

## Clear Creek Public Meeting Notes – October 1, 2013

*How do we know if the visitor's are spending money in Golden?*

The Visit Golden does intercept surveys of visitors to Golden. We can compare creek data to other data we have received from other surveys

People are coming in with coolers and bringing their food and drink with them. They are likely not spending the money in town

*The survey only shows 278 respondents with 4,000 cars a day coming through. This survey shouldn't be used to create a plan; it touches a small group of people.*

We made an effort to get feedback from users on the creek the day of the survey.

*What will the survey data be used for?*

Rod Tarullo said it is for the purpose and discussion of a meeting like tonight. It could be a snapshot to compare seasons.

*Was there a baseline prior to making changes to the creek?*

Rod Tarullo said yes, traffic counts but a survey of users no.

*Is there a graph on quality of life? Most that have moved to this area of Golden have seen our quality of life go down.*

No way to measure at this time.

*Parking data in this packet makes it appear there is not a parking issue. If you take the average over an entire day there is a problem. When you walk out your door and see people drinking beer in your lawn because you can't along the creek, there is an issue. It appears the residents are secondary to the city. They are thankful for the data. We don't care about parking spaces on 9<sup>th</sup> we want to know how many cars are coming down 9<sup>th</sup> Street. We asked for this data and did not receive it.*

Steve Glueck said he didn't ask for traffic counts on 9<sup>th</sup> though we could definitely do so in the future.

*9<sup>th</sup> Street residents did an informal traffic count a couple years ago. At the time 98% of traffic was going to the Golden Community Center. How many of the 4,000 cars per day are going to the Recreation Center? We need to separate this traffic from creek user traffic.*

Staff agreed

Steve Glueck said car count data just shows weekday traffic and weekends are similar. If we are going to be transparent the data may have helped us recognize more problems rather than solutions.

*Was there a decrease in violations with the Park Rangers?*

Rod Tarullo said we looked at it very closely. The actual number of violations didn't go down but the number of people greatly increased as summer went on. In addition more people from out of Golden were visiting later in the season.

Steve Glueck said the relationships between alcohol and dogs off leash switched later in the summer. More dogs off leash were greater violations early on with alcohol the most violations later in the summer.

*The residents of Golden can be trained and started moving to places the Rangers were not. Year-round enforcement of dogs off leash is now in effect. This blanket of rules because of abuse during the busy time and busy areas seems unfair.*

Rod Tarullo said there are dog parks at Ulysses Park and Tony Grampsas. We have heard requests for dog parks and haven't made any decisions at this point. If you are a dog owner dog parks are wonderful. Steve said this is a good topic to put to City Council.

*Is there any discussion on bike dismount areas?*

Rod Tarullo said we have had several discussions regarding use of the trail. We have chosen at this point not to implement any rules of trail use. We could consider restricting uses by certain user groups. Steve Glueck said two ideas that were not popular are dismount areas and one side of Clear Creek for bikes and one side for pedestrians. Perhaps we should start with signage rather than adding any rules. Bike lanes were also suggested.

*How many Park Rangers are on staff?*

Rod Tarullo said we had 6 this year. The recommendation from staff is to keep two people on board through the end of this year and potentially fund it year round with more staff in the summer months. They have suggested patrolling other parks and trails as well.

*Is it allowed to bring grills into the creek?*

Rod Tarullo said no, we don't want that!

There were a large number of people on the weekend that came to use Lions Park only. If we do another study we need to be aware of the users of Lions Park. We would love to see a Ranger Station there. Rod said we can also look at the number of pavilion rentals we had. They wanted to thank that we no longer have live bands in the pavilions. Rod said we had a change of staff and discovered that we might want to rent the pavilions differently based on interpretation.

*What is the current usage of the ball fields? It seems to be used less than they used to.*

Rod Tarullo said we have a handful of groups that love Lions ball fields. We have not encouraged more use on those fields. We have guided new requests to other facilities. Your observation is likely accurate.

*Perhaps something regarding parking downtown could be put into place for the field groups. That is a huge impact on the neighborhood.*

Rod Tarullo said we took the fencing down on the south side of the ball fields to encourage people to use that grassy area. It was not very successful. It just wasn't used, people like trees and shade.

*The caliber of people that came this year were better than 2012, we don't know if that was due to the Park Rangers. It was mostly families and children. The improvements are enjoyable now that everything has died down.*

*Do you have numbers for use of other parks in town? Tony Grampsas for example?*

Rod said as he mentioned we are pushing athletic programs to other parks such as Tony Grampsas. We could tell you rental numbers at Grampsas.

*There is parking counts for the Coors Tek parking lot. Is that the lot referred to in the data?*

Steve said yes, we wanted people to use that area to park, though we failed to adequately get the word out. The Mountaineering Center also will allow public to park in their lot on the weekends. We hope to get the word out better next season. Steve said the parking data just counts the number of cars it doesn't say which cars whether visitors or residents.

*The people who use Lions Park have their coolers and bbq so they want to park close.*

Steve said he saw several families exit the creek at Parfet Park this year which would put them closer to their cars if we could encourage them to park downtown.

*There was a suggestion of a drop off area.*

Rod Tarullo said we did add a drop off area this past season.

*Maybe we provide the tubers air supply in a certain area so that they park there?*

Steve Glueck agreed it's a great idea that we will try next summer.

*How you design facilities should determine who you want to attract. We built the kayak park for kayakers; it is so full of tubers it can't be used for its purpose. Same goes for fishing.*

Pinkham's the owners of Golden River Sports said there is a festival in Salida every year. Salida is going through a similar transition as Golden. All over town are signs where you can't park, camp, etc. It was a very volatile environment. The kayakers left in droves because of it and went to Buena Vista. What we are dealing with in Golden is balancing the needs and wants of users. Golden is getting a reputation of not being a welcoming town to whitewater users. The word is out not to go to Golden for recreation.

The biggest grip is not with kayakers. The tubers are the problem. There are several businesses renting tubes and Golden River Sports has decided not to.

*The ultimate question is how we address the quality of life for residents in Golden. The businesses are doing well; can we also consider the needs of the residents?*

*The problem in the neighborhoods we need to address is the cost to the residents' quality of life to do business. This should be discussed with the businesses and Chamber.*

*Trash was well handled this season. There were a large number of bins and dumpsters which also helped the problem.*

*Golden really cleans up well after events. We appreciate that.*

*Can we spread the usage of the creek? There is the dirt parking lot on the south side along 6<sup>th</sup> which could provide access to the western most edge of the creek and could help alleviate some of the congestion. Jeffco is making headway developing trails west of Hwy 6<sup>th</sup>. If we can encourage usage of the creek we can redistribute congestion. Observation is tubing is affecting kayaking. Tubing is driving other users off the creek. The Colorado School of Mines lots could also be an option.*

Steve Glueck said that is one of those area where Mines are not allowing parking at this time. They want to control the lot.

*Have we directed people where to park when they visit Golden? That came up last fall and we need to make sure we have covered all our basis. Website, social media, two hour vacation, etc. Telling people where to park is part of visiting a town.*

*Calendar of events should be consolidated city wide between the Chamber, recreation, etc. We don't ever consider the impact of events and overlap.*

Steve Glueck said it isn't so much a matter of having events; it's not being willing to say no to people. There needs to be a calendar that includes all events.

*It would be interesting year over year are sales tax revenue increasing in the downtown area? Let's start tracking the benefit of increased traffic.*

*The quality of the experience on the creek improved from the previous summer. Who is left attending these meetings, 90% are residents from the surrounding neighborhoods. The quality of life is seemingly still an issue.*

*Golden River Sports suggested if you enact a life jacket requirement the number of tubers will decrease. The survey showed they would wear a life jacket*

*The corridor has always been an activity corridor. Even though we have worked on managing the use of the area, this is always how the corridor was used.*

*Spreading some of the amenities from Lions Park to other areas of the corridor such as Vanover Park would help.*

Rod Tarullo said Parfet and Vanover have both been busier this summer.

*There was a suggestion of signage designated use areas.*

Rod Tarullo said we are working with Jeffco on a regional signage program which would include way finding and directional signage all along Clear Creek.