MINUTES
City Council Parks, Trails & Recreation Committee

Wednesday, January 21st, 2026, at 3:30 PM
City Hall Council Chambers

Members Present:	Aaron Baker, Chair, Council Member Lauren Wise, Vice Chair, Council Member Howie Granat, Citizen Member JD Powers, Citizen Member Jackson Tate, Citizen Member Reba Osborne, Citizen Member Maureen Copelof, Mayor, Ex-Officio
Absent:	Daniel Jessee, Citizen Member
Staff Present:	David Todd, Assistant City Manager Wesley Shook, Public Works Director Paul Ray, Planning Director Shawnee Cummings, Assistant to the City Manager
Media:	David Bradley

A. Welcome and Call to Order

Committee Chair Aaron Baker welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 3:34 PM.

B. Certification of Quorum

Quorum was certified by Assistant to the City Manager Shawnee Cummings.

C. Approval of Agenda

L. Wise motioned to approve the agenda as presented. J. Powers seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

D. Approval of Minutes – December 17, 2025

R. Osborne motioned to approve the minutes, seconded by H. Granat. The motion carried unanimously.

E. FLAP Grant

P. Ray shared that the City of Brevard was successful in its application for a $1.1 million FLAP grant, which will be used to realign a portion of the Estatoe Trail. Preliminary designs were prepared by WSP. In the next 90 days, D. Todd will be posting an RFQ to find, interview, and select an engineering firm, and the City will meet with the grant administrator from the Federal Highways Division to obtain additional grant-related information. Next steps include determining a detour route for the Trail during construction and obtaining easements from nearby businesses. The realignment will be on grade, maintaining accessibility for bikes, pedestrians, and wheelchairs. P. Ray added that this is the second FLAP grant obtained by the City and no local match is required.

A. Baker raised that the portion of the Estatoe Trail being discussed will become part of the Ecusta Trail, and that the trail width differs slightly between the Hendersonville and Brevard sections. P. Ray stated that high-traffic portions of the Ecusta Trail in Hendersonville are 15 feet wide, and the remainder is 12 feet wide. Brevard's portions of the Ecusta Trail are 12 feet wide and the portion of the Estatoe Trail being discussed will also be 12 feet wide. Some sections of the Estatoe Trail are 10 feet wide and may require incremental improvements in the future to maintain consistency with the Ecusta Trail.

F. Missing Link on Davidson River Pedestrian Bridge

P. Ray shared that when the Davidson River Pedestrian Bridge was completed, there was a missing link between the Bridge and US-276. After consulting NCDOT, that link was supposed to be completed as part of a larger project that remains unfunded. The City does not want to wait for the larger project, so the City of Brevard and Transylvania County Tourism Development Authority hired Pisgah Conservancy to build the gravel trail connection. The trail is anticipated to be open by Memorial Day of this year.

P. Ray added that City Council approved the cost of NCDOT expanding the width of the sidewalks on either side of US-276 to make it more pedestrian-friendly. The sidewalks will be expanded to 10 feet on the closer side near Hawg Wild Smokehouse, and 8 feet on the further side near Dolly's Dairy Bar and The Hub. In addition, a crosswalk will be added where the trail connection ends, and after the NCDOT sidewalk expansion is completed, Dolly's Dairy Bar will be paving their parking lot to comply with City ordinances. The NCDOT sidewalk expansion is also expected to be completed around Memorial Day of this year.

G. Public Comment

H. Granat stated that he met with Todd Branham regarding the contract for the Bracken Trail, and that Mr. Branham had some questions. A. Baker encouraged that Mr. Branham reach out to D. Todd and the City Attorney.

H. Set Date for Next Meeting – February 18, 2026, at 3:30 PM

Committee members set the date for the next meeting on February 18, 2026, at 3:30 PM.

I. Adjourn

There being no further business, L. Wise motioned to adjourn, R. Osborne seconded, the motion passed unanimously, and the meeting was adjourned at 4:12 PM.

Approved: February 18, 2026

Aaron Baker, Chair

Shawnee Cummings
Assistant to the City Manager