PRESENT: Torsten Lyon
Pete Gotseff
Jerry Harcek
Craig Middleton
Emmy Dimitroff
Jerry Hodgden

ABSENT: Stephanie Sung

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

PUBLIC: None

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 on a motion by Torsten Lyon, seconded by Craig Middleton, and carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:
The Minutes of March 3rd, 2014 were approved on a motion by Craig Middleton, seconded by Torsten Lyon, and carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT:
None

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS DISCUSSION:
Rod Tarullo said he has mentioned we are ready to do the 2015 and 2016 budget. We are working hard on the capital improvement program budget. It is a 10 year projection using all the funding available to the city for capital projects. We have been working to identify everything out there as far as our capital needs to plug in funding for projects. The Finance Director works diligently to ensure sufficient funding is available for projects for this year and future years.
The City Council has invested $3,000,000 in solar improvements. $4,000,000 will pay for the intersection at 19th and 6th Avenue. The City would also like to do road improvements at Heritage Road. There isn’t much money remaining for other projects.

We are trying to ensure we have everything on the table including maintaining our existing infrastructure as well as your priorities. One of the projects we are trying to ensure we have funding for is the GOCO grant matching funds for the W. 44th Trail project. Another is the Emerald Ash Borer which was spotted in Boulder. It is a matter of time before we are affected by it. It will cost us thousands of dollars to take out the city’s ash trees. Lastly, the Astor House restoration is an important project. Most of you are aware the Astor House has some structural issues. Nathan Richie, our Museum Director, has done a lot of work trying to determine how we fix the Astor House issues. We have applied for funding with the Colorado Historical Society. We need to decide if this is something we can find money for or not. Nathan will give a presentation on May 8th to City Council regarding the Astor House and is here tonight to also give the presentation to this group.

Nathan Richie said it is on our agenda to do a reinterpretation of the Astor House. It became a museum in 1973 and has remained the same experience. We have decided to modify the concept; he said we will also talk about the structural needs and the needs of the museum for storage.

Many historic house museums are not doing well. 1982 was the peak year and historic house museums have declined ever since. There is also limited revenue and more competition. Museums earn money through admissions, gift shots and rentals. There is also corporate, federal and private support which is also on the decline.

The way to address this decline is to broaden your appeal, create new revenue, incentivize repeat visitation and respond to leisure time competition.

The Astor House has deteriorated basement walls, asbestos throughout, shingling deterioration, washhouse damage, drainage toward foundation, and garden volunteers aging out.

The key for successful museums is to find your unfair advantage and show the unique appeal and national significance. A good example is the Tenement Museum. It is a preserved ruin and they have preserved different segments in different eras of its history. This includes Irish, German and Jewish history.

The National Museum of the American Boardinghouse will be the history we choose. In the 19th Century 1/3 of residents lived in boardinghouses. It lodged newcomers to the west at the Astor House. There were bed bugs and gun fights. The Astor House actually has bullet holes in the roof. They are not going to align the Astor House to one person and make it the story of every man. George Washington didn’t sleep here but your great grandfather might have.
Nathan said they will repurpose the kitchen for cooking classes and the gardens into interpretation gardens. There will be a sample room and rooms available to showcase the boarding lifestyle.

Meanwhile the stabilization issues at the Astor House needed to be brought to our attention. There are four main areas that need attention. The north basement, the draining is going right into the walls. We would need to replace the stairs and replace the walls. There is a basement on the south side that was actually hand dug to put in a furnace. The foundation is less secure, wood pieces are holding up the floor. In the backyard, the drainage needs to divert rain away from the foundation. Steel beams need to provide additional support. There was a fire in the Astor House in 1908 and the weight of the third floor is pushing everything down. We are also recommending east/west steel beams and columns to provide support. The floor joists don’t actually match up with all the beams. The wash house is also historic and needs restoration.

We received several bids for the restoration. The low bid was $286,000. They said they would add on a 15% material increase to hold the bid for a year. That would make the total $328,000.

Regarding collections storage, the history museums are the steward of the City of Golden collections of objects. We are not currently meeting best practices for storage. We have 15,000 objects, no fire protection, receiving area, internet access, etc. Security is just a locked door. Ideally we would like climate control, UV filtered lights, fire suppression, coded security, preparatory space, and wide passageways. Nathan showed many examples of storage options.

Jerry Hodgden said he appreciated Nathan’s great ideas, though money is still the issue. Nathan said they have talked to the State Historic Fund on several occasions and the museums were on the cut off line for this project. Nathan said he couldn’t predict if we will receive funding from them this time. Jerry said it isn’t a sexy project but it is a family project. The citizens of Golden won’t want to close it. Jerry suggested even Council consider a bond issue to save the Astor House. Perhaps the city could justify this idea with the Astor House providing alternative uses such as a Visitor Center.

Craig Middleton added the younger generation is very technological, that’s where the younger generation is right now. He said the presentation was great; he liked a lot of Nathan’s ideas. He wondered about rentals and bed and breakfasts. Perhaps a community survey to generate ideas. The key to Council is to show them how we will make the Astor House successful.

Emmy Dimitroff said there is a market for kids programs. It’s a way to expose families to a new environment. A family will enjoy this concept. In large part it’s inexpensive and easily accessible. She also said the urban homesteading is great and there are a lot of people that would be interested. Presenting the investment in infrastructure and revitalized museum as
one is a good idea. Jerry asked if there was a partnership like a restaurant available that could draw crowds to the building.

Nathan said unfortunately the building needs $380,000 just to get the building to stand upright. Then the city could determine the use for the future of the building. It could be a museum, a B & B, etc.

Torsten Lyon said prior to this evening it’s been hard for him to justify the funding for structural improvements to the Astor House. What is the Astor House and the value to the community? The ideas Nathan presented are unique and cool. The idea of urban homesteading is great. He said he thinks it will do well. To him, that is what you need to sell. The concept of the future potential of the museums is fun.

Craig said he wonders if you leave the storage component out, how realistic is it that Council would do the renovation and the new storage facility. Torsten said while he understands the storage needs of the museums, it will be more impactful to separate the storage component from the future of the Astor House.

Nathan said he agrees with their comments regarding storage, although they currently cannot accept new artifacts because the storage is full. Mr. Bestor has also tasked him with researching storage options. He also tried to add revenue options with his presentation.

Torsten said maybe make the storage portion with Council more succinct.

Nathan asked the Boards’ opinion on prioritization of moving the museum across the creek and ensuring storage, museum and staff are in one location. Torsten said the Board has placed it a high priority. Although he wouldn’t expect it to happen anytime soon due to funding.

Rod said another thing to mention is the building is safe and we limit the number of people on the upper floor. We are at a critical point, we appreciate the Boards feedback. Nathan has done an excellent job putting this together and we will see where it goes with Council.

Jerry Harcek asked about a phased approach to this project. Nathan said we haven’t discussed it too much. It’s probably better to do the project all at the same time but yes, we could definitely do it in phases.

Craig asked about fundraisers and donors. Rod said Nathan has a good idea of what is available out there. Rod said we have been waiting to see if this grant will come through and then we can determine how to gain the rest of the funding. There are additional places we can go for funding. Nathan said sometimes it takes a commitment to get a commitment.

Craig said we could even have a buy a brick for $100 fundraiser.
DIRECTOR’S REPORT:

Rod Tarullo said Jim Hajek and he will be attending CBAC tomorrow for an update on the golf course. In May Rod will be attending with Anne Beierle to talk about the Clear Creek Corridor. We discovered a lot of damage to the whitewater course which we are currently making repairs to as well as new access points and the library project. We also worked on the water feature below Washington Avenue. With all the damage we found with the ice melting we may not fund the arbor as we needed to make the in-water repair. That piece may not go up until next year.

The pipeline replacement went really well and was really fast. Based on what we talked about at your last study session, we did talk to Council about the possibility of adding Ulysses Park as a park rental and we discussed allowing one neighborhood park rental a year with an open container permit for neighborhood block parties.

There was a lot of discussion about a local corn hole league that was asking for a wave of fees for a rental and Council ultimately decided they should rent like everyone else.

The School of Mines group has their final presentation at 8am on Thursday. They will give us all their documentation and engineering work.

We have put the purchase orders through for two playgrounds, Golden Heights and Beverly Heights.

For White Ash Mine basketball court the final bids have come through and that project will begin soon.

We are working hard on our reaccreditation in late July. As a part of that we will likely have a Meet and Greet with the visitors. We would love to have you and others from the community come together to meet those folks.

We had plugged in the Parks Board going to visit with Council on May 8th. They have bumped that date; we don’t have a new date yet.

It appears that on May 8th the Council might take action to receive a donation for improvements to Wyoming Street. We would need to schedule a meeting for public input on one of your Park and Recreation Advisory Board Meeting nights. We could potentially do it during your May regular meeting on the 20th or during your study session on June 3rd. This funding will have some park improvements and reconfiguration of parking. We showed you a couple of general concepts for the park/lot space a few months back. We only have $120,000 so it’s a pretty small project. You could still have your regular meeting to follow and start at 6:30pm. The meeting will be May 20th at 6:30pm.

BOARD MEMBER’S COMMENTS:
Torsten Lyon said he received his notice on the rezoning of the Golden Community Center.
Rod said when we put the new HVAC unit on top of the aquatics center we discovered it exceeds the height for the rezoning of this building. Our Building Permit was approved then we discovered it was higher than it should have been. We went out and hired an independent engineering firm. It is likely $250,000 to move it. Council decided it would be okay for the City Manager to try to have it rezoned. In order to do that, there is a public meeting next Wednesday at 6:30. It will then go in front of the planning commission in May. Council would potentially take action in July. We know of one neighbor who will resist the change.

Torsten asked about the first meeting of the 6th and 19th Street Interchange. Rod said he was not in attendance but heard they received a fair amount of input. This project will have significant impacts on the city especially the Beverly Heights neighborhood.

Torsten said he heard some critical feedback on the water pipe replacement. The amount of vegetation that was cleared is significant. Rod said he would follow-up with Public Works.

Pete Gotseff asked about the underpass at Golden Gate. Rod said they did the sidewalk, put it out to bid, the numbers were too high, reengineered it and put it back out for bid. The bids are much more favorable and hopefully it will be completed this summer.

Emmy Dimitroff asked why when they did the access points at the workout area and the ball fields it was dirt. Amber suggested they may not be finished.

Jerry Harcek said they had a picnic with another family at Vanover Park and they tested a strider around the park so he thinks that a trail around the park will work well. Also the Golden Bike Park Group would like to plan some build days at the bike park.

He said we are also planning some bike days at the bike park but they don’t know if they should go ahead and pay for it or wait for the city. He said we also need to do weed mitigation. Rod said we haven’t budgeted for it this year, he suggested Jerry contact Paul Burkholder as he may have resources to help.

Craig asked about preventative maintenance for the Emerald Ash Borer. Rod said there are some treatments out there that cost about $100 per year and need to be done annually. They are relatively successful but on the east coast they are likely unsuccessful in the end. If they are not significant trees to you it probably isn’t worth it. We have done some testing and haven’t found any in Golden yet. We thought we had many years before it would get here. It is much worse back east. 10 to 20 % of our trees in Golden are Ash. So you will notice the difference.

Craig asked if we have a new board member. Rod said Council has interviews this Thursday night. He believes they will appoint our new member April 24th.
ADJOURN:
A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Jerry Harcek, seconded by Torsten Lyon, and carried unanimously.