

# **MINUTES**

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

**Wednesday, April 20, 2022, 3:30 PM**  
City Hall Council Chambers

Members Present: Mac Morrow, Chair, Council Member  
Aaron Baker, Vice-Chair, Council Member  
Steve Harrell, Interim City Manager  
Paul Ray, Planning Director  
David Lutz, Public Works Director  
Nancy DePippo, Citizen Member  
Matt Christian, Citizen Member (joined via Zoom at 3:44)

Absent: Howie Granat, Citizen Member  
Tim Robinson, Citizen Member  
Ryan Olson, At-Large Member

Staff Present: Denise Hodsdon, Executive Assistant

Guests: TYSA Members John Felty, Randy Barron, Josh Shober, MJ Gordon,  
and Caitlyn Murray (via Zoom)  
Torry Nergart, Conserving Carolina (via Zoom)  
Brad Martin, Resident

Media: Jonathan Rich, *Transylvania Times*

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

Committee Chair Mac Morrow welcomed everyone 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**

Mr. Harrell asked to remove Item F Fundraising for Bracken Preserve Extension from the agenda. He also asked to add a Closed Session to discuss property acquisition. Motion by Mr. Baker, seconded by Mr. Ray to approve the agenda as amended. The motion carried unanimously.

#### **D. Approval of Minutes of March 15, 2022 Meeting**

Motion by Ms. DePippo, seconded by Mr. Harrell to approve the minutes of the March 16, 2022 meeting as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

#### **E. Transylvania Youth Soccer Association – Update re Soccer Field**

TYSA Executive Director Caitlyn Murray presented an updated proposal for the Ecusta Soccer Field (copy attached). She explained that they are proposing updating the field so it functions better and TYSA can serve more kids. She said as part of their strategic plan, they plan to acquire their own facility at some point and essentially this is an extension of that by outfitting facilities that are already in existence so they function better for our community. The funding objectives for this updated proposal include Astro Turf, lighting, fencing, bleacher seating, restrooms, parking and landscaping. Ms. Murray said they are asking for the City to partner with them in executing this project and to help with funding. She said they already have committed donation pledges and are asking for a contractual agreement with the City of Brevard, which they will need in order to start their fundraising campaign and apply for any grant funding. Following discussion, motion by Mr. Baker, seconded by Mr. Ray to recommend that City Staff and TYSA work on a Memorandum of Understanding to present to City Council on the improvements to the Ecusta Sports Complex as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

#### **F. Continued Discussion of Recreational Priorities**

Mr. Baker said he doesn't think this committee can necessarily decide all of these priorities and projects and where they should fit. With all the unfunded projects we have floating out there right now, like the Bracken expansion, the Skate Park phases, the Silversteen Playground phases, the Estatoe Trail phases, and the TYSA proposal, he thought that this needs to be a bigger community-wide discussion. He suggested we hold some drop-in sessions where we present all of these projects at once and get input from the community to help determine our short-term and long-term priorities. Mr. Harrell and Mr. Ray will bring back to the committee some ideas for holding community input sessions.

#### **G. Closed Session to Discuss Property Acquisition: GS § 143-318.11.(a)(5)**

A closed session requires a separate motion, second and vote to discuss the matter. At 4:36 p.m. Mr. Harrell moved, seconded by Mr. Ray, to enter into closed session to discuss a property acquisition matter pursuant to GS § 143-318.11.(a)(5). The motion carried unanimously. Executive Assistant Denise Hodsdon was authorized to remain for the closed session with Committee members.

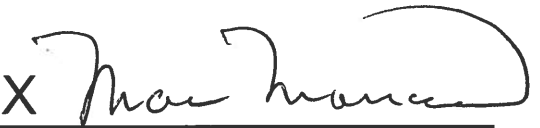
Committee Returned to Open Session – at 4:48 p.m. the Committee resumed the meeting in open session. No official action was taken in closed session and the minutes are authorized to be sealed.

## H. Set Date for Next Meeting

The next regular meeting of the Parks, Trails & Recreation Committee is scheduled for Wednesday, May 18, 2022 at 3:30 PM.

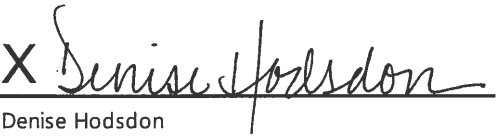
## I. Adjourn

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:55 pm.

X 

Mac Morrow,  
Chair, Council Member

Minutes Approved: May 18, 2022

X 

Denise Hodsdon  
Executive Assistant

# ECUSTA FIELD PROJECT PROPOSAL



## PROJECT GOALS

- Establish a collaborative partnership between the City of Brevard and Transylvania Youth Soccer Association (TYSA)
- Improve function and increase impact of the Ecusta Field for the Transylvania County community.

## PROJECT OBJECTIVES

1. Initiate a proposal, presented to the City of Brevard Parks, Recreation, and Trails Committee for the reconstruction and renovation of the Ecusta Field in partnership with TYSA which includes a needs assessment, project outline (including funding objectives), and site plan sketch.
2. With the support of the Parks, Recreation, and Trails Committee, a) present this project proposal, pending amendments, to Brevard City Council, and b) request a project ordinance (establishing a project budget) be recommended for approval by the Brevard Planning Board on June 20, 2022.
3. Engage and enter into a contractual agreement with the City of Brevard which allows TYSA to a) engage in a capital campaign to raise funds (minimum 20% of the budgeted project expenses), and b) execute the project with approval from the City of Brevard.

# THE NEED

## SUSTAINABILITY

TYSA is grateful for the county's facilities that have allowed us to run our programs since 2000, but our reliance on these threatens our efficacy and growth as an organization. To jumpstart our strategic plan which emphasizes obtaining our own facilities and developing existing spaces to expand our programs, we are proposing additions to the Ecusta Field and its management to improve the field's functionality and increase the number of youth and residents served as a result of the renovated field.

## YOUTH WELLBEING

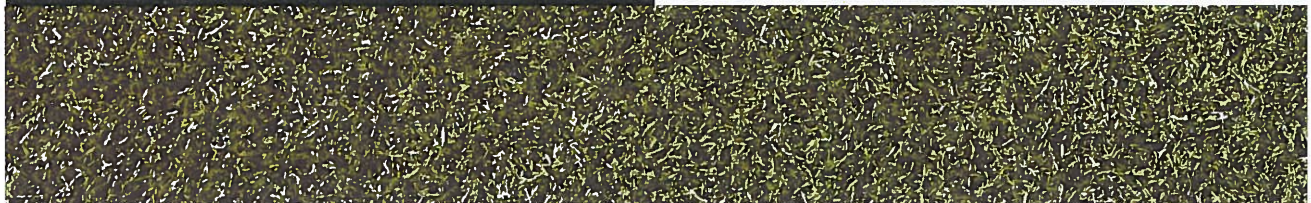
Research shows that stress, anxiety, and depression continue to increase in youth, and just this school year, there have been three teen suicides in Transylvania County. The pandemic has limited connection and resources available to youth in general, and as we continue to move through and, hopefully, beyond the pandemic, community youth have a great deal of academic, mental, physical, and social ground to make up. Transylvania Youth Soccer Association aims to be one piece of the community puzzle working tirelessly to provide equitable, accessible programs that support wellness and growth for youth and adults.

## ACCESSIBILITY

With a rural population of 33,000 people, Transylvania County has limited youth recreation opportunities in comparison to surrounding counties. With this and the importance of these opportunities in mind, the City has long-championed youth sports and recreation, which in turn contributes to the overall wellbeing and positive growth of the community. The Ecusta Field was developed to provide additional recreational opportunities for Transylvania County residents; although the field is officially a soccer field, it can be utilized for a variety of different sports/recreation activities. The existence of the field itself is a benefit, however, its current functionality limits the potential impact.

## SAFETY/QUALITY

The Ecusta Field's current condition does not lend itself to safe or quality experiences with its uneven playing surfaces, including patchy grass and rocks, and prevalent flooding. This concern has been widely reported by Transylvania Youth Soccer Association players, families, coaches, and board members, in addition to community members.



# THE IMPACT

## WHY SOCCER?

Soccer is the world's most popular sport. It is cheap and easy to implement, and has very simple rules. Players of all ages, abilities, and backgrounds can engage with the sport at varying levels of play. Studies qualify soccer as a type of "medicine" because of its unique combination of high intensity intervals, and endurance and strength training that can be "characterized as an all-in-one type of training with broad-spectrum fitness effects for the general population". This, in conjunction with the positive psychological, social, and cognitive effects, makes soccer the ultimate sport to promote overall wellness (Krustup 2018). Youth playing soccer can also develop skills critical to their success and wellbeing, including communication skills, critical thinking and problem-solving strategies, and emotional intelligence.

## OUR IMPACT: TRANSYLVANIA YOUTH SOCCER ASSOCIATION

- In its 22nd year of operation, TYSA has served thousands of youth and families in Transylvania County.
- **400** youth were served during the Spring 2022 season
- **50+** volunteers provided over 650 hours of coaching during the Spring 2022 season through TYSA's programs (Recreation and Academy)
- **80** youth were signed up through The Cindy Platt Boys & Girls Club, El Centro, and Rise & Shine collective for the Spring 2022 Recreation program.
- **\$5000** in discounts and scholarships were offered to players for the Spring 2022 season.
- TYSA's Youth Leadership Development Program, focused on providing leadership and learning opportunities to middle/high school and college students, has served over 20 young people since its inception in Fall 2021.
- TYSA will continue to grow its scholarship program through fundraising efforts and expand efforts to ensure programs are equitable and accessible.
- TYSA is in the planning stages of developing an adult soccer tournament and subsequent pilot league in Transylvania County.

Transylvania Youth Soccer Association is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that seeks to *foster the physical, mental, and emotional growth of youth and adults in Transylvania County, NC, regardless of race, gender, religion, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, ability, or any other factor, through the sport of soccer at all levels of age and competition by establishing programs and activities that focus on development, promotion, teaching and administration of the game of soccer.*



# THE VISION

## TURF - LIGHTS - FENCING - SEATING - RESTROOMS - PARKING

The addition of **lights** to the field will expand usability, especially during winter months, for soccer, football, and other community events/programs. **Fencing** will improve function by increasing the safety of players and spectators and providing better ball containment. Outfitting the field with bleacher **seating** increases the field's capacity to be used for larger community events. **Sports turf** improves overall function of the field substantially by allowing consistent usability despite weather conditions, keeping the field in optimal playing condition, and lowering field maintenance cost and environmental impact. **Restrooms** and a paved **parking** lot improve the function of both the Brevard Sports Complex and Transylvania County facilities by providing bathrooms near the Brevard Skate Park, Ecusta Field, county baseball/softball fields, and the Ecusta Rd. bike path.

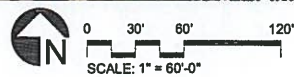
## FUNDING OBJECTIVES

Astro-Turf (with basic grading)	\$800,000
Stadium lighting	\$250,000
Parking lot (paving)	\$200,000
Fencing (turf field)	\$50,000
Bleachers (300 seats)	\$60,000
Restrooms	\$120,000
Landscaping	\$20,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,500,000</b>



# SITE PLAN

## ECUSTA SPORTS COMPLEX



LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE | CONSERVATION PLANNING | LOW IMPACT DEVELOPMENT  
 P.O. BOX 8913, ASHEVILLE, NC 28814 | PH: 828.243.8884 | WWW.FUSCOA.COM  
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Site Concept Sketch

April 15, 2022