PRESENT: Torsten Lyon  
Laura Weinberg  
Emmy Dimitroff  
Jerry Hodgden  
Pete Gotseff  
Jerry Harcek  

ABSENT: Stephanie Sung  
Craig Middleton  

STAFF: Amber Thill, Parks and Recreation Analyst  
Rod Tarullo, Director of Parks, Recreation and Golf  
Paul Burkholder, Parks, Forestry, Cemetery Manager

PUBLIC: None

ROLL CALL:  
Jerry Hodgden, Chair of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:  
The Agenda was approved on a motion by Emmy Dimitroff, seconded by Torsten Lyon, and carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:  
The Minutes of September 17, 2013 were approved on a motion by Laura Weinberg, seconded by Jerry Harcek, and carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT:  
None

2014 PLAYGROUND IMPROVEMENT FUNDS DISCUSSION  
Rod Tarullo said we will have some funding in 2014 for playground improvements. Tonight we have provided you a list of all the playgrounds and their installation dates. The oldest on the list is the Lions Fitness Course. The Lions Club is still considering the fitness course as one of their projects.
Rod added he was in Houston last week at a large trade show. He was able to review several equipment options. Tonight he has brought an example from GameTime that he felt was the best of what he saw. Rod passed around a copy. Rod said he will pass this on to the Lions to see what they think.

The next oldest is Norman D. Park which we are working on this year. Next up is Golden Heights and then Ulysses Skate Park. Beverly Heights, Cressman, Lions, and New Loveland Mine Park are all mid-90s playgrounds.

Rod said Lions Park is four years newer than Golden Heights. One might argue that it get more attention due to the high use of Lion’s Park. Our intent tonight is to have a discussion on our priorities.

Jerry Hodgden said we also need to consider the condition and utilization of the parks not just the age.

Paul Burkholder said we don’t have any playgrounds that are broken; they are all meeting best management practices for playgrounds. Lions Park has the greatest usage hands down. The older playgrounds are less attractive and less fun. Emmy Dimitroff said some of the older playgrounds are actually unique and more fun.

Rod asked the Board how they would like to look at playground improvement funds in the next year.

Jerry Hodgden said he was in Vanover and just watched and everyone was thrilled with the new tree climbing structure. It is good to put some different things in playgrounds.

Laura said one idea is having gone through the Public Works Academy they discuss replacement. She likes the idea that equipment is replaced by age even if it is still functional.

Her other thought is every park has different equipment but we hear a lot from people of wants for specific needs such as swings for each park, ADA equipment, spinners, etc., spread throughout every park. Then everyone gets something.

Jerry Hodgden asked if it’s necessary to take out structures that work. Rod said most of the older structures are built by Miracle. Miracle is no longer supporter some of their older structures. We had to replace the slide at Lions for $15,000. If something breaks we may need to do something totally different.

Jerry Hodgden then asked about ADA accessibility. Amber said as we replace new structures we need to meet ADA which means one of each like feature in the playground will be accessible. For example, at Norman D one of the three spinners will be accessible.
Jerry Hodgden said he would be interested in staff recommendations. Paul said he can provide safety information. Strategically, we wanted to talk to you about how to make decisions.

Torsten said he isn’t sure how much funding we have and how far that goes. We can say we want state of the art equipment for each of the parks.

Rod said the budget currently sits at $400,000 to $500,000. To give you a comparison, Norman D is going to be anywhere from $150,000 to $200,000. So we can take two parks and overhaul them or distribute the funds throughout the system.

Jerry Hodgden said we need to determine which parks and have a public process. Rod said we will definitely use the process just like Norman D Park. Jerry suggested we spread changes throughout the town. We have some changes this year on the north side. If we focused on the south side we have Golden Heights. Torsten reminded the group that Golden Heights’ neighbors have requested funding. Paul said Heritage Dells has a school next door and Beverly Heights is also in need.

Laura Weinberg also said it would be nice to have some funds for smaller projects so when we get requests such as swings and a dog park we have funds available.

Rod said if he could he would suggest one or two projects leaving some funding for small projects such as swings, etc. Rod said we are also likely to come in under budget for Norman D leaving funding for small playground additions. Rod said he believes Golden Heights makes sense; it is used and very busy during soccer tournaments and rentals. It also has a small skate park. We may not need to look at the skate park. Not long ago we have looked at the possibility of rebuilding the pavilion there.

The next in line by age is Ulysses Skate Park. Rod said he would suggest we focus on playgrounds, this funding isn’t enough for a proper skate park overhaul which would cost 500,000 to 1 and a half million. Beverly Heights is next oldest. We have acquired more land there, we may want to further develop that entire property and we may not have enough funds to do that. Cressman Trail Park could be great. It is really small. There is a drainage way from Wyoming running north and south. It is a small structure, probably $10,000. The park is typically used by the surrounding neighborhood. Then you move onto Lions Park. We could easily spend all this money at here. New Loveland is on the north side, Heritage Dells would be next. It is a south neighborhood park, next to a school, and probably the most logical one.

Emmy Dimitroff said as you renovate Heritage Dells this may be appealing to the Bachman area. Rod said next is White Ash Mine Park. Laura asked if White Ash still has funding for a basketball court. Rod said yes. We haven’t yet made a decision on the surface at the basketball park.
Rod said these funds are being budgeted by Council as playground improvement funds. We put together our Infrastructure Report a few years back. It asked for over 1 million per year. We are not getting close to that in funding. We have done a great job of keeping our existing playgrounds together and safe but they need to be updated for ADA and to accommodate new play.

Laura asked again what we are going to do about Ulysses Skate Park. Torsten said whether it is a skate park or development of Bachman, they are bigger projects than what we are talking about tonight. This money will be better spent in playgrounds. Jerry Harcek said the skate park needs something. It is probably the most dangerous piece we have. Laura asked what will be done in the foreseeable future for the skate park. Jerry Harcek said we need a new layer on the skate park, which would cost less than it would to tear it down.

Rod said he agreed with Jerry we should look at some other little projects like this. Rod said we need to make a big push for big project money too. We have a lot of equipment that is inferior. Rod said one of the challenges in our world is as we do well taking care of our infrastructure that becomes the expectation rather than us receiving funds for replacement.

Jerry Hodgden asked what was on the priority list. Rod said there wasn’t anything he would prioritize over neighborhood park improvements. Jerry then asked about the bike park.

Rod said our insurance company, CIRSA, comes annually to review facilities and gives us a report and asks us to make changes as needed. They did their annual audit a few weeks ago and Bob Pomroy was distressed with the Golden Bike Park. He recommended several areas of maintenance which need to be done and, if not quickly, the park should be shut down. Rod passed the report onto COMBA and the Golden Bike Park Group. By agreement COMBA is maintaining the bike park. Jerry Harcek said they have already put in a lot of maintenance since receiving the letter. The Golden Bike Park Group would like to meet with Mr. Pomroy if possible. They did some drainage work, covered rocks. We recently had a 500 year flood; it will take some work to get it back to where it was prior to the flood. There is another bike park meeting next week and then Jerry will know more. Rod said that is great news.

Torsten Lyon said he likes the idea of picking out a couple parks; we have already narrowed down the list. Let’s pick two and provide the lion’s share of these funds for those with remaining funds for small projects that come up. Torsten said he likes the idea of choosing two parks tonight. Let’s save a little funding for 2014 small playground projects such as swings and fencing.

Emmy said she would second Torsten’s comments and suggests Golden Heights be one of the projects as well as Heritage Dells because it is in close vicinity to the Bachman neighborhood.
Rod said Mitchell Elementary is also getting funds for a playground. We collected the money for the School District. There is a GO CO grant cycle coming out for playground equipment as well that other schools in the community would likely apply for.

Torsten suggested the following playgrounds for renovation in 2014: Golden Heights, Heritage Dells and New Loveland Mine.

Pete Gotseff asked about Ulysses Skate Park. Jerry Harcek said the paint has worn and now the bowls are just metal. Pete asked about the condition of the concrete pads. Jerry Harcek said he doesn’t see an issue. Pete said Ulysses and the Clear Creek Whitewater Course are both boring and need to be reworked. Pete asked if there is value in redoing the skate park with above ground features in the interim until funding is available for an overhaul.

Jerry Harcek said he would vote for a small upgrade to the skate park over waiting 8 or 9 years to completely redo the park.

Pete said staff knows what needs to be done. Rod said we could put skate park features above grade, but that isn’t what people are doing these days. Most new parks typically cost $500,000 to $1.5 million. There is a reason people aren’t building those today.

Jerry Hodgden said he agrees with Golden Heights and Beverly Heights. He still would like an opinion from Paul. Paul said he could provide Jerry and the rest of the Board more information on each park.

Laura Weinberg also suggested we move forward with Golden Heights Park as our first park for renovation. The Lions may not decide to do the fitness course, so the course could potentially end up being our second playground to renovate.

Torsten Lyon made a motion to allocate the 2014 playground improvement funds towards two parks next year. Golden Heights will be the first park to be renovated, the second to be determined at a future date, and funds remaining will be allocated to small park improvements throughout the system as needed. The motion was seconded by Jerry Harcek and carried unanimously.

**DIRECTOR’S REPORT:**

Rod brought a revised Boards and Commissions Recruitment and Selection Process Policy which staff is bringing to Council to streamline the process. One change for this Board would be developing a Work Plan by February each year. They may also modify the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Bylaws to keep some consistency between Boards including terms of members. This is just a reference point. Rod is happy to pass your comments on if you have any.
Jerry Hodgden said we need to consider our flexibility. Rod said historically Council has also given you some direction. Rod said they will discuss this at their Study Session on Thursday night and you are always welcome to attend.

Rod said we have been working on some structural issues at the Astor House. We have engineers who have put together a plan to stabilize the building, we received bids, and it is coming in around $275,000. We have applied for a grant through the Colorado Historical Society. The maximum we could receive would be $200,000. We do not have funding allocated for this in 2014, but if we are successful in the grant, we will go back to Council to ask for the remaining funds.

Laura asked if there was any potential for funding from GURA. It falls within the Downtown Improvement District. Rod said he will follow-up with staff on this.

Rod said there is a November 7th Clear Creek Parking Meeting at the Community Center at 6:30pm. It has been announced through the website and social media. There is also a meeting on Monday with stakeholders to determine the structure of this November meeting.

BOARD MEMBER’S COMMENTS:

Laura Weinberg asked about the Black and White Night at the museums. Rod said the attendance was lower than the year before, the fundraising and sponsorships were good, staff is currently estimating around $15,000 brought in. Laura said she thought the event was very successful. She added the jail registry is fascinating.

Jerry Hodgden said he took a hike to Norman D Park and was curious about the white markings in the grass. Paul said those markings are for the concrete contractor to prepare for the new climbing structure coming in next month.

Laura Weinberg asked about the ash tree bug found in Boulder. Paul said we have approximately 10,000 ash trees, about 1,000 are city responsibility. All the pretty purplish trees are Mountain Ash. They found a few bugs in Boulder. They don’t know where the source is. We likely have several years to prepare for it. If we see it starting to creep, we will be proactive.

Emmy Dimitroff asked about the beavers across the street from her house. She likes beavers but she also likes trees. If the beavers keep going there won’t be any more trees. Staff said they are working with trap and relocate groups as we speak.

ADJOURN:
A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Laura Weinberg, seconded by Jerry Harcek, and carried unanimously.