

# POST Meeting Minutes

## June 8, 2021

### **CALL TO ORDER**

The POST Committee was called to order at 12:33 pm by Chair Jason Groves. Members present included Jason Groves, Amiee Beazley, Paul Hilts, Julie Kolar, and Carol Hawk. The meeting was held electronically via Zoom Conferencing.

Staff present included Susan Philp, Planning Director; Catherine Christoff, Town Engineer; Watkins Fulk-Gray, Staff Planner; Chris Beiser, Basalt Horticulturist; James Lindt, Assistant Planning Director; and Catherine Christoff, Town Engineer.

Guests: None

### **AGENDA ITEMS**

#### **Approval of Minutes**

M/S Paul and Carol to approve the minutes from 5/26/21. Motion passed by a vote of 5 to 0.

#### **Pool Update**

James said the pool project is moving along and there is a lot of work happening. They are finishing the replastering of the main pool, installing the fence, retiling the locker room. The slides should arrive this week. Jason asked if the pool would be open before the locker rooms. James said the locker room showers will be open with the pool and they are pushing to open the restrooms at the same time. Portapotties will be ordered if no restrooms are available at first.

James also reported that in Willits, a temporary above-ground power line is in the process of being removed. They will continue beautifying that area.

Catherine said she has reached out to graphic designers to help with the sign project.

#### **Update from POST Representatives on the Capital Needs Committee**

Paul discussed projects listed in the Master Plan that have been discussed by the Capital Needs Committee. One is “build a significant affordable housing project,” which he thought is really more up to the development community. It relates to another item about public-private partnerships.

Paul said that regarding a shuttle between Old Town and Willits, there would be a significant cost that Town Council may not want to fund.

Firewise mitigation projects are ongoing.

Paul said “implement streetscape improvements on Midland Avenue” will be discussed.

It was noted that a member of the Capital Needs Committee brought up moving the location of the Basalt Avenue stoplight to Midland instead of doing the Southside underpass. Susan said it would not be approved by CDOT because of the frontage road alignment and location of parking at the Post Office. Julie noted that the Southside underpass project has been desired for decades. Susan said Staff is still pushing for it and it has been included in priority lists given to CDOT. She noted the difference between the cost estimate for the pedestrian underpass, \$3.8M, and the actual bid, \$7M. She said she did not think the Town could do it on its own. Julie said she keeps talking about it because it is better planning and because it is important to have more than one access point to Southside. She suggested continuing to talk about it in the hope of finding a creative solution to get over the cost hurdle. Susan added that the Pitkin County delegation to the regional transportation group were in favor of it. It was also noted that there might be other Southside traffic options like connecting E. Cody Lane to the highway.

*James and Catherine left the meeting.*

Amiee asked about the status of a connector shuttle. Susan said the Capital Needs Committee will weigh in tomorrow. She said she thinks it is important for citizens to keep pushing the free RFTA rides idea. She said that a bond is not the right way to fund a shuttle, because many of the expenses would be operational.

Paul asked for a roundtable discussion on the shuttle idea. Jason and Carol support the shuttle. Paul said he does in theory, but there are other issues like parking that make him on the fence. Amiee and Julie are also in favor.

Paul brought up the topic of building a new, modern town hall and police station. Jason also noted the priorities building a childcare facility and carbon reduction project.

Susan discussed pedestrian bridges over the Roaring Fork River. There are site restrictions to the east of the library. Abutments for bridges are a challenge because they tend to collect debris. Town Staff does not think it is a good project to include in a bond because it is not guaranteed that it could be built.

Another place that a bridge has been discussed is at the whitewater park.

Carol said the whitewater park area makes more sense as a location for a pedestrian bridge because it would serve a more useful transportation purpose, allowing people to get from Elk Run to the RFTA bus stops. Jason added that it would support the trail work in Ponderosa Park. He said that the connection near the library should not be set aside, though he acknowledged the technical hurdles.

Julie noted that the pedestrian bridge by the whitewater park was included in the conceptual plans prepared by Pitkin Count for the park itself.

Susan presented the significant takeaways the Facility Needs Study.

Amiee said there is an outlet cover for a pavilion where the outlet does not work, and asked why. Paul asked if maintenance upgrades would come from POST's maintenance budget. Susan said yes, and added that there is often a balancing act in determining which budget some things come from.

Carol asked about the Arbaney Park barn, and suggested it could be a source of revenue for events. Susan suggested inviting the Basalt Historical Society to meet with POST. She said that using the barn is difficult with no restrooms and occupancy limits.

Carol asked if there is a defibrillator at the pool, or if they should consider having one all year round at Arbaney Park. She said there is one in the office at Crown Mountain Park.

Carol asked if the shed by the rugby field could be gotten rid of. Watkins noted that there is a new mural on this shed. Chris said that Public Works does use the shed and the fenced-in area. Carol said long-term, it would be nice to think about relocating it.

Carol said she is more interested in new Town Hall and associated facilities, or a daycare, than the underpass.

Paul asked if the Town owns the space where the police station is, and Susan said yes, they own condominiumized space.

### **Other Project Updates**

Susan said they hope to put out to bid the Basalt River Park project this Friday, with bids to be due July 7<sup>th</sup>. Town Council could review the bids on July 13<sup>th</sup>.

Susan said that construction on Two Rivers Road will start in July. The Town in the past started a family of streetlight designs that will be drawn upon.

Susan said that park rules will be debated by Town Council tonight, with second reading on the 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Susan said that RFOV has an event this Saturday for Ponderosa Park.

Susan said on June 26<sup>th</sup> there will be a recycling event at the high school.

Chris noted that there is work being done on Ponderosa Trail and it is currently closed. A crew is doing brush removal for fire mitigation. They are only removing dead brush. Chris said it is very open now, though they have left privacy screens

by the apartment building and alongside the river. It will look good when new growth starts to come in; RFOV will be planting new ponderosa pines in the park. He noted that dog signs are being installed in other parks.

Susan said that on June 23<sup>rd</sup> they have several big items scheduled for the POST agenda, including the Clark's Market redevelopment proposal. She asked POST members to try to make this meeting.

Susan said that tonight the Town Council will discuss a policy for holding meetings, including possibly going back to in-person meetings. Amiee said she would like to continue Zoom meetings.

*Chris Beiser left the meeting.*

Carol suggested having hybrid meetings or other options. Julie and Jason agreed. Julie noted that they are meeting more and more often, and there are time changes sometimes. Susan noted that it is not a public hearing so they should make their comments during the citizen comments portion of the meeting. Paul asked if the Town would require proof of vaccination to attend meetings in person. Susan said no. Carol asked about citizens attending and if they could attend virtually. Susan said those details have not been decided yet.

Paul said at a regional meeting recently, someone he knows is has a health condition and asked everyone there if they were vaccinated. Later, someone at the meeting tested positive. Susan said there will likely be a health exception to meeting in-person for those who are concerned about Covid.

Amiee asked why they should have to be in-person. Susan responded that Ryan Mahoney believes better decisions are made in-person.

Paul asked if anyone is interested in him sending the list of projects from the Master Plan. He wondered if having POST members rate in importance the list of 14 projects. Amiee, Carol, and Jason said yes. Susan suggested she do it for him. Paul suggested people putting their top five choices.

Amiee asked about bringing information about dog poop bags to the next meeting. Susan asked Amiee to call Boyd Bierbaum.

M/S Amiee and Paul to adjourn at 1:42 pm. Motion passed by a vote of 5 to 0.