CITY OF GOLDEN
PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD
REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, JUNE 17, 2014
7:00 P.M.

PRESENT: Torsten Lyon
Pete Gotseff
Jerry Harcek
Craig Middleton
Emmy Dimitroff
Casey Brown
Stephanie Sung
Jerry Hodgden

ABSENT: None

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 May 20, 2014 were approved on a motion by Emmy Dimitroff, seconded by Casey Brown, and carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT:
Pete Gotseff made a comment from a resident of Golden, Mary Jane Hale. They were concerned that the Lubahan Trail was in significant disrepair. Pete said it used to cut across to the south side, but is overgrown. It is worse than it usually is.

Paul Burkholder said there are two start and end sections to this trail. One goes to the geological site and then comes around the other way. Paul said at the top is Jeffco Open Space. People take a short cut to get to the top. On Friday our first Eagle Scout project
begins putting fence, seed, and dirt in to fix the worst of the lower sections. We will then continue to fix the trail working our way up. Trail users are unfortunately disrespectful of trail etiquette. Paul said he would be happy to speak with Mary Jane if she would like.

OFFICER ELECTIONS:
Jerry Hodgden opened the floor to nominations for Chair and Vice Chair of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board. Pete nominated Torsten Lyon as Chair of the Board, seconded by Stephanie Sung. No other nominations were given.

Jerry Hodgden opened the floor for election. Unanimous approval by the Board for Torsten Lyon as Chairman of the Board.

Torsten Lyon asked for nominations for Vice Chair of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board. Craig Middleton nominated Jerry Harcek for Vice Chair of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board; it was seconded by Emmy Dimitroff. Torsten nominated Craig Middleton who declined.

Torsten asked to open to election. Unanimous approval was given by the Board for Jerry Harcek as Vice Chair of the Board.

FEES & CHARGES POLICY:
Jerry Hodgden said he was here during the years when everything was built. A Fees and Charges discussion was hectic during the build of the Golden Community Center. The first issue was people from the County did not receive a special rate and felt they had contributed. The City was concerned non residents would get a discount without paying taxes to the City. We decided we wanted to keep good relations outside the community and keep admission fees the same and children serviced.

Jerry added when the Golf Course and Splash were built under a Bond Issue a similar discussion was to be had. There was even discussion of having a satellite Community Center. He said all of these facilities relate to the Fees and Charges Policy. That is where the policy started.

Torsten thanked Jerry for the information. Casey Brown asked if market surveys are completed and where we fall. Amber Thill said market comparisons are completed regularly and are also provide to Council during budget preparations should any fee increases be suggested. We typically fall in the middle of the range with comparable communities. We charge more for adult sports and leagues and less for swimming lessons.

Stephanie Sung made a motion to recommend City Council adopt the 2014 Fees and Charges Policy. The motion was seconded by Emmy Dimitroff and carried unanimously.

NATIVE GRASS DISCUSSION:
Paul Burkholder said there are many areas Public Works has created that we maintain
typically with native grass. He said long grass keeps the ground cool and they flourish, if you cut it too short you allow the ground to dry out and create weeds.

Amber told the Board about the native grass discussion at the last Council meeting.

Jerry Hodgden commented that when you are looking at native grasses that it looks so good along South Golden Road, but then when you get to Nighthorse it doesn’t look as good. Paul said about a month ago Rod and he had a conversation on what we should do at Nighthorse. We were tasked to cut the grasses. There is also a need to be aware of site lines with tall grasses. Torsten said he has noticed limited site distances. It could be good traffic calming.

Paul said the Parks Division will maintain the area however they are tasked to do.

Jerry Hodgden said we should suggest a standard here since we are an advisory to Council. Paul said we, as a staff, are always looking to be as efficient as we can. Every time we have to close a street to maintain a median that is a problem and takes up crew time. We would prefer long and native. Torsten said from an environmental standpoint, maintaining them will require more chemicals, labor, water, etc.

Jerry Hodgden said we are always struggling with maintenance money. He is inclined we should consider the possibility of recommending Council leave these areas with native grasses which are more sustainable.

Craig Middleton said he agrees to keep them in their natural state. He needs to see it but likes the idea of a natural state.

Jerry Harcek and Casey Brown agreed. The policy will help to educate the public and assist with enforcement.

Emmy Dimitroff said she agrees with everyone and feels if this is our direction, we should just have Public Works have a wider sidewalk rather than adding landscaping in the streets.

Stephanie Sung and Pete Gotseff agreed they like the native grasses. Pete said if we are going to talk about sustainability and waterless urinals, solar panels, etc., it makes sense to include native grasses. As long as it is still safe and doesn’t present different issues. Long native grasses prevent weeds.

Casey Brown made a motion to recommend Council adopt a policy that encourages native plantings in their natural growth state as well as find future appropriate locations in an effort to be consistent with the city’s sustainability goals. Seconded by Torsten Lyon and carried unanimously.
DIRECTOR’S REPORT:
Paul Burkholder showed the Board the new Forestry OMS Application which shows all the trees in the City’s system, marks all the ash trees, tracks applications, etc. Every tree and maintenance task is tracked.

Amber Thill said the Music Festival last weekend drew approximately 1,800 people over the three day period. They also sold more beer through the Friends group than ever before.

She said she will keep everyone posted regarding the Native Grass Tour.

With regards to smoking, Amber said staff is currently working on mapping to define smoking areas downtown which may or may not include the 10th Street Intersection all the way to 14th Street including side streets from Ford to Arapahoe. She said there is discussion whether to include parking lots and alleys in the no smoking district. She also said staff will likely recommend to Council no smoking, e-cigarettes, and vaporizers per the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board’s recommendation in parks, trails and open space. This would include any special events in these locations as well as possibly special events that require street closure. Council will discuss a potential ordinance on July 24th.

Amber reminded the Board the CAPRA Accreditation Visit is schedule for July 21-25th. There will be a Meet and Greet on Wednesday night starting at 5:30; they will receive an invitation closer to the event.

Amber also provided an update on the North Golden Hogback. Council elected to close the mine entrances with fencing rather than a perimeter fence. Foam was too expensive. There are some in the neighborhood that are not happy about this result.

BOARD MEMBERS’ COMMENTS:
Craig Middleton thanked Jerry Hodgden for leading the Board for the last two years as Chairman.

He also asked about the weeds under the softball field bleachers at Lions Ball Fields. Paul said the weeds were sprayed last week, with no leagues at Lions Ball fields during this time they don’t get trampled down as usual.

Pete asked why the GCC opens at 5:30AM? Some morning class users would like earlier starts. Personally, he had no idea the world started before 6:50AM.

Jerry Harcek said they have a night time build tomorrow at Golden Bike Park from 4pm to 8pm. He said he hasn’t pushed this one out to the public. Stephanie Sung said she could put it out on INeighbors.
Stephanie asked about the Beverly Heights Playground. Amber said it is being built as we speak; Golden Heights is almost finished with the exception of poured in place surface.

Torsten said he has been asked about the South Side Trail along Colorado School of Mines. Why is it closed and what might the duration be? Amber said it is closed for the sports stadium construction. She will get some information from Steve Glueck and pass it on to the Board. Emmy said there should also be a building website for updates.

Jerry Hodgden said it has been a lot of fun serving on the Board and he looks forward to another year then he is term limited.

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