

**SMITHVILLE BOARD OF ALDERMEN
WORK SESSION**

November 19, 2024 6:30 p.m.
City Hall Council Chambers and Via Videoconference

1. Call to Order

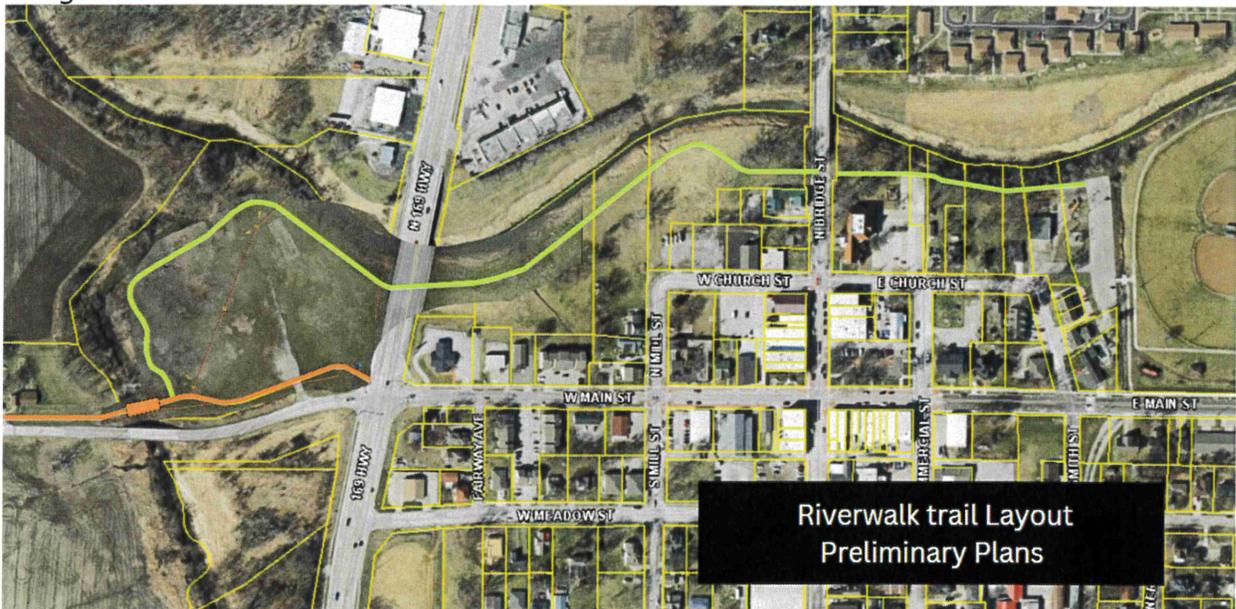
Mayor Boley, present, called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. A quorum of the Board was present: Melissa Wilson, Marv Atkins, Dan Hartman, Leeah Shipley and Ronald Russell. Kelly Kobylski was absent.

Staff present: Cynthia Wagner, Gina Pate, Chief Lockridge, Chuck Soules, Jack Hendrix, Rick Welch, Matt Denton and Linda Drummond.

2. Review Design Layout for Riverwalk and Second Creek

Mayra Toothman, Assistant to the Public Works Director, provided an update on the Riverwalk and Second Creek project. She explained that in 2023 the City secured grant funding from the Transportation Alternative Program administered by Mid-America Regional Council (MARC) for these projects. Earlier this year we hired GBA Engineering firm to design the projects. The engineers have completed the preliminary plans, and staff is asking for Board and public feedback. Mayra noted that currently MoDOT is reviewing these projects so we will have feedback from them on the design.

The Riverwalk Trail will feature an 8-foot-wide concrete sidewalk extending from Heritage Park to 169 Highway, where it will connect to the Second Creek Bridge Road Sidewalk Project. The trailhead will begin at the overflow parking lot on the west side of Heritage Park, cross 169 Highway beneath the bridge, and continue to connect with Second Creek Bridge Road.



The Second Creek Bridge Road Sidewalk project will feature an 8-foot-wide path along Second Creek Bridge Road, extending from 169 Highway to Wright Valley Road. It will also include a pedestrian bridge over the creek and a safety signal at the intersection of

Prairie Rose Street. This project will provide a connection between neighborhoods on the west side of US 169 and the downtown area.



Most of these improvements will be constructed within the public right-of-way. However, the City may still require some temporary and permanent easements. The preliminary plans are currently under review by MoDOT, and once we receive clearance to proceed with right-of-way acquisition, we will notify residents.

Alderman Wilson asked why on the west side of 169 Highway the trail was continuing along the river and not cutting over to run along Second Creek Road.

Mayra explained it was because it connects to the Riverwalk project and we wanted to take advantage of the river as long as we could.

Chuck Soules, Public Works Director, added that there is already a sidewalk on the west side of 169 Highway that goes across the bridge. The Riverwalk will take the trail under the bridge on 169 Highway.

Alderman Wilson asked if there would be flashing lights at the pedestrian crossing at Prairie Rose Street like the one out by Grace Community Church.

Mayra said we are anticipating it will also be a HAWK signal.

Chuck explained that the HAWK signal will not flash unless someone pushes the button and then it will flash red then go to a permanent red above the lane of traffic. We will also identify the crosswalk on the pavement.

Alderman Wilson said that it would reduce some of the cost if we did not go around to follow the river and instead went along 169 Highway.

Chuck explained that the property coming down off 169 Highway is a pretty steep hill. He said they did look at that option, but it would take a lot to have adequate ADA. Chuck added that this design also works well with what we were looking at for future development of that property.

Mayor Boley noted that property is in the flood plain and we can not put fill under the bridge.

Alderman Russell asked about another access to the trailhead.

Mayor Boley explained it would be north of Church Street by the funeral home.

Alderman Atkins asked what size the sidewalks would be going up to Cedar Lakes.

Chuck explained that they will be four or five feet to match the existing sidewalks already there. They will be eight foot along Second Creek.

Alderman Atkins asked if the trees along Second Creek would have to be cut down.

Chuck said that we would try to leave the trees where residents request them to remain.

Alderman Hartman noted that he thinks this is a wonderful thing for our community. He said that safety is the number one reason. There are children and adults that run and bike along Second Creek Road and this will provide a way for them to do it safely.

Alderman Atkins noted that the school's cross country team runs along Second Creek Road.

Roberta Lowman, 16251 Lowman Road, asked why the sidewalks had to be eight foot and said it would be better on Second Creek Road if they were only five foot ADA sidewalks. She asked if there was going to be a greenway between the road and the sidewalk. She suggested an eight foot sidewalk with turn-around at the corner of 169 Highway and Second Creek Road and continue on Second Creek Road with a five or six foot sidewalk from there. Ms. Lowman said that she was not opposed to progress but asked that the City use common sense when they do this.

Chuck explained that ADA for trails is six foot.

Jeff Becker, 1406 Second Creek Road, said that he was happy this was happening. It has been needed for a long time. He asked what the timeframe for the project was. Mr. Becker agreed with the eight foot sidewalks. He said that this will help the homes in Second Creek Road area feel connected to the rest of the City. He thanked the Board for moving forward with this project.

Chuck explained that the project is scheduled for 2026.

Alderman Hartman asked if the next step for this project would be the engineering.

Chuck explained that this is just the preliminary layout and they have the survey. He noted that they are still taking feedback, questions or concerns from residents. Chuck

explained that they will take all of the feedback received into account when they go through the design phase and try to address those issues. He said that the final design would not be brought forward for approval until possibly late summer. Chuck explained that they will try to maintain this project in the right-of-way, but they will still have to obtain some temporary easements for the contractors to work.

Mayor Boley asked if we would be doing stormwater work along Second Creek Road.

Chuck explained that we are trying to avoid it but may have to as they get closer to the Hadley's property. They do not want to infringe too much on the property, but it sits really close to the road.

Kacey Arbuckle, 101 Shasta Daisy Drive, explained that they bought a home that was built in 1995 with sprinkler heads in the easement. She asked if the cost of moving sprinklers or cutting down trees was going to go back to the resident. Ms. Arbuckle said that she is all for the project but does not feel it should cost the homeowner. She pointed out that all of the Cedar Lake's sidewalks connect except Sumac Lane. She asked for more of an explanation of needing dwelling and easement verification.



Mayor Boley explained that typically easements are for contractors to store equipment or pile dirt so they do not have to close down part of the road.

Ms. Arbuckle asked if they would have access to 169 Highway during the project.

Mayor Boley explained leaving the road open is our goal and why they will need the easements.

Chuck explained that temporary easements just provide us permission to temporarily be on a designated five or ten foot area in yards. That area will be repaired. Chuck said that technically we cannot tell the contractor he can step onto a property without an easement. Chuck noted that we have to follow all of the federal regulations and all residents will be contacted. Chuck said concerning the cost the City has been very good about keeping the location whole, if there is an irrigation system we will get it moved, if there is a tree that you do not want we will remove it and if you have a tree that you do

not want removed we will try everything we can to save it. Chuck added that he did not catch the Sumac Lane sidewalk not tied in and it should be, he will get that corrected.

Alderman Hartman noted that City staff has gotten better at contacting the residents and at holding contractors accountable and he appreciates that.

Alderman Wilson asked if there should also be a HAWK signal at Lowman Road.

Chuck explained that area is more of a residential lower street so it will have a crosswalk and a pedestrian crossing sign, but it will not have a lighted signal.

Alderman Shipley thanked staff. This is a project that she has wanted to see for a long time. She noted that being only a mile away from downtown and not being able to walk there can be pretty frustrating. Alderman Shipley added that we need to make sure we do everything we can to make the residents happy and make it walkable to downtown.

3. Adjourn

Alderman Hartman moved to adjourn. Alderman Russell seconded the motion.

Ayes – 5, Noes – 0, motion carries. Mayor Boley declared the Work Session adjourned at 6:57 p.m.



Linda Drummond, City Clerk



Damien Boley, Mayor