CITY OF GOLDEN  
PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD  
REGULAR MEETING  
TUESDAY, APRIL 17, 2012  
7:00 P.M.

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

ABSENT: 
Stephanie Sung

STAFF: 
Rod Tarullo, Director of Parks, Recreation and Golf  
Amber Thill, Parks and Recreation Coordinator

PUBLIC: 
Bill Fisher, Councilor Ward 4

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 Jerry Hodgden, seconded by Torsten Lyon, and carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:  
The Minutes of March 20, 2012 were approved on a motion by Emmy Dimitroff, seconded by Torsten Lyon, and carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT:  
Councilor Fisher said first and foremost he wanted to make sure we don’t forget the fact that Council had to cut the parks and recreation budget a few years ago in order to fund street improvements. Parks and Recreation is one of the biggest reasons people live and are drawn to Golden. In one sense, he said he feels bad that it appears parks and recreation is taking a backseat to other priorities. Bill said he really wants to refocus and bring back parks and recreation in a significant way. The Infrastructure Inventory Report was a really important starting point for the city to understand the size and importance of finding funding to maintain all that is parks and recreation in Golden. We will have degrading quality of life and amenities will be much more expensive to fix if we don’t address it now. This also helps
Council understand the opportunity costs. We need the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board to help us understand how to balance the different needs of the city.

Secondly, it is really important that the Board take the wish list and start to categorize them in a way that Council knows which projects are on tap and could begin now. If we don’t have that prioritization, now is the time figure it out. He said Council needs the Board advocating for parks and recreation. Fisher said there is no funding at this time to implement recommendations of the Clear Creek Master Plan so he doesn’t know what to do with it.

We are going into a two year budget cycle this summer. He would like to see Parks and Recreation projects in Mike Bestor’s budget presentation. Councilor Fisher said he sees the great ideas in the Minutes, now is the time to present these ideas to Council. He said the legwork that has been done including the Master Plans and the Infrastructure Inventory Report covers everything in the system. The City Budget is on track, our revenues are going up once again, and we weathered this economic downfall. Now is the time to have a new spring in Golden and take care of the infrastructure that we built. He suggested a plan that could be reintroduced back into the Capital Improvements Budget.

**SOUTH SIDE CLEAR CREEK TRAIL UPDATE:**
Jerry Hodgden said his number one concern has been the South Side of the creek. Basically, he was under the understanding the Colorado Department of Health was holding up the situation regarding the cleaning efforts of Colorado School of Mines. However, Jerry said he attended a meeting at CSM a few months ago and they said by December they would have everything cleaned up. Jerry said he was taking a walk along the creek and met a gentleman who is a geologist and they had a significant amount to talk about. The man was Ed Ethington. Ed said he works for the Colorado Department of Health. Jerry asked for more information, Ed said he is a citizen and he would like nothing better than to see the South Side Clear Creek Trail completed. He said the holdup is CSM. He said it has been cleaned up to the point it is ready for public occupancy as the trail is surface occupancy. Jerry invited him to attend a Parks and Recreation Advisory Board meeting, turns out he called and said he was told he could not attend the meeting because they are in negotiations with CSM. Jerry said there is a letter enclosed in the Board Packet that includes more information. Steve Glueck also enclosed a memo suggesting they are anticipating a summer transfer though they are in the middle of negotiations.

**VANOVER PARK CONCEPT REVIEW:**
Jerry Hodgden said we now have a new Concept for Vanover Park. Jerry said the earth mounds are very simple but appropriate. He said several of the features are great. Rod Tarullo said we have a potential location for a shelter and the sign is there as requested at your last meeting.
Torsten Lyon asked about a direct connecter between the parking lot and the park. Laura said that is there.

Emmy Dimitoff said she was walking her dog and it occurred to her that there is no goose poop on that side of Vanover. Their new home is the eddy in Vanover. If we plant grass on those earth mounds there will be poop on the hills. She wanted to throw that out as a concern.

Jerry Hodgden said we were talking about what to do with the large tree slab. Rod said they are suggesting a tree slab table, they are showing that on the plan under the large cottonwood next to the creek. Jerry said if we had a shelter, he would prefer to have the tree slab under it.

Torsten said we need to address Emmy’s concern. Emmy said maybe we should shift our focus back to leaving the park more natural so it doesn’t attract the geese. She said when she looks at the area it is great that it is natural. Laura said the crusher path and the features are great, but we don’t need the grass. If we could keep the path and the features and not put grass across the whole thing that would address Emmy’s concern.

Rod said unfortunately as native grass/weed material gets concentrations of people it will be just dirt eventually. Native grasses work great where there are not high concentrations of people. If it is okay with the Board, then it works. Unless we have irrigation, it will take a few years to establish native grasses. If you are willing to feel comfortable with dirt as part of the play that could be cool. We could put crusher fine of different colors throughout also.

Emmy said the maintenance goal has been to not add more maintenance in our parks system, thus encouraging keeping Vanover Park natural.

Jerry Hodgden asked about the play elements. He said he enjoys the items the kids can use and climb on.

Jerry Harck said he is curious what to do about the mounds and how to hold their shape without grass. Torsten suggested maybe we just have some boulders and forget about the mounds. That way we don’t need to worry about the blue grass. Rod said if we have height we may need safety surface. Emmy said the area by the Golden Hotel between the parking lot and the creek is great. The rocks in there are great and they use wood chips for a surface.

Peter Gotseff said if the trail ever connects to the north side Clear Creek Trail in the future the current alignment shown my cause bikers to cut through.

Rod said he will share this discussion with Paul Kuhn and pick his brain on options for the
mounds. We will then work with Paul Burkholder and his staff to determine whether we can complete this project in-house or if we need to get construction drawings.

Jerry Hodgden said we didn’t have any comment on the west side of the park. Any comments? The Board felt it was fine as is.

Laura Weinberg asked if this concept is within the realm of the funding available. Rod said Paul Kuhn knew our budget as he worked through this process. Rod said the other piece he had forgotten was we need to advertise and invite the public to come to one of your meetings to vet the park. With your approval we could put an updated Concept without the blue grass on the website for public comment and in the Informer. Would your June meeting be an appropriate time to invite public feedback? The Board agreed.

**CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PRIORITIES:**
Torsten Lyon volunteered to lead the prioritization discussion. Torsten said we are going through our capital projects and just trying to prioritize. He said he put together a spreadsheet and asked each Board member to rank their priorities. Torsten then sorted by average score. We had great feedback, Laura especially was very thorough. Torsten said his document shows a sorted order of priority. The weight process intent that he used was if someone hasn’t voted on an item it was priority 100. 100s are not averaged in. For example, snow lot improvements at 92nd were not a priority. Torsten said we had set a goal for this evening to come out with a prioritized list so it would be appropriate to talk about our goals here. It might be good to come up with our top 20 items. He suggested three lists, one -an extensive prioritization of all upcoming CIP projects, two - small budget projects, and lastly, a list of items that are high priority and dovetail nicely into long-term projects.

Jerry Hodgden said we were not paying attention to costs as we completed this exercise. It is easy to get lost. Torsten said he got feedback from all but two members. Laura said she had another proposal for consideration. For her it would be helpful to have a list of projects by area. For example, Parks, Trails, Facilities, etc. She said right now they are grouped by master plan. She said, rather than where the idea came from, to go through the list by district or area it would be easier for her. She said all parks should be lumped together. Torsten asked if that helps us with prioritization if it isn’t linked to a Master Plan. Laura said we could complete a master plan ranking but you would remove repetition from each planning document. She said it is really hard to compare an improvement in trails to Fossil Trace. Jerry Hodgden said we have only operated the museums for a very short time. It’s hard to understand what they need. He said he gave them the benefit of the doubt and prioritized their capital needs high on his list.

Emmy said she liked having a project list starting point that was categorized by Master Plan. She said that the master plans need to be taken into consideration in our planning process even though there are parts of them that she disagrees with and that the master plans could be used as a tool and resource in our discussions. She said she can see value in what Laura is saying. Laura asked if Emmy is prioritizing based on the Master Plan. Emmy said yes, she
likes how the master plan projects make a connection to a greater area. Laura said she ranked a lot of the Clear Creek Corridor Master Plan projects highly though it didn’t necessarily matter to her that it was a part of that plan. Emmy said if we went through the planning process it should be for something.

Torsten said the various groupings are important; however, it is still important to get a ranked list across all items. When we present to Council, they need from us guidance on the most important projects. He said he can better group by area in Excel also. He would suggest we go through the inventory tonight or even color code. Torsten would propose we go back to talking about the goals of this meeting.

Councilor Fisher said you are going to have to take several looks at this to find out what is most appropriate. He said you could then group by area and have staff give you more information. You will need to take a bunch of different views of this project. Then put all that in a story for Council. Include here is where we have been and then show a pie chart with a chunk towards maintenance needs, priority new projects, long-term projects, etc. You come in and say you vetted it 12 different ways and then give specific recommendations including dollar amount and projects. Provide Council the best priorities in a compelling story. Make it cohesive and clear that the legwork is done so we can start to green light these projects.

Jerry Hodgden said the number one item is serving existing infrastructure. So as a result the number one priority is for the department to give us a number for maintenance improvements. Then we can prioritize a list of projects and budget numbers for new amenities. Councilor Fisher said the citizens are driving what is important for parks and recreation; ultimately it needs to be the Board giving the priorities. Staff is great in terms of assistance, though the Board needs to be the driver on this project. Jerry said staff has examined this closely and it is a great starting point.

Torsten said his view on existing infrastructure is giving a placeholder of 1.5 million for existing infrastructure needs then we can propose a budgetary number for other new projects. We then might only dog ear 1.2 million for existing maintenance. We can start to put this together and then try to service most of our existing needs. Peter said as an advisory board let’s not get caught up in staff responsibilities. He said our job is the guiding entity and we come up with ideas and try to represent what the city wants. He said we should try not to be unrealistic with our own wish list.

Councilor Fisher said Rod will be speaking with the Blue Ribbon Panel next week to demonstrate how we need funding for parks and recreation.

Peter said a plan of action could be starting with areas we want to address. For example, the 8th Street connection is the starting point of a great portion of the Clear Creek Corridor projects. The Museums District is another concept, and could be really exciting. The space where the current History Museums Building is could be considered underutilized and could
be valuable park space. Peter said we could hit each conceptual area of the parks system and present it to Council that way. Peter said it is up to staff to complete the detail.

Emmy said she would argue as a forever resident that tearing down an existing building and moving it to the other side of the creek might not be best use of resources from a citizen perspective. For her something like that is very wasteful when we could be improving the playgrounds and finishing the trail system, etc. She said just because its in the plan doesn’t mean it’s the best use of resources. Laura said her assumption is Golden as a community has agreed to these plans. Rod said conceptually the plans have the approval of the community; the details need to be ironed out which would create more public process.

Torsten said there is a need for grouping these projects; another need is to remove duplicate items. He said one question he has for Laura is would she be willing to group these areas. Emmy said then we can utilize what Torsten has put together. Jerry suggested a subcommittee. Torsten said he could Chair the subcommittee and he would ask Laura to do a grouping. He said he felt we could pretty quickly put together a first blush picture. Laura said it won’t be hard to group and retain these priorities. Emmy will also join the subcommittee.

Jerry Hodgden said we talked a lot about the Inspiration Playground in the past and he would like to see it on the wish list also. He said the park could be next to Splash and would service this area as well as surrounding communities. Rod said we received a Joint Venture Grant for the playground of $250,000 with match. If you prioritize it, we could then choose to match it. When it came to the forefront it was a time when we were unsure of our financial future. We decided we didn’t want to expand and needed to make sure we were taking care of what we had. Rod said he did talk to other cities about the project and co-funding as it would be a regional draw. We didn’t get great feedback. Rod said Mr. Bestor and I have talked about trying to modify an existing structure such as Lions Park to create the same type of park. Rod said he would like to remind the Board that in doing Infrastructure replacement we are going to look for the best in what needs to be replaced. If for example, at Golden Heights Park we need a playground. The next playground might be vastly different than what is there today. When we replace fitness equipment we upgrade and the citizens notice. Jerry Hodgden said a Vanover Park improvement is another example.

Rod said he made a note that we add Inspiration Playground to the Wish List. Torsten asked the Board would it be useful to have a Study Session two weeks from now. The subcommittee will meet once next week. Torsten said as Laura goes through her list; she might be able to share her groups. Torsten said he would encourage the Board to turn in their priorities if they haven’t already. Amber said she will send Laura the list sorted by area to help get the subcommittee started. There will be a Study Session May 1st. Rod will attend to answer questions. Rod said one thing that is important is the dates will be quickly approaching when we need to start plugging numbers in for the budget. We also want to make sure though that you are comfortable with what you are proposing. Rod said he is
meeting with CBAC and the Blue Ribbon Panel in the next week. Rod will be pushing existing infrastructure also at both of these meetings.

**TRAIL MILE MARKERS:**
Rod said there were several suggestions by Councilors on the possibility of marking the trail system with distance markers. What you have is a color-coded map with approximate locations of markers. Many trail users like distance markers, though it can sometimes be difficult because wherever you access the trail you don't have the relationship to distance. It may be hard to know how far you have gone. What is proposed on the map we have provided to you tonight are distance markers to the downtown arch. Quint from our GIS Department has taken six or seven different trails for demonstration. Rod said he has seen it done a couple different ways. Our Public Works Department would suggest a piece of concrete imbedded into the trail. They seem to think it will hold up the best. Another discussion has been there are many people who are using their smart phones and other GPS devises such as Map My Run and in some ways trail markers may be an antiquated system.

Emmy asked how long the markers would last. Rod said he has seen some that have been in for 5 to 10 years. Peter asked how long paint lasts. Rod said a year or a year and a half. Rod said this project would cost approximately $1,500 to $2,000. Peter said it is quaint but not needed. Though that is Golden also. Jerry Harcek asked if we could sandblast it into the existing sidewalks. Jerry also suggested the Washington Avenue Bridge might be a better end location than the Arch.

Laura said the trails in Golden are not marked well. Torsten said he doesn't see the need except for maybe along the creek. Laura said she could see value in it from the new RTD Train Station.

Rod said he will provide feedback that there was brief discussion but no consensus at this time.

**DIRECTOR'S REPORT:**
Rod Tarullo said he did not have any additional items to discuss.

**BOARD MEMBERS’ COMMENTS:**
- Jerry Harcek said the fundraiser race at the Golden Bike Park is this Saturday at 11 a.m.

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