



AGENDA
BREVARD ECUSTA TRAIL ADVISORY BOARD - REGULAR MEETING
Thursday, November 20, 2025 - 3:30 PM
City Council Chambers

[IGNORE_INDENT]

- A. Welcome and Call to Order**
- B. Certification of Quorum**
- C. Approval of Agenda**
- D. Approval of Minutes**
 - 1. Draft Minutes August 27th, 2025
 - 2. Draft Minutes October 29th, 2025
- E. Public Comments**
- F. New Business**
 - 1. Watermark Trail Signage Proposal - Vote
- G. Unfinished Business**
- H. Remarks / Future Agenda Considerations**
 - 1. Set December meeting date (or cancellation)
- I. Adjourn**

Agenda Posted, Website, 11.19.2025
M. Baker, Board Clerk

To review Agenda materials, go to the City's website www.cityofbrevard.com. Select "Your Government" tab followed by "Council Agenda Packet" tab. Agenda packet materials are posted on Thursday afternoon prior to Council's Monday meeting.

MINUTES
ECUSTA TRAIL ADVISORY BOARD 2.0

Wednesday, August 27th, 2025 – 3:30 pm
City Hall Council Chambers

Members Present: Aaron Baker, Chair, Council Member
Mac Morrow, Vice Chair, Council Member
Larry Chapman, Transylvania County Commissioner
Dee Dee Perkins, Transylvania Development Authority
Doug Miller, Heart of Brevard
Sheila Carland, Transylvania Economic Alliance
Meredith Carli, At-Large Appointment
John Ditillo, Friends of Ecusta Trail
Rebekah Robinson, Conserving Carolina

Absent: Madeline Hanley, At-Large Appointment

Staff Present: Maureen Copelof, Mayor, Ex-Officio
Madalin Baker, Board Secretary
Wilson Hooper, City Manager
Aaron Bland, Assistant Planning Director

Guests: Mark Tooley, Friends of the Ecusta Trail
Tad Fogel, Friends of the Ecusta Trail
Lonnie Watkins, NCDOT
Dave Bradley, Transylvania Times

A. Welcome and Call to Order

Committee Vice Chair Mac Morrow welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 3:31 PM.

B. Certification of Quorum

Quorum was certified by Board Secretary Madalin Baker.

C. Approval of Agenda

Motion to approve the agenda as written by D. Perkins, seconded by M. Carli. The motion carried unanimously.

D. Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve the draft minutes as written was made by M. Carli, seconded by D. Perkins, carried unanimously.

E. Public Comment

Dave Bradley mentioned he is working on a story about the trail’s economic impact in Brevard, and encouraged board members and guests to share their thoughts with him.

F. New Business

1. Funding Update: W. Hooper provided an update on the trail’s funding status. The trail design money is coming from a number of grants, which W. Hooper provided specifics on. L. Watkins contributed as well, saying NCDOT is currently negotiating with engineering firms. W. Hooper noted that although funding remains challenging, no progress has been stalled. M. Morrow thanked L. Watkins for his hard work and dedication. W. Hooper and L. Watkins took questions from the Board, clarifying specifics about funding for the Henderson County portion of the trail, which was not taken up as a NCDOT project in contrast to the Brevard portion.
2. FOET Director: J. Ditillo shared the exciting news that the Friends of the Ecusta Trail have hired a new Executive Director, Laura Rice.
3. M. Tooley shared updates from FOET regarding the opening of the Henderson County portion of the trail, which happened in July. He shared they are working with Watermark to bring proposed signage options before the board. The feedback from trail users has been generally very positive, with minimal complaints. T. Fogel shared some folks have called with difficulty locating parking near the trail, and some calls with folks suggesting portable restrooms along the trail before a permanent restroom solution can be reached.

G. Unfinished Business

None.

H. Remarks/Future Agenda Considerations

Many Board members shared their excitement that the Henderson County first 6 miles of trail were open. D. Miller expressed excitement regarding the new FOET director, and emphasized the need to prepare a MOU between the City and FOET to set expectations for the continued partnership. A. Bland shared that those conversations have been started at the staff level.

I. Adjourn

There being no further business, M. Morrow motioned to adjourn, A. Baker seconded, the motion passed unanimously, and the meeting was adjourned at 4:13 PM.

Minutes Approved-_____

X _____
Aaron Baker, Chair

X _____
Madalin Baker, Board Secretary

MINUTES
ECUSTA TRAIL ADVISORY BOARD 2.0

Wednesday, October 29th, 2025 – 3:30 pm
City Hall Council Chambers

Members Present: Aaron Baker, Chair, Council Member
Mac Morrow, Vice Chair, Council Member
Larry Chapman, Transylvania County Commissioner
Dee Dee Perkins, Transylvania Development Authority
John Ditillo, Friends of Ecusta Trail
Sheila Carland, Transylvania Economic Alliance
Doug Miller, Heart of Brevard
Meredith Carli, At-Large Appointment

Absent: Madeline Hanley, At-Large Appointment
Rebekah Robinson, Conserving Carolina

Staff Present: Maureen Copelof, Mayor, Ex-Officio
Madalin Baker, Board Clerk
Aaron Bland, Assistant Planning Director
David Todd, Assistant City Manager

Guests: Mark Tooley, Friends of the Ecusta Trail
Lonnie Watkins, NCDOT
Hunter Marks, Watermark Landscape Architecture

A. Welcome and Call to Order

Committee Chair Aaron Baker welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 3:32 PM.

B. Certification of Quorum

Quorum was certified by Board Clerk Madalin Baker.

C. Approval of Agenda

M. Baker noted the minutes of the August meeting were incomplete and would be brought for approval at the next meeting. M. Morrow motioned to strike “approval of minutes” and approve the rest of the agenda items. D. Perkins seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

D. Public Comment

None.

E. New Business

1. Ecusta Trail Signage Presentation – Watermark

H. Marks delivered his presentation, included in Exhibit A. He explained each sign design choice, and Board members asked questions regarding general sign specifications as he presented.

D. Miller noted his concern that the arrow graphic in the Ecusta Trail logo could create some confusion for trail users, as it seems to be providing direction rather than a simple design choice. H. Marks made note and said it would be reviewed. D. Miller emphasized the need for a MOU agreement between COB and FOET to ensure the FOET phone number remains reliable along the length of the trail. J. Ditillo, in response to questions from A. Baker, D. Miller, and D. Perkins, shared that the QR code featured on trail signage will direct folks to the FOET website, not the websites of individual trail-sponsor municipalities. J. Ditillo shared the FOET site includes lists of nearby amenities, restaurants, etc, and includes a donation option for trail users as well. C. Burns noted that any features named on the trail (benches, plaques on stations, etc) are named permanently. L. Watkins asked H. Marks what the distance metric on each sign was to, and H. Marks shared it will be specific to the context and location of each sign.

Discussion continued following the presentation. D. Miller asked if there had been issues with E-Bikes on the existing Hendersonville portion of the trail, and C. Burns said he had heard some concerns. They are gathering data but currently unsure of the scale of the issue outside of anecdotal complaints. A. Baker emphasized the need to consider funding options for continuing the trail signage into downtown Brevard, beyond the geographic end of grant funds. A. Baker asked how the trail in Hendersonville was interacting with GPS mapping apps, and C. Burns said he was unsure, but perhaps it was something FOET could look into.

F. Unfinished Business

None.

G. Remarks/Future Agenda Considerations

C. Burns shared that Henderson County Parks and Rec has hired a full time employee dedicated to the trail.

J. Ditillo asked if the funds generated by paid parking lots along the Henderson County trail were going back into the cost for maintenance of the trail, and C. Burns said no, they are largely operated by private property owners.

H. Adjourn

Board members set the date for the next meeting on November 20th, at 3:30, for a final look at the Watermark proposed signage. There being no further business, D. Perkins motioned to adjourn, M. Carli seconded, the motion passed unanimously, and the meeting was adjourned at 4:35 PM.

Minutes Approved-_____

X _____
Aaron Baker, Chair

X _____
Madalin Baker, Board Secretary

STAFF REPORT

Ecusta Trail Advisory Board, Thursday, November 20, 2025

Title: Watermark Trail Signage Proposal - Vote

Speaker:

Prepared by:

Approved by:

Attachments: