MINUTES
City Council Parks, Trails, & Recreation Committee

Wednesday, June 18, 2025 - 3:30 PM
Mary C. Jenkins Community & Cultural Center

Members Present:	Aaron Baker, Chair, Council Member Lauren Wise, Vice Chair, Council Member Howie Granat, Citizen Member Reba Osborne, Citizen Member Daniel Jesse, Citizen Member Jackson Tate, Citizen Member Mayor Maureen Copelof, Ex-Officio
Members Present:	JD Powers, Citizen Member
Staff Present:	Wilson Hooper, City Manager David Todd, Assistant City Manager Aaron Bland, Assistant Planning Director Wesley Shook, Public Works Director Becky McCann, Communications Coordinator Selena Coffey, Assistant to the City Manager
Guests:	Dave Bradley, Gary Lowden

A. Welcome & Call to Order

Committee Chair Aaron Baker welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 3:30pm. Mr. Baker recognized the new members of the committee and everyone introduced themselves.

B. Certification of Quorum

A quorum was certified by Assistant to City Manager Selena Coffey.

C. Approval of Agenda

Mr. Granat made a motion to approve the agenda, which was seconded by Mr. Wise. All voted in favor.

D. Approval of Minutes

Mr. Wise made a motion to approve the May 21, 2025 minutes and the motion was seconded by Ms. Osborne. All voted in favor.

E. Report from Pisgah SORBA

Gary Lowden presented a report from Pisgah SORBA. Mr. Lowden shared that SORBA is a year into the relationship between the city and SORBA. He shared that SORBA feels that the Bracken Preserve Trail continues to be a primary focus for the organization. He noted 250 volunteer hours and 5 workdays by volunteers during the last year. Mr. Lowden reported on the clearing of debris after storm Helene, indicating that the majority of the debris has been removed from the trail. He then provided and overview of the Summit and how it benefited the community in terms of tourism generated. Mr. Lowden shared that Pisgah SORBA looks forward to continuing to collaborate with the City of Brevard. The committee members had discussion on the report, but no action was taken.

Mr. Lowden then provided an overview of the expansion of the Bracken Trail project. He explained that SORBA is working to receive bids from 3 local trail builders to submit a dollar per linear foot range and proposal for expanding the project. This will go out to those 3 contractors and the committee and those interested will meet with the contractors. SORBA and the city will then choose which contractor with which to move forward. Mr. Hooper noted that we need to ensure that the project falls within the informal bidding category before moving forward, as well as discussion of money available from various sources for the project. There was brief discussion of approaching the expansion with a hybrid model.

F. Discussion of Pisgah Health Foundation Land by Hospital

Mayor Copelof shared that the Pisgah Health Foundation needs to attend a future meeting, along with Conserving Carolina regarding this project. She shared with the committee that Pisgah Health Foundation has historically held a significant amount of land and is now seeking to simplify its holdings. They currently own some land near the Estatoe Trail and have been in discussions with Conserving Carolina about the possibility of transferring land to them to create some type of recreational park on this land. There were not many details provided, and Mr. Hooper shared that he will be asking someone from the Pisgah Health Foundation to come to the next meeting to share more of their vision for the land.

G. Updates

1. Bracken Trail/Climbing Trail Loop – Bid Results

This was discussed in item E above.

2. **Estatoe Boardwalk Assessment: Short-Term and Easements**

Mr. Todd stated that the boardwalk's condition would best be described as deteriorating to varying degrees, with some sections being challenging to rebuild. Mr. Todd made the point that any funding that the city puts into repairs on the boardwalk now would be wasted when the boardwalk is rebuilt. There was further discussion of the potential for designating a detour off the boardwalk when it is under construction, but committee members felt that detouring users may deter use of the boardwalk. Mr. Shook shared that Public Works makes repairs on the boardwalk approximately 2-3 times a month now. With the boardwalk in need of continuous maintenance, that exacerbates the need to rebuild the boardwalk.

Mr. Baker did not feel that the detour was a good option, rather that the boardwalk should simply be closed if necessary. He also indicated that the city needs to continue looking at cost estimates for the boardwalk replacement and easements. Mr. Todd proposed the idea of rebuilding the boardwalk on grade and this was discussed by the committee.

Mr. Bland provided information about potential re-routes of the boardwalk behind existing businesses. He shared that rerouting behind these businesses and receiving new easements could be quite expensive. He shared various options and land value of some of these easements for the purposes of re-routing.

After discussion of the re-route, committee members discussed the willingness of funders to support the Estatoe Boardwalk project is an unknown, and without more clarity on funding, the project's overall viability and ability to proceed remain somewhat in question. Mr. Hooper shared that there is approximately $500,000 in the fund for this project with the new fiscal year.

3. **30% Design for Remaining Sections of the Estatoe Trail: Summit Engineering Presentation**

Alvin Fuller, Engineer with Summit Engineering, presented findings on the 30% design for the remaining sections of the Estatoe Trail. Mr. Bland provided printouts of the plans for the project to each of the committee members. Mr. Fuller provided a brief project overview of the Estatoe Trail project. He indicated that phase 1 was completed two years ago, phase 2 is partially complete, and phase 3 began with city employees constructing a portion of the trail. Mr. Fuller shared that the phase 3 design was complete with phase 3a. Tannery will be constructed by NCDOT, phase 3c, the Highway 64 crossing is designed to and the city will install the sidewalks and NCDOT will complete the signalized crossing. Phase IV, which goes from Rosman Highway to the high school. He shared that easements were required in the later phases and these would be underway before construction can begin. He shared the

necessity of using ADA requirements in all phases of the project and this would be difficult in some areas.

Mr. Fuller continued his presentation and committee members interjected questions and thoughts throughout the presentation. Discussion of the boardwalk continued with this discussion. No action was taken as a result of Mr. Fuller's presentation.

H. Code of Conduct

Mr. Hooper explained that City Council had approved the distributed Code of Conduct for all city committee members, asking that members review this Code and sign and return the distributed acknowledgement. He emphasized that the purpose of the Code is to make certain that committee members represent the city ethically and in good faith in their activities.

I. Public Comment

No public comment.

J. Set Date for Next Meeting

The next meeting was scheduled for July 16, 2025 at 3:30pm.

K. Adjourn

Ms. Osborne made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Mr. Granat. All voted in favor and the meeting adjourned at 5:33pm.

Approved: July 16, 2025

Aaron Baker, Chair or
Lauren Wise, Vice Chair

Selena D. Coffey
Assistant to the City Manager