MINUTES
ECUSTA TRAIL ADVISORY BOARD 2.0

Wednesday, May 28, 2025 – 3:30 pm
City Hall Council Chambers

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

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A. Welcome and Call to Order

Committee Chair Aaron Baker welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 3:33 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 L. Chapman, seconded by D. Perkins. The motion carried unanimously.

D. Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve the April draft minutes as written was made by D. Perkins, seconded by L. Chapman, carried unanimously.

E. Public Comment
Craig Wilson, Guest, expressed concern over the state of the portion of the Davidson River Trail nearest to Wild Hog BBQ, saying the grass was very tall and could pose a hazard.

W. Hooper responded, saying a long-term upgrade plan for that part of the trail has already been submitted to the state for review. In the interim, A. Baker asked W. Hooper if the City's Public Works staff could go cut some of the grass/brush in question, and W. Hooper said yes.

F. New Business

1. Presentation: Henderson Co. Trail Amenity Designs
Hunter Marks, of Watermark Landscape Architecture, provided a recap of the presentation they gave at the December meeting. Then, he provided a new presentation with details for the Board to consider regarding preferences for trail amenities, specifically signs.

Following the presentations, A. Baker asked L. Watkins about the timeline for finishing the roundabout project—L. Watkins said October 2028. W. Hooper asked H. Marks for details regarding the privacy fence shown on page 14 of the Ecusta Trail Amenities Details sheets, and H. Marks provided additional details. A. Bland asked if the split rail fence would feature two or three rail, and H. Marks said it would be two.

H. Marks asked the Board to consider what exactly they wanted to go on Brevard's signs, particularly what the appropriate emergency phone number would be, how they would like to promote trail sponsors, and how/if the City logo should be incorporated. A. Baker asked H. Marks how soon he would want feedback from the Board, and he said Watermark is hoping to have a template completed within four to six weeks.

The Board discussed further specifics. Generally, members looked favorably with collaboration and consistency with Henderson County, RTAC, and FOET guidance/designs and the already up and running FOET phone number.

M. Tooley told Board members to look out for email communication with more specific sign options in the upcoming days for consideration.

G. Unfinished Business
As an update from the last meeting, W. Hooper shared that Pisgah Labs has confirmed their interest in moving forward with creating a trail parking area on the portion of their lot discussed previously. Final plans are TBD.

H. Remarks/Future Agenda Considerations
The next regularly scheduled ETAB meeting is set for June 25th, 2025 at 3:30 PM.

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I. Adjourn

There being no further business, D. Miller motioned to adjourn, M. Carli seconded, the motion passed unanimously, and the meeting was adjourned at 4:17 PM.

X _____
Aaron Baker, Chair

Minutes Approved-_____

X _____
Madalin Baker, Board Secretary

Attachments: Watermark Landscape Architecture Presentations

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