



Hebron entrance to highlight Oregon Trail

A corten steel silhouette of what life was like on the Oregon Trail is set for the first exit into Hebron from the north and it may be finished this construction season.

Randy Hergott, who was the go-between for the Hebron Community Foundation and City of Hebron, presented the design by Mike Korff out of Prairie Village, Kan., to the city council during its April meeting and after showing the council a design by Mike Korff out of Prairie Village, Kan., and placing cones at the proposed location, the council approved the project at its May meeting.

"It went very well at the council," Hergott said.

The first thing he made clear was the silhouette, complete with an 18-foot high stone monument with a base of four feet coming out of the ground, and topped off by a beacon light, will not be a rest area.

The original silhouette drawing included oxen at the end of the reins of a covered wagon, but those will be changed to horses. The corten steel is a rust color and will not deteriorate.

The monument's stone will be domestic-colored, Hergott said, meaning the color of the area's natural limestone feature. The entire structure and silhouette will be landscaped and surrounded by drought-tolerant plantings.

Hergott will oversee the project through to completion using local labor.

And with the council's idea to attract drivers coming from both directions, the monument will now have somewhat of a 3D effect with the city's name "Hebron" facing north and south.

"This is to signify the beacon of the Oregon Trail," Hergott said.

"We were a town of the Oregon Trail."

It's been several months since the foundation first began discussing the idea, member John Musgrave said.

The foundation was looking for projects.

"I thought we needed it. We needed something like the Bruning sign," Musgrave said.

Korff also designed the Bruning sign for Mary Bruning.

"It's been very helpful to Bruning," Korff said. "I wanted to do the same thing for Hebron. I've always known the Oregon Trail has been a major thing for Hebron."

Korff said the idea was to have a tall monument that could be seen from a distance. The Bruning sign has always received praise for its

placement and height.

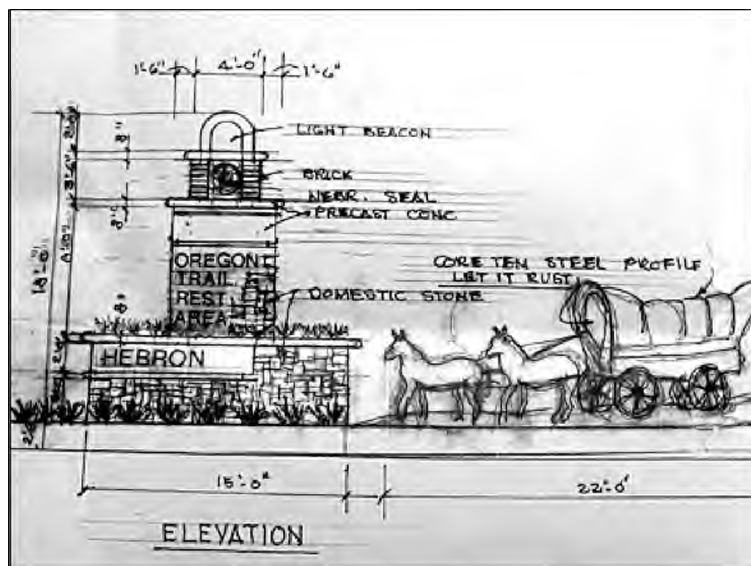
"I just think we needed it and everyone was happy with the design. This should look nice," Musgrave said.

Korff, who grew up in Hebron, said he designed the monument and silhouette at no charge.

"We do this every day," he said. His firm, Edwin Korff, has designed for Johnson County Community College and Kansas City's Crown Center.

Hergott said the monument will also have floodlights and the foundation may sell bricks for those who want to contribute and have their names engraved in history.

It is unknown where the names will be placed, Hergott said.



The Oregon Trail monument with a wagon led by horses was drawn by Mike Korff, who grew up in Hebron, and may be finished this construction season at the first exit into Hebron coming from the north. Although the monument features "Oregon Trail Rest Area," it will not be a rest area.