

Basalt Public Arts Commission (BPAC)

April 7, 2022

Meeting In-Person and Via Zoom

Members: Karyn Andrade, Liz Bell, Britton White

Staff: Sara Nadolny

Guest: Heather Henry & Elise Wolf (Connect One Design)

Agenda

- Approval of Minutes from March 3, 2022
- Basalt Forward 2030:
 - Discussion with Connect One Design on Midland Avenue Streetscape Project

1. Approval of Meeting Minutes.

The approval of the meeting minutes from March 3, 2022 will be moved to the May BPAC meeting.

2. Basalt Forward 2030: Midland Avenue Streetscape Project

BPAC members and Connect One Design Staff introduced themselves.

Heather Henry explained that Connect One Design has been chosen through a competitive bid process to work on the Midland Avenue Streetscape Project. The team also consists of planners from Cushing Terrell and engineering from Sopris Engineering.

Heather noted how the Master Plan put some focus on the projects that were found to be the most important to Basalt's citizens. One of the top projects was Midland Avenue Streetscape.

The Master Plan process led to the Facilities Master Plan (which involved understanding the Town's needs and assets) and turned into Basalt Forward 2030 and the voter support for the bond.

The streetscape improvements will cover everything from the deep utilities to the surface items, such as sidewalks, EV chargers, etc. The plan is to renovate all septic, water, and any subgrade utilities that are aging.

Connect One's high priority is to ensure everything is of the community and the desire of its citizens. They are engaging in an initial round of outreach to get the project going, will develop three alternatives, then undergo another round of public outreach. Ultimately a preferred alternative will be presented with the goal of producing construction drawings by end of this year.

Heather shared a graphic indicating which properties are affected which also have street frontage. Elise shared some themes that have come out of previous conversations, including multiple mentions from business owners that want to see art on the streetscape. This might include rotating seasonal art, a gathering point, sculptures, etc. There is a definite interest in making art a big scene.

Karyn mentioned how Carbondale rotates their art out at intervals.

Liz said pedestals with art that changes out is a Carbondale thing. Having a system like that is a great thing as it changes out and does not require the Town to purchase the art. Midland is an older street, and its sidewalks can pose a design challenge. She desired art pieces to be significant and strategically placed, and though the idea of a gateway would be interesting.

Heather encouraged BPAC to throw out ideas, not to get stuck on the implementation.

Liz said that the entrance to the historic district, near Alpine Bank, when coming onto Midland Avenue is a feature space.

Parking is becoming more of a challenge. Liz wants to see off-site parking for contractors. She wants to encourage the design team to keep asking about the gateway. Heather noted it is about demarcating the space and does not necessarily have to be an actual gateway.

Heather asked if BPAC would realistically be interested in programming the art and/or creating a program for art along the streetscape, and BPAC members said yes.

Heather said some spaces are meant to be preserved (Codger's Corner) and others used in a new way. Try and set the stage for some of the adjacent spaces.

Karyn wants to see more seasonal flowers and landscaping.

Heather asked BPAC to consider how the streetscape can shift to a more pedestrian environment rather than vehicle oriented. They are looking at alternatives for rethinking parking. Heather introduced a survey which will address this issue. The goal is to understand the best way to delineate different spaces. She noted the project will also be resolving ADA issues to ensure accessibility for all.

Liz said she does not want diamond plating along the sidewalks as it is bad on dog paws. She expressed seeing a theme that repeats throughout the district. It could also be repeated in Willits to hold the two areas of Basalt together. Liz is interested in seeing the new and old combined.

Heather said they will present alternatives at around the 30% design time and can bring those designs

Brit suggested the alleyway between the Art Base and Café Bernard's something could be a great location for something higher up. Heather agreed that the area could welcome some hanging art that is light and airy. She suggested BPAC check out the courtyard next to The Brass Anvil (the old Town Restaurant in Carbondale) which has arial art that is light and airy.

Liz likes the idea of embedded art. Karyn referenced the interactive reflexology path found at True Nature in Carbondale.

Heather said that they are releasing their public input survey tomorrow and will have a pop-up booth at Codger's Corner tomorrow and Saturday. The survey will be available on letstalkbasalt.net.

Liz would also like to see adjustments made to the amount of on-street parking to widen and allow more foot traffic into Midland Avenue.

Karyn asked about bike access. Heather said this is critical infrastructure, but the street cannot accommodate protected bike lanes. BPAC discussed the option for installing artist bike stands.

The meeting adjourned at 7:38 pm.