



DATE: January 17, 2020
TO: Mayor and Council
FROM: Ryan Mahoney, Town Manager
RE: Weekly Update
CC: Department Heads

Staff is underway with a number of projects identified in the 2020 Work Plan. We have been meeting internally to discuss timing and approach to tackling each task. The work that we are actively discussing spans all Focus Areas and department heads are following up with their respective staffs to begin working on individual tasks.

Staff has followed up with Eagle County regarding our discussion on recycling. We are now moving forward on a number of tasks to get more information on the programs we intend to create. We will come back together next week to further discuss our ideas. I suspect that we will be ready with information for Council in the coming weeks.

I met with staff from the Fire Protection District and Eagle and Pitkin Counties to discuss a plan for wildfire protection. While much of this plan would be for utilization by first responders, it will also help guide priorities for additional wildfire mitigation. We have had great success in the last few years working with the District and Counties to do mitigation projects in town. We hope to continue these efforts in the spring and fall this year.

Police

Roaring Fork Fire Rescue and Basalt Police Department Officers have begun "Stop the Bleed" program at Basalt High School. Stop the Bleed is a nationwide effort to provide students and school staff lifesaving skills to assist during traumatic injuries. Traumatic injury kits have been placed throughout the school. This week, 250 freshman and sophomore students received the training and practiced practical skills with instructors. All other students and school staff will receive this life saving training by the end of January. Our plan is to bring this training into the community after we finish at the high school.

Congratulations to Officer Bo Biggs for receiving the police department's Standing 6 award for the second half of 2019. Standing 6 award winners are nominated by police department staff members. The award recognizes continued outstanding contributions to the police department and Town. A plaque with the names of all award winners is posted in the police department lobby.

The police department, planning department, Roaring Fork Fire Rescue and Basalt Chamber of Commerce had our first meeting to create pre-plans for special events that occur in Town. Collaborative pre-planning of special events will give all agencies and event sponsors clear directives of what is needed to host a successful event while improving public safety.

Public Works

Public Works has spent a significant amount of time breaking ice and clearing drains this week. In downtown Basalt, Midland Avenue is the main drainage for downtown. It can be a challenge to keep the

drainage on Midland open with the freeze and thaw cycles and people disposing of their sidewalk snow in the gutter. We typically will try to keep the drainage open with hand tools but occasionally we have to bring in the backhoe and skid steer. The ice is broken up and hauled to a temporary storage area.

The Christmas tree collection at Arboney Park has again been a success. The number of trees looks to be as much as any time in the past. This is a great service the town offers. If we did not have this dedicated drop off area Public Works would be collecting the tree from random spots all over Town.

Public Works is busy getting bids on street maintenance, mowing, gardens, tree removal and park improvements. We try to get a jump on the bidding process because all indicators say it will be another busy season and contractors are already committing to summer work.

Planning

Basalt Master Plan – Staff has been working with the Consultants on providing information on the dwelling unit and population numbers included in the P&Z's current draft and other materials to help in the Council's review.

Basalt River Park and Basalt River Park Development – The P&Z is scheduled to make its recommendation at the January 21 P&Z meeting. The Council would begin its review on February 11.

Basalt Public Arts Commission (BPAC) – BPAC met on January 9th and discussed the Arts Master Plan and their 2020 work plan and have been in contact with a consultant who can help BPAC complete the Arts Master Plan. Two citizens interested in joining BPAC attended the meeting.

Aspen to Parachute Complete Count Committee – Two meetings took place this week, one between the steering committee and a DOLA representative, and the other meeting of the full body. The full meeting was a training event for the community groups who were represented to learn how to educate their groups and communities about the Census.

Willits Town Center – Staff worked on several items associated with Willits Town Center. The building permit set for Block 11 North came in this week for review. Additionally, Staff is working on the review of the Aspen Skiing Company Building permit on Block 9.

Basalt Green Team – January's meeting was held on Monday, January 13th. The Green Team provided feedback on the "green" sections of the draft Master Plan and made recommendations to the Council on a project that they felt should be removed from the top projects and the Sustainable and Resiliency Project table. The Team also discussed plans to move forward with yard waste pick up in the spring and summer months and hosting an e-waste event.

Basalt Early Childhood Coalition – The Coalition discussed the possibility of a 2020 Eagle County ballot initiative related to supporting the workforce, which would include affordable housing and childcare in Eagle County. The County is consulting with Bill Ray to explore the likelihood of citizens supporting a small sales tax to finance these measures. The current focus is on building support within the business community on both sides of Eagle County. The Coalition also discussed plans to move forward with an area Needs Assessment and outlined first steps towards this endeavor which include obtaining information from providers (where do families live and where do they work). The Coalition is also setting up a meeting with Karen Harrington of the City of Aspen to flush out specific goals for the Assessment.

POST – The POST Committee met on Wednesday to discuss the River Park development and the draft Mid-Valley Trails Plan. POST members gave the River Park developers feedback on several aspects of the project. POST also provided feedback to Staff to pass on to the consultant working on the Mid-Valley Trails Plan.