

POST Meeting Minutes

June 19, 2020

CALL TO ORDER

The POST Committee was called to order at 2:08 pm by Vice-Chair Julie Kolar. Members present included Jason Groves, Julie Kolar, Carol Hawk, and Paul Hilts. The meeting was held electronically via Zoom Conferencing. Cindy Bruce 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 Thornely from Connect 1 Design and Toni Kronberg.

AGENDA ITEMS

Phasing Plan for Arbaney Park

Susan noted that the goal of the meeting was to discuss the phasing plan of the Arbaney Park Pool project and to discuss the survey results. Susan noted a request from Toni Kronberg to move up the public comment period so that her comments could be taken before POST's discussion.

Gyles said 58 people responded to the online survey, with the majority living in Willits or Elk Run. He noted a large desire for additional shade, but that a majority responded positively to the improvements. Some comments that were received expressed fear that the improvements would increase the cost of entry to the pool, and others showed disappointment that the food service is planned to be replaced by vending machines. Other comments made in the survey include: bringing back a slide that used to exist at the pool; having youth activities at the pool like ping pong, pickleball; positive comments about moving the entry; having a clock for lap swimmers; having a fence between the robot pool and main pool; and having more activities such as a floating movie night. Gyles noted that his team has been working with the Green Team on the energy system.

Susan discussed the potential of having a hot tub, and that there were strong responses both for and against the idea. She noted that there were many comments about the need for shade and pool furniture.

Susan summarized Town Council's comments about the project, which were to try to condense the length of the construction if possible. She has gone over the Town's projected revenue with the Finance Director. Gyles said he has not had very much time to use the new information and budget projections, but he would like to receive permission to proceed with the creation of the bid drawings. The architectural fee will be greater than what was expected as the work involved is greater than what was described in the RFP. After Labor Day the contractor would be picked. He said he would anticipate replastering, retiling, and other work occurring simultaneously with the changing room upgrades. The waterline

upgrade needs to coincide with the school district not being open. PV panels on the roof will also occur in 2020, along with shade structures. After the pool closes in 2021, work can begin on the robot pool. ADA ramp would occur then as well. It may be appropriate to discuss putting concessions in the pavilion area in lieu of vending machines.

Public Comment

Sometime after Public Comment began, Paul lost his connection to the ZOOM meeting.

Toni Kronberg thanked everyone for the work they have put into this. She said she is not happy with the public participation process and said that nothing about the pool is changing with the proposed plan. There is nothing new for teenagers. The hot tub is a priority for teenagers. She noted that public comment has been taken after the pool consultants have left meetings and that some public hearings with Town Council have not allowed public comment. She said moving the entrance to the pool is not a good practice because it is separated from locker rooms and people will walk with their shoes across the pool deck. She said this is not allowed by code. Toni said the handicap access is not compliant with ADA standards. She said that Carbondale is going through a pool update with greater public involvement, creating three different options for the public to consider. She suggested making the robot pool deeper and including a hot tub and keeping the changing rooms by the pool entrance.

POST Discussion

Susan expressed surprise that no specific comments were received in support of the family changing rooms, and suggested flipping the timing of the changing rooms with creating a new concessions area. She noted that there is no easy way to have more room in the locker rooms, except for expanding into the current entrance area. Susan asked about expanding and making the robot pool deeper. Gyles said the robot pool can be made deeper, and that it is shallow now based on previous direction as a pool for small children.

Julie asked how the surveys were distributed, and Susan said they used the LetsTalkBasalt website, along with posters, distribution to the pool email lists, an ad in the newspapers, radio advertisements, and emails to the master plan database of names. Julie said she never got an email though she is on these lists. She wondered if there has been adequate input. Susan wondered if the emails went to people's spam folders, as Elyse Hottel's did. Julie suggested that an email coming from a person's actual email address might be better. She said that education about the proposed improvements are important, such as whether or not the entrance fees would increase.

Jason said he doesn't disagree with Julie, but noted that actual pool users were respondents in the survey. It was noted that the survey was sent to all those who registered for the pool this year. Carol said she received the survey and posted it on Facebook. She noted that there have been opportunities for public comment at POST meetings, and that Town Council has been supportive. She wants to

see some action and movement on the project. Jason noted there will be more opportunities for public comment.

Susan suggested soliciting more input or using the survey to generate more questions. Julie suggested one more phase of input for clarification and prioritization.

Carol suggested abandoning the idea of the hot tub because of costs. She said that the question about the entrance of the pool should be investigated. Julie agreed, and said this is a big deal if there is a requirement.

Jason said they may be getting bogged down in details, and that the purpose of the survey was prioritization. He said he is weary of not moving forward with this, given the reputation of the Town letting issues simmer. Julie agreed.

Gyles said that he just received the survey information, and that other survey data from children in October was not very feasible. He said he thinks the survey responses reflect that they are on track. He said he believes Toni's comments can be accommodated, as the pavilion will still be needed and the robot pool can be made deeper. He noted the many positive comments.

Carol asked if there is a requirement about the pool entrance and if there is an ADA compliance problem. Gyles said he would doublecheck these issues. Brian Passenti said in the handbook of regulations he believes it is a suggestion about the entrance and locker rooms being together. He didn't think it was a requirement. He noted that some people do already walk past the locker rooms and go swimming; having the locker rooms near the entrance does not necessarily mean people will use the shower. Susan suggested not going into a deep dive on the entrance now because that discussion was going to happen in a later phase.

Julie asked if there would be opportunities in the future to have detailed discussions about specific pool elements, to try to solve questions in phases.

Susan wondered if increasing the size of the robot pool would affect mechanical issues.

Gyles encouraged POST to have trust in themselves as a board and representatives of the Town. He said he doesn't think any work will happen in 2020 if bid drawings are not created. Susan said the robot pool decision could be delayed while they think about another survey.

Carol said she thought the idea of having a slide makes sense. She said she thinks the design is generally good, and that they should move forward sooner rather than later. Jason agreed and characterized some of the discussion today as "fine details."

Susan wondered if the concession stand question should be revisited. Susan said she personally is in favor of a concession stand, and Julie agreed. Gyles said if there is a concession stand it should be done properly. Julie asked for an assessment of that.

Brian said that concessions are a big hit at the pool and he was under the impression it will be moving to the pavilion, with vending machines as a temporary solution. Gyles said it is to be determined.

Susan suggested moving forward to prepare the bid documents and evaluating it while they are doing it. There can be an option of vending in the pavilion or an option of a vending machine or an option of being somewhere else. Gyles said the concessions could be at the current entrance if the entrance is moved.

Julie suggested next steps be to forge ahead with creating bid documents, but bringing questions that come up (such as depth of pool) with POST if they are important. Gyles agreed with this. POST will be on standby to provide appropriate feedback as brought forward by C1D. Julie suggested going to the public if there is a question POST cannot resolve easily.

M/S Jason and Carol to move to proceed as discussed. Motion passed by a vote of 3 to 0.

Adjournment

M/S Carol and Jason to adjourn. Motion passed by a vote of 3 to 0 at 3:33.

Next meeting: July 1, 2020 at 4:00 pm