



DATE: April 5, 2019
TO: Mayor and Council
FROM: Ryan Mahoney, Town Manager
RE: Weekly Update
CC: Department Heads

Staff has been busy this week getting prepared for our Council meeting on April 9th. There has been a great deal of time and effort put into the financial analysis for the River Park and associated development application. I am confident that the time was well spent and we have better clarity on the developer's pro forma and park project costs.

Boyd, Christy and I attended a planning meeting with our engineers yesterday to discuss the upcoming flood mitigation projects. We determined next steps and prioritized a few projects that we can get started due to their location on public land. We will be reaching out to property owners in Basalt next week to explain the improvements and get their approval for moving forward. Given that we have three public agencies doing improvements as well as two outside public agencies providing grant money and oversight, we are keeping the forward momentum.

Next Tuesday we will begin a wildfire mitigation project on the hillside above Town Hall down to RMI. We have the State Wildland Inmate Fire Team (SWIFT) from Rifle Correctional Facility coming as well as assistance from Eagle County and Roaring Fork Fire and Rescue. This project will be funded by the Roaring Fork Fire and Rescue and a grant from First Bank. The intent of the project is to be a visible example of wildfire mitigation that demonstrates the ability to maintain the aesthetic quality of the landscape while protecting against wildfire danger.

Planning

- Willits – The building permit was issued for the gym and restaurant on Block 3 this week. The P&Z held a site visit and initial public hearing on the Aspen Skiing Company Application. The P&Z and residents shared questions and some concerns with the proposal which will again be reviewed by the P&Z on April 16th.
- Basalt Master Plan – The CTA team has been working on finalizing dates for the Community Meetings and the neighborhood meetings. Work is also progressing on the “Bang the Table” survey for the citizen input. The 1st Community Meeting has been moved to Thursday, April 25th due to some scheduling issues at The Temporary.
- RMI/HCE Energy Resilience Workshop. On Thursday Sara Nadolny attended a workshop at RMI that focused on energy resilience from El Jebel to Aspen. It was well attended by staff from a variety of government agencies, services and industries, including but not limited to Aspen Valley Hospital, Pitkin County Airport, RFTA, City of Aspen, Eagle County, the Aspen Skiing Company, and Holy Cross Energy.

The workshop focused on understanding the essential buildings and services that would be greatly impacted during a power failure lasting more than 72 hours. Discussions took place

around electricity, communication, and fuel needs. Participants mapped their critical facilities, which for the Town of Basalt included the water treatment facility, three well houses, Town Hall, and the Basalt High School. Additionally, Basalt indicated a cell tower in the Basalt Design Center area that was missing from the map.

Sara attended a breakout session focused on understanding the benefits and barriers to implementing renewable energies and storage potential throughout the Valley. In the afternoon participants brainstormed ideas for projects and policy changes that would enhance energy resiliency of the Valley region, communities, and identified sub-areas. Participants then broke up into groups of interest for each idea. Sara attended a session with two members of Holy Cross Energy with the focus on mobile energy options, including mobile generators, batteries, photo voltaic, cell on wheels, etc. The intent is to gain an inventory of these items, as well as a list of agencies in need, and then to marry the list and designate resources based on loads and capacity. The group went through a series of exercises aimed at uncovering the need, the barriers, finances, project sponsor, etc. All groups then reconvened to discuss their findings and how to proceed. Some groups were focused on very high-level ideas, such as creating microgrids throughout the Valley that could be isolated as needed during an emergency. RMI plans to continue with a series of follow up and project meetings throughout the summer.

- Building Department Interim Plan – Planning Staff spent quite a bit of additional time addressing items in the Building Department during the week. Ryan met with Administration and Planning Staff to refine roles and responsibilities.
- Basalt Public Arts Commission (BPAC) – Watkins attended the BPAC meeting on Thursday. A draft of the policies and application form for the granting program was presented and members provided feedback. Due to the library not approving Motio 3.0 on their property, all agreed that Linear Park is the next best option. BPAC is currently scheduled to present the grant program on April 23.

Public Works

- Public Works had a pre-bid meeting this week with interested asphalt contractors to present our 2019 annual street maintenance projects. We are structuring the bid like we did last year in that the contractor will be responsible for the whole process and all of the sub-contractors. Public Works feels this gives the Town better results.
- Sara from the Planning Department and Boyd from Public Works participated in a community meeting at RMI this week. The focus of the meeting is to try to identify weak spots in our ability to supply power in case of an emergency. Holy Cross electric has asked RMI to host and guide local entities to help get feedback and ideas of how we could be better pre paired for disasters going forward and what redundancy we could put in place to help in certain situations. The ideas range from diesel generators to solar and wind micro-grids.
- Public Works continues the spring clean-up. We have been out with the street sweeper most of the week. We have also been cleaning the sidewalks off with water hoses and brooms. The Rifle Correctional Facility crew was in town this week to help clean up deadfall and brush in Old Pond Park.

Police Department

- School Resource Officer, Thomas Wright and the Police Department are hosting a student Traffic Safety Day on April 16th. This is our second year hosting this program. All 9-12th grade students will participate in stations that discuss impaired and distracted driving. The Roaring Fork Club is donating golf carts for use during the day. Colorado State Patrol, Pitkin County Sheriff's Office and Classic Air Life will be on site and have their own educational stations.
- Officers volunteered last weekend at the 2019 Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinic. Officers volunteered a total of 16 hours assisting Veterans from airplanes at the Aspen Airport.
- Chris Manisalchi, former 10 year employee and Sergeant for the police department, passed away on January 2, 2019. This Sunday, April 7th, the family is hosting memorial in Carbondale. The memorial will take place at the River Valley Ranch Barn starting at 2:00 p.m. All are invited to attend.