ROLL CALL:
Torsten Lyon, 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 Hodgden, seconded by Jerry Harcek, and carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:
The Minutes of February 17, 2015 were approved on a motion by Jerry Hodgden, seconded by Jerry Harcek and carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT:
None, all public were in attendance for an agenda item

GOLDEN OPTIMISTS:
Torsten Lyon said he knows the Golden Optimists have had a facility at Heritage Square over the last 20 years where they store and work on bikes and with the changes coming to Heritage Square they are looking for a new space.

Jerry Hodgden said the Optimists Club is for charitable work. The bikes they work on are confiscated or found by the police and given to citizens in need after they are fixed up.
John Dougherty said he has been with the Optimists for a long time. They have a Quonset hut at Heritage Square. John said it was built with a grant from the Civic Foundation. It was uninsullated so the location has not always been ideal. They figured this might be the push they needed to be more centrally located in Golden. They give a lot of bikes to Mines students, children in need, etc. They are a nonprofit and for a long time they have worked rent free. To make a monthly rent could be quite a hurdle. They would rather their function be a teaching and community resource.

Suzy Stutzman said some of our main functions are taking bikes in and making them useful. The total membership is 14 with a few volunteer mechanics. Today was a nice day and it was a great place for special needs kids. They are also involved in Boy Scouts. There are people involved in this making it an excellent community resource. They serve families, kids, students, etc. Donations have always been optional. They work with the Christian Action Guild. They also give away helmets. They have a map in the shop with pins from all the locations the adults and kids who have been given bikes are from.

Suzy said last year they took in more than 600 bikes and put out more than 400. They recycle the rest. She also wants to pitch that this program is an integral part of Golden and they are interested in how to better serve Golden. They would like to help with the future bike share program, making sure all Golden kids have access to bikes, etc. They have had grandparents come out and get a bike to ride with their grand kids. There are many themes in Vision 2030 that align well with the Golden Optimists group including volunteerism, walkability and bikeability, etc.

Torsten Lyon asked how we might be able to help. Suzy said they don't have a firm time table, they know they should be looking for alternative locations in the next year. Their ideal situation is to have the Board think about how their program could serve Golden and where is a good place to do that. They would love for the Board to think of potential places for them. If there is a place where they could serve the community they would love that including possibly a future resolution to support the Optimists to Golden City Council.

Jerry Hodgden said we have a number of leisure programs in the recreation center and this seems to fall in that category. John offered to help maintain the bike park if that was a potential location as Jerry Hodgden suggested.

Torsten said that was a great introduction and he felt a few things resonated with him including how well the group aligns with the Vision 2030 goals of the community. We never have the money that we need but we are always trying to do more with less and this group is showing efforts to meet the needs of the community. Apex Trailhead and Golden Bike Park are great examples. Torsten said they serve an important community need.

Suzy said they are not asking for money to build a structure they just need a location for the structure so they don’t have to pay rent. Jerry Hodgden said land is very important in the Parks Department and it doesn’t come cheap. We have to be careful on how we use it and
volunteer groups who take care of our park spaces are good examples of getting support from the community to maintain existing spaces.

Suzy said a lot of people who volunteer with them don’t drive cars; they get the green bus all the way to Apex. Many people don’t have the transportation, Grampsas could work but they might have access issues getting out there.

John said there is a spot adjacent to the Lions Club Shed and their Quonset hut could conceivably fit. They don’t have outdoor mess, they keep it all enclosed. They work out in front of it during the workday but they put it all away when they close up at night.

Casey Brown said it was a really exciting idea and he would love to network and integrate the group more closely with the City. Casey asked if they have ever programmed. Suzy said they would like to do more instruction. It is neat to show people how to fix the bikes. She said there is a lot of opportunity there for a partnership with the City.

Craig Middleton asked what the monthly newsletter was called. Amber said the Golden Informer. He suggested an article for the Golden Optimists. You could inform everyone about the group and at the same time make a request for donations or property. Suzy said they do have a placeholder in the May Informer. Amber said they should take that opportunity even if it was just to provide education to the community on the Golden Optimists Group and what they have to offer.

Casey asked how they acquired their original location at Heritage Square. Suzy said there was a grant from the Civic Foundation, they were given a concrete pad, and Heritage Square provided utilities. They only needed electricity.

Pete Gotseff asked if they were the only non-profit group of this nature. Others were not sure, but thought perhaps this was the only bike group that was not for profit in the community. More research would need to be completed.

Casey said it seems this could be a unique situation and not necessarily competing with other nonprofit entities in town. He felt this was a great opportunity.

Craig asked if the Lions Club could be a part of this discussion and could assist a group like the Optimists. Jerry Hodgden said he spoke with them a while back and are interested in contributing to the fitness station along Clear Creek. Jerry said he could also talk to them about the Optimists Group.

BACHMAN MEETING RECAP:

Torsten wanted to say thank you to everyone who made the meeting on March 3rd and said it was a good discussion and lively meeting. He said he personally learned a lot at the meeting. He thanked Amber for compiling the comments of the meeting and online submissions. They are available on the city website. It was great to read the comments from
Casey Brown said the meeting went really well. It was a difficult environment for those who wanted to see something happen on the property in the short term. He felt the comments compiled showed a little more balance of possibilities. He said he came away with a few things. First, there is not a need for a path for the property to get to places; however, some people wouldn't mind being able to use the property in some fashion. The sidewalk along Colfax would also be an important improvement. He said we don't have open spaces like Bachman which are surrounded by neighborhoods. He is okay with leaving it alone but would also like it to look more like open space and less like a fenced /restricted property. Crown Hill Park is more natural with a wooden fence. Perhaps we could do something along those lines in the short term until we can master plan the area.

Jerry Hodgden said he has a different opinion. A couple years ago we had so much discussion about underserved areas for parks in Golden. The reason Open Space Funds were used was because we had three defined underserved areas in the Master Plan including the Bachman property. We were encouraged to purchase the property by the neighborhood. He said the future park could have simple things like trails and open space areas to walk. People all around Golden contributed to the payment for it. Now the neighborhood doesn't want a park, they just wanted it purchased to prevent future development of homes. He said he feels we were used. Let's use the land eventually to build a park, there is no hurry, we don't have funding right now. Let's let it look like a city owned property. There will eventually be a park in that location that can be used by anyone in the city.

Casey said he doesn't disagree; eventually we bought that land for a future park. Jerry Hodgden and Casey said in the interim they would like to do something with that space with perhaps a new fence so that it appears open space and not a “do not use” zone. Jerry said he would like to see a trail through the property so it could actually be used. Casey said he heard a number of people say it could be a nice space to stroll through.

Jerry Harcek said people may be upset about spending the money on fencing or a crusher fine trail in the interim only for it to be removed in the future for the new park.

Casey said if we were redoing the park in a year it might be wise to leave it, but that concept is multiple years away.

Torsten said the goals going into that meeting were to revisit the long term plan to put a neighborhood park there, the second goal was to determine if there was any acceptable activity on that property at this point without funding for a park. There were many vocal people in attendance at the meeting who wanted the land to stay the way it is long term and didn't want a park in the future. Torsten said there was another set of people who didn't want to waste funding in the interim. The question left in Torsten’s mind was if we choose...
not to put a trail in the park, what is our policy on using that space at this time? If we are inviting people to use the space, he is concerned without a trail we could end up with informal trails all over the place which would visually look worse. He is also concerned about some of the comments which came from residents who don’t want a trail. They could give the perception we don’t want the land used by others. How do we make this space look like City-owned open space?

Jerry Hodgden said land in Golden is precious; we have purchased this land to be used. We have to use our land for recreation. He wants to see Bachman used for something recreational. He will be coming to visit the Board as a citizen and he will continue to come to the Board and City Council and push for a neighborhood park on the Bachman Property. The average citizen should be able to access that area.

Craig asked Rod when a park of this size would have funding. Craig said probably not in the next five years. Rod agreed. Craig said what we put in there needs to be intentional; he would love to see a single track around the perimeter of the park, and a trail in the middle of the park. We need to create something that would be a stepping stone until we have the funding for the future park. Jerry Harcek added we lost the single track at Apex and we have heard a lot of public comment suggesting it is important.

Preston Driggers said the idea that we would have a park was a given. Council back to 2010 made it very clear that there would be a master plan for the future of the park that would involve the entire community. This was to be a collective effort, putting a bike track in is not a master planning effort. So now we have opened up the door for one more thing. The game plan when Council bought this land was to master plan the space. Preston said that is the framework we are holding to. It would be nice to make it look nice.

Preston said he likes the idea of a nice fence. Torsten asked if we are inviting people into the property or not. Preston said right now we don’t have a sidewalk on Heritage to access the space safely.

Jerry Harcek said only the resident’s right next to the park can enjoy it.

Craig said with our lack of funding we are limiting many park areas and can’t do all of our capital projects that we wish we could. Most of our parks are in an interim phase. The Bachman property could get some use without funding. Preston said we could put up a fence, in another year, it could change. Once the sidewalks are in, that could change the landscape. Craig said you can get a preview of usage by allowing incremental access and get a better idea of how the community wants to use the space.

Casey said we haven’t done a master planning effort for the park. It is a valid point to worry about too much happening incrementally.
Torsten asked Rod if a hypothetical fence were to be installed; there are some grading and draining challenges on the east side of the property. It would be helpful if staff could provide what some of those challenges are, what the topography challenges are, etc.

Rod said the eastern half of the property is in the flood plain. It slopes to the east and on Zeta there is attractive land connected to the piece of property we bought. It could hold perhaps 20 cars. Moving to the west there is a significant drop off. It is 6-8 feet taller than the bottom grade of the property. If we were to do a social trail or crusher fine trail, we would have some logistics to get out of that. We would have to bring the trail up to the north and probably have switchbacks. The reality is that it is inconvenient for people and may cause people to cut corners, creating social trails. He isn’t sure if people would actually use the trail appropriately.

Rod added we could have some maintenance challenges with erosion. Anything along the eastern edge is not inviting at all. On the west side we had a fence up that came down as a part of the road construction. We have heard it will go back up. Rod said different treatments for open space in urban areas are to let the grass grow and keep it at a high level. There would be identification signage. Sometimes there is a fence. There were people talking about goats in there working on native grasses. Certainly we could manage the growth if we needed to. We took some heat for mowing an area for the block party last year. There is also a culvert underneath Zeta going in a northeast pattern and is very undersized. At some point that culvert will need to be replaced and we will put in a bigger culvert in which will reduce the size of the flood plain. Clearly a part of the master plan will be to replace the culvert.

Pete asked about a detention pond, Rod said we would have to do a full drainage plan to determine that. Torsten asked what it entails to do a master plan for an area like this. Rod said just the design; we would probably need $30,000 to $40,000. To do it all could be millions. There could be a very different demographic in the future when we actually have the funding for the space. Torsten said there is a real balancing act with this property. Maybe we should prioritize a master plan for the property so that we can start incrementally making changes to the property to allow the property to be used. Rod said the reality is, when you master plan a site like this you will first have to work on grading and drainage to set the foundation.

Casey said rather than a $30,000 master planning effort, perhaps we should have a $7,000 planning effort for a short term solution. This could allow the landscape staff to figure out how to get a trail in for the interim. Rod said he could get an engineer to get a trail in the flood plain. If we went with crusher fine it is only a couple thousand dollars. Pete asked if we needed ADA, Rod said yes but his concern would be it not being used. Jerry Hodgden said if this trail is temporary we wouldn’t need to go through this effort to make it permanent.

Jerry Hodgden said in 2010 there were two areas of town underserved. Bachman was purchased and not used so this area of the community is still underserved.
Torsten asked if there was access to the property further north. Rod said not at this time. Torsten said this trail doesn’t need to connect to Zeta. It could just come into the property and dead end. Rod said if we are really trying to meet unmet needs the East side is underserved. Rod said there is one lone tree out there that did have a bench under it. Torsten said his concern is the social trails; people put trails in where they think they should be. The thought is to provide access where you would actually want access. Maybe there is a trail on the east side and not necessarily across the property. Rod said crusher fine trails are not expensive. Torsten said every time it is used the trail pays for itself and is no longer a throw away. Rod said Preston does have a valid concern regarding creep.

Casey said instead of a crusher trail perhaps we should grade it and spend a little more money to make it a good trail. Torsten said just to take a hike, fly a kite, look at bugs, etc. There is value in all of it. Jerry Harcek said something basic is great; we can observe and understand how people want to use the property.

Torsten said this has been a great discussion. He is hearing this Board feels we owe it to the neighborhood to research access to this site. Let’s revisit this in the future.

Pete said most of the homes are fourplexes on the east side. Do they have a stable population? Preston said probably a little. Preston said he is not aware of anyone coming to the meetings from the mobile homes area. Casey said there were some people from the apartments. Rod said the largest amount of people were from the west side.

Amber said when we had the planning meetings for the creek everyone who showed was against use of the creek, not the tubers that were using it regularly.

Jerry Hodgden wanted to point out the current City Council was not there in 2010, it is 2015 now and this Council may have different ideas. Whatever Council thought at the time, they spent the money to serve the underserved. By the time the money is available it will again be a different City Council with different ideas.

**MASTER PLAN SCHEDULE & PROGRESS:**

Due to time constraints this topic was tabled until next month. Amber said we do have a lot of ideas for content and have begun working on national benchmarking tools to update our existing Master Plan.

**FITNESS STATION DISCUSSION:**

Also deferred to next month

**6th & 19th LID DISCUSSION:**

Rod said he will mention this briefly in the Director’s Report.
DIRECTOR’S REPORT:
Rod said regarding 6th and 19th, Public Works is working on alignment details and hopeful to start breaking ground around the 1st of the year. We just want to be sure to stay ahead of the curve on the development of the park on the lid. Rod said as a Board we should be allocating some of our meeting time in July and August to continue to stay ahead of the curve. If you remember during the public process, Public Works has a general concept they are working with that has a rustic mountain theme. Mr. Hartman visited us to understand there are some weight load challenges. We will likely get general preliminary work done to get some feedback and start refinement this summer.

Pete asked if the total cost was $20 million. Rod said $25 million, with Golden’s portion $4 million.

We have completed the fencing of the N. Hogback for the mine closure problem. It is 6 ft tall and fairly close to the openings. We will be taking down the elk fence that we put up previously.

We are working on the Triangle Lot on S. Golden Road. There might be a few dollars available from GURA. Our intent for now is to re-irrigate it and keep the grass short. We will reseed over time. We are going to do a couple small concepts to get more feedback as a part of the South Golden Road Neighborhood meetings. We had a meeting with the neighbors and small business owners. There are lots of ideas but no consensus at this time.

BOARD MEMBER’S COMMENTS:

• Pete said the City finished the Tucker Gulch Trail under 93. Pete said this is the best, widest and smoothest underpass in the culvert. Pete said he is happy; it gets rid of this quadrant of Golden that didn’t have an exit/access. Pete said this connectivity is very important to Golden.

• Casey asked about the number of dogs off leash lately. Perhaps the City should advertise the dog parks especially the new dog park on 8th that is open to the public. Rod said we do have Park Rangers year round, we can suggest education and enforcement. Rod added the Police Department will be preparing a summary of citations and data from the inception of the smoking ban.

• Jerry Harcek said he heard Momentum Trail Concepts is working at the bike park. Pete asked who pays for that and Rod said the City.

• Torsten said we had our annual update with City Council last week and he felt it was a good meeting. One question posed to us was, with our new prioritization list, if there are any gaps in programming or services that are not captured in the documents we have provided so far. If so, we need to communicate that to Council prior to the budget process.
• Torsten said he was on W. Colfax and ran into a park. Rod said it is Pleasant View.

• Jerry Harcek said the first meeting of the Skate Park Committee is this Thursday night. He will bring back information next month.

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