



**Garden
Spot of
Colorado**

PORT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

**Town Board Room
807 Mountain Avenue
Town of Berthoud, Colorado
Wednesday, August 2, 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 – Meeting was called to order at 6:03PM.

2. Roll Call

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

3. Approval of Minutes – Monday, June 26, 2023

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

4. Public Comment – Non-Discussion Items

- No public comment.

5. Discussion Items

T.W. Grover 9/6/2023

- **A. Pioneer Park Pickleball – Keith Knoll, Public Works Operations Manager**

- K. Knoll noted the Town is involved in the Pioneer Park expansion, though it is the developer's property, and the HOA will maintain it. There is currently a proposal for some pickleball courts at Pioneer Park, and there are houses within 500 feet of the proposed courts, which will likely cause sound/noise issues. The direction of the courts and the paddle affect sound levels. New balls and paddles can decrease the sound, and the Town is currently recommending people to play with these new paddles, along with limiting hours of play (e.g., 8am to dusk). K. Knoll shared examples of actions taken related to pickleball from other areas of Colorado. Denver recently took pickleball away from Congress Park. Loveland will build courts in a pit. Centennial recently released the results of a 77-page study conducted on the effects of noise from playing pickleball. According to K. Knoll, this study noted having a 500-600 ft. buffer between courts and houses is probably ok but should be reviewed by an engineer. Berthoud currently has four pickleball courts. The courts at Waggener Farm Park will double the capacity in Berthoud, and the courts at Waggener are in an ideal location to manage noise (>500ft. away from nearest house).
- Question about whether the residents are complaining about noise or whether there are other issues e.g., traffic. Noise is the main issue. L. Roth had done some research and noted that 70 decibels (dB) is the intensity of the sound of the pickleball hitting a racket 100 ft. away. This decreases to 64 dB at 200 ft. The Town Code notes that from 7am to 7pm, the sound should not exceed 55dB, and from 7pm-7am, the sound should not exceed 50dB.
- A suggestion was made to place a basketball court at Pioneer Park instead of a pickleball court. There is already a small basketball court at Pioneer Park.
- The P.O.R.T. committee recommended that pickleball courts not be built at Pioneer Park. They also recommended a minimum 500 ft. buffer between houses and any future pickleball courts built in Berthoud. If courts proposed fall under the 500 ft. buffer, the Town should consult with acoustic engineers to ensure the courts are in compliance with Town Code.

- **B. Richardson Park Design – Keith Knoll, Public Works Operations Manager**

- K. Knoll noted that Richardson Park master plans have been in development since 2018. K. Knoll showed the current plan and noted it is at 50% design. He noted the playground has moved to the center of the park, and the design might come back to PORT for revision in the future; in a prior design, the park was at the edge. The athletic fields are slated for Phase 1 of construction. They are in high demand; in particular, the softball/baseball fields. The ball fields were modeled after some major league baseball teams (south=Rockies, east=Giants; north=Padres; west=Dodgers). Suggestion to consider the ability to have lines for sports in addition to soccer (football, field hockey, and lacrosse were mentioned).
- Previous PORT comments on artificial turf were noted. One committee member emphasized the importance of purchasing higher quality turf, as there are differences. This information has been passed along to consultants.

- There may be an opportunity to have a lawn/pavilion spot for music toward the front of the park, a sledding hill, possibly a parks/maintenance building, and there also may be an opportunity for access to the lake in the future (including a boardwalk – to be built). There are three years until the lease is up. The fishing club is in charge of the land. Berthoud owns the water shares. Land is owned by the ditch company – Loveland Lake and Ditch. Town, school, and farmers all own shares.
- The swimming area was discussed already at PORT at a prior meeting. There was continued discussion about the current pool design which is more of a resort-style pool area with a lazy river. One PORT member noted that for a town with a population of Berthoud as is, current access to lap swimming is inadequate. Sports are good for mental and physical health, and there are only three lap lanes in the entire town. We're missing the boat by dedicating this whole area to water play, without recognizing swimming is a sport and offering more fitness and mental health activities for adults and kids, especially considering what we're doing for other sports. There is a splash pad being built at Town Park, and the Berthoud Rec Center has water play amenities. There used to be a swim team and pool at Town Park. Having swim lanes (6-8) in a meter-size pool, with the ability to host a meet would be preferred. Municipal pools are managed well with lap swim, swim team, family swim, etc..., from the end of May to the middle of August. It is different to swim outside. Having a grassy area around the pool area (with trees) was noted as an important feature of a swimming pool area. Grass is cooler than concrete, and trees offer shade on a sunny day. Consensus from PORT committee members was to have a lap swimming pool (possibly also with a kiddie pool) vs. the current "water play" design.
- PORT had a discussion noting the Town has, is, and will continue to grow. It is important to design everything in such a way that it could be easy to expand in the future.
- It was noted that Town Park athletic fields will not get removed until the fields at Richardson are built. There are also three fields at Bein Park (one is the h.s.), and fields at Berthoud and Ivy Stockwell elementary schools are also utilized.
- Comment to consider direction the fields are facing e.g., the west baseball field in Windsor faces straight into the sun. Comment that a water station and water fountains (for water bottles, too) be considered, in addition to the water station at the bathroom areas.
- Berthoud Community Park, Northshore Park, and Grassroots Park were all names informally discussed at the meeting. One PORT committee member noted that Grassroots might not align with the artificial turf planned for a good portion of the park.

6. Staff updates – Parks, Open Space, Recreation, Trails

- K. Knoll noted feedback from the July 3rd fireworks show. The event/music/fireworks were great. The event was packed compared to the previous year. Lines for food and drinks were long. There was a draw because it was on the 3rd and not the 4th of July, and fireworks were cancelled on the 4th at the golf course

due to inclement weather. Berthoud Parkway forced hundreds of vehicles into Gateway Park. Suggestion to shut down Berthoud Pkwy. at Mountain Avenue?

- Bike Park – soft opening end of August. Contractors are leaving. Town working on finishing touches.
- Town Park – started work on Aug. 1 and will be closed for 12-14 months. Berthoud Day will not be there in 2024. Construction fencing has gone up.
- Pickleball courts at Waggener are currently ongoing.
- T. Grover will share a 1-pp. committee report for 2022, probably at the Tuesday, Aug. 22 Town Board meeting.
- Terms for three PORT members are up: L. Roth, C. Hobson, and J. Donnelly (term ends in Sept.). J. Cabrera stepped down. Applications are open through August. Current PORT members wishing to serve a new term must re-apply and go through the interview process. The Town is advertising these and other open committee positions.
- From Amanda – end of summer sizzler bash is Aug. 11 (6-8pm). Rec center annual closure is from Aug. 21-27. Aug. 15th – fall hours begin as kids go back to school.
- A Board of Trustees member resigned. They will most likely open up applications to current committee members.

7. Committee updates

- C. West had a couple of questions about Town Park, including how long access will be closed off (12-14 months). End of bike path – will it be a corridor for pedestrians? Yes, it's also a fire lane. Any way to ID to the public the trees at Town Park which will be removed? Trees will be marked this week. Town will try to keep the cottonwoods but noted safety concerns. More trees will be planted in Town Park as well.
- L. Roth – Noted that 9 News' Next covered a story on the adaptive park project (Lauren Bowling).
- T. Grover – Heritage Ridge put fill in along the trail that didn't have fill, and it's much better (along the RR tracks on the E. side). Town put in some temporary fill.
- A. Murphy – Noted the bike striping across town looks good. Some people are confused about the sharrows. There is a page in the Rec Center guide explaining what they are.
- K. Knoll – Noted the trail connection on S. Berthoud Pkwy. is in progress.

8. Adjourn

- L. Roth motioned to adjourn meeting; J. Donnelly seconded, all in favor. Meeting adjourned at 7:29PM.

Next meeting: Wednesday, September 6, 2023 - 6:00 pm. If you require a special accommodation, please contact the Town Clerk 24 hours in advance at (970) 532-2643.