



To: Mayor and Town Council
From: Clint Kinney, Town Manager
Date: September 17, 2021
Re: Info Update

TOWN PARK DESIGN

The POSTR Board and Southwest Heritage Association (SWHA) Board met on Wednesday night to discuss the Town Park design and understand the goals of the Rodeo Board. SWHA made a thorough presentation detailing a set of ideas they developed 10 years ago showing what an enhanced rodeo facility could look like at the entry way (those images are in the Council packet). After about an hour discussion there was consensus amongst the board to continue to work on details of the plan. During that conversation we learned that no SWHA Board members were planning to attend the Council meet on Monday. Although there were e-mails exchanged regarding the Council meeting date, there was apparently some confusion the SWHA side. We have asked if anyone from the SWHA Board could attend, but we have not received any confirmation yet. Members of the POSTR Board and design team will be present at the Council meeting to review the 30% design with the Council. In addition to this discussion, the POSTR Board also received a presentation from Pitkin County Open Space regarding the proposed updated Sky Mountain Park Masterplan. While there are a lot of details to consider, I think it is fair to say that the proposal was well received. Pitkin County plans to publish the draft plan in the next week. We have a presentation for Council schedule in November.

THAT SMELL

We continue to investigate the odor emanating from Brush Creek. Our third-party environmental consultant is working with Pitkin County Health to track down potential causes. While we continue to investigate the source, we remain confident that it is not sewage.

SPEAKING OF THINGS THAT STINK

After decades of service to the community, Rhonda Coxon has announced her retirement as of the end of the year. In addition to Rhonda, decades long Transit Supervisor Dave Harris will be retiring in October. Details of good-bye parties will be developed. In the meantime, a great big thank you and congratulations to both of these public servants.

MOUNTAIN MASTER PLAN

Aspen Ski Company is required to update their mountain master plan with the Forest Service about every 10 ish years. As SkiCo goes through the federal process, they also choose to update their PUD with the Town. As SkiCo starts the Federal process, they have begun to identify their mountain priorities and want to work with the Town to see how best they can align their priorities with TOSV priorities. While they are heavily focused on improving the on-mountain experience, especially finding ways to get skiers out of the base area more efficiently and effectively (quick fact, 70% of their skiers start their day at the Mall or above the mall), they are also thinking about

other community related issues. Off the cuff, we know we want to discuss better connectivity between the Base Village and the Mall by improving the Skittles. We also want to continue to discuss workforce housing opportunities, stormwater improvements, parking needs, Transit improvements and our summer tourism strategy. This conversation is just beginning, but we greatly appreciate being brought into their process earlier than later. Let me know if you have any thoughts that need to be included.

TID BITS

- When possible, the cranes working on Electric Pass Lodge will (now) be retracted when not in operation.
- County sales tax reports generally lag our own TOSV reports. While our reports come in first, their reports still bring in more money; and they won again in July. County sales tax revenue was up 47% in July and is up 23% year to date (compared to our 8% increase year to date).
- Paint is finally available! As such, cross walks and parking lots will start getting painted this week and street striping should occur in October.
- The Recreation Center pool resurfacing is underway.
- Today is the first paycheck with 2021 merit increases for Town Staff. The Town Council gets huge props and should take a nice deep bow for their decision to approve this pay increase this year. THANK YOU.
- I understand Joan Wingate's condo began foreclosure proceeding recently; once the HOA put a lien on the property to collect HOA dues.
- Last week's balloon festival went off well. Please feel free to insert your own hot air joke here.....
- We are working with RFTA and others to study/develop a plan the have direct BRT service originating and terminating in Snowmass Village. This could be another huge improvement for our Transit level of service.
- It must be Fall. The Town will begin running the RFTA service to the Brush Creek Park and Ride starting on Monday.
- The Town's fiber installation project should start next week. 21st Century, here we come.
- The annual Police Department lost and found auction is at noon on 9/21. All the cool kids will be there.

THEY WERE HERE AND THEY ARE COMING

The occupancy report for **August 2021** showed the combined occupancy (TOSV and Aspen) for August was 69.8%, 33.1% more than last year and 1.75% more than 2019. Aspen achieved an occupancy of 75.8%, setting a new record by eclipsing the next highest year (75.5% in 2019). Snowmass had its 3rd highest summer occupancy month, reaching 60.6%.

In addition, we are seeing very strong demand across the board for September, including mid-week days. Aspen is currently pacing at 61.9% and Snowmass is pacing at 44.6%, each poised to break records if the weather holds. Winter occupancy is pacing roughly double last winter and on par to 2019. January, as expected with limited international travel rebounding, will trail historic January performances.

ASE, AUGUST BY THE NUMBERS

- Scheduled Flights: More than twice as many as finally scheduled last August
- August Completion %: 96.5%.
- Total Actual Flown Seats in & out: Up +122% over last August; up +8.2% over August 2019.
- Total passengers flown: 59,855 arriving and departing pax, up +125% over last August, almost perfectly even with August 2019
- Overall August Load Factor: 69.7% this year versus 68.9% last year and 75.5% in August 2019.
- As a point of comparison, overall TSA throughput in the U.S. during the month of August was down -22.8% from 2019.

We have more seat capacity than ever before for the rest of September through October 4, but we are light on seat capacity from December 1-15. This situation is due in large part to a number of United CRJ700's being out-of-service for heavy maintenance this fall. But starting December 16, ASE is now looking at overall capacity that is either equal to or slightly above originally planned winter '19/20 levels through Apr 3, 2022.

CC: Department Directors