



**Garden
Spot of
Colorado**

PORT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

**Town Board Room
807 Mountain Avenue
Town of Berthoud, Colorado
Wednesday, May 3, 2023 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

1. Call to Order

- PORT meeting was called to order at 6:02PM.

2. Roll Call

- Tim Grover – Chair – Here
- Lauren Roth – Vice Chair – Here
- Anna Murphy – Secretary – Here
- Jose Cabrera – Not Here
- Carolyn Hobson – Here
- Callie West – Here
- Joe Donnelly – Here
- Daniel Hatton, BYAC Liaison – Not Here
- Karl Ayers, Trustee Liaison – Here
- Keith Knoll, Staff Representative – Here

3. Approval of Minutes – Wednesday, April 5, 2023

- L. Roth motioned to approve minutes from the previous PORT meeting. C. Hobson seconded. No discussion. All in favor.

4. Public Comment – Non-Discussion Items

- There was no public comment.

5. Discussion Items –

Timothy W. Grover 05/31/2023

- **A. Dog Park Project – Girl Scouts**

- Girl Scouts Audrey and Lucca presented their proposal to add new dog equipment to the Berthoud Dog Park. They noted the current park is lacking interactive toys for dogs. Their Girl Scout Troop donated \$200 to this project, and the girls raised \$500 at the Berthoud Rec Center Craft Fair. They hope more families and pets will visit Berthoud, and they want dogs to have more fun.
- One of the girl scouts had a grandparent that worked for an excavation company and would be able to help install the equipment alongside the girl scouts.
- Audrey and Lucca noted dog park equipment is expensive. Nonetheless, they researched the highest quality equipment for the best price within their budget (e.g., a fake fire hydrant, hose, etc.). K. Knoll asked if there was other equipment that they thought would be beneficial for the dog park but was out of their price range. They mentioned the agility equipment could be nice for the dogs but was more expensive. K. Knoll noted the Town may be able to help support this project.
- Question on whether the Town has a budget for maintenance for all parks. K. Knoll noted the town has a budget for equipment.

- **B. Adaptive Park Projects – Lauren Bowling**

- L. Bowling stepped up to the podium to present on her work to raise money for an adaptive park in Berthoud. Lauren is the mom of three boys, one of which (Miles) has cerebral palsy. Miles is the inspiration for the Berthoud Adaptive Park project (BAPP). Lauren serves as an ambassador for Can'd Aid, which rallies volunteers from all walks of life to build thriving communities.
- The BAPP kicked off in July 2021 with a goal of raising \$1M - \$1.3M for equipment for the BAPP (she has currently raised \$503K). Sponsors have agreed to help with the installation of the equipment. Fundraising efforts have included lemonade stands, reaching out on social media, and other local fundraisers. L. Bowling will be hosting a 3rd annual lemonade stand on June 10 & 11 in her driveway again this year.
- Can'd Aid team and partners envision this playground to be a premier destination for children and parents with a wide range of disabilities in the area (Berthoud, Loveland, Longmont, Firestone, etc.) and beyond.
- L. Bowling has currently been working kids, parents, physical therapists, social media networks, and the developer(s) at Farmstead on to envision a park in Farmstead that is accessible, adaptive, and inclusive. Farmstead has committed to matching the funds raised for this park. This is not a Town-related park.
- L. Bowling noted the closest fully accessible playgrounds to Berthoud are Fort Collins (1), Greeley (1), and Westminster (1), all ~40 min. drive in any direction. Aurora has the most fully accessible playgrounds (6); three of them were fundraised by parents like Lauren.
- For an adaptive park, the entire surface should be rollable (wood chips/mulch don't work). Other considerations include equipment for

children with sensory disorders, non-verbal, etc..., special slides for those with cochlear implants (can't go down plastic slides because of the static), braille writing, climbing structures for those that have a lot of energy, structures for those with no disability, and ziplines for all. Inclusive parks include accessibility at every level (to encourage and allow for inclusive play). She also noted inclusivity not just for children but also for the elderly, e.g., grandparents. There are currently no "standards" for what qualifies as inclusive, and Bowling also noted that ADA standards are over 20 years old.

- Question on whether the Town is considering building a fully adaptive park, specifically, Town Park. K. Knoll has met with L. Bowling, and the Town is looking into the possibility of making an accessible/ inclusive playground at Town Park. L. Bowling noted an adaptive park at Town Park would be complementary to the one at Farmstead and suggested the Town consider making all future parks accessible/inclusive moving forward.
- K. Knoll also noted that there are restrictions with the Town getting involved with a developer on a project. The developer is open to a relationship with the Town. The Park is owned by Farmstead and maintained by the HOA. They are hoping the park in Farmstead will begin to be built this fall, and the park can be built in phases.
- "You don't know what you don't know until you know." L. Bowling mentioned this several times during her presentation and noted this is an opportunity to teach and share.
- Bowling noted these types of parks are more expensive to buy but not more expensive to maintain. It will be a destination and get more use. She noted there are lots of options for this type of equipment in Europe; however, it is not approved by the U.S. govt. due to safety concerns.
- Question on whether L. Bowling has reached out to Kyle Clark with his micro giving campaigns. She noted Denver7 has supported their campaign, and she will continue to reach out to her contacts.
- K. Knoll had just received project bids and drawings for Town Park right before the meeting and is working through those details. K. Knoll shared some preliminary drawings with PORT, and L. Bowling provided some feedback for future considerations.

6. Staff updates – PORT Tour Date, Parks, Open Space, Recreation, Trails

- K. Knoll asked for input on PORT tour locations to visit and dates. Locations for the PORT tour included Berthoud Bike Park, Pioneer Park, Town Park, Rookery, and Jaskowski (waiting on Colorado Open Lands – disc golf may not be good for wetland areas)
- The next PORT meeting is at **6:00PM on Wednesday, May 31st**. Prior to the meeting, the PORT committee at **5:00PM on Wednesday, May 31st**, the PORT committee will go on a tour.
- The Tree / PORT joint committee meeting to discuss the arboretum will be held on **Monday, June 26 at 6:00PM**.
- K. Knoll shared project updates:
 - Pickleball – Courts were approved by the Board. They (Renner) will pour the concrete this summer (must cure for 28 days); target to open courts this Fall.

- Town Park – Question on why Town Park is taking longer than e.g., Pickleball and Berthoud Bike Park. Explanation included there is much more infrastructure work to do e.g., re-doing storm sewer, water lines, and irrigation. It's a process and schedules with multiple (~8) contractors and designers must line up. The Town Park proposal is going to the Town Board soon, and the goal is to begin construction this year.
- Bike Park – K. Knoll shared the current design of Bike Park (~20 acres). Jump Lines, XC course, pump track, parking lot/restroom. Should be open end of summer/early Fall. PORT discussed whether there is a policy on the type of bikes allowed on the course; specifically, use of e-bikes was discussed. Should there be a speed limit on bikes? Will there be someone to enforce the rules? No, but staff member(s) will be monitoring the park during the day.
- A lack of a call box was highlighted (e.g., if someone is injured).
- COTREX – Berthoud trails are now on the COTREX app. Town staff are currently updating some trails missed, and they will be working on getting this info out with signage and QR codes. Anyone can send trail updates/changes to COTREX.
- Amanda noted the Rec and Youth Advisory Committee is planning ScorchFest.

7. Committee updates

- A. Murphy shared some photos from a recent trip to Philip S. Miller park in Castle Rock, CO. She share pictures of a turf soccer field; the turf at this park did not appear to have the black “beads” that PORT discussed as a concern in a prior discussion about Richardson Park. There are most likely multiple turf options out there. A young member of the public commented on frustrations with playing sports on turf fields (especially the fields at Loveland Park), noting that the black beads get everywhere in your clothing. Another member of the public audience noted that the turf gets blistering/burning hot on your feet in the summer. One PORT committee member commented on Island Grove Park in Greeley, CO, noting that the infield of the baseball fields are dark brown turf, which they had not seen before and questioned the dark brown (heat absorbing) color. Another audience member noted that turf can be a good accessible surface when done right.
- As a follow-up to a recent prior PORT discussion on fitness courts, A. Murphy also shared pictures of a “fitness park” her family visited (at Philip S. Miller park). It has more of a cross fit/Ninja warrior feel. The park was on turf, next to the turf soccer fields and had bars, swinging ropes, exercise ropes (for arm workouts), and climbing walls, among other features. There were both kids and adults using this area, and it was accessible. It was a different take on a fitness court, and a contrast to the fitness park idea that PORT reviewed previously.
- Question about whether Berthoud has a plan to keep the same numbers of acres of open space and parks per capita. J. Donnelly had attended a Larimer County open space advisory committee meeting, and the county was planning to add large scale acreage open space to try to maintain the same open space per capita. There are various funding sources that come in for acquiring land and open space. The Town is actively approaching and contacting landowners (e.g., in the Thompson and Dry Creek corridor) to see if would be willing to turn their land over as a conservation

easement, keep it as open space and wetlands or to see if the Town can acquire the land for preservation e.g., Newell Farm was purchased in early January; Pioneer park expansion.

- T. Grover noted his 16 yr. old son's new favorite place to work out is the fitness court area outside of the rec center.
- The Vantage trail that dead-ended (and mentioned at the last meeting) is planned for their next plat, once construction is underway.

8. Adjourn

- L. Roth motioned to adjourn meeting, J. Donnelly seconded, all in favor. Meeting adjourned at 7:42PM.

Next meeting: May 31, 2023: 5:00pm, PORT Committee Tour, 6:00 pm PORT meeting. If you require a special accommodation, please contact the Town Clerk 24 hours in advance at (970) 532-2643.