PRESENT: Torsten Lyon
Laura Weinberg
Emmy Dimitroff
Craig Middleton
Jerry Hodgden
Stephanie Sung
Emmy Dimitroff
Pete Gotseff

ABSENT: Jerry Harcek

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

PUBLIC: Rick Gardener
Robert Flagel

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 Laura Weinberg, seconded by Craig Middleton, and carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:
The Minutes of May 21, 2013 were approved on a motion by Torsten Lyon, seconded by Stephanie Sung, and carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT:
Jerry Hodgden introduced Richard Gardener and said he would like to put on guided tours during the summer in the Cemetery. Jerry said we currently have older adult tours and historic tours of the Cemetery put on by the Museums.
Rick said he helped out a bit with the National Historic Registry Nomination. The Golden Cemetery has a very deep and diverse history to it. It is remarkable and one of the more important and older cemeteries found in 1873. The Cemetery as it is now is a place its founders dreamed about. They had initially liked the location until they realized it didn’t have any water. During the depression the sunflower stalks were as tall as anyone in this room. Everyone who is there makes it a significant place to be. There are several notables of significance buried there. George West, the founder of the Golden Transcript, is buried there, as well as several others who were famous in their day.

Rick said he proposes he could give people tours of the Cemetery in various ways. One could be a general tour; they could also do an artistry tour of the stones, etc. There is so much to describe of the design, landscape and the people. He said this is different than what the museum does each October. The museum currently has several stations with people acting out history.

Rick said we would have to charge for the tours, he could not do it for free. In a very real way you are taking advantage of those who are buried there. He thought a neat idea could be revenue from the program is also provided to enhance the Perpetual Care Fund, thus giving back to the cemetery. There is a lot that goes into maintaining the grounds and monuments.

Jerry Hodgden asked the Board what they thought about this fit. Rod Tarullo said we haven’t had requests for this before; we have had some history with the Museum’s Historic Tours. Rod said he would suggest the best place for this concept is within our Department. We can advertise and take registrations for the program; it would be a contract with Rick to provide such a service. The idea of also donating to the Perpetual Care Fund would work.

Rod said we have minimum and maximum registrations to run a program to ensure that we cover the cost of running a program. There is a formula. Rod said he can connect Rick with the Recreation and Museum staff. Rick said it would complement the Cemetery Historic Tour, not compete.

Laura Weinberg said a lot of tours are now self-guided. She wondered if that was a possibility. Richard said that was also an idea. She said it would reach a much broader audience and could be available year-round.

Torsten and Craig both said they would want the one on one interaction with Richard.

Emmy said when they went to Dinosaur National Monument last year you could purchase a self-guided tour to 15 key areas and explore on your own. She enjoyed the concept.

Rod added that we have talked about putting a database together to allow the Cemetery to be searched when it is unattended. We want to get there but it isn’t the highest priority. Rick said something like that could be useful. We should keep looking up and accumulating who is buried in the Cemetery so that anyone who wants to find them can and maybe even see
a photo and some history. Also, as a part of the Historic Registry, the Cemetery may be eligible for funding to start up a project such as this.

Torsten said a good way to pursue this program idea might be a course offering to see if it will run. It would be great to take advantage of Richard’s knowledge. Laura said she agrees with Torsten but would place the program within the museums not recreation.

Robert Flagel visited the Board as well and said he wanted to talk about if we could do something about the bowling alley. The building is currently being considered for sale to become a Natural Grocers. Robert is an avid bowler and doesn’t want to lose bowling as a sport in this town. Jerry shared with him that we didn’t have the facility or interest to take it under the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board.

Robert said he lives close to the bowling alley. He said ideally he would love to influence the Board with regards to recreation. There are six to seven hundred people a week who use the facility many of whom are Colorado School of Mines kids. There is not a lot of alternative for the Mines students, they don’t have cars. Bowling is dying out but it is really economical.

Jerry commented there are other close bowling alleys. Robert said the issue is the youth and teens and Mines students who don’t have cars.

Jerry said we don’t have a way to offer bowling within the City. Robert said it seems we could contract something like bowling. Or perhaps the City offers a tax incentive to the facility owners like Kohls, Home Depot, etc.

The Board discussed how the property owner is Mr. Yang and he wishes to sell. He does not manage the bowling alley. He does not feel he will get a return on his investment.

**VANOVER PARK IMPROVEMENTS UPDATE:**  
Rod said the Home Tree Climbing Structure has been ordered for Vanover Park as well as the musical play features and some natural features such as a log walk, stepping stones, etc. Amber said the park will also enjoy new benches some of which are already installed including the Barbara Fall Memorial Bench and, by the end of the summer, a bench in Memory of the young Katie Staley.

**NORMAN D PARK CONSENSUS:**  
Rod said what we have in front of us this evening is what we hope to be the compromise of all that we have discussed at our two public meeting on the future of Norman D Park. If you first look at the Concept Map, on the second page we are proposing poured in place safety surface under the accessible swing. In the 5-12 play area we are proposing the EVOS piece. This piece is made by Landscape Structures based on climbing but with a more traditional slide. We would also have a Kompan Galaxy Spinner as well as three spin buckets in the 2-5 age area.
We also have the Miracle Reflex which would be the modern version of the snake/balance beam. We show added picnic tables and benches.

By the pipe we would make some upgrades to the pipe and add a rock structure, we have settled on the Palisades piece you see before you by IDS. They are also the manufacturer of the Vanover Park Climbing Tree. The rock has a combination of natural forms and holds. It has some overhang on one side and an easier side for kids. We think we have touched something for everyone based on the feedback we received. We are going for more imaginative play.

We are still waiting for the outcome of the grant for the safety surface. Rod said this project is more money then we have funding for. He walked through it with City Manager, Mike Bestor, today and he is very confident we can get the funding if needed.

Amber said the safety surface would cover ADA access, and about 25% of the surface with the rest either sand or pea gravel. If you are comfortable with this, we feel some sense of obligation to communicate this back to the neighborhood HOA and the list of public meeting attendees to give one more opportunity for public feedback. The Board agreed. Amber said she will send out the concept and play equipment to the public meeting attendees and ask for feedback.

Craig Middleton said from the survey we originally received we have captured what we heard. It doesn't appear this would dramatically change the look and feel of the park but it will modernize it. Craig said there could be some disappointment in one tot swing. Rod said over time if we wanted two tot swings and one regular we could easily switch them out.

The Board said in general it looks great. Jerry Hodgden said we are satisfying a lot of different needs. This park can help us decide what to do with future parks.

Emmy said they were just at that park last week and she thought it was so nice and quiet. She said if the climbing structure was too much money that should be the first piece to wait on or phase.

Rod said his only rebuttal would be this concept pulls together what we heard from the public and we have touched almost all the requests. If the funding is available we have the ability to meet these needs and requests.

**DIRECTOR’S REPORT:**

Rod said to follow up from our last meeting; he has gathered cost estimates for the Dog Park request at Beverly Heights and the new swings at Golden Heights. We are estimating $11,500 for the dog park fencing and about $15,000 for swings. We are looking for direction from the Board to move forward.
The Board said they were comfortable with the swings; they are not yet ready to commit to the dog park. Rod said he would need to discuss the dog park further with Public Works as it involves the water tank.

Laura asked what funding is available for smaller projects such as this. Rod said there is park improvements funding every year which typically goes towards maintenance. We will typically get Board approval for any project other than basic maintenance and replacement.

BOARD MEMBER’S COMMENTS:
Emmy said several residents have commented about their unhappiness at the loss of so much creek edge to the fencing. Although there is understanding for the need to help protect the environment it seems like a lot of fence and residents I’ve spoken with wish there was another less intrusive way to manage the problem.

Craig Middleton asked if we have done any fundraisers for Parks and Recreation. Rod said the Museums just finished their big fundraiser of the year, the Golden Music Fest. It was a great success. We have also hosted a kid’s triathlon in August. Amber said the Kids Triathlon pays for itself and is really geared towards giving area youth a triathlon experience. Rod added that we used to host a Wet Paws Fun Run event which provided funding to Foothills Animal Shelter.

Torsten said he and his family recently visited Vanover Park and commented on how they needed to visit the park more often, it is a great place to be. Rod added with our new features hopefully it will be activated and remain a great place to visit.

ADJOURN:
A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Torsten Lyon, seconded by Stephanie Sung, and carried unanimously.