

POST Meeting Minutes

May 27, 2020

CALL TO ORDER

The POST Committee was called to order at 4:07 pm by Chair Cindy Bruce. Members present included Cindy Bruce, Jason Groves, Carol Hawk, and Paul Hilts. The meeting was held electronically via Zoom Conferencing. Julie Kolar was absent.

Staff present included Susan Philp, Planning Director; James Lindt, Assistant Planning Director; Watkins Fulk-Gray, Staff Planner; and Brian Passenti, Basalt Parks and Recreation Director.

Guests included Gyles, Connect 1 Design; Seth Hmielowski, Z Group Architects; and Cherie (interior designer, Z Group Architects).

AGENDA ITEMS

Minutes of May 13, 2020

M/S Carol and Paul to approve minutes. Motion passed by a vote of 4 to 0.

Review Schedule for Meetings with Town Council

Susan explained that POST is to prepare to meet with Town Council on June 9 and June 23. There is a possibility for needing a short, special meeting before the first Council meeting.

Update on RFOV Trail Projects – Stimulus Program

Susan recapped that Town Councilor Bill Infante came up with an idea to have a trail works project in partnership with Roaring Fork Outdoor Volunteers (RFOV) to employ people who are laid off. At RFOV's board of directors meeting, they expressed concern for sustainable funding. Basalt Town Council would only want to fund projects benefitting Basalt and only capital projects. Basalt Gives may give some money to RFOV for trail projects, and James Lindt will go on a site visit tomorrow to investigate this possibility. Susan said that originally \$50,000 was allocated toward trails, which was reduced to \$30,000 after Covid-19 cuts. RFOV was allocated \$5,000 of Town funds for the Light Hill Project on October 2nd. She explained that the "stimulus program" proposed by Bill Infante was not discussed at yesterday's Town Council meeting.

Arbaney Park Pool Project

Gyles introduced some members of their team and stated that the project has changed in reaction to the Covid-19 pandemic. He noted the hope that in any future situation like this, the changes they are proposing would be able to allow the pool to stay open. His team has made a Youtube video to help understand the proposed improvements.

Gyles displayed a document with four tiers of possible changes to the pool and its facilities to respond to viruses such as COVID-19. They go from milder changes in Tier 1 to more extreme changes in Tier 4. Seth introduced Cherie, Z Group Architects, who has been working behind the scenes, but now will take a more prominent role since the focus has shifted to the detail of the changing room and other interiors. Cherie summarized some of the possible changes and displayed images. Some materials would be swapped out for others that are more hostile to viruses. Automated shower doors exist, but the technology is patent-pending. Seth stressed that some of these ideas are very new, because there are no guidelines from AIA or other organizations about design in Covid-19 times.

Tier 3 includes more automation, personal facilities, and an infrared temperature scan. Tier 4 would involve pods and a complete redesign of the space, with the ability to disinfect each one with a UV system. This would involve tearing up the concrete slab and plumbing retrofits. However, the family changing area will be new construction anyway, so pods could make more sense there.

Gyles acknowledged that there is not an unlimited budget for the pool, and invited POST members' opinions on what is necessary.

Brian Passenti thanked the team for their work. He expressed his view that Tier 1 would be good for the Town. Tier 2 has good ideas too that are more far-reaching, though not impossible. He noted that having fewer touched surfaces is good, but some of the designs involve more privacy also. He said that while Tier 3 has good ideas, some of it may be too technological for some pool users. He said he likes the pods in Tier 4 but would be concerned about the costs involved.

Susan said she thinks they should look at other options for the rotating toilet seat. She said that potentially benches could be left out to not encourage people to spend time in the changing rooms and could be added later. She wondered if the Town could build pods instead of buying pods, and about the uncertainty of how much they should invest in Covid-19-related changes when no one knows the trajectory of the pandemic.

Seth noted the example of the Iron Mountain Hot Springs lockers that do not have benches and encourage people to get in and get out. He noted the possibility of putting the lockers outside.

Cindy said she thought the pods and some of the advanced technology look too expensive. She suggested a smaller bench rather than no bench.

Carol liked Tier 1 but does not think the other ideas are realistic.

Paul asked if they had researched what professional sports teams are doing as a potential source of information. Cherie said they used studies and design articles. Paul suggested calling the University of Colorado for advice. He said

Tier 1 should be the minimum of what we do, and Tier 4 seems unrealistic. He is intrigued by UV potential for disinfection and wondered how expensive it is. Cherie said that it is expensive, which is why they have only proposed it for the family area.

Paul asked how long cleaning would take, and whether it would involve more than someone spraying. Brian said it depends on the process. Currently they are planning for 30 minutes. Cherie said that the Aspen Airport has a spraying process. Paul said if it is possible, this sounds like the way to go.

Paul asked if there is a way to make the improvements in the locker rooms changeable based on the situation, such as in normal times, and make changes such as adding the plastic dividers between the sinks during pandemic times. He said that the locker rooms should have benches but noted that it would be good if they could be installed and removed.

Cherie noted variation in what airports are doing right now during the pandemic. Seth suggested that some elements could be designed to be removable.

Jason said that how often surfaces would be cleaned will be dictated by others. It is not possible to know the future. He said he thinks Tier 1 will be necessary but suggested putting off the decision about specific materials as long as possible. Similar to Paul, he supported the idea of the modular features that can be installed and removed as situations dictate.

Susan summarized the public input this far but suggested that there is merit to do more outreach. She noted that Arbaney Park's budget for 2020 had been retained and not reduced as a result of the Covid-19 cuts. She suggested doing a new effort on LetsTalkBasalt, the online channel developed for the Master Plan, as there can be no large public meeting or gathering.

Gyles displayed a video that his team created displaying proposed pool improvements.

Susan noted that they want more focus on the phasing plan and to get people excited about the pool project, and less emphasis on the Covid-19 situation. Carol suggested calling out the new improvements. She suggested making changes to the man in the video looking at himself in the mirror with dividers.

Jason echoed the sentiments expressed by others. Gyles said he had previously cut out background material because he believes attention spans are 2-3 minutes. Jason agreed with that target time length.

Cindy said that the video does need to mention Covid a little.

Paul agreed with the short time length target and liked the bright and clean colors and design. He asked if they are determining the entrance at this point. Susan

said this needs to be examined a little more. She suggested circling back on this question.

Cindy said the new entrance does need to be discussed and suggested showing it in the video in some way. She wants to see more of the robot and perhaps less on the locker rooms. Susan suggested showing kids on a slide.

Susan suggested phasing the expenditures in order to have a bigger splash in 2022 but doing the new ramp in the spring of 2021 in conjunction with the pool plaster project. She said that a citizen is suggesting doing everything related to the solar project. She and Gyles need to consider further how to phase the robot pool. The family friendly restrooms could be in Phase 1.

Cindy suggested prioritizing in the phasing an element that the public can see, and that it would make sense to do all the electrical and mechanical at the same time. Susan added that the waterline would happen in 2020. She said it would make sense to flip-flop the phases from what was previously laid out and move the locker rooms to an earlier phase.

Jason agreed. The restroom rehab will generate excitement for the broader project.

Carol said she is fine with the phasing and asked if the whole project could be finished by the summer of 2021.

Gyles and Seth discussed painting treatments to guide people to the locker rooms, perhaps with different colors for men and women.

In response to Carol's question about shortening the project, Susan said the Town is anticipating a drop in sales tax, discussed the challenges with the Town's finances.

Brian said that the ADA upgrades and re-plastering in 2021, this amount of activity could make it more difficult for other contractors to work at the site.

Carol asked if the ADA chair can be in a better location so that there can be a better pathway to the locker rooms. Gyles said that its current location can serve both pools at once. Brian said that the chair is already installed in its current location.

Paul asked if the pathway to the locker rooms is tied to the entrance question. Susan said the pavilion building works with or without the new entrance, so that question can be resolved later.

Project Updates

Skateboard Park

Brian said American Ramp Company gave them a new proposal for updating and replacing some current features. They hope to be able to put a dollar amount on a maintenance plan soon.

Park signs

James Lindt said he is in the process of getting cost estimates; it is looking to be a couple of hundred dollars per minor sign, and \$300-\$400 per gabion basket sign.

Parcel 10

RFOV has built a foot bridge that will not interfere with the ditch. A small bench has been built. There is a concerned citizen who is meeting on site with Staff. Some logs may need to be removed.

Staff is considering buying more picnic tables since people are eating outside more frequently.

They are considering putting out more hand sanitizing stations and open public restrooms at Arbaney Park and the rugby field.

Some new park furniture will be placed in Midland Park and Codger's Corner. Carol said there needs to be a new poop station on Willits Lane. Susan said they were going to put one on Willits Lane and near Park Modern.

Public comment

Toni Kronberg said she appreciates the focus on Covid-19. She noted that Eagle County's new rules allow for 50 people at a gathering. She predicted that social distancing will stay in place for a long time, which will severely limit the number of people in a locker room. Other rec centers have lockers outside of locker rooms. She said new public outreach is very important. Some people might want to make donations and that there should be a fundraising drive. She wants the family pool to be deeper. There should be food and not vending machines. She wants a hot tub. She believes the entrance should not make people walk on the pool deck with their shoes. Colorado pool guidelines say that people should pass through a locker room first.

Adjournment

M/S Carol and Jason to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed 4 to 0.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:49 pm.

Next meeting: June 3, 2020 (special, shorting meeting)