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 as amended on a motion by Emmy Dimitroff, seconded by Torsten Lyon, and carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:
The Minutes of April 17, 2012 were approved on a motion by Laura Weinberg, seconded by Torsten Lyon, and carried unanimously.

NORMAN D PARK- ROBERT NETTLESHIP:
Robert Nettleship led the discussion by sharing the people in attendance are from the Canyon View subdivision adjacent to Norman D Park. They are here with the hopes to increase priority of funding for improvements to Norman D. Park. He said they have added
59 new homes in the last four years. There are 50 kids under 8 that are right next to the park. Robert said he knows funds have been limited for improvements; they received information from staff that since 2009 about $1,000 has been spent on the park. He said since he has lived in the area they have received a no smoking sign and trash barrel. There are some other amenities they think they need. Some ideas are expanded facilities for the young children and maybe a basketball hoop for the older children. He said our primary purpose tonight is to ask for the highest possible priority the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board can give us.

Jerry Hodgden said the Board is presently looking at the Capital Improvements Priority Schedule for the budget and it is long-term. He said we are taking a small turnaround in the City right now. Jerry said he has been on the Board for 17 years, the earlier part of his career the economy was doing well and we were rapidly growing in parks and recreation. Now we are slow and struggling to maintain what we have. He said the City recently purchased land in the south part of town and we don’t know when we will find budget to build the playground to meet the underserved need in south Golden. We are trying to service equally all parts of the community. Your needs are valid and we would like to see everyone have what they need. We don’t do anything half way, we would probably actually build a really good basketball court in this example.

Kevin Clemens said the park brings people together; Norman D is beyond maxed out for facilities as it can accommodate about three families currently. There is potential for community building by investing in our parks.

Lynn Streich said they have three children; the older child doesn’t want to go to Norman D. Park. There are only swings for infants right now; it is boring for a child 7 years old. There are others who visit the park including people who don’t live in the area. The playground doesn’t support how beautiful the location is. It could definitely use some updating and soon.

Jason Robertson said he has a four year old and a six year old. He did a quick map such the prices of the homes in their neighborhood and found them to be a median $500,000. Obviously the property tax base is huge in the area. He said he moved to Golden for kayaking, though there are other reasons to live here.

Blaze Cook said he listens to the sentiment about how universal the needs are. He said he has a five year old and a two year old. Both children have outgrown the swings in Norman D. Park and there are also safety concerns on the playground.

Dan Green said his children are gown and gone but the relative importance of improving this park is demonstrated through the interest here tonight. The neighborhood is taking a vested interest in this playground so they will take good care of it.

Brad Streich asked if they could make financial contributions or donate in-kind services. Jerry Hodgden said the City has been welcoming the citizen’s commitment in recent years
to volunteer services. The Golden Bike Park is a good example. The Bike Park is completely maintained by volunteers.

Rod Tarullo said we love volunteers in all aspects of City operations. From what he is hearing tonight the needs in Norman D. Park are most specific to the playground, including serving a broader age group and adding more play elements. To give you perspective, he said to replace the existing play structure will cost 30 to 40 thousand dollars. To expand and separate by age it will cost more. We can anticipate about $50,000 for Norman D. Park. From a contribution standpoint that is the mark we would need to hit. We would take donations; we would also take volunteer service of time. Kevin Clemens asked if they were able to raise a certain amount of money. How did the Bike Park do it? Rod said the City did not contribute funds to the Golden Bike Park. It was built with mostly sponsorship and sweat equity.

Scott Martinez said they should get points for no meltdowns from the children in attendance tonight. Just to clarify, this is a park; it is a place to gather as a neighborhood. When he lived in Eagle Ridge it was the same. Norman D. Park should be considered based on its value to Golden residents. There is a real passion for the upkeep of this park. We see this area as a gem. As you are prioritizing, we ask that you place value on parks such as ours and things Golden residents appreciate.

Jerry Hodgden said the citizens have made a very good point just by showing up. There are about 20 adults and half dozen children. Jerry said that means a lot to this Board and we have a committee going that has been studying the capital improvement needs and we will discuss that tonight.

Torston Lyon said first of all he appreciates the comments, they are great. The last comment about prioritizing for residents is something this Board deals with on a regular basis. With our subcommittee, the number one priority was to take care of our existing infrastructure by investing $1,500,000 annually. This means every so many years replacing existing infrastructure as needed based on the Parks and Recreation Department Infrastructure Inventory Report. Torston said he would hope staff could address the concerns in Norman D. Park in the near future. If that means finding funding sooner than originally anticipated, we need to do it. As you review our priorities tonight, know that we are not to that level of detail yet.

Laura Weinberg said we have not had our prioritization discussion as a Board yet. She said she would encourage you to also consider other funding options; we certainly will not overlook your needs. If you are looking for a major renovation, think about other volunteers groups and sources of funding. Laura would also suggest visiting with City Council.

Emmy Dimitroff said she thinks the support and comments you brought are great. She said she is curious about the rest of the community Norman D. Park serves. She said there are residents who have used the park for more than the last couple years and are relatively
happy with the area. She said there are features in the park that you can’t find in other parks in Golden. She said there is importance to include the other neighborhoods in your public process. The people on North Ford for example are also stakeholders. She said she takes her kids ages nine and seven to Norman D. Park regularly. She said there is value to the open space to that park. She said you also want to strike a balance.

Jerry Hodgden said we have typically stuck with conventional playground equipment. We have tried to find things that are a bit unique recently. Just because we have a prioritization, doesn’t mean we are not still seeking your input. He said he lives by the trail to Castle Rock. You seem to be very organized as a neighborhood; this is an opportunity to volunteer to make Norman D Park better than it is.

Kevin Clemens said we are not trying to cement the park, just make improvements with increased capacity. We love the open space Norman D. Park has currently.

Jerry Hodgden said we are not looking at this year’s budget; we are looking tonight at our entire infrastructure and needs. This includes the city museums, pools, the golf course, etc. We have a number of different master plans. The point is; we had a list of over a hundred items that we needed to prioritize. As a result we have broken it down. We will eventually be able to dig in a bucket and start making improvements as funding becomes available.

Rod Tarullo said a couple years ago staff put together the Parks and Recreation Infrastructure Inventory Report. It included all the capital items our department is responsible for. In Norman D. Park, we have looked at lifecycle based on best practices for replacement, warranty, experience, etc. We use this document to help us with our budgeting for infrastructure replacement. In this document the Norman D. Park play structure was scheduled to be replaced last year, though we didn’t have funding to do it last year. Our forthcoming discussion is to determine how to use funds as we get them.

Robert Nettleship said he felt they have covered everything. Jerry thanked them for their time and hoped that this is the beginning of new communication. Robert said they have a formal HOA and through that process are able to communicate. He said we can send out an email to everyone in the neighborhood. Communication in other neighborhoods is less formal.

Rod said we talked about this the last time Kevin was here, as funding becomes available we are planning a public process and will reach out to get input on colors, equipment, etc. He said he wants everyone here to know that is an important step for us when funding is available. If we have success down the road we would love for you to be a part of that process.

**KIDS KAYAKING- CYNTHIA E. HAZEL:**

Cynthia said she lives at 1219 12th Street. She said she has kayaked in Clear Creek since before it was a play park. She said there are a lot of children in Golden who might like to
kayak. She wants her 12 year old to have these opportunities. Most kayak instruction is provided by private companies. She said she has worked with Renaissance Adventure Guides who has a contract with City of Golden. She said there is also a city model we could use, Lyons has a kids kayaking program run through their Parks and Recreation Department. They have about 40 kids who use the pool in the winter. They have a summer program on the water. This is an opportunity for Golden. Bart from Golden River Sports would be interested in contributing as well as Renaissance. From talking to Lyons, a lot of volunteers are important. She wanted to see if there was interest or support for the concept. She said School of Mines also has a kayaking club that might provide volunteers.

Rod said to his knowledge Cynthia’s request is the first; we have a lot of use from out of town. He said what we might do is set up a meeting to garner interest and see how much interest we can generate. We have looked at the Lyons model and it has some possibilities. He would be supportive of our staff measuring the interest. If we don’t have interest we could work with some of the groups that come in such as Dawson. Cynthia said Dawson is a high ticket as a private school.

Laura said she is surprised this is the first time kayaking for kids have come up. She said it seems there are partnerships with outside groups such as skyhawks at a reduced rate to Golden residents. Kayak camps or something that might not necessarily be run by city staff. Would that find a great audience?

She said there needs to be an infusion of volunteers based on Lyons. Jerry asked what age group she would suggest. Cynthia said probably age ten through young adult. She said we can take younger children in the pool. She said Lyons requires 50 pool rolls before open water. You control the risk.

Rod said he would suggest recreation staff start their due diligence and stay in contact with Cynthia.

**CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PRIORITIES:**

Torston Lyon said when we last met; we were in the process of prioritizing. We came up with a weighted average and that didn’t work. It was too detailed of approach to complete the task. Torston said Councilor Fisher provided advice at the last meeting and with that we have met to put together a grouping of items. The items are grouped into physical areas throughout the City. This was independent of the planning documentation source. This allowed us to put items into the same areas, such as neighborhood parks, and fits a broader scheme or plan. Laura Weinberg said she would add that by grouping areas together it provides a bigger opportunity to present a compelling argument. It gives the community a chance to see a large impact to an area, park or district. It also gives a greater chance to market what the changes are. We looked at competing interests such as geography and then users. Torston said where we are now in the process; if you look at the fifth page you see the itemized list of 27. We have come up with the best swag at what we think our priorities are. This list is still too much for City Council to consume. We think it’s important to
have the list and then we went with the realization that we might only be able to financially tackle a few. In the end we included the first six priorities with a description as to why we chose them. Investment in neighborhood parks is also a priority. The intent is to present recommendations to Council as they move into their budgeting process later this year.

Laura Weinberg said for number one they agreed maintaining existing inventory was our number one priority. We then went through the grouping of the projects. Many we have some funding already available so they are higher on the list. Examples include the South Side Clear Creek Trail, and the Vanover Park Improvements. She said number 4 is Investing in Neighborhood Parks. The Master Plan is 4 years old. There are two areas in Golden that need access to a park including South Golden and East Golden. There are also placeholders for investment in neighborhood parks. We are not trying to determine park specific priorities right now. She said the number 5 priority is Improving and Connecting 8th Street which is a prerequisite to the West Clear Creek Corridor Improvements. It provides immediate benefit. Number 6 is the museums as a completely new user group to the Parks and Recreation Department.

Torston said he would love to hear some discussion. Jerry Hodgden said the monetary amounts are critical as we don't have funding. Some of the elements are very viable. Many are already funded and the grants need to be used by a certain date.

Rod Tarullo said the Board has done a great job.

Stephanie Sung asked about the ranking for aquatics. Laura said the rankings are based on the project list. Aquatics doesn't show up until priority 15. Stephanie asked if that includes both aquatic line items for Splash and GCC. Torston said there are more rows than groups.

Peter Gotseff said this is really great. He said he wanted to ask staff for more input as he doesn't know what the Splash, just as an example, really needs. Rod said, for example, ice rinks need refrigeration. Peter said people tend to forget that Golden has limited funds. Peter said sometimes he doesn't know what staff or the community needs. Rod said to some degree the beauty of that is the Parks and Recreation Infrastructure Inventory Report covers what we need to maintain what we have. So that is covered already in your priorities. To grow and add amenities you get to prioritize. Things like wave runners and ice rinks are above our existing level of service. Pete said he doesn't know what the museums need outside of what currently exists. Rod said Nathan, the Museum’s Director, is not pushing a new museum, the one thing we know organizationally that we need is better artifact storage that is climate controlled. We feel a duty preserve and keep the artifacts as best as we can. That could be a new building someplace else and might not be as big ticket of an item.

Rod said The Master Plan Vision is to consolidate the museums on the south side of the creek to open park space on the north side of the creek. Rod said Jerry Harcek made a good point; the number of people who use the amenities compared to the users is not there. However, we are also building a museum system and want to preserve what we have. We
want your opinion as citizens of the community. It is very near and dear to many in Golden.

Stephanie said if we keep the museums as high as it is, let’s add a piece for outreach. Rod said with the exception of the Parks and Recreation Infrastructure Inventory Report, anything you prioritize will have an economic impact which impacts maintenance, staffing and programming. As we move forward that will be a piece that will come. Laura said let’s just get some feedback from Council and we can then start the public process when and if we receive some resources.

Rod said as this goes forward to Council and others it will likely change and evolve and that’s okay, it is all a part of the process. You are doing the best you can with the information you have.

Jerry Hodgden asked how to bring this to Council. Rod said if you can vote on this prioritization as a group the document would then be distributed to Council, Boards and Commissions and we could possibly even schedule a Study Session with Council to discuss.

Peter Gotseff asked if the Regional Connector Trail Concept has been dropped from the priorities. He said there are people going to Council with the proposal. They are working directly with Colorado School of Mines. Jerry Harcek said we didn’t have a dollar amount for it when it was proposed. Peter said it isn’t necessarily a capital improvement project. Laura said anything that doesn’t have a dollar amount is difficult to include.

Stephanie Sung made a motion to send the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Capital Improvements Prioritization Memo with suggested changes from this meeting to City Council and other groups representing the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board’s priorities, it was seconded by Peter Gotseff, and carried unanimously.

Rod said we will distribute the memo with changes and if we don’t receive any feedback from the Board then we will pass it on to Council and other Boards and Commissions.

Torston asked the Board to please make any suggestions as they see fit.

**ROONEY ROAD LEASE DISCUSSION:**

Rod Tarullo said the Rooney Road lease is quite confusing. For the benefit of new members, if you look at the included map all the marked hashed area is leased to the City from Jefferson County. Some is from Open Space and some is from the Jeffco General Fund. There are certain uses not permitted by Open Space. We have leased most of it and built the Rooney Road Sports Complex.

The Rooney Road Recycling Center is a coalition of municipalities to get rid of hazardous waste. What has happened is overtime they stored organic material. They had a big fire. They came to us and in general terms we have tried to accommodate the County in any way we can. They have asked to sublease the area marked Dog Park to be able to continue
the organic material there. That area is actually opened by Open Space and is not an approved use. The Lease for the organics expires in August. They need to extend their Lease, make it permanent, or find a new location. Rooney Road Recycling has gone to the City of Arvada and they have a place in Arvada that could accommodate the organics.

Rod said as a part of our original Lease we had a future dog park option. We would have to fence the area. When recycling requested that area, we discussed it as a Board and the location was not a high priority for a dog park. Based on what the County decides to do we may forego the dog park indefinitely? Jerry Hodgden said the County suggested the dog park location at Rooney in the first place.

Stephanie Sung said, just to clarify, potentially the dog park option could go away at Rooney Road. Rod said yes, he has put the Lease on Council’s agenda. The one rub with a permanent organics site is we annexed this area into the City of Golden meaning we would need the City’s first responders to respond to any fires, etc.

The Board agreed to let Rod move forward with discussions with Jefferson County and keep them informed.

**DIRECTOR’S REPORT:**
Rod reminded the Board their next meeting will be a Public Meeting for the Vanover Park Improvements. It will be advertised in the June Informer and on the city website.

Rod said staff met with all the Principals of Golden Schools today. Mitchell has grown and is very large for an elementary school. Rod said there are 400 kids at Sheldon who speak 14 different languages.

**BOARD MEMBERS’ COMMENTS:**
None

**ADJOURN:**
A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Torston Lyon, seconded by Jerry Harcek, and carried unanimously.