

POST Meeting Minutes

May 13, 2020

CALL TO ORDER

The POST Committee was called to order at 4:08 pm by Chair Cindy Bruce. Members present included Cindy Bruce, Jason Groves, Julie Kolar, and Paul Hilts. The meeting was held electronically via Zoom Conferencing. Carol Hawk was absent.

Staff present included Susan Philp, Planning Director; James Lindt, Assistant Planning Director; Watkins Fulk-Gray, Staff Planner; and Brian Passenti, Basalt Parks and Recreation Director.

Guests included Toni Kronberg.

Susan noted that Town Council last night adopted a policy to simplify voting without a roll call when everyone is visible. Zoom's chat feature should not be used.

AGENDA ITEMS

Minutes of April 22, 2020

M/S Paul and Jason to approve minutes. Motion passed by a vote of 4 to 0.

Preparation for Town Council meetings

The May 27th POST meeting will be important to attend as preparation for meeting with Town Council on June 9th. At the June 9th meeting, Gyles Thornely from Connect One Design (C1D) will present POST's recommended plan for the Arbaney Pool Improvements. The Council then would discuss the improvements again on June 23rd and give direction on the items to include in a request for bids.

POST should also get Town Council's blessing on June 23rd for direction on park signage and rules.

Susan noted that the Town is working on a code amendment regarding park rules.

Status on Park Rule Signs

James displayed park signage concepts. Gabion baskets with different kinds of steel could be materials utilized. Staff has begun researching costs. Julie added that the design concepts expand upon what is in POST's adopted sign plan. Gabion baskets can be stacked to create a backdrop for signage, such as maps or park rules. She noted that there is a "hierarchy" of signage concepts where

some take up less space and are simpler. The sign text and faces themselves will be polycarbonate.

James said that once pricing has been scoped out, they will report back to POST, hopefully by the next meeting. Julie added that she hopes they will have some shop drawings to analyze sizes and proportions.

Susan noted that there are plans for where signage will go in various parks. Julie said that gabion baskets sit on the ground, so while very heavy and needing disassembling, they are not permanent and can be moved. Post-mounted signs can also be moved. James said that Staff would take a first look at the locations for signs. Susan said that \$55,000 had been dedicated to signs, but that was cut to \$35,000 with anticipated Covid-19 reductions in revenues. Julie said that the materials being considered are inexpensive, and there is no laser jet cutting.

Paul responded that he likes the practical nature of the sign plan.

Project Updates

Arbaney Park Pool

Brian noted that due to the Town being split between Eagle and Pitkin Counties, the Town's amenities have different Covid-19 rules. The tennis courts are unlocked, but not more than 4 people can play at a time, per Pitkin County rules. The pool, which is in Eagle County, may have new rules soon. Some pool staff are on standby, though they may be looking for other work. The skate park is open for up to 10 participants practicing social distancing.

Susan noted that Town Council members indicated back last year that they want to address energy efficiency issues at the pool before other improvements. She discussed a "good/better/best" set of potential improvements, each with different equipment and tradeoffs that was reviewed by the Green Team on Monday. The "best" scenario would be all-electric, but it was concluded that the technology is not yet there to be practical. A hybrid system was selected by the consultants and agreed to by the Green Team with one member of the Green Team having some hesitation. The recommended systems includes installing a glazed solar-thermal system on the new pavilion building and an underground storage tank to store water heated by the solar thermal system. The general consensus of the POST Committee was to rely on the recommendations of the Green Team.

The Town will be considering how locker rooms should be managed during the Covid-19 pandemic, and whether it will require any design changes. The existing solar thermal system will remain in place for this year because the new system relies on construction the pavilion building and tearing down the existing restrooms in Arbaney Park. She recommended spending funds on making the locker room look nice and, on the family-friendly restroom. There is \$625,000 allocated to Arbaney Park for this year, including cuts that were made.

The waterline project will be done this year and will come out of a different funding allocation. The next meeting will have a deeper dive about the phasing with Gyles.

Julie left the meeting.

Midland Skate Park

Brian has contacted American Skate Company, which makes a pump track previously shown to POST. Their product was pricy. He said that State grant funding is being reallocated to Covid-relief funding, so the Town is back to the drawing board in finding funds for improvements to the skate park. James noted that the skate park is in the floodway and thought that a pump track could be workable if there were no concrete foundation but should be tied down so as to float in floodwaters.

Cindy asked about the possibility of using rails. James said that this is probably workable from the flood perspective. Brian said that there is a lack of space at the site. James said that since State grants are likely not possible, Staff needs to rework its options. Brian noted that the pump track was \$32,000, while the entire skate park project was allotted \$30,000.

Gilman Park

Gilman Park is located along Willits Lane near Hooks Bridge, and it has some problems. In a walk-through, holes in the surface of a trail were discovered and the ground under the sidewalk is being undermined by water. The surface of the trails is being improved by Public Works. They will also fix the grade where the sidewalk is being undermined so that the sidewalk does not crack and fall away.

There is a boat ramp, and it is difficult for a vehicle to back into. There has been discussion about adjusting the grade of the ramp to make it more usable. Susan asked POST to visit the boat ramp and consider whether it should be improved. She noted that the Police Chief expressed concern that the use of the boat ramp would jump if it were improved. Cindy stated that it might be a bad idea to improve it, because it is really busy during rafting season. Commercial rafters park in the Woody Creek Distillery area. She said she does not think it should be improved. Paul said he generally doesn't want things to be more difficult to be used but that he would take a look. He asked how busy it was last weekend, and Cindy said it was very busy, especially with private individuals rather than commercial trips. Susan noted that rafting companies often stage their equipment on the sidewalks and impede it for walkers. A solution could be to make an area dedicated for this with a hard surface. Cindy wondered if they could educate the rafting companies on what to do. She noted that she has never seen a vehicle get stuck pulling in or out of the ramp area.

Ponderosa Park

The trail work has been largely completed. Another round of improvements for ADA accessibility is forthcoming. She passed on a comment from Police Sergeant Aaron Munch that there is an old sign prohibiting bikes and asking why

and if that is still in force. Susan believes this was because the trail was narrow, so now that it is wide, it could be revisited. She said this is something for POST to consider.

Susan noted that Councilman Bill Infante has proposed the concept of hiring laid-off restaurant workers to do trail work with Roaring Fork Outdoor Volunteers (RFOV), including at Ponderosa Park. Ron Rash, the director of RFOV, has indicated that they would need \$100,000 to make this happen. Susan said that there were originally \$50,000 allocated for trails, which was reduced to \$30,000.

Susan said the first step is RFOV determining whether they could do the project by checking in with their own board. Next, the Town would have to find ways to reallocate money. The projects would have to be near Basalt if Town funds would be used. A deep dive may be necessary in the future.

Parcel 10

James said he met with Ron Rash and that they plan to start work at the end of this week on Parcel 10, a Town-owned parcel. Cindy said that the path is very rough currently. James met with Rick Lofaro on site and made a plan for vegetation removal.

Public comment

Toni Kronberg asked for clarification on the location of the proposed pool entrance. Susan said that the first phase does not include changing the entrance, but this will be discussed more at the next meeting. Toni said she would send comments for consideration at this meeting. She expressed interest in having public comment on the park plans, especially before bid documents are created. She said she does not want people walking with dirty shoes through the pool area. She wants to see the robot pool at a depth that the whole family could enjoy. She wants a hot tub to be the number one priority.

Adjournment

M/S Paul and Jason to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed. 3 to 0.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:12 pm.

Next meeting: May 27, 2020