MINUTES
ECUSTA TRAIL ADVISORY BOARD 2.0

Wednesday, October 29th, 2025 – 3:30 pm
City Hall Council Chambers

Members Present:	Aaron Baker, Chair, Council Member Mac Morrow, Vice Chair, Council Member Larry Chapman, Transylvania County Commissioner Dee Dee Perkins, Transylvania Development Authority John Ditillo, Friends of Ecusta Trail Sheila Carland, Transylvania Economic Alliance Doug Miller, Heart of Brevard Meredith Carli, At-Large Appointment
Absent:	Madeline Hanley, At-Large Appointment Rebekah Robinson, Conserving Carolina
Staff Present:	Maureen Copelof, Mayor, Ex-Officio Madalin Baker, Board Clerk Aaron Bland, Assistant Planning Director David Todd, Assistant City Manager
Guests:	Mark Tooley, Friends of the Ecusta Trail Lonnie Watkins, NCDOT Hunter Marks, Watermark Landscape Architecture

A. Welcome and Call to Order

Committee Chair Aaron Baker welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 3:32 PM.

B. Certification of Quorum

Quorum was certified by Board Clerk Madalin Baker.

C. Approval of Agenda

M. Baker noted the minutes of the August meeting were incomplete and would be brought for approval at the next meeting. M. Morrow motioned to strike “approval of minutes” and approve the rest of the agenda items. D. Perkins seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

D. Public Comment

None.

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E. New Business

1. Ecusta Trail Signage Presentation – Watermark

H. Marks delivered his presentation, included in Exhibit A. He explained each sign design choice, and Board members asked questions regarding general sign specifications as he presented.

D. Miller noted his concern that the arrow graphic in the Ecusta Trail logo could create some confusion for trail users, as it seems to be providing direction rather than a simple design choice. H. Marks made note and said it would be reviewed. D. Miller emphasized the need for a MOU agreement between COB and FOET to ensure the FOET phone number remains reliable along the length of the trial. J. Ditillo, in response to questions from A. Baker, D. Miller, and D. Perkins, shared that the QR code featured on trail signage will direct folks to the FOET website, not the websites of individual trail-sponsor municipalities. J. Ditillo shared the FOET site includes lists of nearby amenities, restaurants, etc, and includes a donation option for trail users as well. C. Burns noted that any features named on the trail (benches, plaques on stations, etc) are named permanently. L. Watkins asked H. Marks what the distance metric on each sign was to, and H. Marks shared it will be specific to the context and location of each sign.

Discussion continued following the presentation. D. Miller asked if there had been issues with E-Bikes on the existing Hendersonville portion of the trail, and C. Burns said he had heard some concerns. They are gathering data but currently unsure of the scale of the issue outside of anecdotal complaints. A. Baker emphasized the need to consider funding options for continuing the trail signage into downtown Brevard, beyond the geographic end of grant funds. A. Baker asked how the trail in Hendersonville was interacting with GPS mapping apps, and C. Burns said he was unsure, but perhaps it was something FOET could look into.

F. Unfinished Business
None.

G. Remarks/Future Agenda Considerations
C. Burns shared that Henderson County Parks and Rec has hired a full time employee dedicated to the trail.

J. Ditillo asked if the funds generated by paid parking lots along the Henderson County trail were going back into the cost for maintenance of the trail, and C. Burns said no, they are largely operated by private property owners.

H. Adjourn

Board members set the date for the next meeting on November 20th, at 3:30, for a final look at the Watermark proposed signage. There being no further business, D. Perkins motioned to adjourn, M. Carli seconded, the motion passed unanimously, and the meeting was adjourned at 4:35 PM.

X _____
Aaron Baker, Chair

Minutes Approved-_____

X _____
Madalin Baker, Board Secretary

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