



**Garden
Spot of
Colorado**

PORT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

**Town Board Room
807 Mountain Avenue
Town of Berthoud, Colorado
Wednesday, May 1, 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 6:02PM.

B. Roll Call

- Lauren Roth – Chair – Here – Here
- Carolyn Hobson – Vice Chair – Here
- Anna Murphy – Secretary – Here
- Tim Grover – Here
- Callie West – Not Here
- Vacancy – Not here
- Sean Henry – Here (virtual)
- Audrey Roth, BYAC Liaison – Here
- Karl Ayers, Trustee Liaison – Here
- Keith Knoll, Staff Representative – Here

Lauren Roth
7/1/24

C. Approval of Minutes – Wednesday, April 3, 2024

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

D. Public Comment – Non-Discussion Items

- Jeff Hindman – J. Hindman described his previous service to the town as a PORT committee member and as a trustee. He provided a history of the 2% sales tax dedicated toward parks and recreation in Berthoud, noting no other town has this much sales tax specifically designated for parks and recreation. He also described a history of the Berthoud Recreation Center and noted there is the ability to expand an

indoor pool at with current infrastructure at the Recreation Center. He expressed his position that PORT should follow through on the long-range planning, including prioritizing the development of Richardson Park and continued development and connection of regional trails. He cited the continued increase of costs and suggested the Town could take out a COP (Certificate of Participation) loan/financing option.

- Brian Laak – The Town and neighboring communities spent \$1.4M for open space out at Heron Lakes; B. Laak expressed concerns that Heron Lakes is slowly being closed off to the public with gates already installed at Heron Lakes. He said the regional trails will be connecting through Heron lakes, the roads are public, this is a hub with a lot of potential, and the water features and views should be able to be enjoyed by all community members. He also thanked PORT for showing up to these meetings and for their continued efforts and acknowledged PORT can only make recommendations.
- Rick – Has lived in Berthoud for 40+ years. He likes to bike and expressed the importance of trails and safety. He noted one safety concern at a roundabout North of Hwy 287 on Berthoud Pkwy (near Prairie Star). He would like to see more signage on trails in general and updating master maps. He is also starting a Berthoud riding group and asked for contact information for anyone on PORT who'd be willing to communicate with him.

E. Discussion Items

a) 2024 PORT Community Survey – Keith Knoll, Public Works Operations Manager

- K. Knoll sent a revised version of the survey. Ethan Adams from RRC Associates reviewed the survey with PORT. He showed the cover letter of the survey which has password-protected features. He also noted to ensure the survey is statistically valid, the survey is geographically dispersed so there's no response bias and password-protected.
- The survey will be mailed to a subset of the Berthoud population (~5,000 households), and the hope is to obtain a minimum of 380 responses. This will ensure a 95% confidence sample which means that if another survey was conducted the results would be the same 95% of the time. K. Knoll noted the map needs further editing, but results can be geo-coded based on responses to determine any geographical differences in responses among participants. K. Knoll to work with RRC to revise the map and survey questions.
- Suggestions were made to include the bike park in the surveys, as well as to emphasize (including underline and/or bold) whether the question refers to "current" or "future" amenities. Diving blocks were requested to be added as an option to one of the questions. Discussion included benefits/drawbacks of artificial turf.
- Sarah Lincoln – An audience member emphasized the importance of "current" vs. "future", asked that "Mountain View Park" be added to the list of park name options (noting Mountain Vista is often called Mountain View). She also had some suggestions on refining the amphitheater to include performing arts/music options. She also shared her contact information with PORT committee members with an invite to tour Newell Farm.
- The revised survey will be shared with the Trustees for review in May.

- BYAC survey – A. Roth said the BYAC came up with some questions for a youth survey. These included ranking features of a pool, the reason for wanting an outdoor pool, favorite amenities, food requests at a concession stand, design features, benches vs. lawn chairs, seasonal vs. year-round pool, importance of holding swim meets, etc.... The thought is to have this be a Google Survey or paper. Suggestion to ask what the youth see as the three most important amenities in the town. This survey will be conducted separately from the official Town survey.

b) Our Lands Our Future Survey Update – Keith Knoll, Public Works Operations Manager

- K. Knoll shared the full results online through Larimer County [here](#) and tagged on Facebook. The survey was mailed out to cities/towns (by population), with Berthoud representing 3% of the responses. Survey results showed that trails are rated as the highest importance. Most respondents visit open space in their area, and there are high levels of satisfaction with various activities. Trails, walking, running, hiking, and recreating with dogs are all top household activities. Areas for improvement include improving accessibility/inclusivity. Problems cited include crowding, dog waste, parking, and off-leash dogs. Long-term planning issues include wildfires, running out of land for additional open spaces and trails, and drought. Discussion regarding native species and concerns for wildfires; there may be opportunity for education on these topics. E-bikes were discussed briefly, and another opportunity for education on the types and features of each class of e-bikes. Reasons for not using open space include lack of time, crowding, and not enough parking.
- Respondents would like to see money going toward protecting lakes, rivers, and streams, outdoor rec opportunities, and protecting wildlife habitat and rare species. The balance between conserving land for open space and recreation was discussed. An example included a small trail near Horsetooth Reservoir that took a long time to implement by Larimer County, and there are already crowding issues.
- Berthoud had working farms and ranches, maintenance for existing lands w/ public access, and lands within our cities and towns as priorities, and it was clear in the survey that Berthoud is a growing town.

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

- K. Knoll – Pickleball courts are now finished and open. The developer is responsible for putting a trailhead at the gate of the Rookery Trail. Town is waiting on input from Colorado Parks and Wildlife. The hope is to start working on the Rookery Trail this year. It was noted Richardson Park has a couple of bird's nests, and a recent windstorm blew some owl fledglings out of a nest. Work by a raptor rescue program is in process to return the fledglings back to their nests.
- A. Gustafson – Summer hours at the Berthoud Rec Center begin on May 28 with extended pool hours. Hiring for the summer (e.g., lifeguards, swim instructors) is underway. Berthoud Rec Center offers certification classes upon application and employees will be reimbursed after 3m of service. Age requirements are generally 15 years and older. Staff are getting ready for June 8: the first day of Berthoud market, family campout, and Berthoud bike park opening.

G. Committee updates

- C. Hobson – She noted that B. Lack posted on Facebook about a trail connection on the NW side of a roundabout near Prairie Star and wanted to make sure the Town was aware. The developer is aware and will work on filling the section once the development has happened. It was noted that developers are required to install infrastructure (e.g., sidewalks, trails) upon approval of the plat. She also noted she's working with the school district on the new bond, noting security, roofs, infrastructure are prioritized over the school district's support in helping pay for a pool. She also raised the concern about the Berthoud H.S. parking situation. School representatives noted they are changing where the buses go for next year and the parking flow. Town staff are planning on painting the south curb and putting up "no parking" signs. The school district feels like there's plenty of parking at Berthoud H.S.
- L. Roth – Question about electrical issues related to the bike park gate. These were addressed; however, K. Knoll noted someone drove the truck through the gate last weekend. The gate is padlocked when the bike park is closed. The goal is for the gate to close automatically at night (it should).
- A new Town BYAC liaison will be assigned at the next Town board meeting.

H. Adjourn

- T. Grover motioned to adjourn meeting; C. Hobson seconded, all in favor. Meeting adjourned at 8:33PM.

PORT committee members will attend a tour at 4:30PM on June 5 prior to the meeting.

Next meeting: Wednesday, June 5, 2024 - 6:15 pm. If you require a special accommodation, please contact the Town Clerk 24 hours in advance at (970) 532-2643.