MINUTES
City Council Parks, Trails, & Recreation Committee

Wednesday, July 16, 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
Members Present:	JD Powers, Citizen Member Mayor Maureen Copelof, Ex-Officio
Staff Present:	Wilson Hooper, City Manager Paul Ray, Planning Director Aaron Bland, Assistant Planning Director Wesley Shook, Public Works Director Becky McCann, Communications Coordinator
Guests:	Dave Bradley, Dean Saint Marie

A. Welcome & Call to Order

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

B. Certification of Quorum

A quorum was certified by Communications Coordinator Becky McCann.

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 minutes and Mr. Jessee seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

E. Presentation by Pisgah Health Foundation

Dean Saint Marie, a board member of the Pisgah Health Foundation, was in attendance to discuss the potential to allow Conserving Carolina to take Pisgah Health's donation of eleven acres of land to the Conserving Carolina executive committee on July 28. The Pisgah Health board also approved a contribution of $4,000 to help with closing costs on this land. Pisgah Health provided this land to assist with continuing to build out the park and trailhead. Mr. Saint Marie shared that the vision for the land was for the city to receive the land to develop it out to fit its parks and recreation goals.

The committee expressed that they support Pisgah Health turning the land over to Conserving Carolina and then the city working with Conserving Carolina to create a vision for a park in that area in the future and potential for future grant funding.

F. Updates

1. Bracken Trail/Climbing Trail Loop Follow-up

Mr. Hooper shared that the funds available from the city for this project is the remainder of TDA's $50,000 gift that they gave when the city made the purchase and $30,000 was dedicated to the purchase and the remainder of $19,999 was intended for trail enhancements and is still available. Mr. Granat stated that there were funds raised through "Bracken Fest" and these funds were used for repairs and improvements. He added that there is approximately $12,500 left in escrow at Conserving Carolina for this project. Mr. Hooper clarified that there is only actually $9,999 in city funds because the city fronted $10,000 for the purchase of the property. After committee discussion, Mr. Hooper summarized that that it appears that there is approximately $32,499 available for this project between the city and Conserving Carolina. The committee had further discussion about future potential funding and plans for the project. Mr. Granat provided an update on the trail building bids.

2. Estatoe Boardwalk Assessment Update

Mr. Hooper shared that McDonalds and Aldi have both signed informal agreements giving the city permission to build a temporary gravel travel along the raised rail bed running through their property. He noted that the city has absolved these two companies of any liability for these two new sections of the trail. He shared that The Cottages has not yet signed the same informal agreement, but they had previously dedicated the abandoned rail bed on their property for a future road. Mr. Hooper will update the committee on this final agreement when it is finalized.

Mr. Shook and Mr. Hooper shared that Public Works should having their clearing work done on these properties within only a few days. The Committee then discussed plans for shared bicycle lanes on the southside of Pinder Lane allowing

pedestrian and bike traffic. Mr. Hooper shared that the next steps will be formalize the easements with all parties.

G. Menu of Funding Choices

Mr. Hooper provided an update from last year's menu of funding choices, which provided the following information:

ESTATOE TRAIL – OUTSTANDING PROJECTS (as of July 2025)			
SECTION	**Next steps**	**COST**	**NOTES**
Main Street to Mary C. Jenkins Center	30% Design	$30,000	[COMPLETED]
	ROW Acquisition	$350,000 est.	Underway. Remaining acquisition areas and cost dependent on path determined by 30% design work. [UNFUNDED]
	100% Design	UNK	
	Construction	$600k-$1.7M	Est. based on 30% design. Cost depends on which option is chosen [UNFUNDED]
Tannery North	Construction	$500,000	Full cost $2.5M. Listed cost is city's match for Carbon Reduction Grant. $132,000 committed; awaiting word on grant award that would cover full $500,000 and permit us to reprogram the $132,000. If grant is not funded, city will need to come up with $367,000 to keep the project alive. [PARTIALLY FUNDED, ENCUMBERED]
Rosman Hwy to Country Club Road	30% Design	$30,000	[COMPLETED]
	ROW Acquisition	UNK	Acquisition cost dependent on path determined by 30% design work
	100% Design	UNK	
	Construction	$1.54M	Est. based on 30% design.
Rosman Hwy Crossing	100% Design	UNK	Concept approved by NCDOT after 30% design
	Construction	$40k-$75k est.	Specialized construction best performed by NCDOT. Reached agreement with NCDOT to perform construction in exchange for city-performed sidewalk construction on each side of the highway, which is schedule for August.
Probart Street to Bracken Parking Lot	Preliminary Design	Unknown	No work has started on this section
Gallimore Road to Hap Simpson	Preliminary Design	Unknown	No work has started on this section
R-5800 Bike/Ped Betterments	Study Options	$12,500	Underway. McAdams reviews NCDOT's 90% design plans and

			identifies possible enhancements. Take's NCDOT's temperature on the possibility of incorporating enhancements in 100% design. [FUNDED, ENCUMBERED]
	Engineering	UNK	McAdams designs the permitted enhancements [PARTIALLY FUNDED]
	Construction	UNK, $420k	The cost of potential enhancements like better crossing signals, relocated crosswalks, and signage is unknown. However, NCDOT has submitted that the 10 foot path will only be constructed along the path's existing alignment. If the city wishes to have 8 foot (rather than 5 foot) along the entire length of the project, it will need to contribute an additional $420k to the project.
Boardwalk Repair/Replacement	Condition assessment		[COMPLETED]
	Design/engineering	UNK	
	Construction	$500k-$1.2M est.	Cost depends on which option is chosen [UNFUNDED]
Trail wayfinding signs	Purchase	$50,000 est.	Council-initiated proposal
West Main bike lanes	Design	$10,800	Council-initiated proposal; DMPC recommendation [FUNDED]
	Construction	UNK	
Estatoe "Deer Lake" Realignment	Design/engineering	UNK	
	ROW acquisition	$100k-$313k est.	Cost depends on which option is chosen [UNFUNDED]
	Construction	UNK	
NON-TRAIL OUTSTANDING PROJECTS (as of July 2025)			
Franklin Park Playground	Design	UNK	
	Purchase/const.	UNK	Recent Boys & Girls Club Playground understood to cost $250k
Sports Complex	100% Design	$57,900	Cost of construction drawings for bathrooms and improved parking [UNFUNDED]
	Construction	UNK	
Bracken Trail Expansion	Construction	$70k est.	Balance of TDA gift -$19,999- available [PARTIALLY FUNDED]
Silversteen Park Picnic Shelter	Design	$25,000	[UNFUNDED]
	Construction	UNK	

During and after Mr. Hooper's review, committee members had discussions of the various projects, but no formal action was taken by the committee.

H. Public Comment

No public comment.

I. Set Date for Next Meeting

The next meeting was scheduled for August 20, 2025 at 3:30pm.

J. 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: August 20, 2025

Aaron Baker, Chair or
Lauren Wise, Vice Chair

Selena D. Coffey
Assistant to the City Manager