MINUTES
City Council Parks, Trails, & Recreation Committee

Wednesday, December 18, 2024 - 3:30 PM
City Council Chambers

Members Present:	Aaron Baker, Chair, Council Member Lauren Wise, Vice Chair, Council Member Howie Granat, Citizen Member JD Powers, Citizen Member Reba Osborne, Citizen Member Nancy DePippo, Citizen Member Mayor Maureen Copelof, Ex-Officio
Absent:	Wyn Birkenthal, Citizen Member
Staff Present:	Wilson Hooper, City Manager David Todd, Assistant City Manager Wesley Shook, Public Works Director Paul Ray, Planning Director Becky McCann, Communications Coordinator Stephanie Holland, Planner Selena Coffey, Assistant to the City Manager

A. Welcome & Call to Order

Committee Chair Aaron Baker welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 3:31 pm.

B. Certification of Quorum

Quorum was certified by Assistant to the City Manager Selena Coffey.

C. Approval of Agenda

Mr. Wise moved, seconded by Mr. Granat, to approve the agenda as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

D. Approval of Minutes – November 20, 2024 Meeting

Ms. Osborne moved, seconded by Ms. DePippo, to approve the minutes of the November 20, 2024 meeting as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

E. Update on Shade Structures at Skate Park

Ms. Holland provided an overview of her research on shade structures for the City's skate park. She presented the following options for the Committee's consideration:

Skate Park Shade Sails Options

1. Carolina Shade Sails: The company offers shade structure that includes 14'x14'pre-engineered kits, with shipping and installation not included in price of $7,141. The sails feature powder-coated steel posts and frames with a 20-year warranty and the sails themselves have a 15-year warranty.
2. Atlantic Coast Shade: These shades are 14'x14'pre-engineered kits, with shipping and installation included in price of $8,950 (plus tax). The sails feature powder-coated steel posts and a frame with a 20-year warranty and the sails themselves have a 15-year warranty.
3. ShadeSails.com: These are 15'x15'pre-engineered sails and hardware kits with posts installed by owner. The sails feature high quality fabric with a 2-year warranty, steel black pipe posts that are estimated at $650, steel galvanized posts estimated at $1,400, wooden pressure-treated 6'x6' posts estimated at $650, wooden pressure-treated 8'x8' posts estimated at $1,100, wooden pressure-treated utility posts estimated at $1,000.

Mr. Granat initiated the Committee's discussion regarding his preference for the 10'x12' cantilevered shade structure, *The Calabash*, sold by Atlantic Coast Shade. There was Committee agreement regarding this particular structure and the Committee reached a consensus that it would like to request that the City obtain cost estimates for this product and consider the potential for purchasing two of the structures. Ms. Holland noted that she would request color swatches for the Committee's consideration. Mr. Wilson noted that he will take the proposal to City Council and ask if they would like to move forward with the purchase of one or two of *The Calabash* shade structures.

F. Update on Bracken Preserve/Brevard Music Center Trail Easement

Mr. Hooper and Mr. Granat noted that they had not yet been able to get in contact with Keith Arbogast, the CFO & Senior Director of Campus Operations for Brevard Music Center, for an update on the Bracken Preserve/Brevard Music Center trail easement. Mr. Granat provided updates regarding the Bracken Preserve trail improvements.

Mr. Baker summarized that the Committee will review the updated map for Climbing Trail Loop and hear about the emergency access agreement and agreement on Laurel Falls at its next meeting.

G. Review of Timelines for Estatoe Trail Projects

Mr. Ray provided an overview of the status of the Estatoe Trail Projects, noting that the City now has the land necessary for the section from Main Street to the Mary C. Jenkins

Community and Cultural Center and a surveyor will be working to determine the easements necessary to continue the trail to the Community Center.

Mr. Ray shared that the City is under contract with NCDOT to manage the Tannery North project because it runs through a Brownfield site and the City was required to have archeological and environmental studies completed. He noted that these studies have not revealed new challenges for the project. He noted that the City will need to work around the bat moratorium, which begins in April and ends in October. The Committee discussed the design elements necessary for this portion of the Trail.

Mr. Ray noted that the City has worked with NCDOT regarding the trail crossing at Rosman Highway. He stated that the City will be constructing a sidewalk to the Marathon gas station and across the street to Subway and NCDOT will then construct the crossing itself, to include a stop light, a crosswalk, etc. Mr. Ray reported that the next step would be more complicated and the City would likely need an elevated boardwalk to cross North Creek until the trail reached dry land. He noted that four easements may be necessary at the beginning of the trail until it reaches the school property. He noted that the City has received an easement from the Board of Education for the section of the Trail stretching to the high school. He noted that the City awaits permits from NCDEQ and the Army Corps of Engineers, as well as the topographical and geotechnical studies, in order to continue the project.

Mr. Todd provided an update on the status of the Estatoe Trail boardwalk revitalization project, noting that he has requested cost estimates to 1) fix the current boardwalk and, 2) to rebuild it with more substantial materials. Mr. Hooper shared that he has spoken with potential external funding sources who may be interested in assisting with funding the repairs and/or rebuilding of the boardwalk. The Committee discussed the crossing, and the traffic circle and Mr. Hooper noted that staff has requested NCDOT approval for improvements to this section. The Committee continued their discussions, with a focus on adding safety improvements along this section of the Trail.

H. Discussion of Master Planning Process for City Sports Complex

Mr. Hooper introduced this agenda item and asked the Committee to provide input on the scope of the master planning process for the City sports complex. Mr. Baker noted that Mr. Birkenthal (absent from this meeting) had previously advocated for an extensive master planning process. He then shared that the City is currently leasing the properties within the complex and the Committee discussed the current uses of the property and potential future uses at length.

Mr. Hooper summarized that the Committee wanted the master plan to highlight that the City is satisfied with the type of recreation facilities currently available at the sports complex, but wants to look at ways to improve its complementary facilities. Ms. Copelof raised the need for improved handicapped parking at the complex and the Committee continued with this discussion, asking that the master planning process address this as well.

Mr. Hooper noted that he will bring the scope of work for the master plan back to the Committee for their review and then take it before City Council for final approval to move forward.

I. Public Comment – None.

J. Set Date for Next Meeting

The next regular meeting of the Parks, Trails & Recreation Committee was scheduled for Wednesday, January 15, 2025 at 3:30pm.

K. Adjourn

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:56pm with a motion by Ms. Osborne, second by Mr. Wise, and all in favor.

Minutes Approved: _____

X _____
Aaron Baker
Chair, Council Member

X _____
Selena Coffey
Assistant to the City Manager