



**Garden
Spot of
Colorado**

PORT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

**Town Board Room
807 Mountain Avenue
Town of Berthoud, Colorado
Wednesday, September 4, 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
- Carolyn Hobson – Vice Chair – Not Here
- Anna Murphy – Secretary – Here
- Tim Grover – Here
- Callie West – Here
- Kari Weisen – Here
- Sean Henry – Here (*virtual*)
- Audrey Roth, BYAC Liaison – Here
- Karl Ayers, Trustee Liaison – Here
- Keith Knoll, Staff Representative – Here

*Lauren Roth
10/2/24*

C. Approval of Minutes – Tuesday, August 6, 2024

- Prior to approval of the minutes, L. Roth noted that under section “F”, the Committee Membership terms for “T. Roth” should be changed to “T. Grover”. With this proposed change, T. Grover motioned to approve the minutes from the previous PORT committee meeting. C. West seconded. All in favor. Minutes were approved.

D. Public Comment – Non-Discussion Items

- No public comment

E. Discussion Items

a. Berthoud Arboretum Expansion & Art – Keith Knoll, Public Works Operations Manager

- K. Knoll noted the construction documents (CDs) for the arboretum are in progress. They are looking at whether an irrigation pond is possible and how to best pull water from the ditch (trying to do non-potable for the whole site).
- K. Knoll showed the PORT committee a 7.5-acre field between the current proposed arboretum and Turner Middle School. The school said the Town can purchase it and is taking steps to finalize. They must sell this field at fair market price.
- A portion of this field still has a conservation easement on it. K. Knoll shared the deed associated with the 7.5 acres. The deed allows both passive and active public recreational uses. Active uses include turf grass, track and field areas, playgrounds, tennis and basketball courts, public pool, public golf course/putting green, picnic areas, community garden, water features, etc... Staff are looking into the possibility of adding shelters and restrooms. The arboretum currently focuses on passive uses, and staff still views the arboretum as a passive concept. They would like to keep this a low maintenance area.
- K. Knoll noted that prior to looking into the purchase of this field, staff had asked Wenk Associates, Inc. ("Wenk") in June/July to prepare some design options to include the additional 7.5 acres ("Extension"). K. Knoll shared three different conceptual designs from Wenk with PORT. "Plan 1 – Extension" includes an outdoor classroom, a pond dock, and a children's garden. "Plan 2 – Extension" includes a pond dock, picnic pavilion, an outdoor kitchen, and a different children's garden concept. "Plan 3 – Extension" includes a boardwalk, amphitheater, outdoor kitchen and a different children's garden concept. All three extension plans include an expanded event lawn, which could include a triangular pavilion with a sloped roof and could be used for concerts or plays. Staff have already provided feedback to Wenk that they are not interested in expanding the wetland area any further or closer to the school, nor are they interested in an outdoor kitchen. Staff also don't believe additional recreational fields are needed. They like the children's garden concept but prefer to have play features scattered throughout the arboretum, rather than a central play area. They like the outdoor classroom seating, possibly to share with the school. Staff are investigating whether a parking lot and restroom would be possible.
- Question about what a mounded picnic pavilion would look like? K. Knoll noted there would be a paver trail leading up to a pavilion, surrounded by gardens, with a flat/flagstone area with picnic tables.
- Question about the possibility of having shade structures. K. Knoll believes this is possible.
- Question about whether the arboretum trees will be mature or little? They will try and bring in a mix and consider growth rate. Sometimes, small trees "take" better than larger trees.
- Question on whether low points in the wetlands/riparian area are intentionally being created? Yes, these are man-made wetlands, and they are trying to create an opportunity for flooding to create vegetation.
- Question on whether there are plans to put a crosswalk on the west side of the arboretum at Berthoud Pkwy. and Lake Ave. Yes, engineers are looking into both stair and one non-stair trails (ADA compliant).
- L. Roth revisited previous PORT discussions about the desire to have site lines/views toward the west (mountains). She noted there is a three-story apartment development

proposal (over 200 units) just west of the arboretum. This area is currently zoned for commercial and may change to high-density residential. L. Roth expressed concerns about this potential development blocking site lines from the arboretum. She noted a meeting on this proposal is upcoming and will provide this information to K. Ayers. This development proposal has not come before the board yet.

- C. West commented that the conceptual design looks nice. She liked the arbor in the base design and the concept of a picnic pavilion. Suggestion to incorporate images of arbors into picnic areas (like Town Park).
- A. Murphy expressed preference for children-related features to be included throughout the arboretum and to include more natural features as shown in the base plan example. She also suggested adding boulders for kids to climb on. She also supported pursuing the additional 7.5 acres as part of the arboretum. A. Murphy also noted that the North side of Waggener Farm Park is very active, so it would be nice to keep the arboretum more passive, quiet, and relaxing.
- S. Henry echoed previous comments, noting support for additional acreage, natural play features and more rock (more aesthetically pleasing). He felt the arboretum should be an escape in contrast to the northern part of the park.
- Regarding the possible addition of a parking lot, suggestion to consider, instead of a flat, open parking lot, more of a dirt/natural parking lot with trees throughout. Question about where this additional parking lot would be located (e.g., Franklin or Lake Street)? Suggestion for staff to consider impact on neighborhood. Staff are exploring multiple options.
- Suggestion to have a nice amphitheater as part of the event center. This could be a place for plays (e.g., similar to “Shakespeare in the Park” in Fort Collins), a small outdoor concert could be held (e.g., a school concert), and other music/entertainment. This could be similar in size to the event space at Spring Creek in Fort Collins. With growth projected in the future, it makes sense
- **Art Examples** – K. Knoll noted that since the arboretum project started, local artists have been inquiring. K. Knoll showed a sculpture in Longmont that moves with the wind; this sculpture has since been removed in Longmont as kids were playing on it when the pond froze and has been offered to the Town of Berthoud. K. Knoll noted pond levels are expected to go down in the winter months. Some concerns were expressed about acquiring this sculpture. K. Knoll also showed a local Berthoud artist’s blacksmith fencing talents. This artist has created artwork for the Thompson Valley Pioneer Museum and tries to bring community members and parts of the community together when designing these fences. This could be possible in the arboretum. K. Knoll also showed artwork ideas of a wooden nature theme (e.g., wooden trolls) and a suggestion from staff to have “Garden Spot Gnomes” scattered throughout public properties (including the arboretum). He also noted the artist from Fickel Park that created the bronze sculptures (Berthoud Arts and Humanities Alliance), BAHA, manages these sculptures.
- C. West brought up public comments on keeping an agricultural theme. Sugar beet park in Fort Collins, wheat in the roundabout, etc...were mentioned as examples of the agricultural theme.
- Question on whether the Town could advertise to the public. This is possible. Preference would be to have local Berthoud artists, possibly also from Northern Colorado as well.
- Concern was raised that this discussion about incorporation art into the arboretum might be jumping ahead of things. C. West noted that architecture is art, and it will

be important to first make sure the arboretum design is aesthetically pleasing and to focus efforts on ensuring this be a peaceful retreat area. She felt it may take a few years to get a feel for what artwork would complement the arboretum.

b. Berthoud Recreation Trails – Keith Knoll, Public Works Operations Manager

- K. Knoll shared some PORT survey responses according to “Zone”. For example, Zone 4 uses the trails more (possibly due to proximity to trails). Trails are important but do not currently meet the needs of the community, and they ranked very high on the survey. K. Knoll noted that Zone 1 needs additional trail improvements/connections.
- K. Knoll noted the importance of trail and sidewalk connections to/from parks and trails. He shared a map of the progress on their sidewalk and road improvements (5-yr. plan). The Old Town area of Berthoud was identified as a priority for these improvements for ADA compliance. Sidewalks connecting to Town Park were recently added. Fourth street will be a focus for 2025.
- K. Knoll shared the current, top three PORT priorities and asked PORT to be thinking about other areas that could be improved from a trails perspective. The first priority is the North-South connection on Berthoud Pkwy from Hwy 56 to CR 10E. The Town has received a CDOT grant and is expecting the concrete work to start this fall. K. Knoll said there’s a potential to also connect this work to a temporary trail from Heron Point. The second priority is the HWY 287 crossing. This is a dangerous intersection. Staff has been working with CDOT on improvements. Work is ongoing to develop a partial continuous flow intersection (CFI), along with a tunnel underneath Hwy 287 in the future. In the meantime, CDOT can immediately work on light sequencing. This will cost over \$6M for the Town; they are currently working on a grant application to provide a lot of funding for this project.
- Question on when Berthoud Pkwy will connect from 10E to Hwy 287. The sidewalk currently stops at Hammond Farm. There is an area of that land that is slated for development; they are responsible for infrastructure updates. The power station is not part of that, but they’d at least connect to Hwy 287. The Town would be responsible for crossing the street and connection to the road that leads to Berthoud Reservoir.
- The third priority is the Rookery Trail. This is Heron Lakes property. They are working on a trail that leads up to a shared maintenance road with Handy ditch. People are currently parking on roads to go back there. There’s currently a gate. The developer is responsible for building a parking lot, but they aren’t moving as quickly toward the Rookery as the Town was hoping. The town may need to build a temporary parking lot (~\$150k), but this is still under review. Technically, this is Handy ditch’s maintenance road and how to share and access this road still needs to be worked out. Ideally, this is an open amenity with a restroom and parking lot.
- Question about regional trail connections to Loveland. K. Knoll noted there is currently a regional trail through Heron Lakes, with work on connections possibly starting in 2026. Regarding regional trails to the East, the trails along the Little Thompson corridor is a long-term project and is all pending whether the Town can secure the rights.
- Question regarding whether there would be an underpass trail connection for the railroad? There are long-term questions about whether CDOT is going to change the intersections there. If the first street corridor turns a bit more commercial, having

trucks be able to take Hwy 287 instead of going through town would be beneficial. It depends on what gets developed there.

- BNSF approved drawings for the Spartan Ave. crossing, and the public utilities commission approved.
- K. Knoll noted that signage across all trails in Berthoud is a point of focus for staff. They are going to work on ramps as well, and he asked PORT to be thinking about any additional long-term goals.

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

- K. Knoll
 - Staff are working to open Town Park next weekend. The West side of Town Park had turf applied a week ago, so people may need to stay off that. The Splash pad is running. The playground looks good, and when you climb the playground, you can see into the cottonwoods. The current plan is to host Octoberfest at Town Park. A concern was raised about foot traffic with Octoberfest and the new turf. K. Knoll believes staff will have time to get it ready. They are also going to open up the ball fields for the event.
 - The PORT survey has been posted to the Town website.
 - K. Knoll reminded L. Roth that the yearly PORT report to the Town Board will be coming soon (October or November).
 - K. Knoll noted that T. Grove, A. Murphy, and C. West all have PORT terms ending after this meeting. All must re-apply for consideration. Tentative interviews are scheduled for Monday, Sept. 23rd. T. Grover has served on PORT for five years and let the committee know this is he will not be re-applying. PORT committee members thanked T. Grover for his service to the committee. His efforts were greatly appreciated.

G. Committee updates

- A. Roth noted the BYAC is working on updating their bylaws and getting the proposed changes approved. In addition, she said the BYAC-organized activity at B-Rad's will be discontinued. She explained that every month, anyone going to school could get a free \$10 game card from 6-8pm between Thurs. – Sun. night at B-Rad's. Not a lot of kids showed up, and it was hard for someone from BYAC to show up every time. BYAC is currently looking for new opportunities.
- L. Roth again thanked T. Grover for his five years of service to PORT. K. Knoll noted the Town Board is having a private work session to discuss the PORT survey (October 15 or 29), and it would be great to have direct PORT feedback at this work session.
- C. West thanked those who arranged parking and freed up bike lanes and prohibited student parking near the high school, as it is safer for bikers.

H. Adjourn

- T. Grover motioned to adjourn the meeting, and A. Murphy seconded, all in favor. Meeting adjourned at 7:43pm.

Next meeting: Wednesday, October 2, 2024 - 6:00 pm. If you require a special accommodation, please contact the Town Clerk 24 hours in advance at (970) 532-2643.