

## POST Meeting Minutes February 24, 2021

### **CALL TO ORDER**

The POST Committee was called to order at 4:03 pm by Vice Chair Carol Hawk. Members present included Carol Hawk, Cindy Bruce, Paul Hilts, Amiee Beazley, and Julie Kolar. 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; Trevor LaLonde, Parks Foreman; and Chris Beiser, Basalt Horticulturist.

Guest: Elise Wolf, Connect One Design; Jacob Baker, RFOV

### **AGENDA ITEMS**

#### **Approval of Minutes**

M/S Cindy and Amiee to approve the minutes of February 10, 2021. Motion passed by a vote of 5 to 0.

#### **Basalt River Park Update**

Susan introduced Elise Wolf. James began the update. Connect One Design and Sopris Engineering are creating the construction documents for a two-phase project. The consultants plan to finish the drawings in March to put the project out to bid in the spring for Phase I which would include the bones of the parking including the utilities, grading, and hardscape. The softscape and other park amenities will be in 2022 (Phase 2).

Elise reviewed the park plan, including the private development and restaurant, plaza, misting feature, bosque of trees, great lawn, hay bale play features, river viewing area, boat tie off, boulder seating, berm slide, climbing tree, pockets of trees for slack lining, interim posts for slack lining, crusher fine paths, picnic benches, willow forts, enhancements to the sand beach, and paths aligned to provide access to the sewer facilities. The conceptual idea is "Eddy Out," with a swirl pattern emulating the river. Elise said Sopris Engineering had recently given Connect One Design a grading plan. By the end of the year the plaza will be done, the lawn will be graded though probably not sodded; the concrete seating and paths will be done by end of year.

James noted that they were discussing the potential for adding sod in the great lawn as an alternative, additional service in the bids for the first phase. CCY Architects are working on the bus shelter and public bathroom.

Amiee asked if the boulder placement and jetties have been approved by river experts. Elise said they are existing. Amiee asked if some of the trees shown are on public or private property. Elise said they are on the public property and added that the team is considering a construction offset easement which would provide a buffer from the south side of the development and the park during construction. The developer would be responsible for installing the landscaping in the buffer area after his buildings were finished.

Cindy asked if the bathrooms will be attached to the bus stop, and Elise responded that they were and, pointed them out on the plan. Bike racks will be next to the bus stop.

Amiee asked if there is concern that there would be commercial operators hogging the boat tie offs. Julie said it would be a good problem to have. Amiee asked if the swimming hole or jetty behind RMI is still in place, and Susan responded that it was.

Julie asked if the design needs to be tweaked now that they know the Art Base will not be in the nonprofit space. Elise said that whoever goes in the space, ADA access will be needed around their patio. Elise reported that there had previously been plans for a grand sculpture. Julie said this still might be appropriate. Susan said they were working under the assumption that people would be entering through the pedestrian alley. She added that the Town owns the parcel and will have control over the parcel. Susan reported that BPAC could take the lead on considering a future public art piece. Cindy said it would be great to have a sculpture, especially a climbing, kid-friendly piece. Amiee agreed.

Amiee asked what the surface material of the pedestrian alley will be, and Susan said concrete. Amiee asked if there will be wildflowers there. Susan said it needs to be functional as emergency access. Julie asked if there could be planters and some kind of irrigation in order to make it more beautiful. Elise noted the Dairy Block in Denver as an example of an alley they have considered. Cindy said that the overhead lights are nice. Carol said that there is a vibrant alley in Washington, DC that could be a reference. Elise asked Carol to send her the name of this example. Amiee asked if there are any other things, like stamping the concrete, to make the alley more appealing.

Amiee asked if there is a plan for permanent bird feeders or bird nesting sites in the park. Elise said there is not. Susan said this discussion might be more appropriate at Midland Park, considering the number of people at the River Park. Julie said that the purpose has been to cultivate a park, but not make it feel contrived. There are areas of the park that will remain natural.

Chris asked if the plant species list has been developed. Elise said they are developing this to an SD level for Phase 1. Nothing is final. Chris asked if the climbing tree will be a real tree or a play structure. Elise said a real tree, and they are trying to figure out the best species. Chris said maples are the largest trees he knows of that can be transplanted at a large size and grow quickly. Chris noted that mist creates prime disease environments for trees, so to keep this in mind with the misting feature in selecting tree species to be planted around the misting feature. Honey locust does not have too many folio problems.

Paul asked if RFTA has been approached about the bus stop location and asked who is building the bus stop. James responded that they have been working with RFTA on the design criteria. He added that there have been discussions to potentially get a monetary contribution from RFTA. The Town will build it. The Developer will pay for the bathroom up to \$150,000. While RFTA has given guidance as to the size and location, they have indicated they are flexible on design.

Paul asked if the contours of the great lawn will be aligned with the lawn and band shell. People will not want to be seated at a tilt. Elise displayed the grading, which will have some slope for drainage. They also tested out the slope while sitting in lawn chairs to make sure it is a comfortable seating scenario.

James described the next steps. They may come back to POST in March for a check in before putting this out to bid. They are still figuring out the erosion control scenario and reviewing the irrigation with Trevor and Chris. Chris will also be looking at the plant species.

Cindy asked if the private construction will come into the park or whether they will stage materials for the private development inside the park. Generally, James said, the Developer will be staging in a buffer zone between the buildings the more active portions of the Park. A water line needs to be installed across the park to create a looped system which the developer has indicated he would do early in the spring.

In response to a question from Carol, James said that bathrooms are scheduled for construction in 2022 along with the bus structure. Susan added that if there is extra POST money available, they may try to put in grass in the great lawn area in 2021.

Trevor asked if there is a drainage plan in Phase 1. Susan said yes. He asked if the overall design is final, and Susan responded that it was. Trevor asked to see the sod and seed mix that is planned. Elise said the seed mix will not come until Phase 2. The hay bale area is to be seeded.

## **POST Committee**

Susan said that they will have a worksession with Town Council on March 9<sup>th</sup>. The purpose will be to provide updates to the Town Council on what POST is doing.

She noted POST's discussion on having a more promotional communication style. This is a good topic to check in with Town Council about. They will discuss the Capital Improvement Plan. Town Council is, however, familiar with the Arbaney Park project and River Park project. She noted that Staff has been working on park rules, which has not been discussed with POST in a while. Susan discussed park rules and signage at the River Park.

Carol asked about the new park by Aspen Skiing Company. Susan said the Reed Street Park will be between Steadman and Aspen Skiing Company. Susan said when POST discussed it previously, they indicated that they did not need to see it again. Market Street is the area between Aspen Skiing Company and TACAW, and the road can be shut down for events. Carol said checking in about these things would be good.

Cindy asked about bringing up the old Giving Garden concept with Town Council. She also reminded everyone that near Sunset Point there is a street called Sunset Drive.

Susan said they will want to discuss the new name they recommended, Sunset Point.

Carol suggested having bricks in the River Park alley that people could buy and get their names on them.

Susan suggested that the following order of items could be used.

1. Park name
2. Summary of key things that POST is working on
3. Social media
4. Bring back the Giving Garden

Julie asked if there have been requests for donations. Susan said they have been getting less expensive requests, such as putting plaques on existing benches. She noted that BPAC is going to address things like this in their Arts Master Plan. Julie worried that presenting the Giving Garden along with other important topics may be problematic. She wants POST to be prepared to recommend something. Susan said that they have created policies on donations that was worked on by the attorney and tweaked by Town Council, but it was never wrapped up.

Susan displayed the CIP. She noted that RFOV wants to have Ponderosa Park be their kickoff event in April. They are finishing some minor work on Light Hill trail. Carol asked if the Robinson Trail is on the CIP, and Susan said yes.

Amiee said their main objective in talking about communications and social media is questions such as if they can have social media pages, speak to the press, and be more community-forward. People need to be reminded that POST funds are used for their beautiful parks. Questions such as who speaks, how much can they say, and do they have the freedom to post a picture or say something on social media. Julie said they could have a visual brand recognition piece of this. Cindy

said they should ask if they need to clear their information with anyone. Susan suggested that there are some kinds of content that should be blessed by the group, though not everything might need to.

Susan suggested giving Jason and Cindy Arbaney Park. Cindy suggested Jason present and let her add to it. Susan suggested Paul and Carol talk about Basalt River Park. Susan said she and James can split the minor projects. Carol can talk about Sunset Point. Susan said they have some good sunset pictures from the park. Susan said Julie and Amiee should talk about social media and communications. Julie suggested talking about public presence. Susan suggested POST write something about social media/communication to include in the packet. Susan said she would let Jason know about his assignments. His trial goes through March 5<sup>th</sup>.

## **Other Updates**

### Arbaney Pool

Susan said the Arbaney Park pool is coming along well. They have gotten color examples of the “linen” colored lockers. She said the color is close to what was shown on the screen, but a little whiter. The designer and Elyse recommended “linen.” The other color matches Susan’s file cabinet. James displayed a photo of the actual color and the actual tile. He also displayed the men’s locker room color. POST agreed that the color similar to “linen” rather than the tan was the locker color they wanted to go with. He said they managed to order the aqua colors for the women’s locker room.

James discussed the slides in the robot pool. The pool manufacturer said they can add PVC panels on the sides of the slides to buffer them. He said it is not possible to put the slides physically together. He showed renderings of the slides. The overhead guardrails are required by code to make people sit down. James said the manufacturer will put netting in between the two slides, but do not like to put them together for safety reasons. Amiee said her concern was with the steps leading to the slides. The image provided by the manufacturer does not have a handrail. James said that there would be handrails. Julie asked how tall the sides of the slides are. James thinks it is 7”-8” but does not have that information, but it would be the standard requirement. Carol said she is disappointed because the original renderings do not look like the pictures provided by the manufacturers. James said he would go back to the pool slide designer to try to improve the look, perhaps after the fact, but Carol said it is not necessary.

James said that the robot pool concrete forms have been poured. A lot of the mechanical work and demo work has been done, so everything is moving along.

### Parcel 10

Chris said he got the OK to continue clearing brush on Parcel 10. He asked if he should go forward with it or wait until the next Town Council meeting. Susan said to move forward instead of waiting. If POST wants to discuss a fence, they will have to talk about this separately, but Rick Lofaro did not have a problem with this.

Cindy asked if there should be a railing on the bridge. Chris said it is slippery since it is wood, and one of the boards is broken too. He said it depends how much they want to define the area, versus leave it in its natural state. Susan suggested having a more robust conversation on this. She noted that the ditch owners need to be able to have easy maintenance around the bridge.

#### Ponderosa Park

Susan said they were going to meet with RFOV to discuss 2021 projects. They will do a site visit the week after that. Susan said the RFOV's current plan is to have a workday on April 24<sup>th</sup>. She suggested this might be too early.

Susan said they will try to not have a meeting on March 10<sup>th</sup>.

Carol said it is very important to put a doggie station on Willits Lane. She wants to see a landscaping plan for that fencing west of TACAW.

M/S Paul and Cindy to adjourn at 5:38 pm. Motion passed by a vote of 5 to 0.