

POST Meeting Minutes

July 28, 2021

CALL TO ORDER

The POST Committee was called to order at 4:00 pm by Chair Jason Groves. Members present included Jason Groves, Paul Hilts, Carol Hawk, and Julie Kolar. The meeting was held in-person and electronically via Zoom Conferencing.

Staff present included Susan Philp, Planning Director; Watkins Fulk-Gray, Staff Planner; James Lindt, Assistant Planning Director; Brian Passenti, Recreation Director and Chris Beiser, Arborist and Town Horticulturist.

Guests: Jacob Baker, RFOV

AGENDA ITEMS

Approval of Minutes M/S Paul and Carol to approve the minutes from July 14, 2021. Motion passed by a vote of 4 to 0.

Recommendations on 2022 RFOV Projects

Watkins entered the meeting at 4:12 pm

Jacob displayed a map of RFOV's volunteer projects throughout the Roaring Fork and Colorado River Valley. The Lake Christine and Ponderosa Trail projects were the main projects of RFOV's in Basalt. Their projects include trail work, restoration, fire mitigation, and community education projects.

Paul thanked Jacob and RFOV for their work.

Susan noted that sometimes power tools are not allowed on RFOV's projects. Jacob said that they will not let volunteers use chainsaws, though sometimes hand tools can be upgraded. He said according to Chief Thompson, a fire break on the Lake Christine burn scar could be reseeded, expanding a green belt from downtown to El Jebel.

Regarding 2022 RFOV projects, Susan said the Developer of Lot J may want to make some trail improvements to the Ponderosa Trail but that this could be a good RFOV project as well. She added that Duroux Park is on the list, along with Light Hill. She said there are trails that go up from the Town to CPW lands that need attention, but they may not be eligible for POST capital funds. James said that Parcel 10 could use some more vegetation removal and improvement to the

bridge. Susan said probably only Ponderosa Park and Light Hill would rise to the level of community projects.

Jacob said that community education opportunities are valuable and gave an example in Snowmass Village.

Jason spoke in favor of doing a project for the trails behind downtown. Though there are complexities with it being CPW land, it is accessible for tourists from downtown. Some of the trails are rocky and technical, so rehabbing might be appropriate. He suggested making it easier to get to Basalt Mountain from RFOV's headquarters downtown. Julie agreed, suggesting cleaning it up, improving wayfinding, so that it's more understandable. She suggested that Bill Kane could use his connections to help to work with CPW. Jacob offered to help with this. Jacob suggested that Lake Christine projects might also dovetail with fire mitigation projects.

Susan brought up an area near Homestead Drive that needs vegetation management and repair of the steps, the "Boy Scout Steps."

Susan said the trail connection to Basalt Mountain seems to be POST's number one concern that has not been addressed yet. All agreed.

Chris updated POST on new signage for the Seed Garden. He displayed photos of the new sign and rocks with the names of plants.

Chris discussed the marshy area at the north end of Linear Park. Right now there is Coyote Willow, which is one of the first things that establishes, before other vegetation takes hold and shades out the Coyote Willow. He would like to restore it to a true marsh area, but it is too big of a project for him to take on by himself. It would be a good group restoration project.

Jacob thanked POST for their time and said that he estimates there will be a 60% increase in volunteer hours by the end of this year.

Discussion on 2022 POST Projects

Susan noted that nothing is budgeted for Arbaney Park for 2022, though money is budgeted in future years. She hopes to receive from the Finance Department updated numbers that will be based on estimated sales tax revenue.

Carol discussed the restroom situation at Linear Park. She said a family that borders the park has no interest in having a restroom constructed near them. Susan read comments from Amiee. New restrooms were not a possibility in phase 1 improvements because of funding.

Susan mentioned a Linear Park reseeding project. She said that there is a lot of irrigation happening in Willits, especially from the lake. Susan noted paths with problems from roots in Willits. Chris said there are solutions, such as trenching or

putting in weed barriers. Other options could include subsurface improvements that would need to be engineered. He is not in favor of removing trees because of their root breakthroughs.

Susan said that Amiee recommended additional facilities such as a pickleball court. Parcel 9 is a Town-owned parcel, but the Town has other ideas for its development. Brian Passenti said there are pickleball lines marked in the middle school gym but not on the outdoor tennis courts. Susan noted another need is basketball courts. Carol said it is hard to find a place for them to go because they will always bother someone. Chris guessed that the neighbors around Parcel 9 would choose pickleball over basketball courts. Carol discussed briefly Linear Park or Parcel 2E, though she said they would impact people.

Susan suggested doing a site visit in September to Arbaney Park.

Carol suggested working in 2022 or future years on sidewalks that don't connect to anywhere. Susan asked POST to consider which places the Town could focus on. Susan said a priority could be one near Aspen Junction on HOA property. Carol described other sidewalks that end, such as the bandit paths to the General Store. Susan reported that this is a bigger discussion involving CDOT and RFTA because of the desire to have folks use the pedestrian underpasses instead of crossing at grade.

Paul asked about the line item for POST Master Plan, for \$50,000. Susan said this would be for updating the plan, since it was done in 2013 and a lot has changed since then. Paul suggested POST could do that as a team and save the money. Julie agreed.

Paul asked about the line item of \$200,000 for park purchase of land. Susan said it is a contingency in case new opportunities arise at some point.

Paul asked about money in the 2021 budget for memorial dedications and the Lake Christine gun range. Regarding Lake Christine, Susan said this money will be carried over; they are always hopeful that they could partner with CPW on a project there. She said that no money has been spent this year on the memorial dedication concept.

Paul brought up irrigation improvements and bike amenity improvements. He said he hopes the bike lane on Two Rivers Road would be part of this. He noted that the Emma Trail was repaved, except for the worst section. Susan said the Town maintains that trail and underpass. The unpaved section is near the red brick house in Emma. Susan said she would look into it.

Paul discussed the Southside Drive going up to the high school and recalled past discussions about bike lanes there. He would like to reconsider the decision not to do bike lanes going downhill in light of the Stotts Mill development. Susan agreed that traffic movement in that area is problematic. She did not know if the Town had enough right-of-way to include a down valley bike lane.

Capital Needs Committee Update

Paul said they have a meeting tomorrow in which they will try to narrow down their priority list. Then on August 4th there is a public open House on the capital projects.

Susan returned to 2022 projects and noted that the River Park is another area where the Town will be spending money.

M/S Paul and Carol to adjourn at 5:18 pm. Motion passed by a vote of 4 to 0.