CITY OF GOLDEN
PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD
REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2013
7:00 P.M.

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

ABSENT:
Dylan Grange

STAFF:
Amber Thill, Parks and Recreation Analyst
Paul Burkholder, Parks, Forestry, Cemetery Manager

PUBLIC:
None

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 on a motion by Jerry Harcek, seconded by Torsten Lyon, and carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:
The Minutes of January 15, 2013 were approved on a motion by Laura Weinberg, seconded by Torsten Lyon, and carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT:
None

FEB 28 COUNCIL MEETING PREPARATIONS:
Jerry Hodgden will be out of town for the February 28th Council Update. Pete Gotseff will be meeting with Council in Jerry’s place. Laura Weinberg added that she spoke to Bill Fisher and one of the things he mentioned was because there is so much conversation floating around about the funds available to be spent, he thought the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board should come up with an actual proposal of how we would fund our priorities. What projects would we suggest? Laura said there are the Clear Creek projects that we could package.
Jerry Hodgden said he would suggest the cantilevered trail on the north side of Clear Creek. Emmy Dimitroff liked the idea of the cantilevered trail as well. Jerry also added they could put forth the band shell.

Jerry Harcek said the Golden Bike Park could use some funds for maintenance. He suggested we start knocking out priorities.

Torsten Lyon said to tie into what has already been said, we could easily put together a proposal of our highest priority items in conjunction with trying to start Clear Creek projects. We could finish Vanover Park and add finish the North Clear Creek Trail to better connect it to the system.

Laura said we need to look at a bigger project such as a museum cultural center. She said let’s look big picture. We could build a story to create a compelling picture.

Torsten said the timeliness of Clear Creek as the focus right now in the City is good; we could put together a story taking our priority items which help reduce conflict along the creek. The other item which is on the priority list is the 8th Street connector. That is the lynchpin in the Clear Creek Master Plan. Torsten said he spent a lot of time at the meeting last week talking to folks and he isn’t sure adding additional features will be considered until parking is figured.

Laura said she isn’t sure about the band shell, she doesn’t know that adding a feature like that will work in this package since it is controversial.

Jerry Hodgden said we also talked about a water feature in Lion’s Park. A splash pad or a diversion of the creek could also be in the package. This is a good time to do it. Jerry said we also talked about reducing parking spaces at the RV Park so that the trail can be widened.

Emmy said as we talk about restoration and environmental issues is it wise to save funding to implement these projects? Paul and Amber said $400,000 in 2013 funds is already budgeted for this year for Clear Creek preservation.

Pete Gotseff said we need to focus on the Master Plan projects and we need to try not to get distracted by other things.

Jerry Harcek said he also thought about doing something with the skate parks. The park at Ulysses is in serious need of an upgrade.

Amber Thill said staff will also be presenting two packages at the request of Mr. Bestor including one $3 million package of playground improvements and one $3 million including updating Ulysses Park, a Splash Pad in Lions, and Golden Community Center Aquatics and facility updates.
Laura said with so much conversation around Clear Creek there may be a lot of reluctance to move forward with projects. Jerry said the idea of bringing 8th Street down will allow the Clear Creek Master Plan to be implemented. Jerry said this plan would be very beneficial to Council. Laura said we may want to have a Clear Creek package and another proposal separate from Clear Creek to present as a Board.

Paul Burkholder said Council will likely be looking for a project they can implement quickly.

Jerry said this project is separate from the Clear Creek Management Plan process. Jerry asked what type of plan we could put together. Emmy said she likes the skate park package.

Emmy said if we could learn more about the Clear Creek funded projects it will give us direction. Amber said the $400,000 Clear Creek Funds will be used to add the following:

- Trail edge fencing to protect repaired and un-disturbed areas
- Design and install of safe, convenient creek access and observation areas
- Widen or replace part or all of the north side trail segment from Billy Drew Bridge west to the RV Park
- Construct and install signage
- Potential parking changes based on Council feedback

Laura added that when people visit Golden there isn't information on parking on websites or signage when you arrive in Golden. The Chamber, Visit Golden, Etc. The City lot is closed for the Farmer's Market. We need to direct people to the City lots especially the parking garages.

Jerry Hodgden said the Farmer's Market contributes greatly to the congestion along the Creek. Laura said a lot of cities close a city street for a Farmer's Market. Torsten said the parking proposals are missing removing parking. We have exceeded the capacity.

Laura went through the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board priorities with the Board as a reminder.

Amber said she was unsure if we had the ability or an easement to build the North Clear Creek cantilevered trail. Staff will follow-up with Mr. Glueck, Planning Director, regarding ownership to build the trail.

Laura also added the City provides funding for all the museums in the city, there have been a lot of requests to City Council to improve museum spaces throughout town. She said there is some traction right now in what City Council is calling a Cultural Center.
no other competing projects around that. City museum staff has also asked for additional museums storage space which could be accommodated in the Cultural Arts facility.

Emmy said she likes the idea of two packages presented to Council by the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board. She felt one should be a Clear Creek Master Plan projects package. The band shell could be included and doesn’t necessarily bring too many new visitors. It is also in our priorities list. She suggested the Board tackle everything in the East Creek package. Then propose a second package that could be the new Cultural facility or the Ulysses Skate park/facilities improvements. The packages are distinctly different, one meets corridor needs and one is a big exciting project. In both we are meeting the Parks Master Plan and Clear Creek Master Plan recommendations.

Stephanie Sung said we can sit here and talk big picture or we can talk about quick hit implementable projects. If we really want the funds to go to parks we might want to consider a splash pad, skate park, etc. Shovel ready projects might ensure we get the funding. Is it worth the risk not receiving funding because what we are proposing big picture and expensive plans that would likely be implemented years down the road?

Jerry Harcek said he supports the skate park improvements and upgrading playgrounds across the city that staff will be bring to Council.

Torsten suggested the two proposals from the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board be to refresh all our playgrounds and a Clear Creek package.

Laura said since skate parks are already going to Council from staff she likes the idea of seeing how everything plays out with Clear Creek and she would continue to recommend the Cultural Center package.

Emmy said she would favor the East Clear Creek Package and an updated skate park.

Pete said he would endorse the East Creek Package as it is the least volatile area, with that, he believes supporting staff packages would be his recommendation.

Stephanie Sung agreed to support staff packages including the skatepark and playground improvements.

Jerry Hodgden said he liked the skate board park project and East Clear Creek package.

Torsten made a motion to recommend two packages be presented to Council during the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Update. The first would be the East Clear Creek Improvements (Parks Board Priority Two) defined as updating Vanover Park, creating the boardwalk trail, building the band shell, and to also include widening the trail on the west end along the RV Park as recommended in the Clear Creek Master Plan. The second package recommended is a new skate park at Ulysses Park as suggested by staff. The motion was seconded by Jerry Harcek and carried six to one.
NORMAN D PARK DISCUSSION:

Amber Thill said we have a firm offer on the KB Homes lot to go to Council for sale approval on Feb 28th. Net proceeds will be $100,000. We need to set a public meeting for input from the neighborhood and community for the Norman D. Park playground. We won’t go far with $100,000; so we have also included Norman D. Park in the playground improvements package. Torsten said the meeting should be at the Community Center so we can educate attendees on what they will get for $100,000 and gain feedback on park elements they would like to see.

Amber said we need to get the word out to the public that we will be discussing potential improvements to Norman D Park. We will ensure all social media outreach is used to get as many people as possible and add signage at the park. Amber said she will also get a public meeting notice into the April Informer and notify Mitchell Elementary with the hopes of getting youth feedback. The Public Meeting will be April 16th at the Golden Community Center at 7pm.

CLEAR CREEK MANAGEMENT PLAN OPEN HOUSE RECAP:

Amber reviewed the memo going to Council with the Board including the projects listed earlier in the meeting. The fiscal impact for 2013 also includes $25,000 budgeted for the Clear Creek Park Rangers and some fiscal impact for increased parks staff to work on the trash issue.

The next Public Meeting for the overall Clear Creek Management Plan process will be Monday, March 18th. It will be a facilitated workshop rather than an Open House and provide community opportunity to review the outcomes of the Open House, strategies for 2013 and additional ideas and feedback.

With regards to regulations in place for the summer, staff will propose to Council the following:

- No alcohol possession or open container
- No smoking
- No glass containers
- No tents or structures in the creek bed or along the banks
- Strict enforcement of pet leash and waste laws
- Damage or destruction of property
- Traditional disturbing the peace
- Creek closures and safety equipment requirements during high water periods
Parking management did not have any consensus during the Open House; Council will discuss it at their meeting.

**DIRECTOR’S REPORT:**

Amber asked the Board if they wanted to have a Study Session on March 5th? Torsten said March 5th could be a good day to recap their role in the Clear Creek Process. Pete said he will let Amber know.

Amber said she will send the Board approximate times for the Council Update and Board Interviews, for those who put in an application to continue to serve on the Board, for the Feb 28th Meeting.

Amber also reminded the Board that their Council Update would be a good time to clarify their role in the Clear Creek Management Plan process.

The next Clear Creek Management Plan meeting is March 18th at 6:30pm at the Golden Community Center. It will be followed by an April 2nd workshop, also at the Golden Community Center at 6:30pm. This workshop will take place of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board April Study Session. She said she hopes the Board can be there, like the Open House, having as many staff and Board as possible to help answer questions and lead discussions is beneficial to an effective meeting.

**BOARD MEMBERS’ COMMENTS:**

Stephanie Sung asked for a Beverly Heights update. She said the lot looks great and she was just curious. Stephanie asked if the section of fence will come down and Paul said likely with some plantings and ADA improvements.

Laura made a comment about the Open House that she heard many people say they wanted an overview. She thought it was really good feedback. Maybe even a station for overall process. Amber said the next two meetings will be facilitated workshops.

Torsten said he is concerned about summer 2013. He is not concerned about parking in his driveway. He is concerned about the capacity the creek can hold. Permit parking helps to make parking limited which will deter users. He would also suggest banning tubing this year until we have a plan to handle parking. He said users will then deselect.

Stephanie added that permit parking could also push people closer to downtown which would be great for the visitors. Torsten added we can also use paid parking to push people to downtown merchants. Stephanie said we also need to present a fair argument based on flow or a rotation of uses.

Laura said parking is not the problem; less parking could be the solution. She thinks there is too much on 10th Street. The Farmer’s Market, ball fields, Library, tubing, etc. The problem is too many people.
Emmy said people were camping in the front yards of areas along 9th Street. She said if nothing else, the highest priority should be to make the 12th Street permit parking year round and to add 10th and 9th. When you live on 9th and 11th you get to walk to all of these great places, but you are a victim of your own convenience. Everyone wants to be in close proximity.

Pete asked how long you can park. Emmy said not at all, you have to have the permit or you get ticketed right away.

Laura said we also need to provide parking for residents and users of the amenities that we have while she also supports permit parking in the neighborhoods.

Pete asked how supportive Torsten’s neighborhood is of permit parking. Torsten said very supportive.

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