RESOLUTION NO. XX-2024

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO NEGOTIATE A LONG-TERM LEASE AGREEMENT WITH PISGAH HEALTH FOUNDATION AND SEEK FUNDING FOR PRELIMINARY DESIGN FOR FREEDOM PARK AT THE CONFLUENCE OF ECUSTA AND ESTATOE TRAILS

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Transportation has awarded over 45 million dollars for construction of the Ecusta Trail, a planned 19 miles multi-use path from the City of Brevard to the City of Hendersonville, which is currently in design; and

WHEREAS, the City of Brevard has the Estatoe Trail extending to Pisgah National Forest to the north and downtown Brevard to the south; and

WHEREAS, the Pisgah Health Foundation currently owns an 11.5 acre parcel of land off Allison Road, which it has offered to the City for recreational use and wellness and could serve as the confluence of the Ecusta Trail and Estatoe Trail where trail users could experience and utilize informational signs, maps, public restrooms, outdoor fitness stations and birding areas protected by conservation efforts to preserve the floodplains and educate trail users and outdoor enthusiasts on the natural environment; and

WHEREAS, The City of Brevard and Transylvania County have a large biking community, and the number of commuters who bike to work is higher than the national average and is a greater percentage than seen in other counties in the region; and

WHEREAS, a central, inclusionary trailhead and park is important to set the expectations for all trail users, provide positive first and last impressions and encourage visitors to return and experience all of Brevard; and

WHEREAS, to study the feasibility of this offer, of constructing and maintaining a trailhead park for trail users, the City Manager must seek and spend funds to determine the suitability of the site, including but not limited to ingress and egress of the property, environmental impacts and affordability.

WHEREAS, fostering partnerships and making new investments in Brevard confirm a shared commitment to completing the Ecusta Trail and providing healthy and efficient user amenities such as inclusive trailheads and transportation hubs or multi-use recreational space to serve a wide range of outdoor enthusiasts.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BREVARD, NORTH CAROLINA THAT:

SECTION 1. Brevard City Council authorizes the City Manager to negotiate a long-term lease with Pisgah Health Foundation for the long-term use of land to serve as a trailhead park.

SECTION 2. The Manager is authorized to seek outside funding and authorize an engineering firm to commence preliminary design of Freedom Park.

Approved and adopted this the 18th day of March, 2024.

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Maureen Copelof
Mayor

ATTEST:

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Denise Hodsdon
City Clerk