PRESENT: Torsten Lyon
Casey Brown
Craig Middleton
Jerry Hodgden
Stephanie Sung
Pete Gotseff
Jerry Harcek

ABSENT: Emmy Dimitroff

STAFF: Amber Thill, Parks and Recreation Analyst
Rod Tarullo, Director of Parks, Recreation and Golf
Mike Bestor, City Manager
Chad Meinert, Recreation Manager

COUNCIL: Councilor Saoirse Charis-Graves

The beginning of the Meeting included a Golden Community Center 20th Anniversary Video, refreshments and comments from staff and visitors.

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:
The Agenda was approved on a motion by Jerry Harcek, seconded by Stephanie Sung, and carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:
The Minutes of August 12, 2014 were approved on a motion by Jerry Hodgden, seconded by Jerry Harcek, and carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT:
None

CAPITAL PRIORITIES LIST:
Torsten said it has been two years since we last discussed our Parks Board priorities list. Funding availability and priorities are constantly evolving; Torsten suggested we communicate which projects we want to push forward. Rod Tarullo said we are currently
working on our Capital Budget as a portion of the two year budget cycle. As you know, we have an Infrastructure Report that we use to determine maintenance needs. We found there was a need for a lot of money just to keep up with the infrastructure that we have.

We have funding from Open Space Tax, Conservation Trust and Sales and Use Tax. Rod said a couple of items that have come out of this budget process he would like the Parks Board feedback on. Mr. Bestor had the Council review the preliminary budget and CIP last week. There weren’t many questions until they got to a Special Events Coordinator position and Parks and Recreation. Mr. Bestor slotted $1,000,000 for a replacement skate park. If you review your priorities we don’t specify the skate park but we do have upgrading Ulysses Park a top priority. The park is very old and could use some help. The skate park has become very visible to Council as a Colorado School of Mines engineering class project last year. Council wanted feedback from the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board as to if this is the direction we want to go with this funding.

Jerry Hodgden said we have discussed in the past the need for a skate park. There has been a question as to whether we want to move skate features into neighborhood parks or do we continue to provide one park in a central location. That is one element that needs to be resolved.

Rod said he understands there was some discussion by Council that if we were to go and change Ulysses Park, we may encourage visitors to Golden and how should we balance this with local use?

The School of Mines class proposed an appropriate size skate park according to the Tony Hawk Foundation for a town of our size. It wouldn’t be so great that ESPN would come to Golden to film or draw people from regional large scale parks such as Arvada.

Rod said we have also looked at capital funding for replacement of the batting cages at Ulysses Park. In recent years it is not as popular and it is also very outdated and worn out. The mechanisms are shot. We have a situation on the budget where we need $60,000 to replace the batting cages. The reality is, in 2012 our revenues from the batting cages was $6,800, in 2013 $6,600, and $3,200 in 2014. It continues to decline.

We have done some homework looking at other communities; one neighboring community went in and replaced their cages a few years ago and their revenues continued to decline. Staff has made a recommendation to Finance to close the batting cages.

Casey Brown asked if there was also a small skate park at Golden Heights. Rod said yes, that is a smaller piece and it is functional and in good shape.

Jerry Hodgden suggested removing the batting cages while expanding the skate park footprint into that area.
Rod also added if we don't spend the full million dollars on the skate park we can make other improvements to the park facilities.

Pete Gotseff asked if the skate park would be above ground. Rod said the CSM engineers investigated this; the skate park is over bedrock. We would have testing done to confirm location and want to be able to provide both in ground bowls and above ground features. Rod said to move forward we would have a task force including youth users and potential users. Design and construction would occur through a very public process.

Rod said he would envision a park with 50% beginner 25% intermediate and 25% advanced. We need to also be able to accommodate BMX.

Casey Brown said in reviewing the 2012 Parks and Recreation Capital Priorities List, there are several improvements that have been made which is impressive in the last two years as well as several higher priorities than the skate park.

Torsten said we have tried to pull together projects from various planning documents in the city. We were aware when we created this list that politics and funding will be involved. A good example is our decision to push the museums to the top of the list as it is unlikely to be funded. We wanted them to be recognized. Rod added the Astor House Museum Improvements are currently funded in the 2015 and 2016 CIP.

Casey Brown also asked where we stand with upgrades to neighborhood parks. Rod said we have priorities and funding for parks that is ongoing as a line item in the CIP. We have replaced four playgrounds in just over two years.

Craig Middleton asked if the million dollars is our budget. Is that a shock to 2015 and how does it affect our project funding in other areas? Amber said we have funding earmarked for W. 44th Trail, Ulysses, GCC, Trail Improvements, The Splash, and Park Improvements. Rod added it does not take away funding from other areas. Casey said looking for activities for teens, and the fact it doesn’t take away from other projects, a skate park sounds like a wise decision.

Pete Gotseff said every time we discuss the project priorities we have checked off more projects. We are doing great a checking off projects; Ulysses is near the top of the list. Let’s check it off.

Jerry Hodgden asked about the dog park at Ulysses, it gets a lot of use and he is wondering how it is holding up. Rod said well.

Craig Middleton said the skate park is beyond its useful life. It is a top priority and we have this opportunity. Rod said we should decide to move forward in the near future. We recently had an insurance audit and we have some improvements we need to complete this year regardless at the skate park.
Pete also added it is nice to see people have a passion for a sport. It is fun to see the stakeholders come in and be excited.

Torsten commented the skate park is important; he would like to relabel it as a Ulysses Park Remodel with the highlight the new skate park.

Jerry Hodgden made a motion to recommend Council approve funding for skate board parks, with the top priority a redesigned skate park at Ulysses Park which would be expanded after the removal of the discontinued batting cages. Seconded by Stephanie Sung and carried unanimously.

Torsten said he put this item on the agenda tonight because he felt it would be valuable to have a discussion about the current capital priorities and make a revised list. It would be a great topic for a study session. He suggested a Study Session, a small group to create a working priority list, and then have action at our next regular meeting. November 4th is the first Tuesday and would be the date of the Study Session starting at 7pm.

PARKS & RECREATION REVENUE & EXPENDITURES:

Rod said this is the monthly snapshot of where we stand in the current 2014 budget. The operational side of our budget is pretty healthy. Many of our maintenance needs are capital improvements funds. Before you are operational funds and small infrastructure maintenance that might come out of our operating budget. Most of what you find in operational funds is not directly addressing the 1.5 million in capital maintenance needs.

Amber suggested staff could provide the draft CIP Budget to the Board for their review before the Study Session.

CLEAR CREEK CORRIDOR MANAGEMENT REVIEW:

Rod said the Cliff Notes version is we gave you the full management review and we feel we have had a successful season.

Pete asked if the parking management consultant will also take into account the Colorado School of Mines parking issues. Rod said yes.

DIRECTOR’S REPORT:

Rod said the Bachman property was also discussed at the Council meeting last week. They are building a roundabout by Fire Station 4 on Heritage Road. Torsten asked if we gave up any property for the right of way. Rod said the City did purchase some right of way on the west side but not the park side. It does not affect our park space.

There has been a little bit of communication, we visited in here the idea of having a trail go through the property over a year ago. There was some contention regarding the trail. As a Board we decided to leave it. We had another unique situation where property owners adjacent to the Bachman property asked to use the park area for a party. They asked to
mow the grass. We went out and mowed that area which upset some residents who considered it open space. It all worked out, but Rod said he reminded Mr. Glueck it is a future park and not just open space. With the roundabout and action on Zeta staff is entertaining the idea of a trail through the property. Now might be the time.

Jerry Hodgden, Stephanie Sung, Casey Brown, and the Board in general liked the idea of opening the park to access. Torsten suggested access to both sides of the property.

Jerry Hodgden made a motion to pursue trail access across the Bachman future park property. The motion was seconded by Stephanie Sung and carried unanimously.

Rod said you may have noticed the bus shelters have disappeared. Council is working on replacing them. Parfet Park is a transient center. Mr. Glueck is proposing pulling together representation from several boards including the Parks Board to figure out what type of bus shelter could go in at Parfet Park. We would likely designate 1 or 2 people to sit on that committee. Casey Brown asked how it is funded. Rod said probably DDA but he would need to confirm.

Rod said Golden Parks and Recreation was reaccredited last week at the NRPA Congress in Charlotte! A huge accomplishment and thank you to staff and the Board!

**BOARD MEMBER’S COMMENTS:**

Torsten said the bike path improvements with new concrete are great.

Jerry Harcek asked about Tucker Gulch Trail under HWY 93, Rod said it is back under construction.

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