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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:
The Agenda was approved as amended on a motion by Torston Lyon, seconded by Laura Weinberg, and carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:
The Minutes of November 15, 2011 were approved on a motion by Jerry Hodgden, seconded by Torston Lyon, and carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT:
Saoirse introduced herself as Councilor Elect for District One. She will be sworn in January 12th. She wanted to tell the Board that in her conversations with hundreds of people in south Golden that parks and recreation is very popular. The people of Golden are very
appreciative of all Golden has to offer. The south Golden community is so happy that Golden acquired the Bachman property. Jerry Hodgden said they will also be happy when Council provides funds to do something with that property. Saoirse said she is very interested in what is going on she will send around her card with her phone number on it and would encourage the Board to engage her and involve her as much as they feel inclined. Jerry said Council is very involved and we appreciate you being here.

GOLDEN CONNECTOR TRAILS-Bill Mangle:
Bill Mangle introduced himself and Taylor Shull to the Board. He said he visited with the Board about 6 weeks ago to talk about the concept of natural surface connector trials. The direction from this Board was to look for some pilot type projects on city-owned property.

Bill said since then we have gone back and drilled down on two proposed projects. He referred the Board to the overview map first. Segment B and Segment H are the concepts wholly on city land where we would propose to begin. They would be single track trails that are accessible for hiking, foot traffic, and bike use. Each needs to stand on its own as a neighborhood amenity and as we make the connections, provides a greater value to the community.

Bill said he will go through the proposal briefly. The first trail is Segment B- Eagle Ridge. It would be just under 3 quarters of a mile long. It would run from Kinney Run just west of US 6 along the east side of the hogback then climb the hogback and descend on the Eagle Ridge subdivision. It provides a loop connection to the greater system in the long-term and is an easy through trail connection to Heritage Road to the east. Segment H is from White Ash Mine Park to Washington St.

Jerry Hodgden asked if there were other City of Golden only proposed trails. Bill said Segment D is in Ulysses Park. Jerry asked why we left E out of the first two priority trails. Bill said Segment E is actually in the concept plan Jefferson County already has in place for South Table Mountain. It is not proposing something new on their land. Jerry asked about the prioritization. Would Segment E be of high priority also? Bill said Segment E has tremendous value for the downtown neighborhoods. Bill said most of it is Jefferson County land except for the City of Golden water tank. Peter said the tank has the access road and the real trail is up the hillside. Who owns that road? Bill said the trail is being used right now to avoid people using the road. Bill said he would suspect the road is City of Golden. Peter said this could change Segment E.

Bill said some of the proposed trail Segments such as Segment F are based on discussion at our last meeting. Bill said back to the pilot project we have looked into some of the potentials for permitting and environmental requirements. We don’t see any issues there. We have pretty specific construction and maintenance specifications outlined. Our proposal is to construct with volunteer labor including Volunteers for Colorado. The value of the trails constructed by volunteers is about $20,000 for Segment B and H. We would likely seek assistance from the City for trash removal.
Jerry Hodgden asked if you have talked with Paul regarding maintenance. Paul Burkholder said as far as maintenance is concerned we use VOC and don’t do a lot of maintenance on open space trails. If we had issues we wouldn’t have staff to provide assistance unless it was an emergency. It would need to stand on its own. Bill said on the front end after a season of use and rainfall we would plan another maintenance day. We would expect maintenance to diminish overtime.

Bill asked what the next steps are; we want direction to keep moving forward. We would love to start late spring or early summer. A lot of that is based on VOC availability. We don’t want to rush things but we want to get it on their schedule within the next month. Taylor said we will meet with COMBA next Wednesday as well. Now that COMBA is a part of IMBA we have access to maintenance crews of volunteers. We anticipate a lot of local volunteers.

Paul said one caveat when using the VOC is they use their training crews but that doesn’t necessarily mean they can finish the project, they simply complete any training.

Rod said from his perspective the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board needs to determine if these projects should move forward or not. Ultimately, the City Council will need to look at the project. On the North and South segment having the neighbors involved would be necessary including the HOAs. About the time we start construction, we find neighboring residents are not happy. Rod said we need make sure we have plenty of communication. Let’s get support and buy-in before any ground breaking.

Taylor Shull said we want to do some outreach to homeowners. The reason we haven’t reached out yet it we weren’t sure we had a plan to move forward. Taylor asked if the Board would preliminarily approve the current alignments so that we can begin outreach. Taylor said we want to go in with pictures and alignments and we need to know we can move forward.

Rod said he views this a little bit differently from the Golden Bike Park Project. If the bike park isn’t used that is okay, if a trail is put in and unused that is odd. Would we have volunteers build streets or regional trails? Maybe not. It is a little peculiar. Rod said we just need to make sure that we communicate well and get Council involved. Our first priority is to take care of infrastructure in place with limited funds.

Paul said we need to double check the HOA property on Segment H. It would not be city property.

Peter asked what will happen if during outreach they find the neighbors don’t want mountain bikers. Bill said we just want to be open for concerns and see if they can be addressed. Taylor said there will be some pain involved. Taylor said we will reach out to the neighborhood. Peter asked whether it would be a multiuse trail or a hiker-only trail. That is what you will find out. With respect to Segment B, it adds a new link to Apex and Chimney
Gulch Trail. Bill said he doesn't think it will be that attractive to regional bikers. We can design the trails to reduce conflict. We can address most conflict through design.

Torston said with the limited capital funds he thinks it is great to see groups come to the city with these ideas without the need for funds. He said he would like to review the proposal again, it may be outside the comfort zone, but if we can learn to continue to make these projects successful it will allow Golden to continue to become better and better with limited capital resources.

Emmy said this is great and she appreciates the detail and if what you are looking for is the go ahead to go the neighborhoods she is all for it. She would guess this may be the wave of the future.

Laura said her only comment would be to the conversations with the HOAs and neighbors because that is going to affect that whole schedule. You have some dates in place; you need to ensure communication starts sooner rather than later. Even prior to an approval by this group.

Jerry Harcek said we will get buy in from the neighbors first. This trail will not be single track like Apex so he doesn’t feel it will be an issue like Apex can be. Dylan asked if it will be wide. Jerry said it is not a rutted one lane trail.

Taylor asked if we can work with HOAs and get the blessing from them and neighbors should we then open an opportunity for public input at a Parks and Recreation Advisory Board meeting like we did with the bike park. Rod said with the bike park we had discussions like this and public communications didn’t go well which forced a public hearing. Rod said he is not sure the Board needs to have a public hearing. It might be more effective in an outreach situation. Let's flush out the concerns versus establishing a public hearing.

Jerry Hodgden said from what he sees on this aerial there are not many houses to visit. If you would like some insurance that the Board is amenable to do this, he would suggest we give you a vote of confidence that we like this project. We would ask you to survey the neighborhoods and return to talk to us.

Taylor said we can bring feedback to the Board at your next meeting. What is the next step after that? Rod said the Board would then vote, we would want to have the detail sorted out before we take it to Council. Rod would make the assumption that this group would like to see you have covered the bases by seeking those most impacted and have received their feedback.

Jerry Harcek made a motion to approve the Golden Connector Trail project move forward in their outreach efforts, the motion was seconded by Torston Lyon and was approved unanimously.
Rod said general community outreach encourages a foundation so that this project can continue throughout the community in the future. Taylor asked who put in the noise berm. Rod said it was a Public Works project and he doesn’t know what the outreach efforts were.

Saoirse said she did hear about the user conflicts she was interested in what Bill said about design. She would ask that information was shared up front in your outreach efforts. Bill said Apex is well known. It is the case study of user conflict. The steps Jefferson County took years ago have helped to mitigate that.

**BARBARA FALL CONTRIBUTIONS:**

Jerry Hodgden said Barbara Fall came to Golden in 1975, was a teacher and then joined her husband, Sam, in their pool installation business. She was a member of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board beginning in 1995. She passed away on Friday and it was a happy coincidence that she passed just as the lights were going on during the Holiday Walk. She made contributions that will continue long after she is gone. During her 15 years on the Board she lived parks and recreation and was instrumental in building the amenities we have today including raising the bond issue that built Fossil Trace Club and Splash Aquatic Park. That also included 3 million in Opens Space funds. After raising the money for a satellite recreation center we shuffled the funds to this building and completed the 2007 renovation. Barbara was also instrumental in building the kayak course. She contributed to White Ash Mine Park and Norman D Park. She was a part of the building of the first and second dog park. We took the President of the Colorado School of Mines to dinner to try to get the south side Clear Creek Trail built. Most recently, she was involved in the Golden Bike Park and the Community Gardens. She has been volunteering throughout the community.

We will miss Barbara Fall and we could memorialize Barbara in the parks system if you would like. Her husband, Sam, came into the Parks and Recreation Department today and the family would like to raise funds to build a small flower garden in honor of Barbara. We talked about the entrance to Splash due to her invested interests in Splash. She was also very interested in what might happen in Vanover Park. It might be a good time to put it into Vanover and could fit in with the natural nature of the park. It could also have interpretation to provide education. Jerry said discussed the options with the family and they said they would really like a space in Vanover Park. He provided a map of the park to the Board.

Jerry said he would suggest the park provide a bench and the flower garden along the creek on the east side of the bridge. That is where we are tonight. Barbara’s service and gathering will be at 10a.m. on Saturday at Fossil Trace Golf Club. Jerry said he would very much like to see her memorialized in the park. He asked if the Board had any questions.

Rod Tarullo said from what he understands is that a fund has been established which would be donated to the parks system. We have had some concern in the past that we don’t memorialize the parks too much. A bench has memorialized the person by providing a use
rather than a plaque. Rod said Sam came along with his son and two daughters. The image Rod has from the discussion is likely just a planting similar to what we would typically have in a park. The challenge is to have enough flowers to be respectful of Barbara but also something that doesn’t take long-term maintenance costs.

Jerry Hodgden added that the Board has talked about Vanover Park and a small natural playground where we can utilize the tree slab and provide interpretation. We could memorialize Barbara in this area with a bench and small flower garden while providing information about the plantings. We could discuss xeriscaping here to encourage people to plant xeriscaping in this area.

Laura Weinberg suggested we separate the Barbara Fall discussion from the Vanover Park discussion. We would still be supporting of the Barbara Fall Garden in our parks system. Jerry said he is looking for a location to provide to the family. The location can be up for discussion.

Torston Lyon made a motion to accept the Fall family donation of a flower garden in memory of Barbara Fall in a location in the Golden parks system, it was seconded by Emmy Dimitroff and carried unanimously.

Jerry Hodgden asked if there was a place for the garden in Vanover Park. It would be nice for the family to be able to provide donators with the location of the garden.

Laura said we are still discussing what Vanover Park should look like. Vanover hasn’t been defined yet. She said she is not comfortable saying the garden will be in Vanover Park. A memorial garden in one of our parks is great, but this park is not yet defined.

**SOUTHRIDGE PARK FENCE:**

Jerry Hodgden said Southridge Park is off Utah Street and has a public utility site. It is unsightly and there has been a request by citizens to block the utility site from view. Jerry said there is a slat weave fence that can cover the utility.

Rod said Councilor Claxton had received comments from citizens about this site. She had at least two citizens ask for screening from the park. Paul Burkholder and I conversed about it; we could build a privacy screen or fence on our property or talk to Xcel to do some screening on their fence. We didn’t think they would be amiable to the idea, but they are.

Paul said the fence runs 400 feet. There are two options. We can put the slats into the fence or replace the fence entirely. The existing fence is warped, that would be the argument for the $10,000 option replacement fence. Xcel is open to whatever we want to do. Rod said we can provide the funds, the question is do we want to spend this money here or are there other places you would rather use park improvement funds?
Jerry Hodgden said he personally has found the utility site distracting in the park. Jerry asked if we can get by with the cheaper fence option. Paul said he would recommend the $9,600 option. Jerry asked if there is a use for the $3,000 differential. Paul said if we don’t use the funds this year, they will go back to the General Fund. We will receive a new budget next year.

Stephanie Sung said she has a problem building Xcel a new fence.

Laura Weinberg said the tennis courts are on one side the playground is on the other. Rod said if you are at the playground you look through the tennis courts into the Xcel lot. Laura asked if we could put a fence by the tennis courts. Rod said that would only provide a partial block.

Emmy Dimitroff asked if a new piece of playground equipment could be an alternative use of the funds.

Dylan Grange asked what color options we have.

Torston Lyon said he looks at these dollar amounts and doesn’t see this as a priority.

Peter Gotseff said if someone were to question it, it wouldn’t stand up.

Rod said we do make improvements in parks without bringing each to the board. This is unique as it is not on city land and has been requested by citizens. We try to be responsive. This discussion is exactly the feedback we are looking for.

Stephanie asked what happens when the fence needs to be repaired. Torston said if we choose to go forward he thinks we need to have some commitment from Xcel. Rod said we are shocked they even agreed to the fence. Laura said the north side of the park has trees and shrubs perhaps that could be an option instead. Paul said that could also be an option. It could still be fairly expensive, probably 5 or 6 thousand.

The Board agreed they would rather plant trees and shrubs on city property. Rod said if we are looking at evergreens it actually can feel unsafe to people in the park. Rod said it is just a very subtle element that we don’t think about. Laura said trees or shrubs could at least break up the appearance and provide a more natural look.

**VANOVER PARK DISCUSSION:**

Laura Weinberg said she visited the park and the drawing Jerry provided is helpful to have. The area bound by the ditch and the path is a really nice natural space right now. She said it would lend itself really well to a natural park setting with natural elements to enhance the area. There is a really nice developed area with benches and landscaping that we had talked about having a contemplative space. There is good access for homeowners and businesses nearby. What we are missing are tables. Laura said she wouldn’t suggest large
picnic tables. She would suggest chess size tables perhaps even concrete. It doesn’t attract groups or families. Amber suggested the Board visit www.naturalplaygrounds.com for ideas for natural playground elements.

DIRECTOR’S REPORT:

- The January 3rd Study Session is cancelled, we will allocate time to Vanover Park at the January 15th meeting.

- Lions Pond has sludge that needs to be removed. The details are still to be determined.

BOARD MEMBERS’ COMMENTS:

- Jerry said he attended the School of Mines Meeting this week and it was announced during the month of December they will be trucking away the contamination on the south side of Clear Creek to the landfill. The area should be clean to proceed with the trail hopefully in the spring.

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