CITY OF GOLDEN  
PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD  
REGULAR MEETING  
TUESDAY, JANUARY 17, 2012  
7:00 P.M.

PRESENT:  Jerry Hodgden  
Peter Gotseff  
Jerry Harcek  
Stephanie Sung  
Laura Weinberg  
Torsten Lyon

ABSENT:  Dylan Grange

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

PUBLIC:  Bill Mangle  
Kevin Clemens  
Jeff Ketchum

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 Jerry Harcek, seconded by Torsten Lyon, and carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:  
The Minutes of December 6, 2011 were approved on a motion by Torsten Lyon, seconded by Laura Weinberg, and carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT:  None

NORMAN D. PARK DISCUSSION:  
Jerry introduced residents from the Norman D Park area. Jeff Ketchum and Kevin Clemens
have provided us a detailed summary of suggestions for improving the park. There are a number of families and children that have moved into the area and the park has not grown with the area. They have done their homework. Kevin led the discussion by stating that they both live in the Canyon View subdivision next to North Forty. Norman D. Park is right below their neighborhood. Overtime as the neighborhood had grown to 58 homes they have 40 plus children in the neighborhood. The all love the park but they are out growing it. There are no swings for big kids; there are only so many people that can use the pavilion at the same time. They would like more trash cans near the playground and additional seating. Kevin said their goal is to get on the radar screen. Our findings are that everyone is in favor of seeing some improvement. We like the openness of the park, but we need to increase the capacity of the playground area to accommodate the children.

Jeff agreed and added that there is a big draw. The privacy, views and trees are great. We wanted to understand the process and how we can assist whether that was through fundraising or labor.

Jerry Hodgden asked if they had children. They both said yes. Jerry said he has spoke to Kevin on several occasions. He said Norman D Park has been looked at quite a lot over the last couple years. The neighbors on the south side don’t want a huge draw. Jerry said there could be some resistance. We are in a economic environment at the present time where we don’t have capital funds. One of our missions is to maintain our existing parks and service the public. He would like to open the discussion to the Board.

Torsten Lyon said he read through the document they provided and from a resources standpoint he isn’t sure what we can contribute at this time based on budget constraints though he would imagine a bench and an extra trash can are easily provided.

Peter said he agrees with Torsten that we would need to do some research on what the other surrounding neighbors are looking for before we could expand the existing park.

Jerry Harcek said the neighborhood could use more equipment as it is reasonably busy on an average nice day. The fencing money we discussed at our last meeting might be good for this type of project.

Laura Weinberg said she would hope that it would be fairly easy to add another bench and a trash can near the playground. There is only one bench by the playground. She would be interested in how far away other amenities are such as basketball courts and swings. Probably White Ash Mine Park? Could it fill the needs over time as the kids get older?

Paul Burkholder described the standards with swings. You need a 24 foot buffer around the swing, so often there is not space and we then have to take out other equipment. That is often why we don’t have swings or other equipment in that area. For a large age swing the buffer will be even bigger.
Stephanie Sung said it was great to get participation from the neighbors. She said it would be very useful to get their priorities and then know where we could start. She asked what they wanted for pet owners. Kevin said the pet owners like it as is.

Rod Tarullo said he is impressed with the leg work and research they have provided; it is very helpful to us. You have probably only hit about half of the neighborhood users. There are a lot of other residents directly north and south and east. Anything significant would require their involvement. Benches and trash cans are easy for us to do. Every time we put a trash can in, there is a greater need for maintenance. Rod would suspect as funds are available the Board will need to prioritize where the funds will go. Perhaps some of the oldest parks first, etc. The Norman D play structure is old yet different which is likeable to some. The park is big enough to expand the area for big swings and elements of similar nature.

Kevin said the negative with the playground surface is you get it in the kid’s shoes though sand is also fun. He said he felt many liked the rubber surface at Lions Park more. It would not likely take precedent over the other elements. Rod said aesthetics are usually in the eye of the beholder. Rod said you won’t see wooden structures in a system like ours, they don’t hold up and are too labor intensive. There are structures that look like wood but are not. In child play areas we are breaking them up more and more to be age oriented. You often see components for toddlers, another for 4-7 year olds, etc. Rod asked from their perspective if there was one age group we should hit which would be most important at this time? Kevin and Jeff agreed the 4 to 6 age range.

Peter asked what the newest park was in our system. Paul said Lions is most age separated.

Rod said if we had funding available and Norman D. Park was a top priority, we would have a neighborhood meeting and talk about play structures. We would help the residents understand what is available then begin the process to get the best fit. Rod said in the system we have different sized parks. Norman D. Park is designed as a neighborhood park, Lions is a Community Park. Usually in a neighborhood park there is a little parking but most walk or ride. People get excited about new amenities and what they don’t realize is if we put something great in a park you will get residents from other parts of the community. Sometimes the trade off isn’t there. Kevin said we knew that could be a problem so we took off the basketball court, skate park, etc. We could potentially replace the play structures and add small elements.

Paul said the hilly side is under the HOA.

Jerry Hodgden said enhanced seating doesn’t require a lot of maintenance. Paul asked how many would be needed. Kevin said it would also depend on the size of the playground. Jeff said 3 to 4 families on an average weekend. One seat per family would be great.
Jerry asked about the rubber surface at Lions. Rod said we received a grant from DOLA for the surface.

Laura said there are not any bike racks next to the playground. Paul said they sometimes are not used so we haven’t put them in, but we can put them there if needed. Kevin said it did not come up in their survey of the neighbors.

Emmy said if you went to White Ash Mine Park there is a basketball court. There are people in White Ash who don’t want the court. If it is servicing a greater area then it should stay.

Kevin said the park is definitely a neighborhood park and most are walking or riding to the park. If we improved the structure we wouldn’t likely need to change parking. Jeff said the only parking he knows of is along Mesa Drive. They commented the trails are often cleared of snow before the streets which is excellent. Kevin said Parks and Recreation is a great community builder, if we increase the ability of more people using this park it creates community.

**VANOVER PARK DISCUSSION:**
Jerry Hodgden said one of the items he brought tonight is a picture of the Vanover Tree as it used to exist in the park. We have some funds to do improvements in the park and we need to consider what we want to do there and any theme. Jerry said there is space in the park for a playground, tables, a Barbara Fall flower garden and preservation of the tree.

Laura said she couldn’t remember if a section of the slab could be used for a sign. Paul said it does have a lot of limitations due to dry rot, etc. She said the park has parking; the fact that it’s so close to downtown and the condos is great. She said it has good access, two areas- one could be undeveloped the other is grass and has benches. She was thinking that area could be for sitting and having lunch, etc. The concrete tables would likely draw adults. The other section by the large cotton wood could have natural play features with outdoor musical instruments and elements that are not playground structures. She suggested just enhancing the park with natural small features but not changing it completely.

Jerry Harcek said he had bike features planned for that whole side of the park. It’s nice because it is separated by the sidewalk. It would also be nice to add some kid features in the middle.

Jerry Hodgden liked the tree area for an informal playground due to the shade.

Stephanie said she likes the idea of not having a play structure. She likes the stumps and boulders. It’s not a big structure that would take away from the aesthetics of the park. She is not in favor of instruments because it is near an adult area.
Jerry Harcek said he heard them at Winter Park and they make nice music. Jerry said Denver's new bike park just opened. It has some dirt jumps and pump tracks that would fit nice into this space. It would be nice to have another bike attraction closer to downtown to allow for viewing as well.

Jerry Hodgden said he likes to see rocks and something we invented ourselves.

Peter said he likes the ideas Laura brought.

Torsten said he likes the vision that Laura has, thought he does think that some of the natural feature play items would be nice to have in the adult area too.

Emmy said her vision was something like the Arvada Center Squiggles. It's basically a piece of art. She would want either a natural element or something totally different in Vanover Park. Or she said we could also just leave it alone.

Torsten added that he really likes the idea of the music features in our parks system. The City Park in Moab, Utah is amazing. It doesn't have to be in Vanover, but definitely in our system.

Jerry said if we could get a design put together that would be helpful. Rod said we have a limited budget. The elements you have expressed tonight are basic features. Paul Kuhn is retained by the city and we could have him for a small fee provide something to us that we could review. Jerry asked that our ideas discussed tonight be incorporated into his design.

Torsten Lyon made a motion to ask Paul Kuhn to incorporate the natural element park features discussed by the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board tonight into a preliminary design for Vanover Park. The motion was seconded by Peter Gotseff and carried unanimously.

GOLDEN CONNECTOR TRAILS UPDATE:
Bill Mangle said the last time he was here we left off on the concept of natural surface connector trail segments. We explored a pilot project along the hogback between Kinney Run and Eagle Ridge Drive. Bill said he put together a letter and a conceptual map to twelve property owners in site of some of the areas we are looking at. He heard back from two and one was an email which said they didn't want it in front of their house. The other was a gentleman who was more concerned and objected to the concept. Bill said he heard him out and sent him an email thanking him for the call. He was raising issues about a scale of development which was much greater than what we are proposing. Bill said it would be interesting to look into any encumbrances on the open space. He said he has been speaking with his neighbors and people were excited about another connection to trails they already enjoy.
Stephanie asked where the trail would run. Bill said up and over from Kinney Run to Eagle Ridge and showed her on a map. Bill said he thought based on the feedback talking about an individual section of trail is harder than talking about a bigger system. He is starting to come full circle from our initial meeting to try to generate more community consensus about the concept. He is pursuing this because he keeps talking to people and getting a lot of good feedback. It could be really well supported. He is wondering if it makes sense to take a step back and have a community forum or a more formal model of developing the idea. We have a good idea of what it could look like.

Jerry Hodgden said he thinks typically people don’t respond when they don’t care. As far as looking at the project in a different context, we don’t own some of the land which is why we were talking about breaking down the concept into parts.

Bill said the connection between two existing systems would be great. Someone said they have wanted to see that for 10 years. He said in the back of his mind this concept, if endorsed by the city, could be a slam dunk for a State Trails Grant. He has had clients pursue these grants; these are the exact type of trails they like to fund. He asked how do we get the city to engage short term and long term in this concept.

Jerry Hodgden said we are a city that supports bike activity. Maybe what you should be doing is writing to Council. That might lead to something for you. Bill asked at what point something has the level of public support and resources of the City. Whether that is with minimal resources or a new facility? Jerry said if you have evidence of public support that will get the process moving forward.

Laura said she didn’t know how it all came about. How did the Community Gardens begin? Jerry said there are events all year long, collecting signatures and getting cycling groups involved. He is trying to give legitimacy to the concept. Bill said he had some emails with Council Members about the concept. Laura recommended he contact Bill Fisher as it would also be his Ward.

Torsten said Bill has done an excellent job, we don’t have funding and projects like this with volunteer support will keep moving forward as a parks system. This isn’t the first time we have seen Bill, he is putting a lot forward here and Torsten would be supportive of the Board giving him support..

Jerry Harcek said his master plan for Golden has bike park features and single track along existing trails. He wants to have everything connected in Golden. He wants connections to each park. He said the idea of a master plan or a group that over sees this that gets the community support together would be great. Jerry said he has no idea how to get the task force involved. It is precedent for the model that citizens come together. Whether formal or informal, how would we begin the process.
Stephanie said if a task force is the way to go to get everyone’s input then maybe that is the next step. Emmy said that is what the Community Gardens did; enough people got together and went to Council. Stephanie said a blueprint and a group support is important.

Jerry said we are an advisory board to the Council we can make a motion to ask Council to reinstate the previous task force to consider the bike connector trails. Bill said that would be helpful. An endorsement from the Board would be great and a process would help.

Emmy said she would feel more comfortable if they came to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board with a plan and documentation of support. Then ask for the Boards approval. Your next step would then be to go to Council. Bill said that felt appropriate.

Rod said he doesn’t have a clear cut answer. He has seen different tactics used to garner support. Often when something goes to Council they like to push it right back to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board. The Bike Task Force was a good example. Ultimately getting the ear of the elected officials will assist in moving the process forward.

DIRECTOR’S REPORT:
Rod asked that the Board take a group picture that could be used in presentation and publications.

Rod said we have had success with the Joint Venture Grant for Splash Improvements this year.

He said we are taking to Council a contract to continue with Café 13 at the museums this summer. We are encouraging Café 13 to get a liquor license to serve alcohol on the deck.

Our budget is approved for 2012; there isn’t a lot of park funding. We have worked with the Finance Department to find funds from other places to preserve infrastructure.

In the parting weeks before Mayor Smith left office, he formed the Blue Ribbon Panel on Economic Vitality. It will have seven members appointed by Council and four interviewed. Their charge is to look at the city finances and make available to Council options for the future. As the demographics age we are consuming more services and fewer supplies, we are taxing supplies and not services. Rod said we put together and Infrastructure Assessment for parks and recreation and we have $71,000 in assets and project needing 2 million per year for the next 20 to maintain it. Lottery money is not growing and it may go down, we know of legislature this year there that could modify lottery funds to go to other areas other than parks and recreation. This Blue Ribbon group will be put together and options could include property tax, hotel/motel tax, etc. We would encourage a Parks Board Member to be on that committee. The new Informer will have application information.
The Board agreed not to have a Study Session in February. So the next meeting will be February 21\textsuperscript{st}.

**BOARD MEMBERS' COMMENTS:**
Torsten asked about the Boards and Commissions Dinner. Rod said this year it is just members and staff and not spouses.

Jerry Hodgden said he uses the track around the gym and nothing is more boring. You have to go around 16 times for a mile. He would like to involve local artists and put a projector of some sort pointing down at that wall to be able to put slides on the wall. When you turn the corner you see another wall with a different scene. It could be anything or could change as needed. Perhaps the City has a projector we could utilize and try this out. Jerry would be willing to solicit a local artist.

Laura said she would be interested if people who walk the track would want the visuals.

Stephanie said it might not be good for runners. Although it sounds simple, it probably isn’t, due to installation.

Peter said it would be good to make the gym nicer. Working out is something we have to do and anyway to enhance the experience is great.

Rod said we are open 96 hours a week. After you have seen it a few times it just disappears. Unless we are creative and have a lot of variety, it could get old.

Chad Meinert said we have learned that lighting is a tremendous challenge for the projectors. When we went through this process for the Community Room, to get a projector unit would be between $3,000 and $5,000.

Jerry Hodgden said we could utilize local artists. Jerry said he will follow up with Rod and see what we can do. Rod said Chad has good contacts with AV people and we can look at the concept.

Laura said she would like to see swimsuit dryers in the locker rooms and was told that it would take too much electricity.

Jerry Harcek said Apex Skate Park is open.

**ADJOURN:**
A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Torsten Lyon, seconded by Stephanie Sung, and carried unanimously.