



**Garden
Spot of
Colorado**

PORT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

**Town Board Room
807 Mountain Avenue
Town of Berthoud, Colorado
Wednesday, May 7, 2025 - 6:00 p.m.**

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

This meeting will be streamed live on YouTube. The live stream is accessible by visiting www.berthoud.org/stream

A. Call to Order – The PORT Committee meeting was called to order by L. Roth at 6:01pm.

B. Roll Call

- Lauren Roth – Chair – Here
- Carolyn Hobson – Vice Chair – Here
- Anna Murphy – Secretary – Here
- Callie West – Here
- Kari Wiesen – Here
- Sean Henry – Here
- Michael Brennan – Here
- Audrey Roth, BYAC Liaison – Here
- Karl Ayers, Trustee Liaison – Here
- Keith Knoll, Staff Representative – Here

C. Approval of Minutes – April 2, 2025

- C. Hobson motioned to approve the April 2, 2025 PORT Committee meeting minutes. C. West seconded. All in favor. Minutes were approved.

D. Public Comment – Non-Discussion Items

- None.

E. Discussion Items

- a. **Outdoor Pool Update** – Keith Knoll – Public Works Operations Manager

Lauren Roth
6/4/2025

- K. Knoll shared with PORT a first look at a re-design on the outdoor pool. This included two separate pools: the first pool (farthest north) is a smaller, “kiddie” pool that goes from “zero depth” up to 3.5 feet, and the second pool (south) is a larger 8-lane, 25 yd. “lap lane” pool, with depths ranging from 4 feet to 12.5 feet. Compared to the previous pool at Town Park which was 3600ft², the kiddie pool (north) is 1,960ft², and the lap lane pool is 4500ft². The increase in size accounts for expectations of future population growth in Berthoud and previous recommendations from PORT and the Town board. The current understanding is the kiddie pool will be tied into the filtration system at the Berthoud Recreation Center (BRC), while the lap lane pool will require a second filtration system and “house” to store this equipment. This house will also include space to serve as the lifeguard house. K. Knoll noted the location of the diving board will likely change from the south to the north end of the deep end.
- K. Knoll mentioned that costs for the pool and arboretum are fluctuating wildly right now, both increasing from their original ~\$7M each estimate. He noted bids also changed (increased) over time for the Berthoud Bike Park and Town Park. He noted contractors are tuned into board meeting discussions.
- Question about whether swim programming can be done in the kiddie pool? Yes.
- Question about whether the minimum pool depth needs to be 4 feet in order to host swim meets? If not, PORT suggested decreasing the pool depth to 3.5 feet to still allow for hosting swim meets, to accommodate swim programming and to increase access for a wider range of swimming abilities and ages. To that point, PORT also requested the overall depth of the lap lane pool be re-considered to try and decrease the overall depth of the pool area outside of the deep end, which requires 12.5 feet for the diving board. Safety ropes will be added to separate out the deep end.
- Question about whether bleachers are being considered for hosting meets. There is a storage requirement for bleachers, and one PORT member noted bleachers are not required needed for swim meets as spectators typically will bring lawn chairs and/or stand to watch the races.
- One PORT committee member noted that shade appears to be missing in the lawn closest to the building (near the kiddie pool). In general, PORT committee members requested consideration for additional shade in the pool area. PORT members discussed possible types of shade, including anchored umbrellas (unanchored umbrellas risk breaking or blowing away on windy days), strong shade sails and/or additional structures if cost allows.
- One PORT committee member shared pictures of an infinity pool option (water overflows to a possible landscape feature) for additional consideration. This could be placed on the west end of the kiddie pool and could enhance the mountain viewing experience. K. Knoll to investigate this option further.
- With overall positive feedback from PORT committee members on the re-design, K. Knoll said this will go to the board next Tuesday for further comment.

b. Berthoud Arboretum Update – Keith Knoll – Public Works Operations Manager

- K. Knoll noted staff are at 60% design completion of the arboretum. He shared the latest version of the design. This included the following:
 - *New parking lot – Gravel → paved*

- *Tree allée* – This is located near the parking lot and is under consideration as a possible location for a “Mike Waggener memorial”. K. Knoll is working with Jane Vielehr on details.
 - *“The Garden Spot” entrance sign* – One committee member noted the sign had improved from previous versions but still seemed a bit “industrial” vs. “botanical”. The proposed signage had brick similar to the BRC sign. Signage at the south end was briefly discussed, and K. Knoll noted options are still being explored, especially as the Town is considering branding.
 - *Event area/pavilion/event lawn* – Inspiration was pulled from the Gardens on Spring Creek in Fort Collins, CO. There is a gazebo nearby and a couple of trellises, berms around the event lawn area, a lot of plantings, space for a food truck to pull up, and fencing around the event area. Question about whether there could be consideration for a lawn that could be angled from high to low to enhance viewing of the stage. PORT supported further investigation on optimization of the lawn area for both viewing and acoustics.
 - *Restrooms* – A standard, three-season restroom on the NE side of the pavilion is planned and located by a tree nursery (to replace the one at Hillside park). The restrooms will be closed during events.
 - *Agricultural area* – To the south, there are plans for an irrigation center pivot and a relic play feature with either playground mulch or rubber and swings. Shown in this area is also a wildflower mix. Additionally, there are plans to include an old sugar beet house donated by a historical society to the west. Sugar beet workers would come in the summer and stay in the sugar beet houses. PORT suggested including signage describing the history. There was some concern about vandalism; security cameras would be considered for monitoring this area.
 - *Children’s garden* – has been removed for now, but everything is set up for the possibility to add in the future.
 - *South of the pavilion* – Seed mixtures change from tall prairie grass near the pavilion area to a mid-prairie grass mix. There is a possibility to have a sledding hill at the highest point (~10 feet). A slide has been added, with boulders surrounding the slide, with an alpine mix nearby. Boulders are scattered throughout, with some picnic tables. Moving further south and east, there’s some more nature play areas, then the pond. One PORT committee member noted the arboretum should be peaceful, green and contemplative and asked what the intention is of the arboretum, noting there are playground features spread out across the arboretum. Would there be space for quiet contemplation? Additionally, the noise on the Hwy. 56 may also make this challenging.
 - *Water/irrigation* – There will be water features, but they will not be chlorinated and therefore not promoted for play. The irrigation structure may add additional cost. The preferred option is to have a pump system in Loveland Reservoir to draw water from. Question about whether a waterfall feature could be considered. K. Knoll to look into.
- Staff are expecting design completion in August. The transaction to acquire Turner M.S. (~6.5 acres) has not yet been completed, but when complete, there will be an

access easement so a parking lot east of Turner middle school (TMS) could be built, if needed.

- PORT noted a small type-O: Remove “The” in “The Town of Berthoud” on one of the proposed signs.
- Public Comment
 - Jane Vielehr was given time to share feedback on the latest arboretum drawings. Overall, she really likes the design and said this will be a great experience for the citizens of Berthoud. She supports the idea of not having as many active playground features in the arboretum. She would like the strip along Hwy. 56/Mountain Ave. to be as green as possible and pleasant to look at and wanted to emphasize the importance of having adequate irrigation. She has been working with K. Knoll to consider planting grasses (esp. alongside Hwy. 56) that would stay greener longer. She requested a split rail fence be built to minimize trespassing onto her property. She appreciated the design kept in mind the view corridor.
- K. Knoll noted topsoil will be removed from the arboretum area, and as much will be reused as possible after grading.

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

- K. Knoll – PORT agreed to have a tour on the Berthoud B.A.T.S. bus at 5:00pm on Wednesday, June 4, right before the next PORT meeting. Tour will focus south of Berthoud. K. Knoll also noted the person reviewing the Jaskowski property is no longer with Colorado Open Lands, so they are waiting for a response. From COL. The N. Berthoud Pkwy. trail/gap along 10E – they are waiting on signal lights which should be installed by June. Cars have been driving on the trail (not the road) on CR 10E, so staff are working on improved signage.
- A. Gustafson – Followed up on a skimmer vs. gutter discussion earlier in the meeting, noting gutters are recommended for the lap pool (too big for skimmers), and the kiddie pool will have skimmers. It’s easier for algae to grow at the bottom of skimmer pools. Additionally, summer hours are starting to expand for open swim, starting May 26 (Memorial Day), and the Berthoud Market start June 14 at Town Park (currently, 25-30 vendors signed up).

G. Committee updates

- A. Roth – BYAC is having their youth conference on Friday. Approximately 50-60 people are expected to attend.
- L. Roth – Question about when bathrooms at Berthoud Reservoir will open? In the next couple of weeks.
- A. Murphy – Thanked K. Knoll for all the work on the design of the pool and arboretum.
- K. Ayers – Seven new trees planted at Pioneer Park. Community garden area is also nice.

H. Adjourn

- C. Hobson motioned to adjourn the meeting, and C. West seconded, all in favor. Meeting adjourned at 7:21pm.

Next meeting: Wednesday, June 4, 2025 – PORT Committee Members only tour at 5:00pm, PORT meeting to follow (~6:15pm) If you require a special accommodation, please contact the Town Clerk 24 hours in advance at (970) 532-2643.