

A Step Ahead For Hiawatha Walking Trail

(KNZA)--The construction of the Hiawatha walking trail project is finally wrapping up, despite past delays and setbacks that kept the progress stalled.

Project Engineer Brian Kingsley provided the City Commission with an update Monday evening. He said legitimate concerns about the project were addressed during an afternoon meeting with the contractor and Commissioners Irv Schwalm and Toni Hull. "I think that a lot of the issues are related to final grading and just getting the trail graded where you have positive drainage away from the trail and along the trail on some cases," Kingsley told the Commission.

Commissioner Hull, who has voiced apprehension about the project in the past, said her concerns were eased after meeting with the contractor.

Kingsley said clean-up work remains, adding that a list of items is being finished up this week by the contractor. "As of the 30th [of July] his working days had expired, he's requested substantial completion," Kingsley explained. "The test of substantial completion is 'can the trail be used for it's intended purpose walking?' Well, people are already using it, I think that it was fair to consider granting substantial completion on the 30th [of July]. He has 20 working days to finish the project."

A project walk through with the contractor is set for next week, where a list of items still needing to be addressed will be prepared before final payment is made.

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