



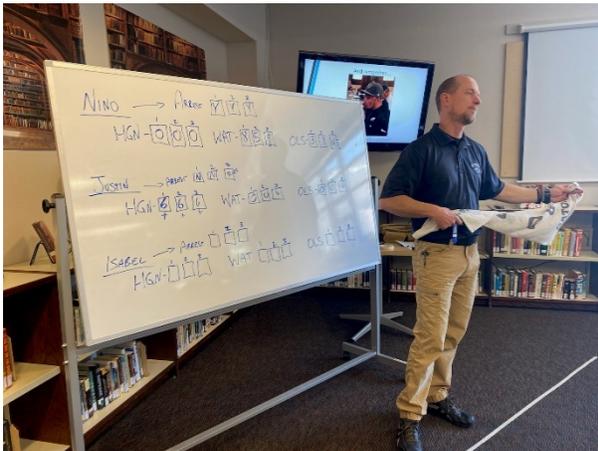
**DATE:** April 1, 2022  
**TO:** Mayor and Council  
**FROM:** Ryan Mahoney, Town Manager  
**RE:** Weekly Update  
**CC:** Department Heads

Recruitment for the new Planning Director concluded this week. A public open house was held on Tuesday evening at the library where we were introduced to the three finalists. Each presented on a planning issue that Staff had given them in advance. This gave the attendees an opportunity to see them present on a technical topic and get a feel for their presentation skill and ability to dissect a challenging planning exercise.

The finalists each participated in interviews on Wednesday morning. There were two interview panels, one made up of Town department heads and planning staff and another made up of representatives from our citizen committees and one member from the development community.

### Police

Our third Community Police Academy class was held last Saturday. Students learned about driving under the influence of alcohol and drug detection along with practical field sobriety testing. Students practiced their newly learned skills during the class. Intoxication goggles were worn so students could experience varying levels of impairment.





We completed the upgrades to the Police Department's safety and security systems. The alarm and camera systems are now fully operational.

Lieutenant Aaron Munch and Sergeant Nino Santiago attended a recruiting event in the Denver area. They made contact with potential applicants. Two have scheduled future ride-along dates with our officers.

All officers are attending first quarter Roaring Fork Regional Range training. Officers are being instructed in decisional shooting, arrest control and defensive tactics.

### **Public Works**

Public Works has been trimming street trees to get the limbs high enough for commercial vehicular traffic for the summer. The delivery truck and dump truck volume really increase in the summer. Cutting the limbs instead of them being broken and ripped off avoids permanent damage to the trees.

Public Works had a large Cottonwood tree removed from Meadow Lane in Willits this week. The tree was in Town right of way and was causing the curb and street to buckle and its root system was causing backups in the sewer service.

Our turf and garden contractor has been installing mulch circles around town trees. The mulch circles prevent lawn mowers and string trimmers damaging the trees. The tree trimming that Public Works produces is hauled to the landfill and made into mulch for resale.

More upgrades were made to one of the Town's water wells. The upgrade involved installing a flow valve to reduce the amount of water that is needed to sample chlorine levels.

The Water Department is in the process of reading meters for the quarter this week.

Parks, Gardens and Forestry are negotiating the maintenance contract of the Town for the year. We will be using Good Earth which has done a good job over the last two years.

Public Works is doing some equipment repair this week. The street sweeper is having a hydraulic line repaired and the Ventrac, that is used to clear snow off the sidewalk, had a belt replaced. We had an EV charger in Willits making a noise which has been temporarily turned off pending repair.

## Planning

**Basalt Center Circle Application** – The Applicant is working on the Final Plan application.

**Basalt River Park Improvements** – Walters Inc. has continued work on Phase I of Basalt River Park. They have completed final grading, constructed the wall elements, and finalized the winterization of the site. The architects on the bandshell, misting feature, and bus station/restroom continue to work on the designs for those elements of the park. POST reviewed the draft designs for the bandshell, misting feature, and bus shelter/restroom and provided feedback at their meeting on March 23<sup>rd</sup>. Staff also put out an RFP for the Phase II installation and bids were due on March 30<sup>st</sup>. Four (4) bids were received. Town Staff will be reviewing the bids early next week with the intent to bring a contract to Council for consideration on April 12<sup>th</sup>.

**Midland Avenue Streetscape Project** – Staff is meeting weekly with ConnectOne Design and Stutsman-Gerbaz to prepare for a design charrette between Town Staff and the design team that is to occur in April.

**Town of Basalt Photovoltaic and Energy Storage Project** – McKinstry conducted site visits of the potential sites on March 16th. Staff and McKinstry continue to work with Holy Cross Energy, the school district, CORE and members of the Green Team on the project.

**Other Basalt Forward 2030 Support** – Town Planning Staff also provided support to the Manager for the Basalt Forward 2030 projects.

**Mid-Valley Center Lot 4** – Phase 1A of the Project has been completed except for the landscaping. Town Staff and Gould are moving forward with final design of the foundation and building.

**Basalt River Park Development LLC** – A full building permit was issued on the Gallery Building which includes commercial, apartments, and the affordable housing units.

**Development Review/Applications** – Staff also spent time on responding to administrative reviews, complaints and working on land use applications and building permits.

**Green Team** – Staff has met with CORE to discuss combining marketing efforts for the Basalt Retrofit Incentives Program. CORE will be administering the program for a 10% fee. The Town will be leveraging resources with CORE and Holy Cross Energy to incentivize retrofits related to air sealing and insulation, electrification, fuel switching, battery storage, and some smaller energy saving items. Staff and CORE have been invited by the Basalt Regional Library to participate in a Town Hall Speaker Series through the Hurst Community Initiative/Aspen Institute on April 13<sup>th</sup>. The topic is Environmental Sustainability in Basalt. More information can be found at <https://www.aspen2parachute.org/events>. This is the first in an eight-part series that will include different topics in each town, from Aspen to Parachute.

Staff has begun discussions with Eagle County to plan this year's community recycling event. It is anticipated that the event will occur again at the high school in late spring or early summer, at the conclusion of the school year.

**Basalt Early Childhood Coalition** – Michelle Oger, the Design Team and Staff met virtually on Tuesday to continue advances toward an early childhood education center at Sopris Meadows Parcel 2E. The Design Team presented three design options for consideration and discussion, and feedback was provided for refinement of the options prior to the next meeting.

**POST** - POST reviewed the draft designs for the bandshell, misting feature, and bus shelter/restroom and provided feedback at their meeting on March 23rd. POST members were supportive of the draft designs and gave staff and the design consultants direction to proceed. Roaring Fork Outdoor Volunteers presented their 2022 work plan to POST during the meeting on March 23<sup>rd</sup>.