

Brevard/Transylvania County
Ecusta Trail Advisory Board

Date: September 28, 2022

Location: City Hall Council Chambers

Members:

- ✓ Maureen Copelof, Mayor
Mac Morrow, Council Member (absent)
- ✓ Larry Chapman, County Commissioner
- ✓ Addison Bradley, NC Cooperative Extension Dir (via Zoom)
- ✓ Clark Lovelace, Tourism Development Authority (arrived at 3:59pm)
- ✓ Mark Tooley, Conserving Carolina
- ✓ John Ditillo, Friends of Ecusta Trail
Billy Parrish, Blue Zones Project (absent)
- ✓ Lauren Wise, At-Large Member (via Zoom)
- ✓ Chuck McGrady, Henderson County Advisory Board Chair, Ex Officio (arrived at 3:44pm)
- ✓ Larry Faison, Interim City Manager, Ex Officio
- ✓ Wilson Cooper, City Manager, Ex Officio
- ✓ Paul Ray, Planning Director, Ex Officio (left at 3:55pm)
- ✓ Meredith Carli, At-Large Member (via zoom)

Staff:

- ✓ Katherine Buzby, City Planner

Guests:

- ✓ Vicki Eastland, Land of Sky
- ✓ Rebekah Robinson, Conserving Carolina (via Zoom)
- ✓ Jonathan Rich, Transylvania Times
- ✓ Matt Revis, Ecusta Trail Talk Newsletter
- ✓ Tad Fogel, Friends of Ecusta Trail

A. Welcome & Call to Order

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

B. Certification of Quorum

Quorum was certified by Committee Co-Chair Maureen Copelof.

C. Approval of Agenda

Motion by Mr. Chapman, seconded by Mr. Tooley to approve the agenda as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

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D. Approval of Minutes from August 31, 2022 Meeting

Motion by Mr. Tooley, seconded by Mr. Chapman to approve the meeting minutes as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

E. Updates

Conserving Carolina: Update on the RR trestle removal- next Wednesday Rebekah is meeting with the grant administrator then the following Wednesday is the due date for the first draft of the Request for Proposal (RFQ) from Vaughn & Melton.

Planning Dept: Staff, NCDOT, and Land of Sky have been working with Alta on the grant application for the NSFLTP grant. Partnering with Henderson Co will be very advantageous to us and will make our grant application more competitive. Federal funds can be used towards our local match and since Henderson Co has received many federal funds, it helps with our match that equates to our match being 60% and our ask at 40%. The numbers are still being calculated since we are combining the county applications together. We need to secure financial commitments and reach out to people who supported the RAISE grant application and get Letters of Support from them including the TDA and Friends of Ecusta Trail. The grant application deadline for submission is October 24th but we want our application in by October 20th. A second public information session about the Ecusta Trail will be scheduled once we have a consultant and more information for the public.

Transylvania Co: Has heard via the newspaper that the Federal Government is reimbursing some landowners for the use of their property and the owners seem happy about this.

Tourism Development Authority: Will need details about the support (the ask) the City needs for the NSFLTP grant application so they can get it on the agenda for their board or they can call a special session to review.

Henderson Co: Working with Transylvania County on the grant application. He has a NCDOT meeting next week and will discuss with them our application and deadlines. For the 30% design completion of the trail in their county, some preliminary numbers have been released and it is estimated at 8.4 million but does not include any amenities. This number helps to determine how much still needs to be raised through fundraising. On October 19th, they are having all the breweries come together to give them all the legal information about the Ecusta Trail and fundraising opportunities.

NCDOT (via Land of Sky): The FLAP grant has been discussed with NCDOT and they have reached out about the federal funding since it has not been allocated yet. The allocation is scheduled to happen within the next 2-3 weeks and they will have a scoping meeting with the consultants and the City Planning Dept. For the grant application, if Letters of Support come in after the submission deadline, there will be an opportunity to submit them after that.

City: Will talk to Conserving Carolina on lobbying for the grant. The mayor will be attending the County Commissioners meeting on October 10th to ask for a resolution to get a Letter of Support and will bring a draft resolution.

Friends of Ecusta Trail: They are busy supporting various events and upcoming events. Tomorrow at Stone Ash Winery they are doing a "Sip for Ecusta" fundraiser and are looking to make it a monthly event. On October 8th, Skyterra is holding a concert to benefit the Ecusta Trail. Other events include: October 24th.

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Ecusta Brewing grand opening & October 29th-HalloweenFest in Brevard. Emmett Casciato who is running for County Commissioner has publicly stated he is opposed to the Ecusta Trail.

Blue Zones Project: N/A

Citizens/Public: N/A

F. Next Steps

Continue working on ongoing progress as discussed.

G. Set Date for Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Brevard/Transylvania County Ecusta Trail Advisory Board is scheduled for October 26, 2022 at 3:30 pm. (last Wednesday of the month at 3:30 pm)

H. Adjourn

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:09 pm.

Minutes Approved-_____

X _____

Maureen Copelof, Chair, Mayor

X _____

Katherine Buzby, City Planner