

**Henderson County  
RAIL-TRAIL ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
Monthly Meeting  
Wednesday, June 12, 2024**

The RTAC held a regularly called meeting on June 12, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. in the King Street Meeting Room and via Microsoft Teams. Voting members present online are denoted with the letter “O”.

Voting Member	Present	Not in Attendance
Chris Burns, Chair	X	
Selena Einwechter, Vice Chair		X
Douglas Moon, at-large	X	
Patrick Kennedy, at-large	X	
David Adams, at-large		X
Ken Shelton, at-large	X	
Brent Detwiler, City of Hendersonville		X
Nancy McKinley, Town of Laurel Park	X	
Mike Egan, Conserving Carolina	X	

Also present: Christopher Todd, Business and Community Development Director; Autumn Radcliff, Planning Director; Janna Bianculli, Senior Planner; Andrew Griffin, Director of Facility Services; and John Connet, City of Hendersonville Manager.

**Call to Order**

Chairman Chris Burns called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

**Public Comment**

One member of the public commented on concerns about the need for parking on the trail when it opens. It was noted that there had been vehicles on the trail that were parked. The county and city will follow up on this issue.

**Approval Meeting Summary**

No changes to the meeting summary were noted.

**Updates**

**Friends of Ecusta Trail (FOET)**

Mr. Mark Tooley thanked Janna and the staff for a successful trial partners meeting in early June. He stated that FOET is working on naming opportunity needs for the trail donors and hopes to work with the RTAC on this item through the amenity design. He also mentioned that they have several board members who ride various trails and would like to submit examples of suggested trail etiquette guidelines.

**City of Brevard**

Mayor Copelof, with the City of Brevard, updated the RTAC on the Transylvania portion of the trail. According to NCDOT, the 30% design of the trail will be completed this month. She stated that the Brevard Council will have a meeting with the Recreation and Trails Committee and the Ecusta Trail Advisory Board in attendance to discuss the current and long-term direction of the Ecusta Trail.

**Henderson County**

Mr. Christopher Todd and Mr. Andrew Griffin stated that the county is on schedule with the construction of the first phase of the trail. Staff stated that the bridges are scheduled to arrive in August.

### **Trailhead Discussion**

Mr. Chris Todd stated that the county has looked at identifying a trailhead for this portion of the trail in the short term. He stated that the TDA is on Main Street and in the process of being renovated. It will have public bathrooms and parking for visitors and could be a good fit for an official trailhead. Mr. Todd also thanked the City of Hendersonville for their efforts with the new stripping of Main Street to allow for the Ecusta Trail connection with bicyclists and pedestrians. A trailhead at TDA could serve multiple objectives with visitors to the county. Mr. Todd said that this had been mentioned, but a formal request from the RTAC to the TDA Board is needed. Mr. Ken Shelton made a motion to ask TDA to consider designating their facility as a trailhead. Mr. Mike Egan second. All members were in favor.

Mr. Ken Shelton asked if the TDA could consider a plaque on-site for donor naming options. Mr. Todd stated that they are considering areas for the donor naming as well and TDA could be considered if there is space.

### **Branding Discussion**

Mr. Mark Tooley with FOET presented the trail's branding logo. He provided an overview of the process that started over a year ago with the contracting of Destination by Design (DBD). He stated that DBD met with staff from the county and city of Brevard, the Chairs of each RTAC, and representatives from FOET. Information on the process and the trail's brand was distributed to the RTAC. Mr. Tooley asked for the approval of the brand logo from the RTAC. Mr. Chris Burns stated that the Brevard group was going to review this at their next meeting and asked that the RTAC review the information provided and be prepared to discuss and vote on the brand at the next meeting.

### **Amenities Contract**

Mr. Chris Todd provided the RTAC with an overview of the amenities and how they related to the funding. He stated that the county is contracting with Watermark to complete the amenities design from the 30% completion mark on the first phase. He also stated that the contract with JMT will include the amenities design for the 2<sup>nd</sup> phase of the trail.

Mr. Hunter Marks with Watermark provided the RTAC with a presentation on the 30% amenities design. Mr. Marks gave an overview on the viewing platforms/locations, shelters, signs and colors. There was feedback on the amenities and comments on the potential for charging stations for wheelchairs and a location marker for veterans. Mr. Marks stated that items needed to be prioritized in order to complete the 100% design by this fall. It was requested that Mr. Marks provide a presentation to the Brevard council at the upcoming joint meeting that was mentioned by the Mayor. Brevard expressed concerns that the County would have to make some decisions about the trail before this first phase opens in December, and efforts should be coordinated between the two jurisdictions and FOET.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

*This meeting was recorded, and the MP4 file can be made available upon request. Please contact County staff.*