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

ABSENT: None

STAFF: Rod Tarullo, Director of Parks, Recreation and Golf
Amber Thill, Parks and Recreation Coordinator
Steve Glueck, Director of Planning and Development

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 Emmy Dimitroff, seconded by Stephanie Sung, and carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:
The Minutes of January 17, 2012 were approved on a motion by Stephanie Sung, seconded by Dylan Grange, and carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

PUBLIC OFFICIALS LIABILITY VIDEO:
Rod Tarullo passed around a sign-in sheet for the video. He said our insurance carrier, CIRSA, has asked that the video be shown to all public officials. It is about 17 minutes regarding liability.

VANOVER PARK CONCEPT REVIEW:
Rod said we contacted Paul Kuhn of Winston and Associates, the landscape architect on
retainer with the city, we met with him onsite, gave him minutes of previous meetings where the Board discussed Vanover Park, and he has turned around and provided us two concepts to review. We wanted to provide you different amenities that you can look at and choose elements which you like. In general terms, what you see on these two concepts would fall within our budget. We are seeking feedback to provide to Winston to further refine the project. With that we are interested in taking your comments.

Stephanie Sung said she liked Concept A it seems a little bit cleaner.

Laura Weinberg asked if we needed to have a shelter. Rod said we do not have to incorporate a shelter.

Dylan Grange asked what we are doing with the tree slab. Rod said in Concept A it is shown as signage, in Concept B the tree slab is made into a table.

Peter Gotseff asked what the general cost will be. Rod said the budget was $80,000 and Winston and Associates anticipate a number close to this.

Jerry Hodgden said he likes that the park is different and not your typical playground structures.

Laura Weinberg said she liked the steps on Concept B and also some trees and additional seating near the creek. She said the additional trees and seating area are nice and will accommodate the lunch crowd.

Peter Gotseff asked if there was a bbq pit in the area. Rod said no, just benches. Jerry said the Concept B fort doesn’t look very sturdy. Rod said generally staff agreed to that point.

Laura Weinberg said she isn’t sure we need a shelter without tables, etc. Rod said if we have a shelter in place we would provide tables. In several neighborhood parks we have shelters and tables; many have been completed by the Lions Club.

Jerry Hodgden said it might be a good idea to digest these plans further and discuss them at the next meeting. Rod suggested the Board take the concepts with you and walk the park.

Peter Gotseff asked what the process is to move this playground forward. Rod said it would be prudent once we get it narrowed down to one concept to have a public meeting. Most people attend public meetings when it dramatically impacts them. Rod would suggest when we get to the point of a decision to review that we would have a meeting and put the concept on the web to garner some feedback before we proceed. A public meeting could be scheduled during a Parks and Recreation Advisory Board meeting. Jerry suggested we have the public meeting in the park.
Laura asked what the construction time frame would be. Rod said it is unique because it is an existing park. Depending on what concepts you like, some of the elements we could complete in house and some farm out to contractors. Rod would guess a timeframe of three to four months. Laura asked what time of year. Rod said certainly not the dead of winter. A lot of irrigation, etc goes underground, as this park is mostly surface it could go quicker and occur at other times of the year. Ideally, we would commence construction between March and October.

Laura asked if this project has grant funding. Rod said we did receive a grant from Jefferson County and they would like us to complete the project sooner rather than later although there is not a concrete deadline.

Torston said we need to set a goal to do actionable items by our next meeting, it will take a month of public notice and then we are in the middle of April for a public meeting. If we want action this summer, we need to march ahead for the next meeting.

Rod said, for the benefit of new members, in a new park construction we would be going to the community first to generate the concept. Because Vanover is an existing park and not immersed in residential this process is slightly different.

Jerry said we are planning this park based on a lot of public feedback prior to Discovery Park also. Peter asked how successful Discovery Park has been; Rod said the park is popular. Emmy said the park needs more fossils. Laura said her family likes the grass maze. Peter asked how we make sure the elements are actually fun. Rod said we can field test them. Stephanie said at Cherry Creek Mall there are 400 kids enjoying climbing on inanimate objects. Stephanie said Concept A has a better play section and Concept B has a better passive park area.

Steve Glueck asked if there was discussion about preserving the area for a future north side Clear Creek Trail. Jerry said there is possibility of a cantilevered walk on the north side. Steve said the latest design for the trail was completed by School of Mines students. Steve said both Concepts could conflict. Rod said Paul Kuhn has been notified of this consideration.

Rod asked if the Board would like to see a Study Session at the beginning of March where you could vet this out amongst yourselves. We do not feel under the gun at this time. Rod said you need to determine if you want a March Study Session on March 6th or table this until your regular meeting March 20th. Torston asked if we should take these two concepts to the public or a single concept to the public. Rod would suggest we have it well defined to take to the public meeting. Jerry said it should be considered a park improvement. Stephanie asked if anyone disagreed with Concept A’s active side, and Concept B’s passive side. The Board generally agreed.
Emmy said she likes the root footprint though in Concept B. She said she likes parts of both Concepts. Stephanie said the tree root will be lost on kids. Emmy said Concept B encourages your imagination. Jerry said the tree roots seem to bridge over other things. Torston said the tree root could be a balance beam.

Rod said he would propose at the Board’s next regular meeting everyone is prepared to come to consensus on one concept. We will then have a Study Session in April. That will allow us to complete the project this year. Rod said some time in the park will likely sprout additional ideas.

**GOCO RIVER CORRIDORS INITIATIVE:**
Rod Tarullo said we have been in contact with Jefferson County and what has transpired is back in 2007 Jefferson County Open Space did a Master Plan on Clear Creek to put a trail in from the canyon down into Golden. It is the equivalent of putting 1-70 through Glenwood. They have completed design and routed the trail.

This last year Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO) has come up with a River Corridor Initiative and has designated millions for improvements to river corridors. They want the projects to allow people to touch the water. GOCO received 63 requests from across the state and invited 17 to propose projects. Jefferson County and Clear Creek County were included. They are in the process of putting together a grant application for a segment of the Clear Creek Trail. GOCO likes partnerships; one of the challenges is from where Golden stops to the county line there are exactly two land owners. They are partnering with Clear Creek County and submitted to do a 5 mile stretch of this trail. It is the highest trail in the County. A portion would be in Clear Creek and a portion in Jeffco estimated at 13 million. They are hoping for about 7 million in grant funds from GOCO. This could be a spring board to make the rest of the trail a priority.

What they are trying to do is ask the cities and recreation districts to become partners. What they have accessed we need to do is a financial obligation. They are asking Golden and the other cities for $25,000 total in the next three years. We think that is money well spent as we are the closest municipality to the new trail section. It is our intent to pledge in the next three years to lend our support. This trial is called the Plains to Peaks trail. The long-term goal is for the Clear Creek Trail to run from DIA to Glenwood. In Golden, our portion is whole; there are also sections of the trail in the mountains that have already been completed.

Jerry Hodgden asked if they have asked Colorado School of Mines. Rod said he didn’t know. They have asked Arvada, Lakewood, Wheat Ridge and Golden. Rod said he doesn’t know if all have accepted. Jerry asked if it has been approved by Council. Jerry also asked if this will give us status going to GOCO for future funding. Rod said it shows we see the value of the project. Jerry said most cities do projects remotely.

Laura asked from the eastern part of the project, how many miles along Clear Creek to
Golden. Rod would speculate 7 or 8 miles. Stephanie Sung said they have built the new trailhead. With this funding this project can become a reality by moving it to the top of the priority list.

Torston Lyon asked about GOCO being lottery funds. Rod said it is a portion of lottery proceeds along with conservation trust which is allocated based on population.

DIRECTOR’S REPORT:

Rod Tarullo said we presented to the Jefferson County Commissioners for the Local Park and Recreation Grant in December, we received notification we were funded for Splash Improvements for $24,000. The County has an Open Space Tax; we get an attributable share due to population size. Another portion of their tax proceeds is for parks and recreation grants.

Many years ago, Jefferson County went out and bonded and received a lot of money to work with municipalities to acquire open space. Most of that funding is now depleted, what they have realized if they have given too much funding over the years. They have greatly reduced the funding for grants beginning this year and will only fund 25% of a project. Each year we seek out Parks and Recreation priorities; get Council approval, then present our grant project application to the Jefferson County Commissioners. Golden has received far more than their share per capita of funding through the years. If you look at the report, Morrison shows the most funding though their average is $240 per capita, Golden has received $608 per capita since 1999. We are proud of that!

As for Splash Aquatic Park, we recoated the pink slide last year and replaced the splash pad area. This year we are repainting the yellow slide. We will also completely renovate the sand area to include playground features.

We are doing a major shut down in August at the Golden Community Center and leaving Splash open a week longer due to pool work at the GCC. We will be working on pumps, filters and replastering. When we did our renovation in this building in 2007, we didn’t do much to the aquatics area.

Laura said the bottom of the pool is so rough. Rod said that will be fixed with the new plaster during maintenance week.

Rod said City Council had a retreat last week; we haven’t heard the feedback yet. The one item we are aware of is they hope to have a very specific prioritization of the Clear Creek Corridor Master Plan. Other pieces might include Bachman. Rod expects one the Boards tasks to be the prioritization. Rod said he is concerned we completed our Infrastructure Inventory Report last year and in reality need a few million a year to maintain our existing amenities and we don’t know if everyone has embraced this reality yet.
Peter asked for an example of what infrastructure in the parks system will need replacement. Rod said the heating and cooling system for the aquatics area in this building is a good example. It is passed its useful life and the last time we checked we thought we could complete the project for about $250,000 and now it looks like it will be closer to $400,000. If that unit broke today, we would have to close the aquatics area. The report also includes regular maintenance of the playgrounds, roofs, trees, trails, etc.

Torston asked for an update on the pond. Rod said it has been a Public Works project. Rod said as soon as things dry up they should be able to finish up. We will then fine tune drainage, sod, etc. We are slowing down only due to weather. The area of influence will be larger due to grading; Rod is guessing most of the area within the fence. Rod said his goal is to make sure it is a pleasant grassy area during the summer.

Torston asked for any updates on South Side Clear Creek Trail. Rod said he hasn’t heard anything new in a couple months. Rod said he will follow-up with Steve and provide an update to the board.

BOARD MEMBERS’ COMMENTS:
Laura Weinberg said her family participates in swimming lessons and she wonders why they don’t complete surveys at the end of class. She said she has never been asked to rate a teacher or lesson. Stephanie said every parent sitting in the pool area received one when she was there, she has received two. Rod said you should be receiving one. Rod said he would follow-up on this.

Jerry Hodgden said Rick Gardner provided him some information on the Astor House and the yard of the house being designated a park. Rod said the museum takes care of the artifacts in the building, facilities take care of the structure, and our parks department has intermittently taken care of the grounds. There is lots of work that can be done. Jerry said it is highly visible. Rod said he knows Nathan, the Museums Director, would like people to want to have events and activities there. Paul and Nathan have been strategizing on what it might look like. Jerry encouraged the Board to bring any ideas for improvements.

Jerry Harcek said we had a meeting last night with the Golden Connector Trail Group, there are 8 or 9 people in the group and the next couple months we will be meeting with School of Mines and had discussed having representation from the City and Jeffco. Peter asked who was a part of the group. Jerry said they had someone from the Mountaineering Center and School of Mines Running Club. A few residents from Heritage Dells area also.

Jerry Hodgden said when we ended the meeting last time Rod mentioned a Blue Ribbon Panel was being put together by Council to work on funding sources for the City and it would be nice to have representation. Rod said he believes the nominations have closed. Rod said City Council will soon be completing interviews.
Dylan Grange said his Mom was asking if a dog waste bag stand could be put on the south side of Illinois Street path as a heavily used dog area. Rod said he probably gets a request a week for a dog waste bag dispenser. We spend approximately $8,000 a year purchasing and maintaining them. With every dispenser we usually have to also have a trash can. Then we have to service it. It greatly expands the tax on resources that we have. Our experience is many bring their bags from home and some use the dispensers though some don't. We will look into the area. We do often modify the existing locations. Dylan said the closest one is at Discovery Park. Emmy said the bags are of poor quality and ripping when she pulls them from the dispenser. Rod said we have explored the stands that are filled by citizen’s grocery bags. Stephanie said that would be great at dog parks.

Rod said we have several small city parcels that are maintained by neighborhoods with native plant material. They are all pretty well kept.

Peter asked about the two men who visited regarding Norman D. Park. He wondered what the status is. Rod said we have been over to review the park site. Norman D Park has wild turkeys making a mess over there. We agreed to add a bench or two and a trash barrel. We also had a dog bag request.

**ADJOURN:**

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Torston Lyon, seconded by Jerry Harcek, and carried unanimously.