

AVON BUSINESS NEWSLETTER

September 2016

BUSINESS OUTREACH MEETINGS **AUGUST 30 & 31, 2016**

Avon Mayor Jennie Fancher and Councilwoman Sarah Smith Hymes hosted two Business Outreach meetings in August geared towards Avon business owners. More than 30 attendees represented Avon businesses at each meeting, and the conversation ranged from creating a managed parking plan to making Avon a center for art tourism. The purpose of these meetings was to update local businesses on town investments and to hear from business owners about town matters such as festivals, special events, parking, and infrastructure investments. The meetings were held in conjunction with the Vail Valley Partnership and took place at the new Town Hall. The next Business Outreach Meetings will be held in May 2017.

2017 – 2018 STRATEGIC PLAN

The Avon Town Council adopts its *Strategic Plan* generally in July of each year. The two-year vision and action plan is prioritized by strategy. The *Strategic Plan* directs the work of the staff and is integral to developing the spending of the Town. It meets the objectives of adopted plans, including the *Comprehensive Plan*, and the initiatives of the Town Council. Work is monitored on a quarterly basis.
(www.avon.org/strategicplan)

PARKING/WALKING/BIKING SYSTEM BEING TESTED ON BEAVER CREEK BOULEVARD

The Town has taken its next significant action in bringing walkability, bike safety, and parking and streetscape improvements to the Town core as it has implemented a new test traffic pattern on East and West Beaver Creek Boulevard. Monitoring the use of the street will give valuable information to Town officials as they determine the future of the corridor. The changes are aimed at testing the Council's vision to create a more complete transportation system, demonstrating bicycle treatments that have the potential to increase safety and usability for all travelers.

This test case is part of a larger project for the Boulevard, which will see widened sidewalks, modifications of roundabouts, additional on-street parking, improved storm-water treatment, consistent lighting, narrowed travel lanes, wayfinding signs, and landscaping improvements. The transformation of Beaver Creek Boulevard was initiated through a Walkability Audit, completed by world-leading walkability expert Dan Burden, of Bluezones.

Walking tours will be conducted by Town staff and are planned for September 9th, 12th & 15th at 1:00 pm. A public work session will be held on September 15th at 5:30 pm, at Town Hall.

Information gathered during the test period, tours and public work session will be instrumental when formulating a final design for the streetscape improvements. Final design of the project is scheduled for approval on October 11th, with construction planned for 2017.

For more info about the planned streetscape improvement project, please email Justin Hildreth jhildreth@avon.org or call 970-748-4045.



2016 RECREATIONAL TRAILS MASTER PLAN

The *Town of Avon's Recreational Trails Master Plan* has been updated for public comment, and is available for review at www.avon.org/trails. On August 16th, the Plan was recommended for Council approval by the Avon Planning and Zoning Commission, with the removal of P1, P2, P3, P4 and P6 trails, also known as the Metcalf Drainage Trails. A trail paralleling Nottingham Road (P7) was also recommended for removal. The Plan will be before Town Council on September 13th, for 1st Reading, with October 11th set for 2nd Reading. Comments will be taken during the meeting. All comments received, since the plan was announced, and through the September 13th meeting date will be provided to the Council. Comments may be sent to Debbie Hoppe, at dhoppe@avon.org.



AVON WEBSITE BEST PLACE FOR TOWN INFORMATION

www.avon.org
Sign up for e-blasts at www.avon.org/notifyme
Watch for the new app in 2017.

WINTER PARKING PLAN & PRIVATE PARKING ENFORCEMENT

With the decision of Beaver Creek Resort to begin charging for winter skier parking in November, the Town will be reviewing a change to the unlimited parking times now allowed throughout the Town. Some 2-hour parking is being considered as well as permit parking for employees on town-owned land in Chapel Place. Coupled with the parking changes, Council is evaluating how to best address private parking lot enforcement. Council directed staff to present final alternatives at Council's September 27th meeting.

REVIEW OF FESTIVALS & SPECIAL EVENTS

In 2014, the Town Council launched a focused effort to bring more vibrancy and cultural offerings to Avon. The number of programmed events since then has grown from seven days to 30 event days this year. The events have been varied, including paid ticket and free music festivals and concerts, dance, symphony, yoga and nonprofit fundraisers. Next year, in the prestigious inaugural year of the Haute Route Rockies bicycle race, Avon will be a host venue for two nights. The Town continues to receive and vet new event proposals. The Town will take a critical look at the festival and special event program over the last three years, on September 21st, at 6:30 pm.

In the meantime, join us at these upcoming events:

- Lakeside Sundays | September 11, 5:30 – 8:00 p.m.
- Lake Street Union Festival (Yoga) | September 17
- Man of the Cliff | October 15 & 16
(www.avon.org/specialevents)

NEW TOWN HALL – INPUT REQUESTED

The Town of Avon is in the process of programming and designing the new Town Hall building located on the Main Street Mall. Consideration is being given to expanding the building to accommodate worker housing or other community needs. The first floor (5,000 sf), is expected to promote vitality onto the mall land and allow for an array of community uses.



Feel welcome to share your thoughts in an email and send it to pneill@avon.org. Press releases letting the community know the progress in the programming will be forthcoming. The Town Council will decide the final design. Moving into the new space is planned for late summer 2017.

PUBLIC LAND & FACILITIES IN WEST AVON WHAT'S THE DEVELOPMENT PLAN?

Beginning this fall, the Town will initiate a community planning process to fully explore the development possibilities from Mikaela Way to the park, including the old fire station and current Town Hall, a site totaling 4.5 acres. Expansion of the Recreation Center, larger park green space, new public facilities and parking will all be evaluated with Town residents and business owners.

In addition to the specific site study, a comprehensive multi-modal parking and transportation plan will be completed for the commercial core – both east and west centers. Development direction is also expected for Swift Gulch and Lot 5, where capacity exists for worker housing, in addition to the facility needs of public works.

Signing up for eblasts and checking Council agendas remain the best way to follow work sessions and civic engagement opportunities.

2016 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

- Metcalf Road Bike Climbing Lane: Includes widening the uphill shoulder along Metcalf Road. The shoulder will be increased from 4' to 6', depending on terrain. Metcalf Road also will be repaved along this segment. The total cost of the project is \$1.5 million; and has been priority for more than five years.
- The last Avon segment of the Eagle Valley Trail is under construction at \$2.7M. It is an 8' to 9' wide paved trail that runs from the new bridge across Beaver Creek to Stonebridge Drive. Grants of \$1.8 million support the project.
- Repair of sections of Wildwood Road and Post Blvd., which have settled over the years.
- Nottingham Park restroom remodel, with a picnic area expansion, is planned for this fall.
- Design work is underway for a new playground in the Harry A. Nottingham Park. A grant will be applied for, with construction planned in 2017.
- The Public Safety Facility, including then new Avon Police Station, broke ground August 15th. Completion is planned for August 2017. The Town's share of the project is \$6.5 million.

Avon Town Council Meetings

Interested in town government, but can't attend a Town Council meeting? No need to worry! You can watch meetings online. Meetings stream live on Public Access Television Channel 5's website and are archived by date. Go to www.publicaccess5.org and click on Video Library. Call 970-748-4404 for assistance.