



CITY OF HENDERSONVILLE
ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY BOARD
Operations Center - Assembly Room | 305 Williams St. | Hendersonville NC
28792

Thursday, April 20, 2023 – 3:00 PM



AGENDA

1. CALL TO ORDER

A. Call To Order- *Kelly Phale, Chairperson*

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A. Approval of Agenda

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Meeting Minutes; Environmental Sustainability; Board March 16, 2023

B. Subcommittee Meeting Minutes; Earth Day Fest; March 24, 2023

C. Subcommittee Meeting Minutes; Earth Day Fest; March 31, 2023

D. Subcommittee Meeting Minutes; Earth Day Fest; April 7, 2023

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

A. Public Comment 10 minutes

5. CITY LIASON UPDATE

6. CITY COUNCIL UPDATE

A. ESB Representative for the new tree board ordinance change committee

7. SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES

A. Bee City - *Will Garvey, Board Member*

B. Recycling and Plastics - *Geri Conley, Board Member*

C. Hendo Earth Fest - *Ann Twiggs, Vice Chair*

D. Sustainability Plan - *Will Garvey, Board Member*

8. OLD BUSINESS

A. Parklet/Subpod - *Virginia Tegel, Board Member*

B. ESB Retreat with Fountainworks – *Kelly Pahle, Chair*

C. Vote on joining SE Sustainability Directors Network – *Kelly Pahle, Chair*

D. Ecusta Trail Comments – *Will Garvey, Board Member*

9. **NEW BUSINESS**

A. Pollinator Plant Partnership – *Will Garvey, Board Member* (see attachment)

B. Green Trail – *Virginia Tegel, Board Member* (see attachment)

10. **ADJOURNMENT**

The City of Hendersonville is committed to providing accessible facilities, programs and services for all people in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Should you need assistance or an accommodation for this meeting please contact the City Clerk no later than 24 hours prior to the meeting at 697-3005.



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 28792



Thursday, March 16, 2023 – 3:00 PM

MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER

A. Call to Order- *Ann Twiggs, Vice Chairperson*

3:05 Start. Geri is absent. All other members are present.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

B. Approval of Agenda- *Ann Twiggs, Vice Chairperson*

Ann suggested to create 7C- Discussion of Sustainability hero award, Move 6D and 6C to be updates under 5C, and to move 7B to be under old business B.

Beth moved to accept all agenda changes. Will 2nd it.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

C. Regular Meeting Minutes

Approval of Minutes from 02/16/2023 - *Gracie Erwin, Staff Liaison*

D. Subcommittee Meeting Minutes

Approval of Minutes from 02/24/2023 - *Gracie Erwin, Staff Liaison*

Approval of Minutes from 03/10/2023- *Gracie Erwin, Staff Liaison*

All in favor to approve these minutes

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

E. Public Comment - *Allotted Time 15 minutes*

Botanist William Coffee spoke on the importance of invasive plant management in regards to native tree health. 1207 Pinebrook Cir. Hendersonville, NC 28739, (480) 688-7366, treecityrewild@gmail.com

5. SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES

- F. Bee City- *Will Garvey, Board Member*
Annual Report has been submitted on behalf of Bullington Gardens
- G. Recycling and Plastics- *Geri Conley, Board Member*
Absent
- H. Hendo Earth Fest- *Ann Twiggs, Vice Chairperson*
Extend a Courtesy Invitation to County and Local Municipal Offices to Join the ESB and Hendos Earth Fest.

Want to repurpose billboard afterwards if possible.

HEF needs volunteers, email city employees to see if there is interest. Have them email Virginia Teagel.
- I. Sustainability Plan - *Will Garvey, Board Member*
No update- waiting on SM
- J. We are creating our own new flood maps. Want to ask fema to update theres with our new ones.

Council has a top priority of creating a parks and rec department
- disc golf,

tree canopy map (10 years old) and now we have a new one to compare/contrast. new bike racks around town

6. OLD BUSINESS

- K. Mayors Monarch Pledge (Due by March 31st 2023) - *Will Garvey, Board Member*

Please review and select your commitment choices before the meeting

[https://www.nwf.org/~media/PDFs/Garden-for-Wildlike/Mayors -Monarch-Pledge_Action-Items.pdf](https://www.nwf.org/~media/PDFs/Garden-for-Wildlike/Mayors-Monarch-Pledge_Action-Items.pdf)

Will proposed we select three action items from the mayors monarch

If we are to sign again, need to do so before April 12th

Decided on the items 1, 8

Already doing 1, 10, and 22

L. Fountain Works Board Retreat Proposal- *Ann Twiggs, Vice Chairperson*

Hold Discussion on who they want to work with and put it to a vote between Fountain works and the other recommended consultants.

Voted to use FW. Mary Ellen moved to use FW for may 28th retreat.

Will abstained, Lyndsey Abstained. Gracie abstained. Marcia, Ann, Virginia, Grady, and Beth all voted yes

M. Update on Sustainability Manager Position- *Gracie Erwin, Staff Liaison*

7. NEW BUSINESS

N. Ecusta Trail Update - *Will Garvey, Board Member*

Discuss ESB commenting on issues such as landscaping? ESB to provide feedback on management list for ecusta trail. volunteers to help manage trail? Will proposes we take this list and review to discuss deeper at next meeting

O. Suggestions for Board Retreat Consultants- *Grady Nance, Board Member*

P. Discussion of Sustainability Hero Award -*Will Garvey, Board member*

8. CLOSED SESSION FOR SUSTAINABILITY HERO AWARD

Q. Closed Session for Sustainability Hero Award- *Will Garvey*

Will moved them to go into closed session, Mary Ellen second it, everyone else agreed.

" I move that we go into closed session as allowed by NCGS Section 143-318.11(a)(2) to prevent premature disclosure of an honorary degree, scholarship, prize, or similar award "

closed session began at 4:20

Gracie left as to not be a part of closed session. City Attorney Angela Beeker was present to ensure legal compliance.

9. ADJOURNMENT

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3-24-23 HEF Minutes

Welcome to our NEW Sustainability Manager - Caitlyn Gendusa 😊

Present: Ann, Caitlyn, Enrique, Carlos, Marcia

Absent: Nancy, Virginia, BJ, Geri, Katie

Advertising/Media - (20 min)

Enrique took one yard sign to place at the corner of Blythe and 64

Ann and Marcia took 4 yard signs to place at Main and 64

One banner taken to BJ

Carlos took 25 exhibit cards for the tourist center

Caitlyn took a poster for Hendersonville Co-op

Update on totes - Marcia - totes currently in production

Other advertising/media - radio interviews, other local calendars, etc. Ann, Carlos and BJ to be interviewed on April 18th (WHKP) and 19th (WTZQ). Carlos trying to get us TV exposure before the event

Invitation to local leaders - Ann/Caitlyn - Ann to write draft of letter for Caitlyn to send out and introduce herself as the new Sustainability Manager (YAY)

Discussed the idea of an opening ceremony with Mayor Volk in front of City Hall.

UPDATE: Mayor Volk is unavailable on April 22nd

Jamie Carpenter meeting report - Ann/Carlos (10 min)

City regulations apply to pets at the event. Jamie said city would put our flyers with details

Jamie suggested that the County Recycle folks take any compostables from the event and that it is our responsibility to clean up after. We can put items in current trash cans on Main Street. (add trash clean up to volunteer duties)

Business Notification Updates - Elle/Ann (3 min)

Elle and Ann finished notifying businesses on the 4th block of Main Street about the event.

Leader Reports: (30min)

Entertainment - Katie (not present) Enrique says the church has a tent to be erected on the stage for the entertainers. A discussion ensued about barricades and exhibitors set-up traffic flow. Ann will email Jamie about making sure that the exhibitors can exit the event site via 4th before permanent barriers are put up. **(done but no response yet from Jamie)** Also discussed how entertainers can enter and exit the site at various times they are scheduled to perform. Elle suggested we ask the owner of the Dugout if they can enter via his back door off the alley. He was very positive about the event when we visited him last week.

Exhibits - Pam (hopefully on zoom)/ Marcia Pam wasn't able to zoom or call in. Pam and Marcia are to meet on 4/4 to discuss exhibit booth placement. (see traffic flow note above) Discussion about where the exhibitors will park - maybe at Home Trust Bank. Elle knows the manager and will ask. **UPDATE: They will consider it if we can get them a copy of the City liability insurance. Ann has emailed Jamie Carpenter but no response as yet.)**

Blue Ridge EV Club - Carlos - update on bicycle ride into town. He is hopeful that we will have police and/or deputy coverage to escort and/or guard cross street traffic for the bicycle riders

Also reported that an e-bike raffle (free entry) will be advertised at our event with the bike being given away at the Asheville event the next week 4/30.

Green Trail -Virginia - not present

Team ECCO - BJ Ramer - not present but Team Ecco portion of the event well in hand

Caregivers of Mother Earth- Elle update on volunteer t-shirts, Fundraising basket- Autumn at Splurge is putting together a basket to raffle off to raise funds for Caregivers of Mother Earth to help pay for entertainment. 30 volunteer tshirts are being made with our logo, Caregiver of Mother Earth logo and the Hendersonville Co-op logo. We hope that will be enough for all volunteers. If not Mt. True has offered vests.

New Business (20min)

Schedule of events - Virginia

Volunteers - Virginia -

Enrique thought we should have volunteers to keep an eye on the stage in case any of the entertainers get too close to the edge and are in danger of falling off.

Question for Katie - will we have any entertainers who might be so "rowdy" as to be in danger of this happening?

Add volunteer responsibility for trash pick up

Have a volunteer at the entrance on 5th street and one at 4th and Main to keep exhibitor traffic flow steady.

Advertising/Media Survey - Ann - discussed the survey idea. Perhaps have the survey at the info/vol booth for folks to complete rather than volunteers walking among the attendees asking.

Other? - (5min) We move into meeting every Friday - Next meeting is Friday 3/31 at Williams Street 10:30 AM.



3-31-23 HEF Minutes

Start: 10:33 am

Welcome - Into the home stretch!!!!

Old Business - (15 min)

Advertising/Media

Banner placement - Carlos, BJ, Ann

Billboard (disappointing to me - lesson learned)

- Need to move the one with road work in front of it, Carlos: move the sign about 20 ft. with 2 people - Carlos and Virginia will asses and move
- Ann, the billboard is not in a good place, behind trees and on the bottom
- Enrique - yard sign on 191 and Blythe,

Invitations to local leaders update - Caitlyn

- Caitlyn has written a letter, Mayor will not be there, Virginia - recommends Lyndsey and Jennifer, Carlos - move opening to 10:30am to allow crowd to gather, focus on social media marketing
- Social media marketing - Allison with the city is taking care of it through City's social media
- Posters: Marcia - Spartanburg Hwy, Ann - Laurel Park, rest are distributed among team to put-up around town

Jamir Carpenter questions

City Liability insurance for HomeTrust Bank re: exhibitor vehicle parking

Barricades on 4th open for exhibitor exit?

- Ann - Parking for exhibitors, in progress
- Ann - Barriers, heavy water filled barrier, leave one lane open for exhibitors to leave by - will enter on 5th Ave. via Church Street. We must have a car there to close the lane (EV car, or exhibitor car with logo)
- Carlos - manager's office is right for insurance for exhibitor parking

Stage stairs - see photo

- Good work Bill and family!

Leader Reports (45 min)

Entertainment - Katie (if well) update and needs

- Absent, list of line up is needed
- How will entertainers get onto the site - it was suggested that perhaps the Dugout would allow them to come from the alley through the restaurant. Ann & Elle will ask.

Exhibits - Pam - update and needs

- Pam and Marcia meeting on the 3rd to go over slots and spaces
 - Requesting making a map of exhibits and important locations for all exhibitors and volunteers
- Virginia - several orgs have been reaching out to participate
- Ann - traffic flow, need soil and water to come in first and what direction she wants to position to come in accordingly, Virginia is sending an email, Jamie says most folks will make chalk markings the night before (next time; ask to close street the night before)

Blue Ridge EV Club - Carlos - update and needs

- All in good shape, 50 vehicles and a few vendors

Green Trail - Virginia - update and needs

- Things are coming in, would like more recommendations to be sent
- Marcia, get more ideas at the event to expand the trail

Volunteers - Virginia - update and needs

- Boy scouts previously committed to many things, volunteers for 7am markings for EV's, some people will be coming before 9am, 9-11:30am slots are mostly filled - need more for at exhibitor set-up time (Marcia, 7-9:30am)
- Still need vols for later slots, an ESB member will be there for each of the slots
- Virginia, started a volunteer guideline form, please contribute as you see fit
(https://docs.google.com/document/d/10pvA-kzyMVivGqwY_IURrgp8pO08_m2Gm5pZT0S_MLY/edit?usp=sharing)

- We need volunteers to pick-up trash in the last shift

Team Ecco - BJ - exhibitor set up and vehicle exit?

-

Caregivers of Mother Earth - Elle - updates and needs

- Printing up shirts soon
- Marcia reported same with the totes

New Business (15 min)

Advertising/media - assign people to hand out (see suggested list)

Flyers - 37 still available
Posters - 16 still available
Exhibit cards - 30 still available

complete

Hand out the info sheet and a flyer to more Main Street businesses?
Facebook post, Twitter, Instagram? Other?

complete

Businesses not on 5th and 4th blocks of Main Street?

Miller's sign on King Street?

What do we need the day of the event? Start thinking about (15 min)

Info/vol booth sign

- Don't need signs for the restrooms, volunteers will know
Info booth tent, chairs, water (Glass container and paper cups?), ice chest and ice
- MountainTrue has water coolers for information tent
List of phone numbers - emergency and just for questions volunteers may have
List of exhibitors? - Pam is developing
Signs for restroom? Not needed - volunteers will direct
Microphone and speakers? Ask city

Tote bags- give participants survey to complete

Other?

Adjourn - **next meeting is Friday, April 7th at Trinity Presbyterian Church at 10:30 am!** City offices closed!



4-7-23 HEF Minutes
Trinity Presbyterian Church
Start at 10:36

Welcome - Into the home stretch!!!!

Present Ann, Katie, Marcia, Enrique, Pam, Carlos, Virginia, Nancy, Elle

Old Business - (15 min)

Advertising/Media

Banner placement - BJ? Carlos & Virginia placed the banner under the Hville welcome sign - it looks GREAT!

-Carlos: why not put a banner at the Hendersonville Welcome sign on Four Seasons

Schools invited - Ann emailed info to Valerie Hoffman with communications at HCPS

-Ann: has reached out to school publicity person

Invitations to local leaders update - Caitlyn - Lyndsey Simpson and Jennifer Hensley to co-preside

-opening will be at City Hall; Virginia: is that location on a map?;

Miller's Cleaners has agreed to advertise the event on their sign on King Street

-great!

Virginia update on Main Street businesses

-

Jamie Carpenter questions

City Liability insurance for HomeTrust Bank re: exhibitor vehicle parking - no update

-insurance is pending

Leader Reports (45 min)

Entertainment - Katie (if well) update and needs

-waiting to hear for entertainment for the first hour, the rest of the time is set

-there are 3 acts, 2 are confirmed

-they will bring their own equipment

Need a line up and time list

-Katie will add a schedule to the google drive

Need to check on electricity needs

-Katie is going to check electricity the week before

*Program: Welcome at 10:30am at City Hall (Allison Justice is taking care of audio logistics); at noon, 12pm, recognitions, introductions, awards at the stage (Virginia is making a schedule)
Katie - knows someone with a portable mic*

Exhibits - Pam - update and needs
*-maps and details are out
 -take down, Carlos will take care of clearing out water barriers, at wrap up enter on 4th and exit on 5th aves*

Blue Ridge EV Club - Carlos - update and needs

Green Trail - Virginia - update and needs

Volunteers - Virginia - update and needs, training
*-getting more people early and closing shift, not going to turn anyone away
 -t-shirts are coming next week
 -make rain plan available to volunteers*

Team Ecco - BJ - exhibitor set up and vehicle exit?

Caregivers of Mother Earth - Elle - updates and needs

New Business (15 min)

Advertising/media -
 Facebook post, Twitter, Instagram? Other?
 Ann, Carlos and BJ to do radio interviews

What do we need the day of the event? Start thinking about (15 min)
 Info/vol booth sign? Who will make?
*-Virginia will make a sign
 How you heard of the event questionnaire
 Info booth tent - who has and who will set up?, chairs?
 -ESB to discuss tent set-up and check on weights
 List of phone numbers - emergency and just for questions volunteers may have
 -Virginia and Ann, and 911. Discussed asking city police to keep eye during their regular routes out since we won't have a uniformed officer at the event.
 List of exhibitors?
 -done
 Microphone and speakers?
 -Katie said, each performer is bringing their own - our noon program will use the equipment of the current performer
 Other?
 -Acknowledgement of first peoples - BJ is checking with her contacts - simple statement as last resort*

Adjourn - **next meeting is Friday, April 14th at Williams Street at 10:30 am!**

DRAFT: FOR DISCUSSION PURPOSES ONLY

Dear Mr. Detwiler:

At the March meeting of the Ecusta Rail Trail Advisory Committee, a draft trail maintenance document was provided for preliminary review by the Committee. As you know, the ESB is very supportive of the Ecusta Trail and appreciates its distinctive sustainability benefits to the community. Because you are the City representative for the Committee, we would like to offer some comments on the draft document for your consideration.

We recognize that the ongoing operation and maintenance of the trail will be an important element to ensuring the trail continues to be an asset to our community. We assume that the portion of the trail that is in the City would be maintained by City staff and in our role as an advisory board to the City, we would like to offer a few suggestions regarding several elements of the draft document.

1) The draft document recommends that a regular task would be to “Blow Off Trail” three times weekly. We recognize that given the scope of the effort, this task would likely not be attempted using gas-powered backpack blowers but would use commercial grade towable or walk behind blowers. Nevertheless, we suggest that the considerable air and noise pollution levels generated by any leaf and debris blower would detract significantly from the community element of the trail and this task be carefully reviewed to ensure it is essential.

If determined to be essential, we suggest that the frequency of the task be reviewed to determine if three times a week might be reduced. Perhaps, this task could be considered an irregular task to be carried out when warranted and that the time-of-day when the equipment is used be limited to mid-morning to mid-afternoon to limit the impact of noise pollution on the community. If trail blowing is considered essential, we further suggest that equipment used for the task be reviewed to obtain the least polluting, quietest workable solution including available zero emission blowers.

2) The second element of the draft document mentions herbicide application and recommends that six treatments be applied annually. We certainly appreciate that the Ecusta trail will likely need herbicide application to manage existing invasive plants that have flourished during the years when the right-of-way was vacant. We hope that as time goes by, areas along the trail will be “adopted” and more

desirable, perhaps pollinator friendly, plants will be established along the trail. In the interim, we suggest that the application of pesticides be conducted on an as needed basis rather than in a blanket fashion on a pre-established schedule. Finally, we recommend that caution be used in selecting the appropriate herbicides. As we are all aware, the path of the trail is often times adjacent to wetland areas and streams and commonly drains into local waterways. As such, the potential adverse impact of herbicides on aquatic organisms should be acknowledged and caution be taken to ensure the application be done in as moderate a manner as possible and in clear conformance to application guidelines.

3) The draft recommendations mention the potential for the application of snow and ice treatment. This recommendation is annotated with a question mark and we assume that indicates it is likely to be an optional element. We recognize that safety on the trail is paramount and that areas that are excessively slippery may be considered unsafe. We recommend that this element be applied only when the benefits clearly outweigh the cost and potential environmental impacts of the action. While ice melt products have improved markedly in recent years, their adverse environmental impacts remain and when the benefits are limited the application may not be warranted. We recommend that if this element is considered, that it perhaps follow guidelines used for such actions on secondary City sidewalks and recognize that the trail may see less pedestrian and bicycle traffic during the time of year when snow and ice is present.

Lastly, we note that the Committee and the Friends of the Ecusta Trail have briefly mentioned the possibility of citizen groups volunteering to monitor and perhaps help maintain (pick up trash) sections of the trail. The ESB would like to be one of the first organizations to offer our efforts in that role. We realize that the trail will have distinctive benefits to the overall environmental sustainability of our community and we hope that we can show our strong support by offering to monitor and maintain a section of the trail.

Thank you for your consideration and please feel free to let us know if we can try to answer any questions you or the Committee may have.

Pollinator plants:

Background: Hendersonville is a BeeCity/USA City and has an invested interest in promoting pollinator plant species. Hendersonville is also a signatory to the Mayors Monarch Pledge which supports a wide variety of actions from planting native pollinator plants on municipal property to possibly distributing pollinator plants to the citizen community.

Blue Ridge Community College is a BeeCity/USA Campus and likewise has an interest in promoting pollinator plant species. Further the Horticulture Department has an interest in ensuring students are aware of native pollinator plants and are proficient in propagation of those plants

It can be difficult to acquire pollinator plants that are assured to be true to the native species or cultivar desired and known to be grown without harmful systemic pesticides. Further, most plants sold in the retail trade are larger in size and more costly than necessary for larger scale plantings, making purchase of large numbers for municipal plantings problematic.

Blue Ridge Community College has a horticulture department that has expertise in growing plants, including natives, from seed. The head of the Department teaches numerous classes in native, pollinator plants and has the experience and knowledge to propagate and maintain regionally important species.

The proposal: The City of Hendersonville could enter into a contractual agreement with the BRCC Horticulture Department to propagate an adequate number of seedlings to be used to plant planned municipal demonstration beds as well as possibly promoting pollinator plantings by citizens through plant giveaways similar to the tree distributions conducted by the tree board.

The proposed agreement could use funds from the 2023 ESB budget to support the contract and allow BRCC to purchase seeds and propagation materials which could ultimately provide the City with plants. Under the suggested arrangement, in the first year, 50 percent of all plants grown would be provided back to Hendersonville for use in City plantings or other activities. The remaining plants would be available for BRCC to sell as they see fit to provide funding for future similar efforts.

Hello,

The City of Hendersonville is in the process of creating a Green Trail. The self-guided trail will feature local eco-friendly destinations which demonstrate one or more of these five categories in the City Environmental and Sustainability Board's proposed Environmental Sustainability Plan: Energy, Transportation, Waste Management, Water (Quality and Quantity) and Land Management and Conservation.

You have been recommended by our committee to be included in the Green Trail. We hope you will accept our invitation and submit a brief description of how you are supporting sustainability in any of the categories listed above. If you wish to participate, please complete this form:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdm3AryR3YDnHMT_4pdxROkpyFRHvIrczNaZ9qzteg4JBS6Jw/viewform?usp=sf_link

This Green Trail will be similar to the Pollinator Trail created for Bee City and include a wider range of local examples of sustainability.

See the Pollinator Trail:

<https://www.google.com/maps/d/u/0/viewer?mid=1-c0JbHjjQqCHCrRscCcZuxvu5X6JhzfH&ll=35.36239011807532%2C-82.45910059999999&z=11>

While new entries may be added as they are developed and recommended, the Environmental Sustainability Board hopes to introduce the Green Trail to the community at the City of Hendersonville's inaugural Hendo Earth Fest on April 22, 2023.

Please confirm your interest as a featured location on the Green Trail by April 15, 2023. Thank you for your interest and participation!

Virginia Tegel, Environmental Sustainability Board Member
231-392-2502