

Berthoud PORT Facility Subcommittee
August 24, 2016

Present: Maureen Dower, Bruce Fickel, Len Guldenpfennig, Wesley Joy, Kelsey Roberts, Laura Schultz, Sunny Tartaglia, Barbara Ver Steeg, Jane Vielehr

Guest Presenters: Susan Krcmarik (Director of Programs, La Familia Family Center), Kathi Wright (Executive Director, Boys & Girls Clubs of Larimer County),

Presentations

- Boys and Girls Clubs of Larimer County (BGCLC)
 - BGCLC information is at: <http://www.begreatlarimer.org/>
 - Kathi Wright provided an overview of BGCLC and answered questions, especially pertaining to the possibility of BGCLC building a facility in Berthoud
 - The purpose of Boys and Girls Clubs (BGC) is to help all children reach their full potential
 - BGCLC serves children ages 6-18; 65% of those served are on free and reduced lunch, but the programs are available to all families/children
 - BGC Facilities in Fort Collins, Loveland, Wellington, and Denver were discussed; a myriad of arrangements exists, including partnering with local school districts and towns for facility sharing. In some cases, BGC owns facilities that are shared/rented to other entities, and in other instances they also share/rent facilities and/or land from schools and towns.
 - BGCLC has run successful capital campaigns to build their facilities in Fort Collins and Loveland.
 - The facility proposed for Berthoud would be 15,000-20,000 sq ft and could serve 150 kids/day.
 - BGCLC is interested in Waggener Farm Park (WFP) as a potential site for their club.
 - This proposal does not include a gym facility; BGCLC would be interested in sharing a gym if Berthoud builds one as part of a recreation center.
 - Arrangements would have to be made to transport kids from Berthoud schools to the facility after school.
 - Facilities are open all days that working parents/families need a safe and healthy environment for their children; e.g., during winter break, facilities close only on Christmas day. Kathi estimated that of the children the Loveland BGC serves, 50% are elementary school age, 35% middle school age, and 15% high school age.
 - BGCLC uses census data to assess the population close to their potential facilities. For WFP:
 - 1-mile radius, households earning less than \$35,000 = 407, Children ages 6-18 = 801
 - 3-mile radius, households earning less than \$35,000 = 678, Children ages 6-18 = 1,889
 - Operating funds for BGCLC facilities include private and governmental grants, fundraisers, business sponsorships, and funds received from charitable giving tax credits.

- La Familia
 - Family Center information is available at: <http://thefamilycenterfc.org/>; the affiliated Berthoud Parents as Teachers program information is at: <http://berthoudpat.weebly.com/>
 - Susan Krcmarik provided an overview of La Familia, including the Ft Collins Family Center and the Berthoud Parents as Teachers (PAT) program, and answered questions, especially pertaining to PAT needs in Berthoud
 - La Familia is community driven, directed, and supported; its goal is to strengthen and stabilize families with children, with a focus on those underserved and represented.
 - The Berthoud PAT program is available to all families; it focuses on assisting parents with nurturing their children in early childhood and includes personal/home visits, parent group meetings, development and physical screenings
 - Current Berthoud PAT needs include storage space for supplies, potentially some office space, and meeting space for family visits and parent group meetings
 - Berthoud PAT is currently funded by the Doyle and Luvesta Jones Fund

Committee Discussion

- Thompson School District (TSD) has included a pool at Berthoud High School (BHS) in their proposed funding initiative, Thompson Reinvented (<http://thompson.k12.co.us/page/12886>). TSD plans to have citizen oversight committees in the development of new facilities if Thompson Reinvented is successful. The new BHS facility would include some additional space and the school district is interested in working with the Berthoud community in some of the design of this facility.
 - No town facility can be built at Bein Park, adjacent to where the pool is proposed at BHS
 - The 8 acres of land north of BHS is an area where TSD may be open to discussion with the town as to future use
- The committee discussed multiple aspects and questions regarding the guidance and recommendations the committee is to provide to the Town Board; this helped focus the committee's work for future meetings:
 - Should the town move quickly to use the Jones donation (\$500,000) that is available for some sort of recreation facility, or should that be allowed to expire rather than rush a facility?
 - Bruce Fickel confirmed that the \$500,000 will become unavailable to the town if a contract for facility construction is not signed by December 2017
 - Should the town use the additional town funds available to the Jones donation to build a facility?
 - Should a facility be a recreation center, a community center, or both?
 - A recreation center is loosely defined as one where physical exercise is undertaken
 - Community center might include a kitchen, meeting space with screens and projectors, tables, chairs, etc.
 - If the committee recommends moving forward with a facility, should the aim be a large, relatively complete facility, or should we start small with the intention of adding new modules/buildings as funding becomes available?

- If a facility is recommended, where should it be located? Potential sites discussed included:
 - Waggener Farm Park
 - Richardson Property site north of Loveland Lake (identified as a potential site in the PORT Draft Master Plan Report produced by GreenPlay)
 - Property (not currently owned by the town) located east of the car wash on CR 17
 - Provide Town Board with multiple possible locations, prioritized
- Will the committee make recommendations regarding funding of any proposed facility – e.g., would a Recreation District be proposed?
 - Developers for upcoming communities may be willing to provide additional funds for future facilities, enhancing the community in a way that is attractive to their clients/buyers
- Potential negative impact of any future facilities on current recreation businesses should be considered, as well potential positive impact for other local businesses
- Regarding the BGCLC and La Familia presentations
 - There was broad support for these two groups and their missions; dialogue should remain open and possible consideration for existing commercial spaces for the organizations to occupy should be explored
 - To be considered regarding building a gym and sharing it with BGCLC:
 - Would the limited availability to town residents discourage the community regarding the town's recreation needs/wants?
 - Any site for a BGCLC facility should be one that is deemed appropriate for a community center type facility (which is what BGCLC building is), even if it is paired with a town recreation facility
 - La Familia/Berthoud PAT needs could possibly be met even without a decision regarding a recreation facility: current Town Hall might be a space that could be used for Berthoud PAT needs
- WFP – there is committee interest in having a specific cohesive plan and vision for this property that in turn guides any future recommendations of this subcommittee and others, for facilities, trails, etc.
- The committee needs a chairperson and an agenda for future meetings; agenda items will be solicited before the next meeting and discussion/choice of a chairperson should occur at the meeting.
- Next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 7, 6:30 pm at Bruce Fickel's office, 343 Mountain.

Respectfully submitted by Barbara Ver Steeg