



DATE: June 10, 2022
TO: Mayor and Council
FROM: Ryan Mahoney, Town Manager
RE: Weekly Update
CC: Department Heads

Town Staff and Eagle County Staff assisted the National Weather Service (NWS) with erecting one of the three rain gauges that are installed on Basalt Mountain. Placement of these gauges is funded by the Town of Basalt, Eagle County, Roaring Fork Fire Rescue, and the National Weather Service (NWS). This gage was visited by a bear last year and some of the equipment was damaged. A small fence and new equipment were put up which will allow the NWS to provide advanced warning for flooding events. This will also benefit the Grizzly Creek Burn Scar as it provides redundancy for the region with similar rain gauges in that area.

The new vegetative growth around this rain gage was very encouraging. There were new stands of aspen and other grasses and shrubs all around the site.



Staff heard from pool users that the recently painted pool deck is slippery as well as the floor in the bathrooms. Staff is in touch with the contractor to seek out a remedy. In the meantime, pool staff is looking into purchasing mats and warning signs for pool users.

Police

We are in the process of replacing a supervisor position along with hiring two replacement police officers. It has been challenging to attract qualified candidates due to a variety of reasons. Chief Greg Knott met with Laurie Graves from Graves HR Consulting. Her company is conducting a pay range and structure analysis for the police department.

Our Community Police Academy will meet on Saturday to learn about firearm operations and safety. This is a required course for attendees to attend if they wish to participate in our future range shooting day.

Pitkin County Emergency Management is updating the county wide Hazard Mitigation Plan. Chief Knott and Assistant Planning Director James Lindt completed a community and town operation assessment to be used for plan development.

Planning

Basalt Center Circle (BCC) Application – The Applicant has submitted a final plan application and Staff has referred it out to the Town’s referral agencies for review. The Planning and Zoning Commission completed their review of the BCC Final Plan Application. The BCC Final Plan Application is scheduled for initial review by the Council is July.

Basalt River Park Improvements – The architects on the bandshell and bus station/restroom continue to work on the designs for those elements of the park. The bandshell designers and Staff met with TACAW representatives to discuss audio/visual elements of the bandshell. Work on Phase II of the Basalt River Park by RMCL has begun, topsoil is being delivered to bring the site to final grade, irrigation is being installed, and the first shipment of trees was delivered.

Midland Avenue Streetscape Project – the Design Team and Town staff, have been moving the Midland Avenue Streetscape Project forward. The Design Team has been meeting with various stakeholder groups, and the owners/managers of the properties along Midland to gain their input. The Design Team has formulated conceptual plans which were presented to POST, P&Z and Council. A second community survey was published to gain additional input, and that input is now being considered. The Town has posted an RFP for Owners Representative Services for the Project, the RFP can be found on the Town’s website.

Green Initiatives and the Town of Basalt Photovoltaic and Energy Storage Project –Staff and McKinstry continue to work with Holy Cross Energy, the school district, CORE and members of the Green Team on the project. McKinstry has provided a cost/benefit analysis on a handful of sites for review. McKinstry made a presentation to staff and representatives of the School District to discuss preferred options, and to begin selecting which should be taken to design.

Other Basalt Forward 2030 Support – Town Planning Staff also provided support to the Manager for the Basalt Forward 2030 projects.

Mid-Valley Center Lot 4 – Phase 1A of the Project has been completed, and the landscaping has been installed. Town Staff and Gould are moving forward with final design of the foundation and building. The building has been ordered and construction will occur later this summer.

Basalt River Park Development LLC – A full building permit was issued on the Gallery Building which includes commercial, apartments, and the affordable housing units.

Development Review/Applications – Staff also spent time on responding to administrative reviews, complaints and working on land use applications and building permits.

Green Team – Staff attended the annual CC4CA board meeting in Vail yesterday. The board did not have to work on a new policy statement, as last year the board had voted to revisit it every two years rather

than yearly. However, the board did vote in a new President and Chair, engaged in many discussions and exercises involving the topic of equity, and created a new working group around strategic membership. The board celebrated its many wins and reviewed losses and discussed the false narratives surrounding the politics of environmental messaging (e.g. creating the narrative that by requiring a developer to install EV infrastructure to multi-family buildings this will create a greater cost burden on tenants). There are currently 39 member communities that comprise CC4CA.

Staff is meeting today with Gina McCrackin, the new manager of the Eagle County Climate Action Collaborative, to discuss ways to support the Town's climate action efforts and ensure Basalt is being considered in the work of the Climate Action Collaborative.

Public Works

This week Public Works has had contractors working on continuing to stripe crosswalks, stop bars, turn arrows, and parking spaces. We are about to finish with East Basalt and have started over in West Basalt as well. On Wednesday, the contractor started milling in Thermo Plastic crosswalks and stop bars on East Valley Road and Willits Lane where the paint does not hold up due to heavy traffic and snow removal. Chip Sealing on the Southside neighborhood streets will be taking place on Monday the 13th and on Fiou Lane and School Street on Tuesday the 14th after the Ride the Rockies group departs. The chip seal contractor GMCO will be back again on Friday to sweep up the loose chip and fog seal the roads. The fog seal helps to prevent the shedding of the chip that has been put down. We started mowing the right of ways and also had a burial at the cemetery. We are working with Town Hall this week to update the cemetery maps.

The water department has been working with SGM and was able to perform 6 hydrant flow tests throughout East Basalt and use that data for the water modeling project to help determine the size of water line needed on the Midland Project. We finished reading meters and are working on getting the software at the plant ready for the new strainer that will be installed to prefilter any ash and mud that could come down the mountain from the burn scar.

The new trees came in for the Basalt River Park and we helped to unload those with our backhoe this week. We worked on the boardwalk at River Park and Midland Park to adjust the railings that are starting to warp and sink those in better. We aerated the turf, applied gypsum, and top-dressed the fields this week with our new aerator we purchased last winter.