

POST Meeting Minutes

August 12, 2020

CALL TO ORDER

The POST Committee was called to order at 4:10 pm by Chair Cindy Bruce. Members present included Cindy Bruce, Paul Hilts, Jason Groves and Carol Hawk. Julie Kolar was absent. The meeting was held electronically via Zoom Conferencing.

Staff present included Susan Philp, Planning Director; Sara Nadolny, Staff Planner; and Brian Passenti, Recreation Director.

Guests included Gail Schwartz and Bo Blodgett from Habitat for Humanity and Jacob Baker, from the Roaring Fork Outdoor Volunteers.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

M/S Groves and Hawk to approve the minutes of July 22, 2020. Motion carried by a vote of 4 to 0.

AGENDA ITEMS

Request from Habitat for Humanity for Contribution to Basalt Vista to Support Construction of Park

Philp introduced Gail Schwartz, Executive Director of Habitat for Humanity Roaring Fork Valley, and Bo Blodgett of Habitat for Humanity.

Schwartz indicated that met with Ryan Mahoney, Susan Philp and James Lindt to discuss a number of Basalt Vista items, including their request for assistance from the Town for the park.

Schwartz explained the application to POST was for the installation of the playground equipment. They are requesting \$7,000 to help off-set the cost of the of the play structure and underlay, including the inspection of the Park (for insurance purposes). Pitkin County awarded Habitat \$30,000 toward the park project, and the funding request from POST would help with the installation of the playground structure.

Schwartz also informed that a trail is being created in partnership with Roaring Fork Outdoor Volunteers (RFOV) who is providing a connection from the park to Light Hill Trail. There will also be a trail connection with the bus turn-around area below and they hope that the trail may be handicapped accessible trail through the proposed park up to the Light Hill Trail.

Schwartz showed a picture of the play structure that has been ordered, as well as a new rendering of the park in 3D.

Schwartz said she would appreciate POST's support. Aside from the required professional installation of the playground equipment, the park will continue to be developed through the work of volunteers per the Habitat model.

Philp shared a site plan of the park/playground area which, she indicated, was included in POST's packet.

Schwartz presented a drawing, created by a young Basalt Vista resident, that inspired the final design of the playground.

Schwartz indicated that the park has been excavated and the sprinkler system installed. The play structure has been ordered. She reiterated that the request is for additional funds to help support the installation of the equipment.

Philp informed POST that, if approved, funds would be taken from POST's miscellaneous budget.

Hawk asked for the total cost of the install. Schwartz said the labor is not included for the overall park installation. Blodgett responded that the project cost is around \$30,000-\$35,000 for the play elements, with the overall cost being around \$75,000 for the entire park. Additional costs include the earth work, professional fees, tunnel, etc.

Schwartz said the playground will be for use by the entire Basalt community, not just the Basalt Vista residents.

Hilts asked where the playground will be located within the overall project. Schwartz replied that the park is adjacent to the first phase of completed units, and that she would like to have a site visit with POST to show them the area.

Hilts asked who has the responsibility to maintain the park.

Schwartz noted that the road leading to Basalt Vista is public, with public access to the Park. She assumed the park, since it is public, would be turned over to the Town's Parks Department. Philp indicated that she was not sure and that she would have to confirm that.

Philp added that the Town wants to support affordable housing. The goal is to build community - not just a house, but a place for people to be part of the community. Staff was supportive of Town funds being used to support the park. Schwartz added that the park is a long-term community asset

Hilts said he is not opposed, just concerned about maintenance and ensuring its dealt with up front.

Groves said he supports the project and the use of the funds as they are available. He likes the playground as a community feature, noting that since Basalt Vista is in back of the high school, there is no outdoor play equipment that would be expected at most schools. He noted that the park serves as a community space for parents as well and is supportive of the inclusion of shade structures.

Hawk asked how much they are asking in relation to the entire cost, indicating that she appreciates the ask is not large, but she has some concerns with the future maintenance and upkeep. Hawk said that overall, she supports funding the project.

M/S Hilts and Groves to approve funds to support the park/playground project. Motion passed 4 to 0.

Schwartz included that there is an HOA. She said that Habitat intends on being good partners on the project and will have a high-quality neighborhood that the community can be proud of.

Stott's Mill Tennis and Multi-Purpose Courts. *POST to select preferred option.*

Susan explained that the purpose is for POST to indicate which of the two options for the location were desired. The Police Chief did not want the multi-purpose court down by the Rio Grande Trail. The Police Department wants to be able to drive by the court and view the activity going on. Philp noted that that Option B to the west impacts less residents.

During the ensuing discussion, all POST members favored Option A.

M/S Hawk and Groves to approve Option A. Motion passed by a vote of 4 to 0.

Skateboard Park

Passenti said there would be some equipment updates to the skateboard park at Midland Park. Passenti spoke directly to users of the skate park and showed them images of the features and design. He asked participants to choose the two features that they would like to see at the skate park. Passenti said he spoke with users on different days of week and at different times. The participants overwhelmingly picked the Sofa and the Truck Rail features as those they would most like to see incorporated into the skate park.

Passenti shared an image of the Sofa feature, explaining that users can balance on two wheels of their skateboard, and that it also doubles as a functional sitting surface. The Truck Rail is a round rail as opposed to other shaped rails, and users were specific that they wanted a round rail.

Passenti said that Phase I will cost somewhere between \$37,500 to \$42,500. There is a possibility of getting the concrete completed this year. He plans on

purchasing the two features in the spring of 2021, so they are not sitting around, waiting for installation over the winter.

Philp said there is another concrete project related to ADA improvements in the downtown area. She indicated they may add the concrete work for the skate park into the request for bids for the ADA improvements project.

Philp advised that improvements to the skate park will require an ESA (Environmentally Sensitive Area) Review Approval, as the site is located within the floodway. She noted that concrete is not viewed as an ideal surface for water to travel through by the Town's floodplain manager.

Philp added they may purchase the Sofa and Truck Rail features this year and have them installed with the concrete work. Passenti said the Sofa skateboard feature has a wrap and is not fully wood. He will check to see if putting in the features or at least the anchors are timed right during the concrete work. He said it would be nice to see some progress this year on the skate park.

Philp said there is a procurement process for choosing a contractor for the concrete work, and they are now working with estimates. The Town has initially budgeted \$30,000 for Midland Park and the skate park combined which does not include concrete work, which is estimated to add around \$12,000. Philp asked for general comments or questions from the POST Committee.

Hawk thanked Passenti for getting valuable on-site input.

Hilts also commended Passenti for taking the time and energy to speak directly with the skate park's users. He asked how much was currently budgeted for the improvements. Philp responded that the total fund for Midland Park improvements is collectively \$30,000, with \$20,000 for the skateboard park and \$10,000 for Midland Park.

Groves asked what was on the horizon for Midland Park. Philp said that per the Midland Park Master Plan there is an entry feature for the park with an additional concrete area off the sidewalk with a viewing area for the skateboard park. There are also plans to enclose the port-a-potty, and the creation of better ADA access from Midland Avenue to the park.

Passenti mentioned that the Town is not committed to using American Ramp Company, where the features shown are from, and that there would be a procurement process.

Groves said he is ok with earmarking the funds for the skate park over Midland Park. Bruce agreed and said she would love to get something done this year if possible. Combining the concrete work with another project would save money.

All POST members voiced support for the project.

Arbaney Park

Passenti reported that there is a large trench dug for the new waterline at the pool and shared some recent pictures. The portion of the project on School Property should be done by August 17th to coincide with the start of school. Susan said kids will access the school on the 18th. At a minimum, the parking lot area will be compacted and ready to drive on with asphalt at a later time.

Roaring Fork Outdoor Volunteer Updates

Baker of Roaring Fork Outdoor Volunteers (RFOV) began with a discussion on the Ponderosa Trail. He said a site visit was undertaken with Staff and program participants from Ascendigo and Challenge Aspen. There is interest building accessible trails for those with sensory, motor, and vision challenges, and identified the Ponderosa Trail as a good candidate for accessibility. Baker said the trail is open to a variety of abilities and improvements would not be difficult to be made. During the site visit the group made a wish list of satisfactory and then optimal improvements. He said he would be completing some digital mapping and will forward onto Philp to share with POST. This would serve as a demonstration project to some of the other ideas floating around the valley.

Baker said they are also working with Crown Mountain on trail accessibility with the possibility of making improvements to the trail system that leads down to the river.

Groves asked for a summary of the improvements to Ponderosa Trail. Baker said where it begins is not accessible to people with physical disabilities, and a new access would be created extending the existing slope with a regularized surface at a maximum slope of 6%. The culvert would include railings to help those with vision disabilities access there. Select locations can add seating, benches, and maybe picnic tables, to make it ADA compatible. Where the trail ends and moves onto a smaller rocky dyke, maintain surfaces as they are, Ascendigo has clarified how important it is to have certain sensory challenges for the autistic population – creating exploratory surfaces. Accessibility is intended to vary in different sections.

Baker said federal best practices for building accessible trails on federal lands are written for those with physical handicaps and sight disabilities, not PTSD, hearing, or other handicaps.

Baker provided an update on the Basalt Vista/Light Hill connector trail, which RFOV is helping to construct on August 15th. He said that in many places the new trail can be constructed using the existing alignment of an old ranch road. RFOV initially intended to make the trail handicapped accessible but realized that the grade is too severe. Regrading will require more significant engineering. He noted they are anxious to have one specific trail in place by the end of this week.

Habitat has already begun to make signage. Pitkin County will provide direction signage for Light Hill Trail.

Bruce asked if the improvements would be advertised in some way. Baker said the Light Hill Trail will probably be completed in 2021. The connector trail will be completed in 2020, but they had not planned on publicity, and asked if POST would recommend doing so. Bruce said it would be helpful unless they are trying to keep the trail improvements a bit more subtle. Baker said he would leave it up to Habitat to decide if they would like to publicize the work there.

Baker said last piece to update is on Parcel 10, the small parcel off Willits Lane and the end of Evans. Baker indicated they are continuing vegetation removal and brush trimming.

Philp said the bridge over the water is the established trail. A lot of trimming was completed last year and fallen debris needs to be removed as currently it is an obstacle course. There is the desire to create a seating area overlooking the river.

Hawk requested that the brush get trimmed along Willits Lane so there is more attention to safety when coming back across that bridge. Susan mentioned she would check in with Public Works. She noted that the cross walk was on the list of improvements that would be made in the near future.

Park Signs

Philp said Staff is not quite ready to discuss the park signs but would email POST with recommendations and discuss the changes at the next meeting.

Updates

Philp asked POST to think about their 2021 work plan and budget requests for the next meeting.

She said there will be some significant rebuilding of the asphalt trails in Willits and Arbaney Park. Staff is getting some initial cost estimates for that work, and she is hopeful that not all of it will have to come out of the POST Capital funds.

Philp asked POST to look at projects outlined in Capital Improvement Plan and identify missing items, and the potential to relocate funds if necessary.

Bruce said the pedestrian path down to river off Willits Lane with the dog waste station and picnic table is just messy dirt. She suggested the possibility of adding crusher fines.

In response to a question from Hawk about connections to bus stop, Philp mentioned the proposed affordable housing project adjacent to Willits Bend, and that Basalt is asking the Applicant to build a trail from the Aspen Junction bus stop

to the traffic signal at Two Rivers Road/Highway 82 as part of the Project's mitigation requirements.

Hawk mentioned getting a dog waste station between Evans Court and Willits Lane. Philp relayed that she was recently out there with the Public Works Director and found an appropriate location for the waste station in that area.

Adjournment

M/S Hawk and Groves to adjourn. Motion passed by a vote of 4 to 0 at 5:40 pm.