CITY OF GOLDEN
PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD
REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2014
7:00 P.M.

PRESENT: Craig Middleton
Jerry Hodgden
Jerry Harcek
Torsten Lyon

ABSENT: Casey Brown
Stephanie Sung
Pete Gotseff
Emmy Dimitroff

STAFF: Amber Thill, Parks and Recreation Analyst
Rod Tarullo, Director of Parks, Recreation and Golf

PUBLIC: None

ROLL CALL:
Torsten Lyon, Chair of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:
The Minutes of November 18, 2014 were approved on a motion by Jerry Hodgden, seconded by Jerry Harcek, and carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT:
None

CAPITAL PRIORITIES LIST:
Jerry Hodgden suggested we reconsider a lazy river on the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Priority List.

Rod said under aquatics we have $400,000 in below deck replacements, $100,000 in above deck improvements, $2,000 for a lap pool expansion, $1.5 million for a therapy pool, the lazy river was another $2 million. For item 21, Splash Improvements, we had $675,000 for a wave pool. We had $600,000 for a flo rider and $450,000 for a lazy river. All wish list items.

Jerry Hodgden said he would rather a lazy river indoors so it can be used year round.
Torsten Lyon asked about the $500,000 for maintenance for the indoor pools. Are those wrapped into item 17? They are high priority and either need to be included in annual maintenance or broken out into a separate line item.

Rod said the infrastructure maintenance funding we have we can use for pool maintenance as needed; the Board is also welcome to make it a priority specifically should they choose to do so. Rod would suggest the maintenance be pulled out of item 17 and included in priority number 1.

We mentioned skate parks for number priority #2 and we discussed the skate park and Astor House is currently budgeted for 2015. Torsten suggested these two items do not need to be on the list. Rod said we had a pretty good discussion last meeting about the skate park. There is some speculation we might be able to build it for less than a million. Do we take that money and put features throughout the parks system or do we rebuild a new park at Ulysses? Our intent is not to compete with Apex or Wheat Ridge skate parks, just bring something of good quality for our kids.

Torsten suggested the figure for the Clear Creek History Park is low at $55,000. Rod said we don’t have a figure for this yet, Torsten said he will make it a placeholder.

Rod said he felt when Torsten was done with the priorities list he would like to pass it on to Council for the Blue Ribbon Panel funding discussion. Torsten said he would make the necessary changes and then pass it on to Amber for numbers verification.

Jerry Hodgden asked about Fossil Trace’s infrastructure funds of $325,000. Rod said that is to maintain the structures and we need to have Fossil Trace on the list somewhere.

Jerry Hodgden asked about the Holiday Lights. Rod said we lose about 30 percent of our lights each year. We upgrade as we go to LED. We replace and add some lights each year. We have lowered our light levels this year saving time and money.

Jerry Hodgden asked about number 16, Master Plan and Redevelopment at Tony Grampsas. Jerry said we get a lot of calls for dog parks and we don’t have a dog park listed as a priority here. Torsten said we currently have 2 dog parks, 1 unofficial and perhaps several defacto parks.

Craig Middleton asked if the people who are against the dog park are intermingling with dogs and their owners at Beverly Heights? Rod said his impression is that open space is used for Frisbee, soccer and other things. The neighborhood is both highly in favor of a new dog park and highly against.

Craig said if he remembers right it is fairly inexpensive to build a dog park. Rod agreed. He asked if Bachman was a possibility. Rod said with public process. Rod said we can also put a dog park at Rooney Road. The last time we talked about it as a Board there was concern it was too far away to actually get good use by the citizens.
Torsten said he likes the idea of expanding the description of neighborhood parks to give a placeholder to dog parks.

Craig asked who owns the land along Clear Creek heading west from 6th Avenue. Torsten said there might be water quality concerns for a dog park in that area just as there is in any other area along Clear Creek. Jerry Harcek also added it might not be convenient to get to.

Torsten said he did see Emmy’s concern about the band shell in the minutes. He said he also saw Jerry Harcek’s comments on the inflatable structure. He would suggest it was on its own and perhaps a higher priority. Amber said this was following the kayak discussion last month. Torsten said based on just priorities it is hard to defend the kayak structure over others such as the museums. Torsten said if we are adding attractions to the Clear Creek Corridor we need to have more management in place. Jerry Harcek said the intent of the structure is to expand the boating system when water is low. A time when there is less use by kayakers. Rod said it would both expand the boating season and draw visitors to the creek. Torsten said it is hard to defend adding new features to the corridor before we add more parking or an 8th Street connector.

Craig said many items don’t necessarily give a positive return. If the business model shows that an ice rink for example is a good investment should it be rethought as far as a priority? Rod said ice rinks are tough; you would need three sheets of ice to make money on ice. Rod said conceptually if a business model exists for a positive return we could make it a high priority. However, the public sector would have already likely brought that business to Golden whatever it might be.

**PARKS BOARD 2015 WORK PLAN:**
Torsten said we owe City Council a memo or Work Plan by February 15. Torsten said we did some digging looking for last year’s Work Plan and we haven’t had any success. Torsten said we can look at our priorities, discuss demographics we are hoping to service, and Rod suggested the Parks and Recreation Master Plan Update. Rod said our current plan was adopted in 2008. We don’t have money to hire a consultant but we would like to update the plan this year. It would also include a public process.

Rod said the Parks Board would participate in the Master Plan Update and would approve the plan prior to staff taking it to Council. Rod added the Board should also discuss their capital priorities in the Work Plan.

Torsten asked if it makes sense to take a quick stab at a few paragraphs, he will send it out to the Board for input. Jerry Hodgden added the plan needs to include the Board’s support of maintenance funds for existing infrastructure.

Jerry Hodgden said we also probably need to have some public process in the near future to address the concerns over the Bachman Property and what direction it might go. Torsten
said there is some political instability to Bachman. We might add a placeholder in our priorities for Bachman but perhaps not be so specific in the memo to Council.

Rod said this is where the Master Plan Update comes into play. We have property poised for future development as parkland.

Jerry Hodgden also said the Department has always been at the forefront of the times, first the skate park, the first Community Center in the west of Denver, the whitewater park, etc. We want to continue to stay abreast of the trends.

DIRECTOR’S REPORT:

- Rod said we are preparing to enforce the new Smoking Ordinance at the first of the year. We invited the Tobacco Free Jefferson County Team to our All Department Meeting to help train our staff. Craig Middleton asked about signage. Rod said you will see new signage and designated smoking areas at the RV Park and the Golf Course. We have a task force working on a marketing plan for the roll out.

- Rod said we also have some gifts for the Board including a camping chair from the City as well and Gold Medal Portfolios from our Department. Happy Holidays!

BOARD MEMBER’S COMMENTS:

- Torsten asked about bike park maintenance. Rod said we have committed to taking over maintenance at the bike park at the first of the year. We will assume all including working to potentially bring in contractors once a year to do major updates to the park. We don’t see a need for a formal agreement as that was for maintenance with the volunteers. We have local folks still interested in being involved and their interests we will continue to be mindful of. We will also help to facilitate events. Rod said he needs to articulate that to COMBA. We have been working on trying to get our parks staff up to speed regarding maintenance. We sent some staff to CPRA Conference to work with Boulder staff and gain information. We were also approached by Jefferson County Open Space today who has a volunteer group looking to do mountain bike special events in town in September.

- Jerry Hodgden asked if we could add W. 44th Trail to the Work Plan Memo to Council. The Board agreed.

- Torsten said he would also like to focus on connectivity of our amenities and collaboration with partners such as the bike volunteer group as well as Jefferson County.

- Jerry Harcek said he is trying to organize another volunteer day for the bike park. Rod said he should connect with Paul Burkholder about it. The pump track needs some TLC; it seems to have been knocked down. Jerry Harcek said the tool box up
top also had a door broken off which he has repaired. Rod said we had a little discussion about that box; we may or may not need it for volunteers. Jerry also asked about water. Rod said we have water on our own trucks so we won’t need Fairmount’s tanks.

- Jerry Hodgden wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

- Craig Middleton said Clear Creek Trail in Clear Creek County has had great progress. It got him really excited. He asked if there is a plan to bring it to Golden. Rod said it is currently GOCO funded; they are hoping people will see it and will help promote bringing it down the canyon.

- Craig also said the Candlelight Walk is awesome. The Chamber runs the program. Craig said he loves it, he would suggest when the walk occurs down the hill perhaps the Police car is not necessary and distracts from the photos of the crowd.

- Craig asked about the native grasses discussions from a few months ago. Rod said we are trying to figure out what we are going to do with the triangle on S. Golden Road. It is likely going to revert back to blue grass and perhaps some public art. We feel we cannot use native grasses in narrow linear areas. Generally the Council is interested in more landscaping and we received some additional funding to help facilitate that.

- Craig and Jerry Hodgden said they each felt the native areas were nice and they were generally in favor of them.

- Torsten also wanted to wish everyone Happy Holidays and said he is looking forward to 2015

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