# MINUTES
## ECUSTA TRAIL ADVISORY BOARD 2.0

**Wednesday, December 4, 2024 – 3:30 pm**
City Hall Council Chambers

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| Members Present: | Aaron Baker, Chair, Council Member<br>Mac Morrow, Vice Chair, Council Member<br>Larry Chapman, Transylvania County Commissioner<br>Dee Dee Perkins, Transylvania Development Authority (Zoom)<br>John Ditillo, Friends of Ecusta Trail<br>Sheila Carland, Transylvania Economic Alliance<br>Doug Miller, Heart of Brevard<br>Meredith Carli, At-Large Appointment<br>Chris Burns, Henderson County RTAC |
| Absent: | Madeline Hanley, At-Large Appointment<br>Rebekah Robinson, Conserving Carolina |
| Staff Present: | Maureen Copelof, Mayor, Ex-Officio<br>Paul Ray, Planning Director<br>David Todd, City Engineer |
| Guests: | Christine Stout (TPD), Vicki Eastland (Land of Sky/NCDOT), Teresa Buckwalter (TPD), Sarah Schafer (Watermark Landscape Architecture), Megan Foy (Equinox) |

**A. Welcome and Call to Order**

Committee Chair Aaron Baker welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 3:35 PM.

**B. Certification of Quorum**

Quorum was certified by City Planner Katherine Buzby.

**C. Approval of Agenda**

Motion to approve agenda by Mr. Morrow, seconded by Mr. Chapman. The motion carried unanimously.

**D. Approval of Minutes**

Motion to approve October 30, 2024 meeting minutes by Ms. Carland, seconded by Ms. Carli.

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**E. Damage Assessment**

Traffic Planning & Design (TPD) did an assessment of the hurricane damage by walking the entire trail over 2 days looking for things that need to be addressed during design. The results of the assessment are as follows: none of the jurisdictional features changed (streams, wetlands, etc.) so they are able to move forward with their submission of their natural resource submission to the State; some washout did occur along some sections. Behind the airport, they have discovered drainage pipes from adjoining properties that run under the trail that was not adequately sized so some sedimentation did occur but they already have a plan to replace those pipes. A bridge near the airport (Bridge 5) and a driveway were impacted with sediment. The bridge foundation did not move the width of the channel so they are changing their recommendation from rebuilding the bridge from a stiff timber bridge to concrete culvert to withstand the next storm better. There will be a cost associated with this new change so they are getting an estimate together for this change. Bridge 5.5 at King's Creek was completely removed from its foundation and deposited downstream on the French Broad River. The foundation is still viable so they still have an option to just replace the deck of the bridge. A GIS tool is available that shows all the areas that flooded and where the damage occurred and a link to the GIS to the board at a later date when available. At final design they will look at areas that were impacted by flooding and see if there is anything that needs to change to make the trail more flood resistant.

Henderson County sustained more damage than Transylvania County did, including multiple landslides and massive debris, with estimated damages at about $500,000. The timeline for completion in their County has now been pushed out 6 more months due to repairing damages.

**F. Preliminary Amenities Map**

TPD has been developing a GIS map that shows the number and types of amenities, and the proposed location of the amenities. The amenities were categorized by levels 1-3 and they used the information they received from an ETAB poll to prioritize the different amenities. Design elements have been looked at for the amenities, such as the location and orientation markers that were originally proposed wooden materials but are considering composite materials. (see Amenities Handout attached). They also looked at historic stations and want to put information kiosks about them at these locations. TPD would like the board members review the GIS map and reach out to them if they have any ideas or concerns.

Mr. Baker questioned if corporate sponsors would be available for certain amenities and TPD responded that the non-profits usually serve as a project manager to the trails so Friends of Ecusta Trail may run a program but are looking at design elements that will have places for plaques.

**G. Public Comment**

Conserving Carolina was contacted by Job Corps looking for possible art projects for students on the trail.

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**H. Set Date for Next Meeting**

The next regularly scheduled ETAB 2.0 meeting is scheduled for January 29, 2025 at 3:30 PM.

**I. Adjourn**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:33 PM.

X _____
Aaron Baker, Chair

Minutes Approved-_____

X _____
Katherine Buzby, City Planner

Attachments: Grant Amenities Handout

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