



**Garden
Spot of
Colorado**

PORT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

**Town Board Room
807 Mountain Avenue
Town of Berthoud, Colorado
Tuesday, February 5, 2025 - 6:00 p.m.**

This is an IN-PERSON meeting at the location and time noted above

**You may also join virtually using Zoom
Phone: 1-346-248-7799 or 301-715-8592
Web: www.zoom.us/join**

Use this Meeting ID: 602 408 1190

A. Call to Order – The PORT Committee meeting was called to order by L. Roth at 6:00pm.

B. Roll Call

- Lauren Roth – Chair – Here
- Carolyn Hobson – Vice Chair – Here
- Anna Murphy – Secretary – Here
- Callie West – Here
- Kari Weisen – Here
- Sean Henry – Here
- *Vacant* – Not Here
- Audrey Roth, BYAC Liaison – Not Here – Cloud Clark here, Representing BYAC
- Karl Ayers, Trustee Liaison – Here
- Keith Knoll, Staff Representative – Here

C. Approval of Minutes – December 4, 2024

- C. Hobson motioned to approve the Wednesday, December 4, 2024 PORT Committee meeting minutes. C. West seconded. All in favor. Minutes were approved.

D. Public Comment – Non-Discussion Items

- Joe Solchuck with the Platte Valley Hunting Retriever Club (PVHRC) noted he passed along a proposal to the Berthoud Trustees regarding the usage of the Jaskowski property; he shared a paper copy of this proposal with the PORT Committee members at the meeting. The proposal requests that PVHRC receive permission to access the property prior to the property opening to the public for a pilot program. This would allow an opportunity for Trustees, PORT Committee

Lauren Roth
3/5/25

members, and staff to see what PVHRC does, how they operate, etc...Mr. Solchuck and two additional representatives from PVHRC explained they would access the property through a locked gate, provide appropriate signage, etc. Additional details, including usage rates (highest March through September), liability insurance, etc. are outlined in the proposal.

- K. Knoll noted Colorado Open Lands (COL) has approved dog training as a possible use for the property, but COL has not addressed the threshold with regards to wetlands. PVHRC reps said dogs would be in and out of the water but not in the cattails and were very cognizant of not wanting to disturb the wetlands and noted the current sections where dogs would be “launched” are already bare.
- K. Knoll noted the current position of the Town is to not permit access to the property until it is developed/officially open to the public, as they do not wish to set a precedent permitting access to properties prior to being open to the public. Additionally, the Town would like to ensure the property meets standards such as ADA compliance and access to restrooms prior to usage. PVHRC said they would rent restrooms on training days. The conceptual design is around 60% complete.
- PORT committee members received the proposal at the meeting and agree to re-visit the proposal at the next PORT committee meeting and to provide a recommendation to the Town Board prior to the Board’s March meeting.
- PVHRC appreciated the consideration and expressed their desire to have a long-term relationship with the Town of Berthoud. They offered suggestions for ways they could “give back” to the Town of Berthoud, including having a training seminar/demonstration at Berthoud Days, a 50% membership discount to the PVHRC for Berthoud residents, support with “clean up” days, etc.
- They are keen to utilize this property, especially with e.g., restrictions on Lon Hagler Reservoir.
- Of note: Ms. Jaskowski was a legacy member of PVHRC.

E. Discussion Items

a. Berthoud Recreation Review – Amanda Gustafson – Director of Recreation and Cultural Services

- A. Gustafson gave an overview of the Berthoud Recreation Center highlights in 2024. Several of these highlights are described below. PORT Committee Members praised A. Gustafson for everything she and staff at the BRC have accomplished:
 - **General**
 - 9.52% increase in membership sales from 2023 to 2024 (3,667 total memberships).
 - 90,798 scans in to use the facility in 2024. Membership contracts are now electronic.
 - Improved customer experience though more customer contact at the front desk.
 - Child watch – 11,754 children were watched in 2024, an average of 56 kids/day
 - Staff incentives to sell events e.g., Zombie Run.
 - BRC received ~18,000 phone calls
 - 208 birthday parties, 11 nerf parties (introduced in 2024), 40 private room rentals, 27 pool reservations.

- Emergency Action Plans (EAPs) implemented for staff. Collaborated with Larimer County Sheriff's Office for Standard Response Protocol (Active Shooter Training).
- Increased contracted programs (e.g., Martial Arts, Pickleball, Coding, Nutrition Services, Cheerleading, Salsa, Music, Summer Soccer Camps, etc.).
- Partnered with local partners in the Town of Berthoud: Berthoud Local (hosted 132 participants in total) and Wildfire Arts Center (hosted 242 participants in total).
- Question regarding security. Cameras can be viewed at any time, and there is also a physical security presence.
- **Fitness**
 - Significant increase in fitness programs: 17,777 attended membership group fitness classes. Twenty-two group fitness classes are offered, and specialty classes help offset the cost of the free classes.
 - Question regarding whether space at the BRC is adequate for the growth in usage. A. Gustafson noted there is still room to expand.
 - Personal training packages have been very popular, with 413 packages sold in 2024.
 - Three fitness equipment pieces were added.
- **Aquatics**
 - >2,000 swim lessons were given, 37 babysitters were certified, and BRC collaborated with the Berthoud Library to discuss swim safety.
 - Staff train a minimum of 48 hours/yr. as a complete team and lifeguards average one "save" every five days. The lifeguard team took fifth at the state's lifeguard games.
- **Rec sports**
 - Youth sports: Additional 356 participants in 2024 vs. 2023 – 2,494 youth participating in rec programs across 22 programs. 515 officiated games. 379 officiated adult sports games in 2024.
 - Active adults 50+: seeing growth in pickleball, volleyball, and attendance at Candlelight Dinner Playhouse events, and social hour games.
- **Other**
 - Special events: Glow Swim, Kids after Dark – not as successful, Mother/Son Nerf, Spring Craft Fair, Skate-a-Palooza, Berthoud Market, Firework Show, End of Summer Bash, Father/Daughter dance, Zombie Run, Winter/Spring Craft Show, Cocoa w/ Santa.
 - Marketing/Sponsorships: Decreased the number of brochures from four to three (Spring/Summer are combined into one brochure).
 - Facility maintenance, 196 work orders, 520 tasks completed, Preventative Maintenance Program developed, and safety inspections are conducted quarterly.
- One PORT committee member suggested working with Town staff (Communications) to share some of this information via social media platforms in a one-pager, as a lot has been accomplished and should be recognized.

b. Outdoor Pool Presentation – Keith Knoll – Public Works Operations Manager

- K. Knoll shared some results from the informal social media survey prepared by Town Staff regarding an outdoor swimming pool. This survey received the highest amount of participation of any surveys they've put out. Staff were not sure why the desire to have amenities such as diving boards were showing up lower than expected on the list. One PORT committee member that took the survey noted some of the questions were confusing and were comparing "apples to oranges", i.e., asking survey respondents to rank the importance of both activities (e.g., diving board, water slide, etc.) and amenities (e.g., outdoor restrooms) in the same question. There is also potential for bias in the type of respondent that could've taken this survey.
- BYAC liaison representative C. Clark said from a youth perspective, a diving board would be a great activity to have at an outdoor pool. Another PORT committee member noted anecdotally at the prior Town Park pool, the diving board was very popular, and there was always a line. Additionally, there is a dive team (1m) at both Turner Middle School and Berthoud High School.
- Survey results indicated that Winona Pool (Loveland), Sunset (Longmont), and Raindance (Windsor) were all popular responses for the types of pools that an outdoor pool in Berthoud could be modeled after.
- K. Knoll reviewed the initial proposal for an outdoor pool in Berthoud with PORT Committee members. The proposed location is on the south side of the BRC and would utilize current infrastructure (e.g., pipes) with the existing indoor pool at BRC. The base price estimate for the current pool proposal is \$7.5M; however the current budget for the pool is \$6M. The budget for the current proposal includes a zero-depth entry area with a gradual increase to a 4' area, six lap lanes, 25 yards in length and ranging from 4' to 12'2" in depth, a diving board, grassy areas and shade structures. The proposed budget doesn't include water slide or climbing features, a "kiddie" pool, additional lap lanes, or lawn and cabana expansion. The current proposal would meet needs such as fitness classes, lap lanes for lap swimming, youth swim team practice, etc.
- The benefits and drawbacks of adding a kiddie pool were discussed. The benefits are that should there be an "accident" by a young child in the pool, only the kiddie pool would have to shut down (vs. up to a 24-hr. shutdown of the entire pool, depending on the severity of the accident). Additionally, a kiddie pool is an opportunity for families with small children to gather and have a separate, age-appropriate space. The drawbacks are the additional cost due to additional piping and filtering systems not currently in place. It was noted that users of the pool get upset when the pool must be shut down for safety reasons due to accidents. PORT Committee members requested that staff put together a cost estimate for the addition of a kiddie pool.
- Bill Hindman, a local Berthoud resident, was given an opportunity for public comment on the outdoor pool proposal. Mr. Hindman has been a member of the BRC for a little over two years and has been lap swimming since before his competitive days as a swimmer at Colorado State University in the 1950s. He said the BRC is an outstanding facility but expressed concerns that three lanes were not sufficient for the needs of lap swimmers at the BRC, noting additionally that these lap lanes are often used for non-lap swim purposes, such as water aerobics, lifeguard training, swim lessons, etc. He encouraged PORT Committee members and town staff to consider making this pool a year-round pool. He suggested having an open-air pavilion with a

roof and garage door walls that can open and close, serving as both a leisure and lap pool. He said swimming is a year-round “fitness” activity, and noted Steamboat and Denver Athletic Club as examples of pools open year-round. The cost of heating a pool in the winter and cooling in the summer were discussed as a drawback; however, an outdoor pool with only 3-4 months of use can also be viewed as a drawback. The benefit of improved air quality in an outdoor atmosphere (e.g., not as “claustrophobic”) is a different “feel” than an indoor pool.

- PORT Committee members discussed the length of the pool (yards – shorter vs. meters – longer). There can be challenges with “counting strokes” and switching from a yard to a meter pool and vice versa. The benefits of a meter pool are the overall size of the pool is a larger space for people to play, and for lap swimmers, there is less “pounding” on the ankles (less flip turns overall). On that note, one PORT committee member recommended ensuring the type of walls be a consideration for the lap swimming portion of the pool, noting issues with ankles hurting while trying to do flip turns on the contoured wall currently at the BRC. The benefits of a yard pool include that town staff believe the Colorado Association of Recreational Athletics (CARA) standard for swim distances is yards, not meters. Having a 25 yd. swim pool would allow for hosting CARA swim meets. Additionally, staff believed yards were the current standard for the Colorado High School Activities Association (CHSAA). PORT committee discussed need for lane markers during lap swim hours. This should not be a problem. PORT committee members asked staff to confirm that yards are the standard for both CARA and CHSAA, as well as any depth requirements (e.g., 4’ to 12’) and explore the cost of an 8-lane pool vs. the currently proposed 6-lane pool. The benefits of an 8-lane pool include an additional two lanes for lap swimming and swim team practice (less crowding) and two lanes which can be utilized as “warm up/cool down lanes” for swim meets.
- PORT committee members requested staff to explore the possibility/cost of an indoor pool setup with the current indoor pool infrastructure.
- PORT Committee members continued a discussion about the budget already being over while weighing the future growth of the Town and the growth of the sport of swimming. A question was raised about the “audience” of the pool i.e., “Who is this pool for”? Members discussed the importance to “do it right” while also noting that if the pool is made for everyone, corners may be cut, and the needs of the Town may not be satisfied. Members discussed potential alternative design ideas to help cut costs while keeping options open, such as moving the entire pool area north to potentially allow for an enclosed pool in the future, removing the water slide option and adding a kiddie pool, making the pool more “rectangular” and “simple” in shape and design (similar to the previous Town Park pool which was an “L-shape – 6 lap lanes (yd.) and a non-lap swim area).
- PORT discussed and noted that the balance with the outdoor swimming pool and the arboretum project needs to be weighed, as the arboretum project is also under consideration by the Town Board. Discussion included whether the Board would prefer to push forward the Arboretum project (a lot of “earth work” needs to be done), have the pool proposal work in parallel with the arboretum project, or whether other projects could be pushed aside to complete the pool sooner. Richardson was pushed back with the Arboretum and Pool projects under review. Is the Board open to additional concept designs and estimates?

- K. Ayers noted the value the PORT committee brought to the joint meeting with the Town Board when discussing the Arboretum, and the PORT Committee members were open to a future PORT and Town Board meeting(s).

F. Staff updates – Parks, Open Space, Recreation, and Trails

- K. Knoll – Berthoud Pkwy trail construction started. Pedestrian lighting poles at Water Ave. Trail going back to bike park, working with ditch company.
- K. Knoll reminded Committee members that they may have two meeting absences per year, and a third absence will be removal from the committee. Also, a virtual, Zoom option will no longer be offered. Meetings can be watched live on YouTube. People must come in person if they would like to give a public comment.
- A. Gustafson – Noted Spring registration began on Feb. 1.

G. Committee updates

- C. Clark – Did not participate in the BYAC meeting earlier that day but noted one agenda item was to discuss having a youth conference/get together with other Northern Colorado youth committees, with a motivational speaker, team building and lunch activities.
- C. Hobson – Noted the flashing crosswalks are great; however, the one at 5th and Spartan is dark (no street lights). K. Knoll to look into this.
- L. Roth – Is on the Wildfire Arts board with A. Gustafson and noted the street in front of Wildfire Arts has angled, public parking. During a recent snow, drainage was very poor, and with a North-facing parking area, ice built up and created a big hazard. There appears to be no plan to clear snow, but it is a public roadway. K. Knoll to investigate if anything can be done with the drainage.
- A. Murphy – Appreciated work on flashing crosswalks at BRC crossing on Bunyan. A turn lane into the BRC will be worked on when temperatures warm up. There are plans for more flashers (CDOT's paying for 80% of the cost).
- K. Weisen – Berthoud Pkwy and Lake Ave? Waiting on the design team to put that together.

H. Adjourn

- A. Murphy motioned to adjourn the meeting, and S. Henry seconded, all in favor. Meeting adjourned at 8:42pm.

Next meeting: Wednesday, March 5, 2025 - 6:00 pm. If you require a special accommodation, please contact the Town Clerk 24 hours in advance at (970) 532-2643.