

MINUTES

City Council Parks, Trails, & Recreation Committee

Wednesday, November 17, 2021, 3:30 PM
City Hall Council Chambers

Members Present: Mac Morrow, Chair, Council Member
Maureen Copelof, Vice-Chair, Council Member
Jim Fatland, City Manager
Paul Ray, Planning Director
Nancy DePippo, Citizen Member
Matt Christian, Citizen Member (arrived at 3:33 pm)
Howie Granat, Citizen Member (arrived at 3:48 pm)

Absent: David Lutz, Public Works Director
Tim Robinson, Citizen Member
Ryan Olson, At-Large Member

Staff Present: Katherine Buzby, Planner
Denise Hodsdon, Executive Assistant

Guests: Council Member-Elect Aaron Baker
Mark Burrows, Blue Zones Project
Torry Nergart, Conserving Carolina (via Zoom)

Media: Jeremiah Reed, *The Transylvania Times*

A. Welcome & Call to Order

Committee Chair Mac Morrow welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 3:30 pm.

B. Certification of Quorum

Quorum was certified by Executive Assistant Denise Hodsdon

C. Approval of Agenda

Jim Fatland added an item regarding the Ecusta Trail. Motion by Ms. Copelof, seconded by Mr. Ray to approve the agenda as amended. The motion carried unanimously.

D. Approval of Minutes of October 20, 2021 Meeting

Motion by Ms. DePippo, seconded by Ms. Copelof to approve the minutes of the October 20, 2021 meeting as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

E. Update re Estatoe Trail

1. Easement from Board of Education

Paul Ray reported that the City has received an easement from the Board of Education on their property across from the high school by their practice soccer field and parking lot. The easement is a half-mile in length.

2. Davidson River Bridge

Mr. Fatland explained that the cost for the Davidson River Pedestrian Bridge project has gone up. NCDOT is paying for 80% of the project and the City is responsible for 20%. He discussed this with City Council this week and recommended that we use a portion of the \$1M appropriated for the Estatoe Trail to keep this project moving. Council approved the additional funds and he signed the contract yesterday. Mr. Morrow noted that if we had not increased our 20%, NCDOT probably would have walked away. Mr. Ray added that the whole project cost is \$1,400,000 and DOT is paying \$1,120,000. Mr. Morrow noted that this project had been on hold for a while because they went over budget in doing the archaeological study. Mr. Ray said they hope to have the bridge in place in 2022.

F. Ecusta Trail

Mr. Fatland noted that Henderson County formed an advisory board to help them with their Ecusta Trail design and construction. He said he has met with our Planning Staff and we are recommending that we form a similar advisory board for Transylvania County. He distributed a draft of proposed board membership for the committee's consideration and input. He would like to take a recommendation to City Council and have the advisory board in place as soon as possible. He noted that we are still waiting to hear about the RAISE Grant, and our backup plan if we don't get the RAISE Grant, is to work with Conserving Carolina on a grant request to Dogwood Trust for funding for the trail.

During discussion, Ms. DePippo suggested that we ask the Henderson County Board to put one of their members on our advisory board and we ask them to put one of our members on their board. Mark Burrows of Blue Zones Project suggested that the County representatives be either County Commissioners or designees. Following further discussion, Ms. Copelof moved and Mr. Christian seconded to approve the proposed Transylvania/Brevard Ecusta Trail Advisory Board membership as modified with the addition of the Henderson County Advisory Board member and modifying the Transylvania County Board of Commissioners to add "or their designees". The motion carried unanimously. A copy of the proposed advisory board membership is attached and will go to City Council for approval on December 6th.

G. Set Date for Next Meeting

The next regular meeting of the Parks, Trails & Recreation Committee is scheduled for Wednesday, January 19, 2022 at 3:30 PM.


H. Adjourn

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:16 pm.

X 

Mac Morrow,
Chair, Council Member

Minutes Approved: January 12, 2022

X 

Denise Hodsdon
Executive Assistant

DRAFT

**PROPOSED TRANSYLVANIA/BREVARD ECUSTA TRAIL ADVISORY
BOARD**

- **2 Members from City of Brevard (Mayor & Council Member)**
- **2 Members from Transylvania County Board of Commissioners or designees**
- **1 Member from Tourism (Executive Director)**
- **1 Member from Conserving Carolina**
- **1 Member from Friends of Ecusta Trail**
- **1 Member from Brevard Blue Zone Project**
- **2 At Large Appointments**
- **Brevard City Manager**
- **Brevard Planning Director**
- **1 Henderson County Advisory Board Member**