



**Garden
Spot of
Colorado**

PORT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

**Town Board Room
807 Mountain Avenue
Town of Berthoud, Colorado
Wednesday, September 6, 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 6:02PM.

2. Roll Call

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

3. Approval of Minutes – Wednesday, August 2, 2023

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

4. Public Comment – Non-Discussion Items

- No public comment.

5. Discussion Items

- **A. Waggener Arboretum Conceptual Design – Keith Knoll, Public Works Operations Manager**

Lauren Roth
11/1/23

- Tyler Kiggins (Wenk) presented the second draft, which included feedback from the Tree Advisory Committee (TAC), PORT, and Town staff.
- T. Kiggins noted a couple of items: The overall design concept and proposed layout was acceptable. On the second draft, Wenk has worked to minimize fill, refine the grading, keep the view corridor open (towards the mountains), focus on the ag theme already established on the North side of the park, encourage native/pollinator habitats, and utilize microclimates to take advantage of different types of plantings in the future.
- The location preference for the memorial was close to the North entrance of the arboretum. There will be 8' wide concrete for the primary trail with 3' adjacent soft (crusher fines).
- T. Kiggins walked the group through the arboretum design. From the North entrance, if you take a left, you will climb to a high point, where there could be a possible art feature. If you take a right, the trail is more at the bottom of the hills.
- Irrigation will be integral to the success of the arboretum. Included in the design is a natural, aesthetic irrigation canal, with consideration for canal crossings, and they will lean on this historical center pivot idea. The irrigation currently runs down Berthoud Parkway, but Wenk has left the option to split the irrigation to run North to a potential tree farm area or South toward the pond. The irrigation canal would be close to the sidewalk, off Berthoud parkway, which would be more naturalistic. There would be more play features as part of the canal as you move toward the pond. The North side of the pond would include a deck/observation area. The intent would be to screen off noise from Mountain Ave. from the irrigation pond.
- The types of trees considered for the arboretum include riverine trees and shrubs, various types of oaks, pines, conifers and evergreens, and native trees and shrubs. Wenk also created two larger wildflower meadows at some of the entrances, especially the main entrance off Mountain Ave.
- Wenk then described the different areas in the Northern community hub portion of the design. There would be room for a community garden (approx. 35 beds). There would be a turf lawn which could be used for events/weddings, which would spill over into a perennial garden. They took inspiration from Chatfield Gardens with the design in this area. There would be a space for orchards to align with orchards that have already started in the park. There would be a crop circle meadow with a relic center pivot or a retro fitted center pivot. They increased the number of access paths from the previous version, including a larger path on the west side of parking lot to allow a truck/tractor to access the tree nursery area. The tree nursery area would be next to an irrigation canal (for siphon or flood irrigation); drip irrigation would also be a possibility. They included fencing in certain parts of the hub to encourage people to stay out.
- Paul Furnas will take this presentation to the next TAC meeting on Nov. 20 for feedback, and Wenk will have another round of edits in early December.
- Question on the design as to whether there would be two concrete streets along Berthoud Parkway. T. Kiggins noted that the design included the already existing concrete street; there not be an additional concrete sidewalk.

- Question on the total length of the primary trail. T. Kiggins did not have numbers but estimated approximately 1-2 miles.
- Concern was raised again by PORT about having a community garden. The community garden at Ivy Stockwell and another location in town are struggling for help. The Town was encouraged to reach out and see if it would be feasible to fill and maintain 35 plots. The idea that the Town could rent out plots was suggested. The Town would provide basic tools and a water spigot. Renting may attract individuals that might not have garden space. Longmont has a community garden with rented plots. Denver also has a similar program, and there is a waitlist for plot space.
- Question on whether the arboretum could be phased. T. Kiggins noted phasing is possible. The first phase could include grading, topography, and planting trees and native seed. A couple of PORT members noted that the arboretum is convincing and could be ready to offer to the public earlier than the Northern community hub, which could be phased in as the Town finds partners to work with.
- K. Knoll noted the arboretum project will need to be submitted to Colorado Open Lands to get their feedback on e.g., shelters.
- Question on the possibilities for the canal. The canal in the North section is optional; the canal on Nielsen greenway is not. Discussed opening and closing the canal to pull water (as needed). Town staff would prefer for trees to be drip irrigated from the canal or from the pond itself. Consensus from PORT was that whatever creates the best flow and gets water where it needs to go should be considered.
- T. Kiggins asked if there was interest in additional burning or screening along Southern Edge of Mountain Ave. Some smaller trees and a couple of strategically placed mounds/hills 4-5' tall with trees could be added to help screen Mountain Ave. and cut down noise while still maintaining and keeping the view corridor as open as possible.
- Question on whether cottonwoods should be planted. Yes, they can, and they would be planted in more native areas, away from trails, for habitat value. They grow quick and establish shade.

- **B. Newell Farm Property – Keith Knoll, Public Works Operations Manager**

- K. Knoll gave a background on the Newell Farm property. In 2022, Sarah Lincoln and Butch presented their property to PORT. The Town board approved the purchase of the property (called “Newell Farm Park”) in late 2022/early 2023. The property is in Weld County and has been compared as an “East” Waggener Farm Park, a “bookend” for the town. Newell farm consists of 12 acres (including the farm). The town has taken over the farm lease. The North half of the Farmhouse was built in the 1870’s. The granary was built in the late 1800’s. The water cistern was built in the early 1900’s.
- The property is allowed to have public recreation and parks; Keith showed PORT a detailed list of what would be possible. Certainly, the owners would like to see the annual music festival held on their property to continue.
- West of the farmhouse is a parking lot. There is a recording studio at the back of the building.

- Just to the West of the property is the future phase of Farmstead. North of the property is slated to be a school (pending voter approval). Development is expected in the future around the property.
- The entertainment stage is currently covered (a garage-type structure). Parking was adequate for the annual music event. Farmstead hasn't submitted a preliminary plat, but they are usually willing to work with the Town on various items. There is currently a trail that connects to Pioneer Park that goes through Farmstead.
- A question was asked if the Town could have a tree nursery in the East portion of the property. This is a possibility.
- Discussion that City Park has an old house where they hold pottery classes. Would developing a program like this on the property be of interest? Wildfire Arts plus the Berthoud Recreation Center also have similar programs. The idea to have a historic home tour was discussed on the property, to have a farm history experience. The Berthoud historic society has similar tours as well.
- The continuation of the music theme was discussed. Fort Collins holds a summer concert series which is popular. People have picnics. Butch is a musician and would enjoy the music theme to continue. The Board is looking to continue the history of the property. It was noted that Town Park will also be a music venue (SE side), and the Berthoud arboretum could have a venue space as well. Music events would be popular.
- Access to the property from Hwy 56 was discussed. Would Farmstead be amenable to putting in access points that aren't at Hwy 56? It would be nice for friends and families to be able to ride bikes to the venue and have associated paths. The roundabout at CR 1 is still pending approval from CDOT. There are turn lanes proposed off Hwy 56.

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

- K. Knoll noted the section at Rose Farm trail is almost complete (continuous loop trail). Concrete pour was completed 3-4 weeks ago, but there's an 18-24" trench that's been fenced off. Issues with rain. The Berthoud Bike Park opening is now planned for next weekend. There are still finishing touches, including the parking/restroom area. Power was installed today. Motorized vehicles were trespassing in the park. There are cameras at the park now. Resource officers at the schools have been helpful. Was there an e-bike policy? No motorized anything allowed, not even remote-controlled cars.
- Town Park is underway, working through issues.
- Pickleball courts have been delayed a bit due to rain but are expected to be complete at the end of October. Construction has been pretty smooth.

7. Committee updates

- L. Roth – question on bike park vandalism. Is there a plan for monitoring people on vehicles that shouldn't be out there? Who's supposed to be policing/patrolling/monitoring the bike parks? K. Knoll mentioned members of the town staff will go out every morning to check on the park. In fact, town staff went to Erie and talked about how they monitor their bike park. Injuries are expected. K. Knoll noted that with the two skate parks in town, they have not received any calls

about injuries. They are working to enhance video coverage. Suggestion was made to include signage for video surveillance. Will gates on Meadowlark go away? Green ones are permanent (they close at night). Trying to stop vehicle access, but there will still be trail access. The park hours will be sunrise to sunset. Suggestion to have skills classes for kids to learn the basics of biking and an orientation of the bike park.

- K. Ayers will not be at the bike park opening. The sheriff's dept. will have their bike squad out.
- Town Park – arborist located three of the big, damaged cottonwoods and suggested they be removed them due to safety issues. There are some mature, healthy trees, which will be closely monitored.
- K. Ayers noted that the mosquito discussion has been ongoing with the Town board. Community feedback is important.

8. Adjourn

- L. Roth motioned to adjourn meeting; C. Hobson seconded, all in favor. Meeting adjourned at 7:22PM.

Next meeting: Wednesday, October 4, 2023 - 6:00 pm. If you require a special accommodation, please contact the Town Clerk 24 hours in advance at (970) 532-2643.