

POST Meeting Minutes

January 13, 2021

CALL TO ORDER

The POST Committee was called to order at 4:04 pm by Chair Cindy Bruce. Members present included Cindy Bruce, Paul Hilts, Carol Hawk, Jason Groves, Julie Kolar, and Amiee Beazley. 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; Brian Passenti, Recreation Director; and Chris Beiser, Basalt Public Works.

Guests included Jacob Baker, Roaring Fork Outdoor Volunteers.

AGENDA ITEMS

Introduction of Chris Beiser

Susan introduced Chris Beiser, who is the Town's new horticulturist.

Approval of Minutes

M/S Jason and Carol to approve the minutes of December 9, 2020. Motion passed by a vote of 6 to 0.

Approve Sign for Ponderosa Park Proposed by RFOV

Susan introduced Jacob Baker and noted that the park sign was discussed at the last meeting. James noted that POST liked the sign at the last meeting and some minor cleanups were done, including adjustments to the Spanish to make it more accurate. It was also noted that the sign was plotted at actual size; and Suzanne Jackson and Staff reviewed for readability. Jacob Baker said that RFOV used fonts that will be most legible to the general public and for people with disabilities. It will be installed, along with other trail enhancements, in the spring.

Carol said she thinks it is good.

M/S Carol and Paul to approve the sign as displayed. Motion passed by a vote of 6 to 0.

Recommend Name for Parcel 10

Susan introduced the park as the one on Willits Lane at the end of Evans Road. There is new furniture that was put in the park today. She said that at the last meeting, POST decided that Amiee would do some research to present.

Amiee said she has learned a lot about the Utes. They used to migrate from the Colorado Springs area to here. She tried to find a translation for “sunset,” which was difficult, but she did find some other interesting words or phrases. She displayed a list of names and explanations. Amiee said she favors Little Bear Park, which is named for the Ursa Minor constellation. Buck Park, Wapiti (which is not actually from the Ute language), Eventide (another word for sunset), Sun Mountain Park (which refers to the specific tribe of people who lived in this area), Bear Dance Park, Chipeta Park (Chief Ouray’s wife), Kaipa (which means mountain), and Osprey Landing were other potential names given.

Julie asked if they have to make a decision today, and Susan said that it’s up to POST. There is no requirement to rename it at all.

Jason said he would like some time to think about it and complimented Amiee on her research.

Paul said he likes Little Bear. He said Orchard Park could be an option too, since there used to be orchards in the area.

Carol said she likes the natural aspect of naming possibilities, and said the sunsets are stunning from the park. She would not want to put something about native people that turns out to be incorrect or mispronounced.

Cindy said she likes using osprey in the name. Something like Sun Mountain Park sounds too big to her for such a little park and she does not favor Orchard Park or Hollyhock Park. She likes Pioneer Park to honor the 1800s-1900s era of settlement. She wondered if it would be insulting to name such a small park after indigenous people.

Susan suggested making a list to narrow down. She added that they could name another park honoring native heritage, though there are not many unnamed parks in Town. There is a pocket park off of Cottonwood Drive.

Carol asked Chris Beiser what he observed at the park, horticulturally. Chris said there are a lot of cottonwoods and brush, not too many distinct notable plants. He liked Osprey Landing and names that communicate the park’s smallness. He volunteered to make a list of plants that are there. Susan displayed pictures Chris took today of the new and old park furniture that is there. Carol suggested adding Sunset-something to the list of possible names.

Cindy asked POST members to come to the next meeting with their top two preferred names for the park.

Project Updates

Dog signs

Susan said that some interim regulation signs have been put in place. Posts are not possible to install right now in the frozen ground. James said they are working on getting cost estimates for the permanent signs.

Arbaney Pool

James said that last night Town Council approved the certificates of participation (COPs) last night. Rudd is well into construction, having demo'd the interior of the locker rooms and the mechanical room. They have installed some water shutoff valves. The contractors have done a lot of earthwork for the robot pool and hope to pour the forms in the next few days. He added that the COPs were approved through local bank Alpine Bank.

Cindy asked if they would have an opportunity to give input on the lockers. James expressed that Staff would try and bring them back for POST's feedback.

James noted that all POST members viewed the fence samples and that all prefer AmeriStar. They are working on getting final costs; AmeriStar was shut down over the holidays.

Susan added that Town Council's decision to go forward with COPs is big for POST and will allow them to do more projects. Brian added that the solar panels are installed, hooked up, and operational.

BPAC projects

Watkins described BPAC's proposed mural project, ice sculptures, and arts master plan. The mural project will allow people to come with a predetermined location or not, using Town property or not. The murals will be selected by BPAC after a request for proposals. Susan named the locations on Town property that were approved yesterday by Town Council. She added that the underpasses were not named as potential locations in order to keep them looking neat and to not affect the waterproofing treatments on the underpass walls.

BPAC is also commissioning four ice sculptures. Watkins said that the locations are still being determined. They will remain up until they melt.

Susan discussed BPAC's ongoing arts master plan, and recalled the meetings that POST had with its arts consultant last year. Watkins said that among the topics to be discussed in the plan would be locations in parks for future public art installations, and said that POST would have a chance to weigh in during these discussions.

Amiee asked if people will paint onto surfaces or onto canvases for the murals, and asked what the fees would be. Watkins replied that they could be on either surface, and that the fees would be included in artists' proposals. She suggested the sidewalk at Linear Park could be a surface for painting too. Carol said it would

be so nice to do a mural or have some color in the underpasses in a way that would not destroy the waterproofing.

Basalt River Park

James said Connect One and Sopris Engineering are under contract and working on drawings that can be used in the bid process, which could be in March or April.

Cindy asked what will go into the spot in the River Park that was going to be the Art Base. Susan said there are some preliminary discussions that are still private.

WE-cycle and Habitat for Humanity

There is a grant opportunity from Bikes for People to do a “bike hub.” Habitat for Humanity, the school district, and WE-cycle, along with the town, would like to do a grant to create a bike lane and WE-cycle location as James displayed on the screen. There needs to be a letter of intent submitted by January 21. James displayed a funding spreadsheet.

Julie asked what the duration of the costs would be. James said that what he displayed are one-time costs, an expected total. He clarified that the cost would be around \$35,000 and then a separate \$8,000 ask from the Town. The \$8,000 could vary, it is only the estimated cost of the safety evaluation and construction. Cindy asked if the project would be a Public Works project. James said Public Works might be able to help with this, but a contractor might be needed for most tasks.

Amiee thought that kids would need to have a debit or credit card. Watkins said that you have to pay for the fob but that the first 30 minutes were free this year. James said the age limit is still 16 for using WE-cycle, and that there was some discussion at a recent meeting about reducing the age limit.

Amiee supported Cindy’s question and suggested it could be in Public Works’ domain.

Julie said that formalizing the edge of the pavement should be part of the project because there is no formal edge right now. She said she is concerned about how fast traffic, including high school drivers, moves out of the parking lot onto Southside Drive. A bike lane might be in conflict with traffic. James said the school requested bike racks be placed by the entrance and were less interested in having WE-cycle station by the entrance. Susan reminded the group that none of this land is Town property, that it belongs to the school.

Julie said WE-cycle would be best near the Rio Grande water fountain. The Basalt Vista development has to provide a pad for WE-cycle. James provided history on other locations that were looked at but discarded.

Carol asked if the location has to be part of the grant.

Paul asked who has the final say about the location. James said the Town would, but the school district would also have to consent if it is on their property. Paul suggested the location of the former Motio sculpture. Cindy suggested two locations. James said that Mirte, from WE-cycle, prefers having just one station. James pointed out WE-cycle's preferred location. Julie suggested a location near where WE-cycle wants, but more protected from the road.

Cindy said she feels POST should support this, and that maybe more details could be worked out if and after they get the grant.

Amiee said she does not think this is a good location because of safety considerations.

James noted that if the WE-cycle were further north, there would be no need for that part of the bike path.

Jason said it is important to have a good connection from Basalt Vista to the Rio Grande.

Susan noted that they do want to check in with the Police Department still. Julie said they need to have a multi-use study here. A bike lane would preclude a sidewalk or multi-use solution.

Susan noted that POST money may or may not be used for a trail or sidewalk.

M/S Julie and Jason to offer support to WE-cycle to progress on the grant writing process. However, to attach our approval with conditions that the site and related access be studied for multi-purpose use, safety, and potentially for alternate locations. Motion passed by a vote of 6 to 0.

POST Committee Organizational Topics

Term lengths

Susan said that none of the current members of POST were appointed for a specific term length. Town Council set in by-laws that terms would end in April. Aimee's appointment therefore will last until April 2023. Susan proposed taking to Town Council on January 26th a reappointment of all POST members with a term length. January 27th POST meeting would be when the appoint the chair and vice chair. She informed POST that Cindy would not be able to continue with POST past April. She encouraged people to think about who wants to be a chair and vice chair at the next meeting. She had the Town Clerk conduct a lottery to pick some members who would have a term ending in 2022 and 2023. All POST members agreed with doing it this way. Susan presented the drawing: Julie and Paul for 2023, Carol and Jason for 2022, and Cindy to end April 21, 2021. She said that if that is ok with POST members, this would be on the next Town Council consent agenda.

M/S Carol and Amiee to approve the members to the terms as described. Motion carried by a vote of 6 to 0.

Member comments

Jason asked for an update on the playground equipment at Basalt Vista. James said that the playground is not finished; it will be finished and inspected in the spring. Jason said it does not look anything close to the plans presented to POST.

Amiee noted that there is no delineation between the road and the park at Parcel 10 and suggested a split rail fence. Susan added that the vegetation there grows very fast. Chris volunteered to clear out some of the brush, including a large bush near the bridge. He added that it is hard to know that there is a park there.

Susan provided an update on construction near the Willits Trail being done by Pitkin County Healthy Rivers and Streams. The Town took a deposit from Pitkin County to mitigate potential damage to the trail. Pitkin County Healthy Rivers and Stream funding may be lower this year due to lower tax revenues. Pitkin County has asked for an extension of their GoCo grant for the additional Whitewater Park improvements.

Carol asked why the new fence along Willits Lane is staggered. Cindy added that it is built backwards. James offered to check what the reasoning is. He thinks it may have to do with utilities. Carol said it looks funky without any landscaping.

Susan informed POST that Cindy would be stepping away from POST in the future. Cindy summarized POST's assignments: come up with top two park names, Susan will send Amiee's list to all, and think about who wants to be chair and vice chair.

GoCo has changed their grants focus, and River Park may not fit in with that. Ryan Mahoney will speak to people at the county to see if there are any funding opportunities.

Cindy asked about funding from a music angle, considering the bandshell. Susan asked them to email her any ideas relating to funding for the River Park.

Amiee asked if there are any ready-made signs to show that POST money built something. Susan responded no and said they could put it on our list. Cindy said a "your tax dollars at work" is a good message. Julie added that communication has been lacking in the Town and some people do not know about all the parks there are. Paul said the pool project is a good opportunity for that. Amiee offered to help with this if it is allowed. Cindy added that the pool will be unique in its low energy consumption.

Adjournment

M/S Carol and Paul to adjourn at 6:07 pm. Motion passed by a vote of 6 to 0.