



**Garden
Spot of
Colorado**

PORT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

**Town Board Room
807 Mountain Avenue
Town of Berthoud, Colorado
Wednesday, November 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
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 – The PORT Committee meeting was called to order by C. West (substituting for L. Roth) at 6:03pm.

B. Roll Call

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

C. Approval of Minutes – Wednesday, October 2, 2024

- C. West requested one change prior to the approval of the Wednesday, October 2, 2024 minutes. She asked this sentence be changed from, “PVHRC reps noted that dogs are well-behaved and can stay out of the open water if needed.” to, “PVHRC reps noted that dogs are well-behaved and can stay out of the vegetation and wetlands if needed.” K. Weisen motioned to approve Wednesday, October 2, 2024 PORT Committee meeting minutes with the proposed verbiage change. A. Roth seconded. All in favor. Minutes were approved.

D. Public Comment – Non-Discussion Items

Lauren Roth
12/4/24

- Sarah Lincoln, virtual meeting attendee, said this meeting was listed under “Oct. 30” on the website. K. Knoll noted this error. S. Lincoln had no further comments.

E. Discussion Items

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

- K. Knoll said recreation trails were discussed in December 2023. K. Knoll noted the Northern Front Range Metropolitan Planning Organization (NFRMPO) creates regional maps and creates main routes for communities, with associated action items. Berthoud Town Staff met with NFRMPO because they are working to update their 2021 plan. Berthoud also has the Northern Front Range Trail, BNSF Regional Trail and the Little Thompson Corridor in its community.
- K. Knoll noted there hasn’t been much communication regarding the BNSF trail but noted that Fort Collins has a bit of trail that’s part of BNSF, and it appears Loveland is starting work on their BNSF portion of trail, which wraps around the city.
- The Little Thompson Corridor follows the Little Thompson River and conceptually goes to Hwy 56. K. Knoll said the goal is to have the trail following the Little Thompson corridor as much as possible, rather than following Hwy 56 to the west. Pieces of the trail are starting to shape up along the Little Thompson River, and K. Knoll gave an update on some of the properties located along the Little Thompson Corridor. He noted some property owners are open to selling their property, while others are not. K. Knoll said the Town recently purchased a property off 1st Street. The Town will maintain the Southern portion of the property. Question about a conservation easement on that Southern portion. The plan is to have open space, preserve farmland, or create some sort of natural park and to urge a conservation easement on it. Also, the Louis Heritage Farm (just to the east of that property) has a conservation easement (with possibility of trails) and a good wetland buffer. That area can’t be developed because it’s in a floodplain. Further east is a wastewater treatment plant, and the Town owns that field. Another property even further east is under contract (~100 acres) with the Town. That contract doesn’t end until April 2025 because the Town’s trying to secure additional funds through Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO). Ultimately, the Town Board gets to decide what to do w/ the property.
- PORT Committee members were excited to hear about the progress on the Little Thompson connections. There was a brief discussion about open space requirements in new developments. There are certain requirements, and trails have to go in with the rest of the infrastructure improvements.
- Northern Front Range Trail – K. Knoll asked NFRMPO why they aren’t moving a section of trail that comes down through Heron Lakes and heads west through Berthoud. It would be better to bring the trail into the town and then out West, but this is what has been agreed upon. A lot of these trails follow ditches and ditch maintenance roads, and sections may be dangerous to open up to the public, so this is still under discussion.
- Some of the connections are already taking place. Town staff would like to have a sidewalk along CR 14. The connection between North Berthoud Pkwy and CR 10E should be starting soon, with hope to complete before Spring 2025. Staff are looking into a connection from North Berthoud Pkwy (South of CR 10E) to the bike park.

There may be stoplights in the future. At Berthoud Pkwy, just south of Hwy 287, the Town has approval from the county to build a sidewalk (there are some drainages to cross). There is a desire to connect to this intersection just to have something here. Staff are also looking into a crossing at North Berthoud Pkwy and the road to the Berthoud Reservoir. The PORT Committee mentioned concerns at a previous meeting that residents on the West side couldn't safely get to the Reservoir to enjoy the space. Staff are hoping this will be ready for a contract to go out in Feb./Mar. 2025.

- K. Knoll noted additional work by staff will include additional signage on trails. Also, the Town has RFPs out for flashing beacons on 5th and 10th street, from Bunyan toward the Berthoud Rec Center, and a few on Mountain Ave. Additional trail improvement suggestions included having painted stripes down the middle (to designate bike vs. foot walkways); blind curve signs, hidden driveway signs, and/or mirrors; and markers with a logo indicating which trail system to serve as a wayfinding and potentially increase usage.
- There doesn't appear to be issues with e-bikes on trails, and it was noted Steamboat put a speed limit on their trails.
- It was noted that the Heron Lakes/Hwy 287 intersection seems to be used more often.

b. Pioneer Park Amenities – Keith Knoll, Public Works Operations Manager

- K. Knoll said there is currently a bocce ball and a horseshoe pit at Pioneer Park. The poles (some even as deep as 4 ft. down) were getting ripped out. People are now responsible for bringing their own setup if they want to use the horseshoe pits. PORT committee members that live nearby noted minimal to no use of either amenity. Sarah Lincoln (virtual) said she has seen people use horseshoe pits but not much. Staff are planning to put out signage to get additional feedback on usage. Additionally, patrons are asking that there be a different use of this space.
- K. Knoll discussed potential alternative yard games that could be placed in this space, including Gaga ball and a permanent concrete cornhole structure. A. Roth was very supportive of creating a Gaga ball space, gave a brief description of the objective of the game and said this will get used by kids and is a very fun game to play. Grace Place and Turner Middle School have Gaga ball structures, and they don't move easily. Suggestion for it to be a permanent structure such as a wood pit.
- Other suggestions for the space included offering mobile kits for one of several games (e.g., Petanque, croquet, etc...), turning the space into an ice skating rink in the winter, or a climbing/boulder feature.
- Question about whether the pavilions can be rented. Yes, they can, and the usage is typically for kid's birthday parties. Having use of this space for multiple age groups would be preferred, and something kid-oriented would make sense based on the current use of the pavilion space.
- Question about whether people wade or fish. There is some fishing activity.
- Question about whether the roller rink get used? Yes, some kids play hockey.

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

- K. Knoll met with members of the dog club that were interested in the Jaskowski property. He mentioned staff was looking into putting crusher fines trails through the ponds. There was discussion about why CO Parks and Wildlife (CPW) shut

down dog Training at Lon Hagler. These areas are supposed to be for hunting and fishing, and they do allow kayaking, but dog training doesn't always mix with these activities (e.g., hunting). One area in Wellington and another out east were left for the purposes of dog training.

G. Committee updates

- A. Roth – BYAC met this morning and went over slides for Town board meeting next week and how they are shifting perspective. They are still looking into a D.C. trip to learn more about government and are trying to contact the Loveland Youth Advisory committee to learn more about a D.C. trip they organized.
- C. West – She shared an observation that when school lets out at Ivy Stockwell, approximately between 3:00-4:00pm, the newly designed Town Park parking lots are filled with cars. Likewise, parents are parking across from the high school (at the red curb, the area with the “No Parking” signage). This is causing bikers to be forced into traffic.
- K. Ayers – Asked if anyone from PORT had anything to bring up. Town water portfolio is healthy, especially with the transition to non-potable water and development. Staff continue to find new water (especially compared to other, similar size towns).

H. Adjourn

- K. Weissen motioned to adjourn the meeting, and S. Henry seconded, all in favor. Meeting adjourned at 7:11pm.

Next meeting: Wednesday, December 4, 2024 - 6:00 pm. If you require a special accommodation, please contact the Town Clerk 24 hours in advance at (970) 532-2643.