

Roanoke council approves run/walk in spring

By

MATT MURPHY

The Roanoke Town Council voted unanimously to approve a 10K/5K Run/Walk in the town this spring.

The action was taken at the council's meeting on Tuesday, Dec. 15.

The "1st Annual Discover Roanoke 10K/5K Run/Walk" would be the first of its kind for the town, and is slated for April 17, 2010, in line with the training schedule for the 500 Festival Mini Marathon in Indianapolis on May 8, says John Nelson, one of the event coordinators.

"There's nothing in Northeast Indiana that gives runners something organized like that," event organizer Joel Holloway says.

The race will benefit the

Roanoke Elementary Parent-Teacher Organization and is expected to draw 350-400 participants.

The three men organizing the event, Nelson, Holloway and Mark Green, say they have already discussed the proposal with town and county emergency services, and both the Roanoke Chamber of Commerce and the Huntington County Visitors' and Convention Bureau have expressed their support for the race.

"The Roanoke Police Department, the Roanoke Fire Department, Huntington County Emergency Management and the EMS in Roanoke have given us their blessing in concept only," Nelson said in light of final preparations the event coordinators have to make.

The proposed course for

the 5K segment of the event will begin on Main Street in downtown and will take runners north to Fourth Street, west on Fourth to Posey Hill Street, continuing on to CR 950N, south on CR 300E, back east toward town on CR 900N, and then north on CR 400E and then east to the finish line back on Main Street.

The 10K route will start on Main Street and continue north on Main to Roanoke Road, then west on CR 1000N, north on CR 300E, east on 1100N, south on CR 400E back into town, then east on Fourth Street and south on Main Street back to the finish.

The committee says that "inconvenience to the town and its residents will be minimized." So far, the only planned full road closure will be Main Street in

downtown Roanoke between 7 a.m. and 1 p.m. the day of the event. Participants in the race will park at Roanoke Park to lessen impacts on town streets. Additionally, residents along the route will be notified of the race's impact on their area several weeks before the run.

Nelson noted the positive impact the race will have on area businesses, and said that according to the HCVCB does not have anything planned on that date that would conflict with the run.

Sponsorships for the race are now available. Interested organizations or businesses should contact Holloway at 672-3317, or e-mail onturfsports@gmail.com. A Web site, www.onturfsports.com is being constructed, and will be online soon.