

POST Meeting Minutes

August 26, 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 Julie Kolar. Carol Hawk asked Susan Philp to contact her if her vote was needed. The meeting was held electronically via Zoom Conferencing.

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

Guests included Gyles Thornely and Elyse Hottel from Connect 1 Design and Toni Kronberg.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

M/S Paul and Jason to approve the minutes of August 12, 2020. Motion carried by a vote of 4 to 0.

AGENDA ITEMS

Review Design Items for Arbaney Pool Improvements Project

Gyles reported he has updated the pool improvements design and would like to update POST and get some POST feedback. The architecture is close to ready to go and they will meet Green Building requirements. The bid documents will be available for review by noon tomorrow at 85% completeness. All bid drawings will be done by noon on Monday. The Team is hoping to have Town Council approval of the contract on October 27th meeting. A month will be allowed for contractors to submit bids.

Julie said she is concerned that the Town will receive higher-than-normal bids because so many tradespeople are very busy. Gyles suggested discussing this at the pre-bid meeting and expressed hope that the project will appeal to contractors on account of its location outside of Aspen, available parking, and because it is an interesting project. He said there is only one pool contractor in the valley, so he has been in contact with pool contractors in Denver. Susan said this project would be competing with high-end residential projects. Gyles suggested anticipating an all-over-the-board result in bids.

Gyles displayed a SketchUp model of the robot pool, noting that “feet” for the robot have been added which include water coming down. Other new elements include island steps as the robot “teeth,” a soft and spongy pool bottom finish (for an

added cost of approximately \$8,000), a new shape for the “hand,” additional shade sails that are easily removable, and an overhanging fence with perforated mesh.

Cindy opened it up to public comment. Toni Kronberg had asked to speak during this item. Toni said she is concerned that the project does not fit with the Town’s Master Plan and POST’s Master Plan. She cited page 72 of the Master Plan regarding a multi-generational pool. She wondered why the pool’s mechanical room could not be moved to make the pool more user friendly. She said that there needs to be a fence between the robot pool and lap pool and said there would not be space for it. She noted that the robot pool is a play pool, not one for teaching kids how to swim, and said this is an injustice to the kids. She said that kids might not react well to creative designs on the pool bottom. She is concerned that the water depth is only two feet and said there is a missing range between 2 and 4 feet.

Susan asked POST to give their opinions about the shading plan. She said that Brian Passenti’s hope is to allow sun in the morning and have shade in the afternoon.

Cindy said she thinks there is too much shade, and people are often chilly when they get out of the main pool.

Jason Groves left the meeting.

Cindy asked about POST members’ opinions about Toni’s concerns. Julie responded that the pool facility is multi-generational, and the robot pool enhances this aspect.

Cindy noted the addition of a “teen” section. She asked what water depth ranges there are at the pool and who they serve. She said that the robot pool is not for teaching swim lessons, but for play, and that it was never the intent. Susan reminded the Committee that they explored deepening a portion of the current pool, but they would have to break the pool’s shell, which would be expensive and could potentially cause leakage.

Cindy asked about the illustration of the new pool ramp in the existing pool and said that it takes up a great deal of the pool space and limits access to the deeper water. Gyles said that the ramp is there because of Toni Kronberg’s objections, and that it was his opinion that the pool would meet ADA requirements with the lift that is currently in place. Cindy said she feels the ramp needs to go and knows of two people who use the chair and are thrilled with it. Gyles noted this would save money and make the pool more usable. *[Note: After the meeting it was clarified that an additional ADA access would be necessary because of the size of the pool].*

Julie asked if there were any comments in the public feedback about accessibility. Cindy recalled kids from the deaf camp and Ascendigo using the current pool. Susan suggested including the ramp as an add-on in the bid documents. Julie supported this. Cindy said that the current lack of an ADA-compliant bathroom

(which is planned with this improvement project) is more pressing. After discussion POST members agreed that it made sense to keep the pony wall.

Cindy asked about Toni's concern about a required fence between the two pools, and Gyles said that this is not the case, according to the Team's pool consultant.

Elyse said that there were some comments in the public feedback that said they would like a handrail and possibly a ramp to access the pool. Philp suggested a double handrail as an improvement. POST was supportive of this as a simple solution.

Paul asked if it would be a good idea to add a step from the existing shallow pool into the lap pool. He thought this, along with another handrail, might eliminate the need for a ramp. Susan suggested the Team talk to a physical therapist to refer out this issue of people who are rehabbing injuries or disabled.

POST discussed how much shade there should be, discussing various shade sail options. Gyles suggested determining the locations of the shade sail posts. Julie suggested focusing the shade on hardscapes, since those surfaces get hot. Cindy noted the location of where the rolled-up pool cover sits currently. Gyles said that in the future it will live under the roof of a new structure. Cindy suggested less shade at the robot pool. Susan said it would be good for there to be some shade at the robot pool. Cindy suggested keeping the red shade triangle in the rendering. Susan suggested Gyles study the location of shadows and the sun during the hottest times.

In discussion about how to value engineer the project, Gyles suggested prioritizing the flooring over improvements such as a shade post, robot feet, or a slide. Susan said the flooring should be subtle colors, and Julie agreed. Cindy said she would prefer to cut out the flooring rather than the slides. Gyles displayed the "coping" material that would make the edges of the pool softer. It is an extra line item that could be removed from the budget.

Gyles displayed the new location of the heat pumps. They will produce noise, so they are advised to provide some noise canceling method. He proposes a six-foot concrete wall behind which the heat pumps would go.

Gyles said that they are looking at changing the material of the pool pathways to decomposed granite stabilized surface, a more environmentally friendly surface as compared to asphalt or concrete. He noted that it is a bid alternate to do the green area as either grass or astroturf. He proposes keeping the teen area and around the robot pool as astroturf. Julie said that astroturf is much hotter than grass. Gyles displayed an astroturf product that must be watered once a week but is cooler than traditional astroturf.

In response to the comments he was hearing Gyles suggested keeping grass where it is and adding astroturf to new places. This concept was supported by Cindy and Paul. Julie prefers grass wherever there are lawn chairs, or to minimize

astroturf. No change to irrigation system will be required on the east side, but there will be some changes on the west side if the green locations identified by Gyles are sod.

Susan suggested potentially having a different surface to denote the teen area.

Gyles said there would be donor plaques on the fences for people who donate money. This concept was supported by POST.

POST said they liked the robot feet additions.

Gyles left the meeting.

Park Signs

Philp said she would email POST the newest sign plan. Staff wants to order the dog leash signs. She suggested that they might need a special meeting to prepare for the upcoming meeting with Town Council.

Philp said the Town's budget numbers are looking better.

Paul left the meeting.

Adjournment

The meeting was closed at 5:48 pm.