



**Garden
Spot of
Colorado**

PORT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

**Town Board Room
807 Mountain Avenue
Town of Berthoud, Colorado Wednesday, March 6, 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

A. Call to Order – Meeting was called to order at 6:03 PM.

B. Roll Call

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

Lauren Roth
4/3/2024

C. Approval of Minutes – Wednesday, February 6, 2024

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

D. Public Comment – Non-Discussion Items

- No public comment.

E. Discussion Items

a) Capitol Parks Improvements Presentation & Discussion – Keith Knoll, PWOM

- K. Knoll provided a matrix featuring all current PORT projects, estimated timelines (construction start and end), estimated project costs and indicating if funding was in place or not. Seeking PORT committee input about the projects and the funding sources.
- Bigger projects: order of priority is Town Park, Richardson.
- Project costs in green text have established funding. Costs in black text have partial funding, possible funding or unknown funding sources.
- Funding must be in place before design features are locked in and construction timelines are calendared.
- Conservation Trust funds designated for open space acquisition.
- The 2018 Parks Master Plan included Waggener and Rec Center, Town Park Renovation, Richardson and Kneival. Town received regular input from public that supported making trail connectors and Rec Center the priorities.
- **Town Park Phase 1.** Funded. Has a conceptual design for playground. Wheelchair access to one playground area. Question if same playground vendor as Pioneer – yes. Hope to open Phase I area this fall.
- **Town Park Phase 2.** Currently cost estimated at \$5.5 million, with no dedicated funding source or construction start time at the moment. Has a construction document. Expansion into current ball field will leave some areas of open fields. Possibilities for a band stand or outdoor stage, and food truck area.
- **North Berthoud Parkway Trail.** Funded. Final design with trails, traffic lights etc. awaiting CDOT approval. Trail surfaces are combination of soft surface (crushed fines) and concrete. Handy Ditch crossing will be on the current Berthoud Parkway roadway bridge. Berthoud Parkway crossing will connect to Vantage Trail at Water Ave.
- **Bike Park Additions.** Funded. K. Knoll provided a rough sketch adding shade areas (a pavilion and trees) and a permanent materials storage site. A need has been identified for an expanded area for younger riders with pump track and skills course (high speed adult riders are intimidating for younger riders). Getting prices and designs. Is there demand for a trials course (series of obstacles)? S. Henry comments there may not be a lot of use. Possibility for the Town to DIY obstacles. Town is considering how to regulate the times when pump track is open to users. Riders have been poaching the area almost weekly when the surface is wet causing maintenance problems. L. Roth observes riders often waiting for their turns on pump track; shade is needed here.
- **Pioneer Park Community Garden.** Funding source TBD. Garden bed design not yet finalized. Design may include a picnic area, boy scout and girl scout projects.
- **Farmstead Playground.** No discussion
- **Aboretum** – Funding sources must be finalized to continue with construction documents. Likely funding sources are 2019 1% Tax Fund, and the Town's General Fund.
- **Heron Lakes Rookery Trail.** Projected funds from LC Open Space. Access from CR10E. Partially owned by ditch company. Current maintenance road between Lonetree & Welch reservoirs will become a loop trail. Colo Parks & Wildlife requires

a no-go buffer zone for the herons from April through August. During buffer period a short loop trail is possible.; when the area is fully open a longer, connecting loop trail is possible. Town may have to create its own management plan to explore flexibility in the buffer zone – currently it is not respected by local recreationalists

- **Jaskowski Property.** Conceptual design will be underway soon - first draft design may be ready by June.
- **Front Range Trail Connection with Loveland.** East of the **Jaskowski Property**, and near the Heron Lakes Maintenance This property adjoins a golden eagle protected area, property which Berthoud purchased in partnership with Loveland. Golden eagles on property for about 50 yrs. Trail connection/access desired. City of Loveland produced a management plan focusing on prairie dog habitat so eagles have a food source. Foothills Audubon Society seems to mostly support the plan. Recent studies indicate a 1mile buffer zone is needed for prairie dog colonies. Trail building in 2027 at the earliest, after land restoration. Eagle nest blew down recently and may be relocated, eliminating the option for a trail. Agreement on buffer zones requires collaboration with Audubon, F & W, Front Range Trail Connection and other entities. Crossing design also needs to be finalized.
- **Roberts Lake East.** Conceptual designs underway, possibilities include a passive recreational area with trails, a tree nursery and/or relocating trees (for neighbors with solar panels). Letters went out to neighbors requesting feedback. Lake is constantly filling and draining into a straight channel across the field; curves may be added to channel for aesthetic appeal. There are adequate gates providing access.
- **Richardson (Mountain Vista Park)** Estimated cost for Phase 1 current design is \$18M- north part of property including 4 ball fields which could be utilized as multi-purpose fields, picnic pavilion + restrooms/concession, and parking areas. Current phase 2 plan includes additional ball fields, destination playground and large parking lot. Current phase 3 plan includes water park.
Estimated total cost through completion of all phases is \$55M. Funding sources TBD.
- **Newell Farm Park.** The PORT committee will visit the property in June.
- **Kneival Park.** TBD. No estimated timeline. No knowledge of developer's plans.

b) Community Survey Discussion – Keith Knoll, PWOM

- At its February 6 meeting the PORT committee unanimously recommended that the Town consider modifying the Richardson 'aquatics' facility plans, changing from a water play park to a competition size pool serving a wider range of ages and needs. The committee also requested that the Town conduct a survey to understand the current community priorities and sentiment, specifically around a new pool to replace the Town Pool. The previous Town Pool was beloved by the community and already over capacity when it was removed.
- Mention of a few outdoor neighborhood pools being added since removal of the Town Pool. Some committee members noted that the size and capacity of these neighborhood pools are inadequate to meet community needs for lap swimming, swim lesson programs, swim team practices etc.
- Waggener pool history. Number of indoor lap lanes were reduced due to cost. The potential of an outdoor pool at Waggener (west side of Rec Center) has not been

pursued. As yet undetermined – what size pool/how many lap lanes could fit this outdoor space and at what cost. The committee acknowledged that sharing infrastructure with Rec Center would significantly reduce costs of construction and operation. It could be a seasonal pool with multiple activities but not necessarily a lot of amenities.

- Trustee Ayers noted that approx. 6 yrs ago there was a lot of community feedback regarding Richardson Phase 1, but at that time an ‘aquatics’ area was not part of Phase 1 plan. Now is a good time to re-survey the community with an emphasis placed on ball fields and an ‘aquatics’ facility and break down of specific features at Richardson. He also commented the Board is confused about terms used interchangeably by PORT committee in describing specific pool features. At its February meeting the committee projected the need for “competition size lap pool (meter-size pool, with minimum six lanes), possibly a diving board and children’s play area”. Terms for other features discussed: shallow wading or zero entry area for toddlers, lazy river, water slides, resort style pool etc. Committee members agreed that the term ‘aquatics’ is too general and language should clearly identify specific features so the community can rate the importance of those.
- General agreement that the survey should be short and concise, but also accomplish a few goals in addition to Richardson. It’s a good opportunity to update which PORT projects are most important to the community, and provide Town with guidance for decision making.
- Extensive discussion regarding flipping the locations of the two multi-purpose fields on north side of Richardson property (Phase 1) with a pool so it can happen sooner. The ‘aquatics’ area on current plan is Phase 3. which means a pool could be as much as 7-10 yrs away. There is speculation that the community expects a replacement for the Town Pool sooner.
- Trustee Ayers suggests including a survey question with preferred time frame for a pool i.e. 1-3 yrs? 6-9 yrs? 7-10 yrs?
- General agreement to repeat selected questions from 2016 & 2018 surveys regarding demographic data, current usage of facilities, adding ‘how often would you use’, importance of current facilities vs needs met (Importance-Performance Matrix), top areas of focus.
- TBD: include trails, pocket parks in addition to current projects? Name current projects and potential features? Include programs in survey?
- C Hobson provided a draft survey with questions focusing on Richardson and the community’s preferences for phasing of multi-purpose fields vs pool.
- Possibly present two different conceptual plans for Phase 1 (north area): one with multi-purpose fields and a second, alternative conceptual plan with a pool instead, along with suggestions for specific features.
- The committee unanimously recommends including a question regarding artificial turf due to recently established, nationwide concerns regarding human and environmental health.
- K. Knoll will create a first draft of survey for review at next PORT meeting. It will likely require a couple of PORT meetings for editing. Community Survey will be conducted by a contracted vendor.

- Trustee Ayers agrees to take these questions to the Board: is it possible to switch the two multi-purpose fields with a pool? If not why? What is estimated cost?

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

- K. Knoll advised that the trail closed signs at Heritage Ridge have been removed.

G. Committee updates

- C. Hodson asked why hockey nets were removed at Pioneer Park. Per K. Knoll new ones have been ordered.
- T. Grover offered positive comments regarding improvements to bridges and materials at Hillsdale Park.

H. Adjourn

- T. Grover motioned to adjourn meeting; C. West seconded, all in favor. The meeting adjourned at 8:15pm PM.

Next meeting: Wednesday April 3, 2024 6:00 pm . If you require a special accommodation, please contact the Town Clerk 24 hours in advance at (970) 532-2643.