road.

Motion carried 6/0

Meeting Recessed

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 pm.

Respectfully Submitted by
Jeffrey K. Bridges, Jr.
City Clerk / Administrator

Approved this _____ day of _____ 2008 by the
City Council, City of Andover.

Jeffrey K. Bridges, Jr.
City Clerk / Administrator