

**MEETING
OF
THE FRIENDS OF THE RIVER**

January 8, 2010

A meeting was held at Prescott Room of the Salina Public Library, Salina, Kansas. Thirty-four persons were in attendance.

The meeting was called to order by Brad Stuewe, Chairman of the Board of the Friends of the River Foundation.

Brad welcomed everyone present. Brad outlined the scope of Phase I of the project. The purpose of Phase I was to determine, generally, what is possible for river improvement and development and to educate and engage the citizens of the process. The goal of Phase I was to report to the City of Salina concerning the results of Phase I in order for the City to consider Phase II which is the development of a Master Plan. It is key to the entire process for the citizens of Salina to be involved with the Friends of the River and the City of Salina, in developing the goal of improving the river. The project is not to develop the river for a single purpose or use but rather to develop it considering all uses and benefits which are feasible. If done correctly, the work of the citizens of Salina, the Friends of the River and the City of Salina will create more benefits than the costs associated with the project. The end result must be a net benefit to the City of Salina. In order to accomplish that net benefit, all interested groups must work together.

Brad then introduced Martha Tasker, Director of Utilities, City of Salina. Martha stated that it was her object in making the presentation to outline Phase II which is the development of the Master Plan. Design Studios West (DSW) and Wright Water

Engineering (WWE) are under contract with the City. The project cost is \$400,000.00. This is broken down to \$220,000.00 for technical work and \$180,000.00 for planning and implementation.

The City is a partner with Friends of the River in this effort.

The City will share all of the information which it has regarding prior studies, reports, maps, documents and reference materials. DSW is the designer. WWE will provide technical assistance.

Advisory committees have been appointed. These advisory committees are as follows:

The Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) will assist the DSW team as technical advisors to the master planning process. This committee consists of the following:

Martha Tasker - Chairman
Troy Vancil
Kristin Gunn
Ron Chandler
Gary Hobbie
Mike Fraser
Dan Stack
Steve Snyder
Mike Schrage
Neal Cable
Barb Johnson

The Master Plan Advisory Committee (MAC) will provide advisory oversight to the DSW team and TAC to ensure consistency in direction with community desires as expressed in Phase I. The members of this committee are as follows:

Brad Stuewe - Chairman
Sydney Soderberg
Daran Neuschafer

Lloyd Davidson
David Rodine
Vickie Koepsel
Andy Martin
Steve Ryan
Bob Ash
Dean Andrew

Martha then distributed to those present the preliminary project schedule to develop the Master Plan (see Exhibit B). As the schedule reflects, it is the intention of all concerned to complete the project by September or October of 2010. Martha emphasized that that is a big job and all interested groups must stay on task.

It is scheduled that the preferred plan as developed be available to discuss by the time of the River Festival in the spring.

The first meeting of the TAC committee will be on January 14th. The design team from DSW and WWE will be present to assist in organizing the committee. At the end of this meeting, the role of each committee will be defined. The other meetings will be as shown on the preliminary project schedule. The first step will be to develop three design alternatives for the Master Plan. From the three alternatives, a single preferred alternative will be recommended and presented to the citizens at the River Festival and to the Planning Commission and the City Commission. By August, the approved plan will be submitted.

Additional survey work of the river and the related areas will be performed. Sediment sampling will take place along with a determination of the volume of sediment. A determination will be made concerning how to deal with low flow. Consideration of the flood plain will take place along with the handling of storm water. Managing sediment will be a significant part of the plan.

Plans regarding how the federal and state governmental units will be affected will be part of the end result. Barb Johnson has secured an EPA grant up to \$50,000.00 which will deal with environmental matters in connection with the study.

On January 11, 2010, a contract will be entered into with HDR Engineering, Inc. from Kansas City. HDR is a water consultant for the City. HDR will assist in establishing appropriate water rights. WWE has reviewed the contract with HDR with whom they will work in the development of the Master Plan.

Good planning is essential to the development of the Master Plan and this has been emphasized in developing the schedules to this date.

Troy Vancil, President of the Friends of the River Foundation, stated that the most important factor that must be considered is public cooperation and support. In maintaining this support, the Friends of the River must identify the tasks and decide how to address them. Friends needs to establish a way for interested persons to e-mail ideas which may be considered. The public relations committee will continue to operate, effectively. Phyllis Pickle has agreed to continue to lead this effort. Also, the education committee will continue to operate. This committee has met with Dr. Winter regarding his views on the project. Further activity will take place with respect to student groups. These activities will not be during school time.

Brad and Troy went to Washington, D.C. in December and met with many congressional and government people to familiarize them with the project. They met with Congressman Jerry Moran for more than one hour.

Following up meetings with the City and County representatives will take place within the next month. The purpose of all of the contacts is to create funding sources which will help the project. These funding sources include private foundations as well as public funds.

In the process, goals will be set regarding securing funding. This is something that we should all participate in. Troy mentioned that perhaps at the next meeting we could break up into smaller groups to discuss this further.

Mary Anne Weiner, Vice President of the Friends of the River Foundation, asked whether anyone present would like to volunteer for specific jobs. Several persons volunteered to work on various items stressing the need to keep the citizens informed. The education committee will be looking for elementary and middle school groups.

Troy announced that there would be regular meetings of the family of the Friends of the River on the second Friday of each month beginning at 1:00 p.m. Hopefully, these meetings can take place in the Prescott Room.

We should all make an effort to determine whether there are others who should be invited to these meetings.

Suggestions were then secured from the persons present. A suggestion was made that the original donors to Friends of the River should be kept informed concerning the progress. Mary Anne stated that those persons are on the e-mail list.

A question was asked concerning the projected budget with respect to private funds. Troy responded that a budget will be adopted by the Board of the Friends of the River Foundation in the very near future.

Troy mentioned that a source of material regarding river projects is available by Googling river projects.

Concern was expressed with respect to the publicity regarding the project. Troy and Mary Anne expressed a desire to improve communication through the Friends website.

It was expressed that the scope of the project is sizable and we need to make every possible effort to boil down what we want as plans are developed.

A comment was made that it would be good for anyone who wants to clearly understand the river, to walk a portion or all of the riverbed. It was expressed that this is an excellent time to walk the bed because it is frozen over. Someone who has walked the bed indicated that he was surprised at the number of people who have built patios close to the river and made the river accessible by building steps.

Discussion was had concerning a river clean up in the spring of this year.

A discussion took place concerning the value of a news letter.

Also, consideration should be given for people or groups to adopt certain portions of the river for clean up purposes.

A representation from RSVP indicated that assistance could come from that agency with respect to volunteers and the availability of tools to assist in the clean up.

It was stressed that communication with the community must be very functional. Communication should also be on a dynamic basis. Communication should emphasize how people can become involved. Some of the criticism which has been expressed by the community should be addressed. Some assessment of the community attitude concerning the project would be helpful.

It was noted that coordination of the volunteers is essential. Volunteers expressed a willingness to assist in that organization.

It was expressed that the information which we furnish should relate to our project as much as possible and not include information from other completed projects.

It was expressed by a retail merchant that people are very interested in water. That merchant had displayed photographs of flood conditions which people are interested in. If information could be furnished to retailers regarding water matters, that would be helpful.

It was stated that it is important to involve young people who can see the project to the end. Also, the more we can interest children the more children will express their interest to their parents and other adults.

If possible, we need to make a connection with the new water park. We must interest people in the source of water and the importance of water. In involving children, we should involve children from every station of life as much as possible.

In the past, the City has bottled public water in order to show that the City water is good. This might be considered.

Thereupon, Troy again thanked all those present for attending and asked that they attend future meetings and provide whatever assistance and ideas which they feel would assist the project.

There being no further business to come before the meeting, the meeting was adjourned at 2:10 p.m.

Frank C. Norton, Secretary