



**DATE:** March 1, 2019  
**TO:** Mayor and Council  
**FROM:** Ryan Mahoney, Town Manager  
**RE:** Weekly Update  
**CC:** Department Heads

It looks like it's going to be another snowy weekend in Basalt but on the heels of a few beautiful warm days. I noticed some of the bulbs in the park are trying to push up through the cold ground so it appears that we may be in for a change to more spring like conditions in the near future.

Speaking of change, Jim Wilson, the Town's long time building official worked his final day for the Town this week. He finished a 40 year career in building safety, having worked in Aspen, Snowmass and Basalt. His final 15 years had been with the Town. True to his nature, he did not want any fanfare or added attention so we sent him off with a small staff gathering. Thanks, Jim, for your amazing years of service to Basalt!

Staff has continued to work on the community information and survey document related to the TABOR issue. It is our intent to begin distributing that information in the next week and expect to receive feedback from the community during the month of March.

## **Planning**

- Willits – A temporary Certificate of Occupancy (CO) was issued for the 49 apartments on Block 3. The Aspen Skiing Company application was deemed complete and sent out for referral. Initially we are scheduling a P&Z site visit for the beginning of April, after the Technical Review Committee (TRC) has made recommendations.
- Basalt Master Plan – On Tuesday the Council selected the CTA Team as the Master Plan consultant. Staff is working on the contract to include on the Council's March 12th Consent Agenda for approval.
- Parks, Open Space and Trails (POST) – The Basalt Public Arts Commission (BPAC) met with POST at the regular meeting. Most of the discussion concentrated on the coordination desired between the two groups on BPAC's efforts to adopt a master plan for public art. The two Committees also reviewed other BPAC projects such as the Motio 3.0 Project and the temporary art installation project. Members also shared ideas about the donation policy being developed for approval by the Town Council. POST asked to meet with the Green Team to talk about Arboney Pool.
- Building Department Interim Plan – Considerable time was spent in learning key items in the Building Permit process and establishing some procedures for addressing building permit items before a new Building Official can be hired and is on board. Watkins Fulk-Gray will be the immediate contact for contractors and coordinating necessary reviews.

- TACAW – Attached is the report from TACAW for the Council’s review. Staff has been fielding questions regarding the next steps in the land use approvals for the performing arts center.

### **Public Works**

- Public Works removed the 2 minute idling sign from the West entrance of Two Rivers Road as had been requested by Council. The sign from the East entrance had already removed. The signs will be re-used in Town but in locations that lend better context to the no-idling rule.
- Public Works is almost finished getting the annual 2019 streets maintenance bid package ready. We have been busy identifying where our greatest maintenance needs are and balancing that with how far we believe our budget will stretch.
- Public Works is still working on upgrades to the controls in the Willits street lighting which allows us to remotely dim the lighting. In addition, we are looking at ways to cut back on the brightness of the street lights the the Roaring Fork Conservancy.
- Staff came in last Saturday to plow snow. We were able to do a thorough cleanup and removed ice build-up out of the gutters in downtown Basalt.

### **Police Department**

- Officer Thomas Wright and Sergeant Aaron Munch got their heads shaved during the Basalt Bold and Beautiful event. Between the two of them they raised \$1928 for the St. Baldrick's Foundation. We have posted a video of the event and their head shavings on our Facebook page. Great Job Gentlemen!
- Our Corporal promotional process is completed and Officers Jason Hegberg and Nino Santiago have been offered Corporal positions. Sergeant Aaron Munch will be promoted to Lieutenant as part of our restructuring. We will have a promotional pinning ceremony on March 15th, 5pm, at Town Hall. Town Council members and Town staff are welcome to attend. Congratulations to Jason, Nino and Aaron.
- Police Department Officers will be volunteering on March 15th, 9am - 3pm, at the Basalt Vista Housing Project. We have room on our team for three Town Council Members if any of you would like to volunteer and work with us. If you would like to volunteer with the Police Department team please contacted Chief Knott.
- On Wednesday afternoon we received a call from the High School about a possible firearm possession on school property. A student posted a SnapChat picture of him holding a handgun while seated in vehicle. We responded and placed the school on lockout. During our investigation at the school we learned the handgun was a BB gun and the picture was taken off campus during lunch break. There were no threats made to staff or students at the school.

## The ARTS CAMPUS at WILLITS

### MEMORANDUM

To: Basalt Town Council  
From: Ryan Honey, Executive Director  
Date: March 1, 2019  
Re: The Arts Campus at Willits Report

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The purpose of this memorandum is to provide the Town Council with a status report on the Arts Campus at Willits.

#### Programming Update

As you know, our landlord at the Temporary has activated a 90-day vacate clause in our lease agreement for the space. As such, we anticipate closing the Temporary at the end of April. We have enjoyed an incredible run at the Temporary since opening the performance space in August 2017. We programmed more than 225 diverse cultural acts including music, independent cinema, comedy, theater, lectures, kids performing arts, poetry and more. We partnered with 37 nonprofits, hosted hundreds of educational workshops, and enjoyed the patronage of nearly 25,000 individuals. We will continue to add to these totals as we finish our run at the Temporary.

The Board, staff, and I are incredibly proud of all of the programming that we present at the Temporary. But, I would like to highlight three recent programs that are notable. The first was the Basalt Choir Coffeehouse performance on December 9, 2018. This event featured select performances from Basalt high school choir members, and it was a remarkable display of the talent that abounds in our community. The concert also served as a fundraiser for the Basalt Choir, and the group far exceeded their goal for the event. We were so pleased to use our expertise and resources to support the great work that happens in our local schools every day.

The second notable event was the Colorado Shakespeare Festival's performance of Macbeth on February 18, 2019. This abridged performance was part of the festival's Shakespeare in Violence Prevention Program which uses live performance and the latest school violence research from CU Boulder to teach students intervention strategies they can use to prevent violence when they see it. It is the second time we've hosted this program and brought the expertise and talent of the festival to our valley. This production was an incredible example of how art can be a force for positive change in our community.

Finally, I would like to highlight an ongoing program that continues to grow in popularity, our Salsa Dance Nights. We present these dance nights about every 6 weeks. Working with Latino promoters, entertainers, and dance instructors, we offer a dance lesson early in the night followed by open Salsa dancing. These events have become a melting pot for our community as we

consistently draw a crowd that represents everyone that lives in the area. I've attached a recent Aspen Daily News article that sums up these events and our efforts to engage the local Latino population.

### Organizational Update

In 18 months at the Temporary, we built a committed audience, expanded our donor base, nurtured relationships with national and regional artists, assembled a team of technical, marketing, front-of-house, and administrative staff, and built a reputation as the number one destination for arts and culture in the Midvalley. Most importantly, we proved a need for our services and demonstrated our capacity to meet that need. It is clear that the Midvalley is ready, willing, and able to support robust performing arts programming. With our lease coming to an end, the time has come for TACAW to move on from the Temporary and concentrate all resources on realizing the long-term vision for a permanent home on the Arts Parcel.

To transition to our permanent home as quickly as possible, TACAW is pursuing a strategy of phasing construction that will allow for an expedited timeline. To finance the phased construction, TACAW is transitioning all available resources toward our ongoing fundraising effort. As detailed in our 99-year lease with the Town of Basalt, we anticipate coming before council this summer to update you on our timeline and request final approval for the project. We look forward to working with the town throughout our build to ensure that we can continue to provide arts and culture to the community while simultaneously constructing phase one.

The Arts Campus voted Cindy Shirk and Cheryl Niro onto the Board at recent meetings adding new nonprofit governance and marketing expertise to our dedicated team. In addition, Kelly Boggs and Jody Edwards were unanimously voted on as officers with Mr. Boggs becoming Treasurer and Mr. Edwards becoming Secretary. Board President, Julia Marshall, and Board Vice President, Michael Lipkin, were unanimously approved for an additional one-year term in their respective roles.

Our 2017 annual audit is nearly complete. Our audit firm, Taylor, Roth, & Company have delivered a draft audit, and we expect the final audit to be delivered any day now. The auditors found that our financial reporting is accurate, and the entire process helped us to further improve our internal controls to ensure that we continue to adhere to nonprofit best practices. I am happy to review the audit with any members of the council or staff in person as requested. The firm will begin work on our 2018 audit right away.

Lastly, we have been working with Ryan Mahoney and Christy Hamrick to get an up to date accounting of the Willits Arts RETA. The Board and I are extremely grateful for their ongoing efforts to reconcile the RETA. Both are attending our next Board meeting on March 11 to provide the current balance and review relevant documentation.

## Fundraising Update

In 2018, TACAW had expenses totaling more than \$600,000, and the organization carries no debt. The majority of our revenue came from donations and grant support. It is worth noting that, in 2018, we received no funds from the RETA. Our 2017 lease with the town was set up in a way that required TACAW to 'stand on its own' without support from the RETA. We have demonstrated our ability to do so successfully. With the now expedited timeline for our permanent home, we have a great deal of fundraising to do. However, we are more confident than ever that we can build on our fundraising success and continue to galvanize our community to support us.

Please let me know if you have any questions or need additional information. As always, thank you for your support. I hope to see all of you at The Temporary soon.

Sincerely,

Ryan Honey  
Executive Director