

# **MINUTES**

## **City Council Parks, Trails, & Recreation Committee**

**Wednesday, August 21, 2019, 3:30 PM**  
Administrative Conference Room at City Hall

**Members Present:** Gary Daniel, Chair, Council Member  
Maureen Copelof, Vice-Chair, Council Member  
Jim Fatland, City Manager  
David Lutz, Public Works Director  
Keenan Smith, Citizen Member  
Nancy DePippo, Citizen Member

**Absent:** Paul Ray, Interim Planning Director  
Ryan Olson, Citizen Member  
Jared Mull, County Representative, Ex Officio

**Staff Present:** Aaron Bland, Planning Department  
Denise Hodsdon, Executive Assistant

**Guests:** Doug Harris, Harris Architects  
Torry Nergart, Conserving Carolina  
Nicola Karesh, Citizen

**Media:** None

### **A. Welcome & Call to Order**

Committee Vice-Chair Maureen Copelof welcomed all in attendance and called the meeting to order at 3:32 PM.

### **B. Certification of Quorum**

Quorum was certified by Executive Assistant Denise Hodsdon.

### **C. Approval of Agenda**

Motion by Mr. Smith, seconded by Mr. Fatland to approve the agenda as presented.  
Motion carried unanimously.

## **D. Approval of Minutes from June 19, 2019 Meeting**

Motion by Ms. DePippo, seconded by Ms. Copelof to approve the minutes of the June 19, 2019 meeting as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

## **E. Bracken Preserve**

### **1. Update on Volunteer Work**

Mr. Fatland reported that the City Council approved the name Pinnacle Trail for the newly constructed trail as recommended by the Committee. Aaron Bland reported that the trail is now open and people have been using it already. He gave an update on what it took to get that trail built. He explained that we used the same kind of hybrid building technique that was used on the initial trails where we had a professional builder go in with machinery and then the volunteers came in and cleaned everything up, essentially saving half the cost of the trail. He noted that it took a little over 230 hours of volunteer work, mostly led by Torry Nergart of Conserving Carolina. Mr. Nergart added that it was a fun project to work on and that a lot of folks who volunteered to work on the original trail system came back. He said the hike up to the job site was pretty strenuous and the volunteers were really dedicated and enthusiastic. They had five work days, two of which were open to anyone who signed up at one of their interest meetings and two other days were provided through Conserving Carolina's Summer of Service program for 17 to 19 year-olds who spend their summer volunteering. Mr. Nergart said a press release has been created which will hopefully be published this Thursday in the *Transylvania Times* and is being sent to a couple of other news outlets and hiking and biking magazines.

Mr. Bland said the next step is to update the signage and we need to add this trail to the map. He said we are also working on getting the blazes transferred from the plastic diamonds to painted diamonds because a lot of the plastic ones are popping off the trees.

### **2. Updated Master Plan Map**

Mr. Bland distributed copies of three maps for the Bracken Preserve trails (copies attached). He explained that the first map is of the original approved trails; the second map shows the existing trails to date; and the third map shows the remaining approved future trails to be constructed. He said this update was suggested by the NC Clean Water Management Trust Fund who holds the conservation easement on the property. Updating the maps in the master plan will allow the City to accurately communicate our plans for the property to CWMTF personnel when moving forward with future trails and other recreational improvements. Motion by Ms. Copelof, seconded by Mr. Smith to send to the maps as submitted to City Council with a recommendation for approval. The motion carried unanimously.

There was also discussion about the possibility of purchasing the bank-owned parcel adjacent to the Bracken Preserve in order to provide a gentler climb to access the trails and to connect Bracken to Probart Street. Mr. Nergart suggested that perhaps Conserving Carolina could be the buying agent and negotiate a bargain sale which could provide a tax benefit to the for-profit corporation. He said he would be glad to bring the idea to his management team. There was consensus for Mr. Fatland and Mr. Nergart to discuss this option further and report back to the Committee.

#### **F. Recent Acceptance of Silversteen Park to City Park System**

Mr. Fatland reported that Bethel A Baptist Church has donated the Silversteen Park property and the lot across the street adjacent to the parking lot that is jointly-owned by the Church and the City. The smaller parcel will become parking for the Mary C. Jenkins Community Center. He explained that we are working on getting a site plan for the playground parcels and will be installing new playground equipment on that site. He asked Doug Harris of Harris Architects to share some information regarding that site. Mr. Harris said we are in the process of having a survey done and once received, we can start laying it out. He explained that the playground site is approximately 2.25 acres and runs along the creek. He noted that the creek is cluttered and overgrown and not functioning as it should be. The City is currently working with a civil engineer to get approval for a stream bank restoration project, which may be executed at the same time. Mr. Harris showed a map of the site depicting the floodway and floodplain areas and noted that there are restrictions in what you can build there. He explained that we will have to submit and have approved a no-rise certificate, which means that whatever you are doing on the site is not going to create a net increase in the severity of flooding under any flood conditions.

Mr. Harris noted that plans for the playground offer opportunities for a wide-range of different ages and uses. He explained that the program for the playground include playground equipment for 5 to 12 year-olds and maybe an area for 2 to 5 year-olds. There will be a new basketball court replacing the current one that will be oriented on an east-west axis. There will be some passive recreation areas to include a shelter, seats, benches, and tables. He showed examples of the types of playground equipment being considered. He added that another component under consideration is a hiking/running trail which would include different exercise/stretching stations. He estimated that we would be able to get a ¼ mile loop on that property.

Mr. Fatland added that we took this same topic to the Mary C. Jenkins Community Center Task Force and we would like to proceed and get City Council approval to do the playground equipment, but we have to get some answers from our engineer and floodplain administrators on what we can and cannot do on the site. If we can get all the questions answered we hope to bring in the playground consultant to meet with the MCJCC Task Force. He asked whether the Committee wanted to be part of the decision process or would you be willing to yield those decisions to the MCJCC Task Force? As

suggested by Ms. Copelof, there was consensus to cede oversight to the MCJCC Task Force with them taking the lead to come up with what they think is going to be best for the community there.

#### **G. Proposed Historic/Art Mural Project – Nicola Karesh**

Nicola Karesh had presented the concept for this project to this Committee back in December and there was consensus that it is a great idea but she was asked to come back to the committee for further review once she had a more concrete plan. Ms. Karesh reported that this is a 501c3 project which has been named the “African American Storyline Project” and since the last meeting she has received a \$23,000 grant for up to 35 signs at various historical sites within the community. She explained that they are planning to do the signs in two phases. Phase One would be for 19 signs, two of which would be the old Rosenwald School wooden structure and where the administration offices are now. She shared photos of what the signs might look like and said the verbiage for the signs will come from information in the book titled “*Reflections – TCIO Celebrates 40 Years of Community Service*”. She explained that TCIO was the organizing group that took the County Schools to court to integrate the schools. They are also hoping to include some sketching by a local artist. She noted that the 35<sup>th</sup> sign would be a map of the locations of all the other signs. She said she did not know yet where that will be, but it may be at the Community Center property.

During discussion Ms. Karesh noted that Torry Nergart was really helpful in doing the digital mapping for the sites. She explained that the sites are not all within the Rosenwald Community and that they are scattered throughout the community, including Pisgah Forest and eventually there could be some in Toxaway. Mr. Daniel pointed out that this project differs from the project she had previously presented, which was a mural project along the bike trail. He thought this would need City management input before going to City Council. Mr. Fatland and Mr. Bland noted that it would be necessary to get easements or encroachment agreements from the City/State or private property owners for each site. Following further discussion, the Committee thought it was important to have a list of the 35 locations, together with information regarding the sign material, and the subject matter and verbiage for each sign before presenting it to City Council. It was decided that Ms. Karesh and Mr. Nergart would follow up with the Planning Department and City Manager to start putting a plan together.

#### **H. Committee Vacancies**

Mr. Fatland noted that there are currently two vacancies on the Committee and asked that if anyone knows of someone who would like to serve, please have them contact City Clerk Jill Murray.

### **Other Updates/Comments:**

Ms. Copelof informed everyone that there will be a panel discussion called "Time to Talk About Bikes" on August 27<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm. It is sponsored by Project Empathy and will be held at Brevard College in the Ingram Auditorium.

### **I. Set Date for Next Meeting**

The next regular meeting of the Parks, Trails & Recreation Committee will be on Wednesday, September 18, 2019 at 3:30 PM.

### **J. Adjourn**

There being no further business, Mr. Fatland moved, seconded by Ms. Copelof to adjourn the meeting at 4:46 pm. Motion carried unanimously.

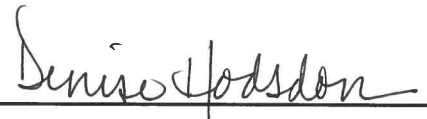
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Gary Daniel,  
Chair, Council Member

Minutes Approved: October 16, 2019

X

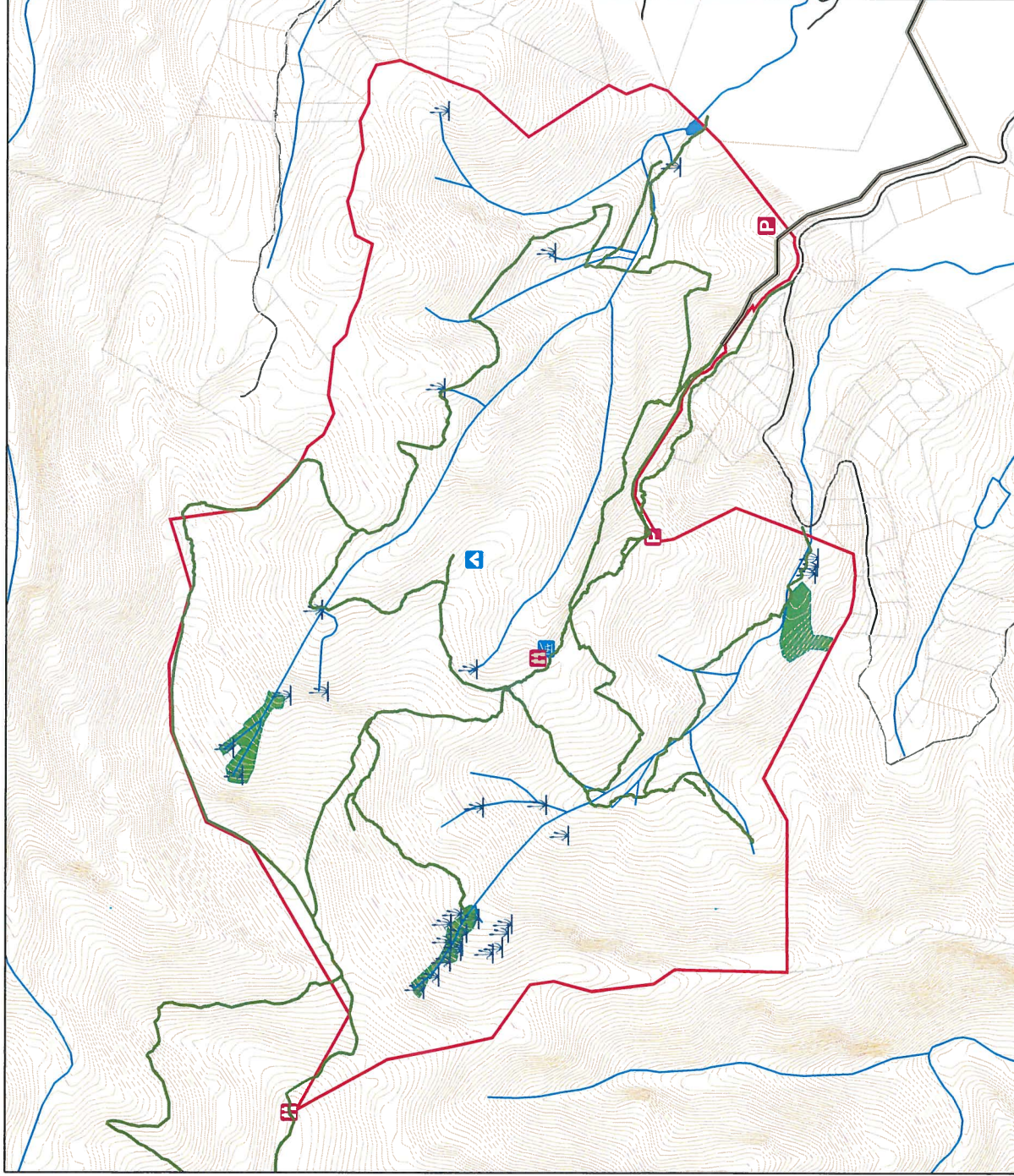


Denise Hodsdon  
Executive Assistant

Appendix 14:

Recreational Areas

2019 UPDATE  
MAP 1 of 3  
Original Approved Trails



Legend

- Originally Approved Master Plan Trails
- Property Access
- Primitive Campsite
- Seeps
- Overlook
- Picnic Site (rest area)
- Possible Parking
- Bracken Mountain Property
- Pond
- Streams (vicinity)
- Topography (vicinity, 10' intervals)
- Critical Habitat Zone
- Parcels
- Streets

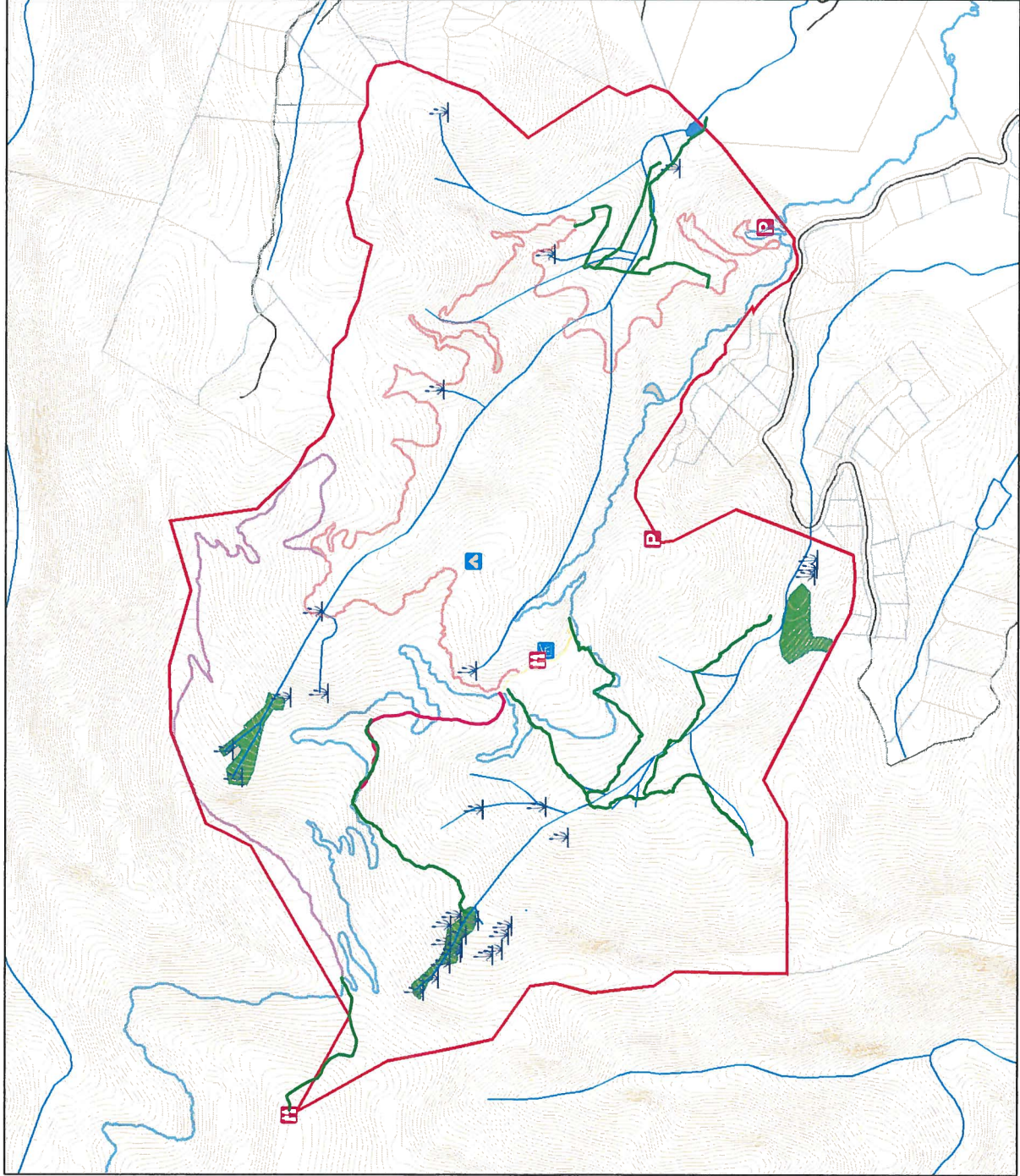


**2019 UPDATE**  
**MAP 2 of 3**  
**Existing Trails**

# Appendix 14:

## Recreational Areas

**2019 UPDATE**  
**MAP 3 of 3**  
**Future Trails**



### Legend

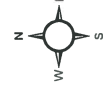
- Future Master Plan Trails
- Future Downhill Trail

### Existing Trails (as of 7/1/19)

- Bracken Mountain Trail
- Brushy Creek Trail
- Mackey Ridge Trail
- Ridge Trail

- Primitive Campsite
- Seeps
- Overlook
- Picnic Site (rest area)
- Possible Parking
- Bracken Mountain Property
- Pond

- Streams (vicinity)
- Topography (vicinity, 10' intervals)
- Critical Habitat Zone
- Parcels
- Streets



City of Brevard, NC



Planning Department