

# POST Meeting Minutes

## July 22, 2020

### **CALL TO ORDER**

The POST Committee was called to order at 4:03 pm by Chair Cindy Bruce. Members present included Cindy Bruce, Jason Groves, Carol Hawk, Julie Kolar, and Paul Hilts. The meeting was held electronically via Zoom Conferencing.

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

Guests included Jacob Baker, Roaring Fork Outdoor Volunteers, and Toni Kronberg.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

M/S Julie and Jason to approve the minutes of May 27, June 10, and July 1, 2020. Motion carried by a vote of 5 to 0.

### **AGENDA ITEMS**

#### **Roaring Fork Outdoor Volunteers (RFOV) Updates**

Jacob began giving an activity update from RFOV. He noted the completion of the Swinging Bridge connection trail in Town. The Light Hill re-route is in progress. They will be working with the Library to create a pollinator project, and a Lake Christine restoration project will be this Saturday. He said that 146 project hours have been completed in July so far for the Basalt area, not including donated time from construction companies. The Swinging Bridge trail project was a refurbishment of the existing trail. He said there is nothing obvious about how to get from the school to Midland Avenue, so there is an opportunity for wayfinding markers. There is also the opportunity for tree planting along the trail, which RFOV would be interested in organizing.

The RFOV organized a Lake Christine hike, and several Town Councilors participated. Jacob said that many people learned a lot from the hike about the way the area is growing back.

Jacob displayed the current and reroute of the Light Hill Trail. The current trail alignment has a 3- to 4-foot gulley in it, making it impassable when it is raining. He said that there is a great opportunity for a bench and sitting area from the top of Light Hill. Such a bench could commemorate the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Basalt working with RFOV, and RFOV could coordinate that with BLM.

Jason asked where the reroute to the main Light Hill Trail begins. Jacob said the project begins a little bit beyond the Basalt water tank. RFOV is working on the corners first before connecting them. Jacob noted that Pitkin OST hopes it can

shift some people from the over popular Arbaney-Kittle Trail, even if it does not quite meet it in popularity.

Jacob went into further detail about the proposed alignment of a secondary connection of Light Hill Trail from the Basalt Vista Development. An old ranch road leading to Basalt Vista is proposed to be rehabilitated. In response to a question from Cindy, Jacob clarified that the trail would be open to the public.

James said that the Town has received application from Habitat for Humanity for the trail project. Town Staff has walked the proposed alignment. James displayed in more detail the portion that is in the Basalt Vista development. Philp said that the Town is very supportive of the trail, our concern is only that people do not park in the nearby emergency turnaround cul-de-sac.

Julie responded that there is a need for signage to tell people where to park and where to go to access the trail. Cindy asked where people should park. Julie said the high school parking lot. Jacob said that Pitkin County prefers people park at the Rio Grande trailhead, and said that people may need signage to the gate where the trail starts. Carol expressed support for the project, and for a bench at the top. Susan summarized POST's response as supportive of the project as proposed, but that more signage is needed.

Jacob introduced RFOV's newest initiative, "Trails and Ways", which commemorates the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the American Disabilities Act. He noted that the Braille Trail was built by RFOV and is the only accessible trail in the area, though because it is up on Independence Pass it is not so accessible. He discussed different types of disabilities.

Jacob aid that RFOV's hope is to create accessible trails for many different user groups. He noted an example of veterans with PTSD, for which Challenge Aspen has programs, who can be so startled by fast downhill mountain bikers that the panic it induces can permanently dissuade them from using the trail. Other adaptations can be accommodated with warning signs for users. He said that the Aspen Valley Land Trust is buying a parcel near Catherine Store Road with the intent of creating accessible trails. He expressed RFOV's hope to build or repurpose existing trails to be accessible to different groups, and to eventually create a map system to help people select what trails would be right for them. Jacob wants to consider what trails in Basalt could be made accessible to different groups.

Philp said that they are trying to find an alignment on the Ponderosa Trail to help handicapped people get closer to the river. She said it is a quiet trail that could be considered as a project. She noted that access to the trail from the Seed Garden could use improvement as it has steps built as an Eagle Scout Project and is not ADA. She also proposed that POST members consider if they have any further ideas for trails that could be made more accessible.

Philp said there are miscellaneous funds in the POST CIP that could be used for landscaping at the Swinging Bridge trail. She noted that water for irrigation may be an issue.

Jason expressed support for this project and said that the small park in the neighborhood has good shade trees and benches to sit at. It is full of weeds now, but could be spruced up, paired with improvements to the trail. He said that the pocket park is near the river and has a lot of potential. Jason advised that the lights that are in place right now could be improved by a more permanent solution, and that lighting is needed. Julie said that wayfinding signage from the school to the bridge is important, rather than on the Town side of the bridge.

Jacob will keep working with James on the connector trail to Light Hill, he will look into putting a memorial bench on BLM property, and look at trail ADA improvements to Ponderosa Trail and at the Seed Garden.

### **South Park at Stotts Mill**

Lindt said that previously POST had supported four tennis courts and a multi-purpose court. He displayed two site plan options and asked for feedback from POST. Paul asked what the rest of the space in the park would be used for, and Lindt said that it would be grass. Paul asked what the dimensions of the multi-purpose court would be, and James said it about 75 feet by 90. Lindt noted the natural gas easement through the park. Paul asked about parking. Lindt said there is on-street parallel parking, and each lot has its own parking area accessed from an alley. There will be public parking on both sides of the street, and Cindy noted parking at the high school. Paul asked if the court would have lights, and Lindt said that it is not programmed. Cindy asked if Blue Lake's courts have lighting. Lindt said they do not for the courts, but that there is lighting along the trail at the park. Philp noted that if lights are not installed concurrently with the courts, they probably would not happen.

Carol said that having the basketball courts be farther from homes is probably best, and that visibility would be good. She asked how emergency services would access the park, and Lindt that the access is from the Rio Grande Trail. Paul suggested getting feedback from the Police Department. Lindt said there is likely time to do so. Lindt said that the process is to take feedback to the Developer so indicate whether he is supportive. Concurrently, Diana Elliott will submit a grant application for the tennis courts because the developer will only pay for the multipurpose court and two tennis courts. The grant is due at the end of October.

### **Skate Park Update**

Passenti said he has reached out to two skateboard park users, and he is meeting on-site with one of them on Monday. He has a design from American Ramp Company available for review and a list of \$5,000-or-less features that

could be included. The replacement of existing features that are rotten will cost around \$34,000.

### **Mid-Valley Trails Plan**

Philp said that POST's comments were reviewed by the Roaring Fork Regional Planning Commission. There were some objections from residents in the Emma area with trails from Crown Mountain Park to the Rio Grande Trail. The Plan is in part an inventory of project wish lists from all the entities involved with trails. Philp said the adoption of the plan has been continued to August 20<sup>th</sup>. Philp needs to talk with the Eagle County planners to ask if POST has a role to play in getting the plan adopted.

### **Other Updates**

Philp displayed material submitted by Toni Kronberg (attached to these minutes as part of the record). Ms. Kronberg noted that Crown Mountain Park may work with a private donor for a new sports plex. She encouraged the Town and Crown Mountain to work together on this. She noted that a hot tub and year-round use is noted as a concept discussed in the Town's Master Plan. She said that the proposed shallow pool does not have a middle-ground option of 3-foot depth. She believes the Town should focus on increasing revenues of the pool, which could be achieved with this middle-ground depth. She does not believe that some of the objections to the hot tub that have been raised, including energy required for heating it and time and frequency of emptying and refilling it, are valid objections. She believes the community wants a hot tub and that the pool should be more multi-generational. Philp thanked her for her comments and said that there are no more members of the public on the call.

Lindt discussed signage for Basalt parks. According to the park sign plan that was created, certain park entrances would have "monument" signs. He displayed options for gabion baskets that could be incorporated into these monument signs. There is an approximate \$500 difference between the two options he displayed. Cindy suggested going with the second option presented, which was a photo of the Southside entrance sign, which she said is a more appealing look for not very much more money.

Julie said that the designs presented are modified and much more affordable from the sign plan that POST has previously accepted. She noted that the prefab galvanized steel option will not rust, which may not be a consistent look with other signage in Basalt. Carol clarified that there would be about 4 signs incorporating gabion baskets: River Park, Arbaney Park, Linear Park (2). The specific locations and other details are still being looked at. Other minor signs for things like off-leash dog signs are also planned. Philp noted that Basalt's parks are very pedestrian oriented and that there are many different entrances to them, which makes it difficult to plan the locations of signs. Julie expressed that less is more, and that the information conveyed, if important, should be the criteria in determining whether a sign is planned.

Carol questioned why signs are being designed without a final location. Julie added that some signs are needed, and the general areas are known. Lindt said that locations were identified in the sign plan, and they are using that plan and modifying it.

Philp summarized the discussion thus far: it is important for signage to complement existing signs in Basalt and that the price difference is not great. Julie noted that a custom sign would allow the Town to choose the height. Jason agreed that the Terrain sign plan is too expensive and that they need a cheaper option. He also agreed that consistency with existing signage is important. Carol said she likes the second option, the custom option. She noted however that there is nothing like the rusted steel look in Willits and noted that she wants consistency between East and West Basalt. Lindt said he would come back to POST once numbers and locations were firmer.

Philp said that the Arbaney pool project is moving forward. She said that she will be putting an ad in the paper seeking members for various Town committees, including POST. Reappointments of POST members will need to occur soon as well.

Carol noted that there are sidewalks in Town that go nowhere and suggested that making connections to these is part of making the Town more accessible. Philp said the State has been working on making the traffic signals more accessible. She said that the Town has been having discussions with the developer of a project at Willits Bend, though she does not have much hope that there will be a new connection achieved to the bus stops on Highway 82. She said that the sidewalks and lack of certain connections is on her radar.

### **Adjournment**

M/S Carol and Jason to adjourn. Motion passed by a vote of 5 to 0 at 5:46 pm.

# PowerPoint Materials presented by Toni Kronberg

## 2020 BASALT MASTER PLAN

Swimming pool upgrades  
(year round use, multi-generational facilities,  
hot tub, solar panels)

## BASALT POST MASTER PLAN PLANNING PRINCIPLES

#1. Seek citizen engagement in the design process

## POST PLAN GOALS & ACTION STEPS

### 11. PARK IMPROVEMENTS

### HIGH PRIORITY ARBANEY PARK VISION

Enhance the pool as a desirable community amenity  
with an inviting and well shaded lounging area  
and fun water features *that attract all ages*

