



**Garden
Spot of
Colorado**

PORT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

**Town Board Room
807 Mountain Avenue
Town of Berthoud, Colorado
Wednesday, January 3, 2024 - 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 – Meeting was called to order at 6:01PM.

B. Roll Call

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

C. Approval of Minutes – Wednesday, November 1, 2023

- T. Grover motioned to approve minutes from the previous PORT committee meeting. S. Henry seconded. No discussion. All in favor.

D. Public Comment – Non-Discussion Items

- No public comment.

E. Discussion Items

- **a. Pioneer Park Community Garden – Emmy Ingham, Berthoud Local**

Lauren Roth
2/7/24

- Three representatives from Berthoud Local attended the meeting, including Emmy Ingham. E. Ingham noted Berthoud Local (BL) has a lease with the Town to maintain the property, and the garden has been there for over 10 years. BL currently does not rent plots like other organizations or cities do; rather, BL aims to improve access to local food, provide education on sustainable agriculture practices and gardening, and offer opportunities for community involvement (e.g., gardening on Monday nights during gardening season). This garden is open to the community, and they would like to see it more of a showcase. K. Knoll noted staff met with BL in Oct/Nov. 2023 and then met with a design team on Dec. 20, 2023.
- E. Ingham presented a list of features and ideas to re-vamp the Pioneer Park Community Garden, to make it a better experience for all ages and abilities, make it more manageable, more useful, more accessible, etc... These features/ ideas included re-vamping and diversifying garden bed sizes/types, refining and showcasing different irrigation systems, having a pergola/outdoor classroom area with internet access, tables could double as a potting and classroom area, add a "little library" for seed exchanges, improve signage to educate the community, have demo gardens, insect and bat houses, a small greenhouse to start plants, etc..
- Question regarding the educational classes provided by BL. They noted classes are now offered through the Berthoud Recreation Center. In the past, classes were held outdoors or at the Berthoud library on Saturdays. Participation varies. Topics include composting, xeriscaping, intro to different irrigation systems and water management, high altitude baking, etc.... BL is supported primarily by volunteers, though they do have a couple of paid staff. They raise money through fundraisers, silent auctions, and community grants. Communication occurs through their Facebook and Instagram pages.
- Question on the Town's involvement. K. Knoll noted the Town is paying for the re-design and would help re-build the garden, pending approval. They do not have a cost estimate yet.
- Comment that improvements to signage would be appreciated.
- It was noted that with more units being built around the park, there may be more traffic in the garden.
- Weeds become a hazard for volunteers or visitors. BL would like to see these barriers be removed.
- Question on the current size of the garden. K. Knoll estimated approximately 5,000ft.².

• **b. Berthoud Arboretum Conceptual Design Final Draft – Keith Knoll, PWOM**

- K. Knoll shared the Berthoud Arboretum final draft of the conceptual design with PORT, noting the Board hasn't seen this yet. He noted the trail connection to the bike park has been added to the design, but more work needs to be done to make it in compliance with ADA. He noted the pivot was relocated along Berthoud Pkwy. Renderings with a view overlooking the entire arboretum area were also shared with PORT. K. Knoll noted that Colorado Open Lands is reviewing the design to make sure everything fits with the deed.

- The community garden portion of the North Community Hub was discussed. It was noted that the city of Longmont has community garden guidelines. For example, if you rent a plot, you must also put on a garden event and must share produce from your plot with the community.
 - K. Knoll noted the early, initial cost estimate from the landscape designers for the arboretum plus construction documents would be approximately \$7M.
 - Question on staff requirements needed for the arboretum. K. Knoll noted it will take a couple of years and extra staff time to ensure everything gets established.
 - Question on the use of water at the arboretum. The property comes with a couple shares of water, and it will all be non-potable. Water levels may fluctuate seasonally in the pond.
 - A survey will be sent out for public comment after this meeting.
- **c. Town Park Playground – Keith Knoll, PWOM**
 - K. Knoll presented a revised Town Park playground design, noting that since the 2018 master plan, the focus was to have a “tree house” theme. Also, there have been considerations for this to be an inclusive park. He noted consideration was taken for the other inclusive park that is planned on being built in town. The other park will have more ramps. The new proposal features less ramps but more play features while still maintaining inclusivity and the tree house theme.
 - Suggestion to add a ramp to one of the structures which had both a ramp and steps.
 - Question on whether there will be trees/shade closer to the park, as asphalt can get hot. Yes, trees and pavilion will be nearby. The splash park will be just to the West of the playground, and there will still be a gate between Ivy Stockwell and the park.
 - The estimated timeline for completion is Sept./Oct. 2024.

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

- K. Knoll shared areas of focus for staff this coming year, which included a conceptual design for the Jaskowski property, determining any extensions that could be worked on in the Trails Master Plan, Newell Farm (noting Sarah Lincoln in the audience), the Rookery, and the East field of Robert’s Lake. K. Knoll is planning for a PORT tour in June.
- It was suggested to have a 5-year plan/outlook for all the PORT-related project. K. Knoll agreed.
- Pickleball courts are estimated to open in February 2024. Lines are painted; final resurfacing will occur in the Spring when temperatures are warm enough.
- A speed bump is going in at the bike park next week, as well as signage.
- A. Gustafson noted the winter craft fair drew 1,800 participants and 65 vendors. This was a huge success. They are working on a farmers market survey to gauge the needs of the community, new mirrors have been added to the gym, and they are expecting three new gym equipment pieces to be added soon.
- The glow swim and dodgeball tournament is this weekend.

G. Committee updates

- S. Henry asked about a future trail along the Little Thompson. This is a 15-20 year goal, and easements need to be worked through. A utility easement alone is not enough to build a trail. It was also noted that Johnstown, CO is building a golf course and staff may need to reach out to understand if they've thought about connecting with this trail system.
- C. Hobson asked whether the Town has any say on goose hunting at Loveland Reservoir. No. There are ~three years left on the lease. Hunters can start shooting when sun comes up.
- L. Roth noted there are still campers parked alongside the street leading to the bike park.
- A. Murphy asked whether the new play equipment at Pioneer Park was open. It appeared that it was indeed open now.

H. Adjourn

- T. Grover motioned to adjourn meeting; C. Hobson seconded, all in favor. Meeting adjourned at 7:29PM.

Next meeting: Wednesday, February 7, 2024 - 6:00 pm. If you require a special accommodation, please contact the Town Clerk 24 hours in advance at (970) 532-2643.