



DATE: January 13, 2023
TO: Mayor and Council
FROM: Ryan Mahoney, Town Manager
RE: Weekly Update
CC: Department Heads

Police

The Hope Center, our co-response and crisis response partner, hosted a training titled “In the Trenches: A Training in Mental Health Mobile Crisis Work”. Five staff from our department along with staff from Roaring Fork Fire Rescue and Roaring Fork School District attended this training. We will have all Police Department staff members attend this training in the next two months.

The Police Department, Public Works and Town Manager met with representatives of the Basalt Vista Homeowners Association to discuss parking and snow removal on Gardner Way. Resident on-street parking has created a safety hazard where snow removal is being hampered. The HOA and staff identified solutions and will work together to maintain snow removal and emergency access throughout the neighborhood.

Chief Greg Knott and Lieutenant Aaron Munch met with our Planning Department and Town Manager to receive an update on the Midland Avenue Streetscape Project and to provide comments on the current design.

The Basalt Emergency Management Committee (BEMC) held their quarterly meeting. Town Councilor Glenn Drummond provided an overview of the upcoming Midland Avenue project. All BEMC members will work together, throughout the project, to address impacts as they arise.

Planning

Midland Avenue Streetscape Project – The Design Team and Town Staff have been working diligently to get the Midland Avenue Streetscape Project design to a 90% design level. Staff presented the preliminary construction schedule to Council January 10th. Construction will start on Midland Spur on approximately March 1, 2023 and work east through the end of the year. One lane of traffic along Midland Avenue will remain open during the entirety of the project with flaggers controlling traffic during the day and temporary traffic lights functioning during the night. Public relations consultant, Mitzi Rapkin, continues to promote public outreach for the Project.

Mid-Valley Center Lot 4/Public Works Facility –The building received a certificate of occupancy and is in use by our public works department, allowing machinery and vehicles to be secured inside during the winter weather.

Whitewater Park Construction - Pitkin County started construction on improvements to Fisherman’s Park and the area around the Whitewater Park. The improvements being made include improving the condition of the Fisherman’s Park Boat Ramp, constructing a boardwalk between the Whitewater Park and the boat ramp, and improving the shoulder of Two Rivers Road by the boat ramp for better access to the boat ramp. Additionally, Pitkin County will be clearing sediment from the Whitewater Park

structures and making slight adjustment to the in-river wave structures. A video of the new boardwalk between the Whitewater Park and the boat ramp can be found at the following link:

[https://www.facebook.com/pitkincountyrivers/videos/what-a-difference-a-week-makes-here-is-another-sneak-peek-of-the-new-healthy-riv/504409401702012/.](https://www.facebook.com/pitkincountyrivers/videos/what-a-difference-a-week-makes-here-is-another-sneak-peek-of-the-new-healthy-riv/504409401702012/)

BPAC – Staff is working on drafting the agreement between Gail Folwell and the Town for her submission for a sculpture at the Basalt River Park. A resolution approving the contract will be presented to Council for review at the next Town Council meeting.

BPAC is also engaging with local artist Thomas Barlow on three ice sculptures that will be found in and around Basalt over the next two weeks. The theme for this year's ice sculptures is Mythical Creatures. BPAC hopes this will add some whimsy and fun to Basalt this winter. Locations will be at Alpine Bank and in Lions Park for west Basalt, and on the TACAW adjacent to Market Street in East Basalt.

Green Team – Members of the Basalt High School Environmental Club attended the Green Team meeting and shared their current focus items and initiatives. The Green Team invited two individuals to apply for membership to the Town's Green Team, in an effort to have a wider range of ideas and perspectives, to actively engage Basalt's youth, and to form a stronger relationship with the work being done in other areas of the Basalt community. Council will have the opportunity to meet with the two prospective members at the January 24th Council meeting. Green Team members also discussed EV infrastructure and potential areas for future chargers around Basalt. Lastly, the Green Team voted to elect Charlie Eckart as Chair and Mike Steiner as Vice Chair.

Public Works

Public Works got a break in the snowplowing this week. We were able to do some tasks that were not snow related. The Forestry Department was able to take care of some tree pruning needs in the Willits area. Staff provided a tour for our contractor, 110% Consulting, that is helping with a study for our future operational and capital needs for our parks, open space and trails. The streets crew came in early to remove snow from parking areas in preparation of forecasted storms.

The Water and Distribution Departments have been working on replacing a motor on the Basalt Hydro Plant. The motor was starting to go out and a replacement had to be ordered. In the interim, staff made adjustments to the valving at the hydro plant to eliminate an entrapped air problem.

Public Works, Planning and Sopris Engineering worked together this week on a plan to reroute the sewer service on Two Rivers Road and Midland Avenue to increase the carrying capacity. The Sanitation District improvements would put the sewer service in our streets and near some of the town's utilities. We were able to work a solution out with all parties involved.