CITY OF GOLDEN
PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD
REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, JUNE 19, 2012
7:00 P.M.

PRESENT: Jerry Hodgden
Peter Gotseff
Laura Weinberg
Torsten Lyon
Jerry Harcek
Emmy Dimitroff
Stephanie Sung

ABSENT: Dylan Grange

STAFF: Rod Tarullo, Director of Parks, Recreation and Golf
Amber Thill, Parks and Recreation Coordinator
Paul Burkholder, Parks, Forestry, Cemetery Manager

PUBLIC: Marjorie Sloan, Honorable Mayor

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 as amended on a motion by Laura Weinberg, seconded by Emmy Dimitroff, and carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:
The Minutes of May 15, 2012 were approved on a motion by Laura Weinberg, seconded by Torsten Lyon, and carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT:
Marjorie Sloan, Mayor of the City of Golden, attended for public comment. She said she read the previous month’s minutes regarding the discussion on mile markers. Mayor Sloan said it is the least expensive improvement the Parks and Recreation Department could do, it is in the Downtown Character Plan and would be really helpful.

Jerry Hodgden said what may have turned us off on the mile marker discussion was it began under the arch. Mayor Sloan said that was the idea of drawing people to the middle of downtown.
Laura Weinberg said we talked about it briefly at the end of the meeting, with the light rail there may be more people using the trail system. Her thought was to use the final destination as Parfet Park instead of the arch. It seems a better place to end up as a transportation hub and across from the Visitor's Center. Laura said you could even have a sign in Parfet Park indicating how to get to several different trailheads.

Emmy Dimitroff said she is neutral. See can see the benefit especially with the onset of the light rail.

Torston Lyon said he was not for or against it, he discussed it with fellow citizens and they seemed relatively neutral also. Torston said his understanding wasn’t the intent to drive people downtown, more so about measuring the distance of how far you have gone. He said that reframes the question.

Jerry Harcek said he liked the idea of a local map posted at Parfet Park.

Jerry Hodgden said he liked the idea of Parfet Park also due to its proximity to the Visitor Center. He also said he liked the idea of location proximity to other areas of significance in town.

Laura said she liked markers at trailheads showing distance, trail information, wildlife, etc.

Peter Gotseff said if we are doing quaint, then make the distance to downtown. If you are going for use, then mark trail distance from one trail to another, or from downtown to other trailheads. Trail users like to know how far they have gone. Laura said it is also good to know as a visitor.

Torston said a common confluence could be marking the distance to downtown from any trail.

Rod Tarullo said the Downtown Character Plan was not included for your benefit at our last meeting; the way this concept was discussed previously didn’t have it in the mix. From a staff perspective we can accomplish either idea. He said the trend we are seeing in our industry is the use of Smartphone applications. The problem with marking a trail in urban settings is we don’t necessarily start or end where a trail does. These may be two completely different concepts; the mobile devices are the way to go. The devices are GPS allowing you to track your distance. Rod said he could take his IPhone right now, put in Woody’s Pizza, and it will tell him exactly where to go. Rod said that is the direction technology is going.

Laura said what would be helpful is to know the goal of the initial request. Torston asked the Mayor to clarify. Marjorie said the Downtown Character Plan was adopted in 2008 and the initial intent was to encourage people to track how far they are going, also to pull people into downtown. Marjorie said things have really changed, although it is still the heart of our
community. She said as far as the details she didn't feel that had been addressed.

Rod said he would be happy to pull the plan information for the next meeting.

Torston said he understands the smart devices idea, he said one of the things users don’t get from a Google Map on a device is how connected the network is and all the places you can get from various points. He said it would be cool to know you can get to other locations. Torston said he still felt it would be really great to have physical markers throughout the town.

VANOVER PARK IMPROVEMENTS:
Steve Bein came to talk about Vanover Park Improvements. He said he saw the Vanover Concept and the park is one of the only places his dog can swim in the creek. Although he is aware the dog is not allowed to be off leash on the creek. He said he has seen dog parks and he wouldn’t want to see Vanover turn into a full-fledged dog park, although it is nice to be able to use the creek with his dog. He said looking at the plan it appears we are extending the eastern half which isn’t currently a nice part of the park. He said Lions and Parfet Parks are less dog-friendly.

Jerry Hodgden said many of us felt we needed a dog park in the corridor when we planned the Clear Creek Corridor Master Plan. The State was not approving of dogs in the creek, which was the reason the plan did not include a dog park in the corridor.

Steve said he liked the park concept in general; he doesn’t see the eastern half utilized, so it would be great. He said he frequents the park during lunch and uses the park all the time. Steve said there are plenty of plastic playgrounds in the community and he would like to see the natural playground. He also said he wouldn’t want to see any more concrete near the creek.

Mayor Sloan said she liked the natural concept and she knows there are concerns with dogs near the creek.

Jerry Hodgden said without having the dog park concept during the master planning process, we wouldn’t be aware dogs were going to be an issue. That is the only reason we did not include a dog park along the corridor.

Jerry Hodgden said he would like to see us include a shelter in the plan so that we can have a covered area.

Emmy Dimitroff said she thought there had been some discussion to scrap the expansion of the east side improvements since the pond is gone, that is where the geese go. She thought there was discussion to leave the east side natural or focus more on the west side with the memorial area and expanded seating. We also received an email from a citizen against the idea and concept. Emmy said she didn’t know if we were doing the corridor a
great service by drawing more people to it. She is concerned adding a formal playground to it could open a can of worms.

Laura said she would have thought we had a stronger response from the public if there was a large concern from the residents living around the park. She said the new concept does not have irrigated blue grass, it is currently natural. That change was made due to the conversation of maintenance and geese. She felt the idea of the eastern side was to discover a few play elements or features to climb on; it won't make a huge playground.

Jerry Hodgden said this park improvement evolved from the preservation of the Vanover Tree. He said he visited the eastern half of Vanover with staff and we had been awarded a grant from the county so that is when we threw it out to the Board. We had a number of requests for a natural playground area and we were trying to accommodate that idea. This is what we asked our architect to design based on all of this discussion. Jerry said we can return the grant funding, thought this is an opportunity for a downtown improvement.

Torston said he likes the concept we have and felt a low-key improvement to the eastern side of the park is a good amenity for downtown. The musical instrument features are unique and very cool. He said he likes the existing ground cover though the concern was the cover will die due to the traffic. He would like to hear staff comments on this. He would prefer not to see the picnic table/shelter. He said he felt it would attract large groups and the Board had discussed keeping the park quiet.

Torston said the average size of users would be larger if we include the shelter. To stay compatible with the existing use of the park it would be nice to have small tables and keep the quiet nature of the park. We are not necessarily trying to facilitate large groups.

Jerry Hodgden said we only have two large shelters in town.

Jerry Harcek said we don’t know based on the concept the size of the shelter. Jerry Hodgden said we need to provide shelter from the elements.

Laura said she would like to keep the entire east side natural; she didn’t want to see any additional concrete that would come with the shelter.

Jerry Harcek said he didn’t have a strong feeling about the shelter, he wouldn’t mind having somewhere in the shade while the kids are playing. He liked the rest of the concept.

Peter said the feeling he gets is the corridor can be a victim of its own success. He said Boulder Creek used to be similar to our Clear Creek. He said when one designs a trail you can narrow the trail to slow traffic. How do we design a park to ensure it is used by the neighbors to enjoy though doesn’t necessarily attract 10,000 people. He said, for example, the neighborhood parks have no parking which keeps traffic in the park down. Peter said the Vanover Concept is really cool, though could encourage more traffic to a quiet area.
Torston asked Peter if the features presented would draw those 10,000 people. Peter said it is hard to tell.

Laura said she didn’t feel these features will attract crowds. Out of town people will be drawn to Lions Park and other areas in town.

Stephanie Sung said she liked the concept and the elements. She liked the natural play features and is neutral on the shelter. She likes the idea of having something to activate the park. Currently there is nothing in the park that makes her want to stay and enjoy it. She said we have talked about stretching the corridor and easing congestion in the west end and this could help alleviate it.

Jerry said there is general consensus on the plan. The only point of contention is the shelter. He felt it was good to have a shelter in the park.

Mayor Sloan said she likes that it is a peaceful park, there should be something to do and she likes the idea the park is natural and could include musical play features. She didn’t feel it would add any extreme traffic.

Jerry Harcek made a motion to approve the Vanover Park Concept and recommend the concept be provided to City Council for final approval, the motion was seconded by Laura Weinberg and carried unanimously.

**BUENA VISTA BOULDER CONCEPT:**

Jerry Hodgden said they have some interesting rock formations in Buena Vista. Jerry said it is a real draw in the area. The company Rock Op heard about the Vanover Improvements and asked if we would be interested in their company. Jerry said they sent pictures which you have before you tonight. He said perhaps some of these features could be included in Vanover Park or maybe even Lions Park. Jerry said the stand alone boulder is $4,000 to $14,000 for a 15’x10’x10’. They have attachment options including slides and nets. We could elect to do something like this in the future.

Peter Gotseff asked about safety with the natural boulders. Rod said they have increased in popularity, the experts in the field would say you need a safety surface if you get above 3 ft. That would be a mat or a pad. Sand or Pea gravel can also be the safety surface. Some are man-made and some are natural. They are quite popular for the kids. One of the popular pieces is to tie play structure components into them. They are relatively low maintenance.

Stephanie Sung said she likes the idea but they don’t belong in Vanover Park.

Torston Lyon said if in Vanover it needs to be very small. His question would be why not have a real rock rather than synthetic. Rod said it connect to play structures. Torston said he doesn’t think it is attractive connected to play structures. He said it would be really cool in Lions Park or in New Loveland Mine Park to put together three or four large boulders 6’ to
8’ high with a bouldering pad and holds to work your way around. He said he has visited towns that are climbing friendly. It would be really cool along this idea to not just focus on 5 or 6 year olds but also attract some adults to use a new amenity.

Laura Weinberg said she also likes the stand alone boulder. She said kids like the low rocks in Parfet Park.

Rod Tarullo said he wanted to make the comment on the Vanover design that we still need to figure out existing ground cover in the eastern area. So that we are all clear we need to do some research on how to make the future mounds sustainable. Laura said if the berms went away and we just had the boulders in its place or rocks she would be happy with that. Stephanie agreed. Rod said he just wanted to make sure everyone is on the same page as we proceed. Rod said obviously we want to take care of what we have, if we build this and have to replace the mounds that could cause a long-term impact.

Jerry wanted to again thank the committee for working on the prioritization to ensure the annual maintenance.

Rod said we did ask our architect to put together probable costs. He has us currently at $116,000. We may be able to get it less expensive, but this isn’t on the underside of our budget of about $86,000.

**MINDMIXER INTRODUCTION:**
Amber Thill introduced the City’s new MindMixer site [http://goldenvision.cityofgolden.net](http://goldenvision.cityofgolden.net) to the Board. She said the new online community engagement tool acts as a public town hall that will allow residents to share ideas with others and provide feedback on City projects that will affect them most. She showed the Board different features on the site. She said the Planning Department has initially focused on soliciting comments and feedback on the second draft of the South Neighborhoods Plan, she will be adding the Vanover Park Concept for feedback next week.

Amber explained how an idea can be seconded to gain weight, and how commonly there is not opportunity for citizens to present ideas and have their ideas be heard by the masses. This tool also lets residents know who is listening to their comments including Mayor Sloan and the Board members here tonight. She asked the Board to think about other topics they might want feedback on. Jerry Hodgden said it would be good to get feedback from the community on the Trail Mile Marker Concept. Amber agreed that is an excellent topic for community discussion that she could also put on the Golden Vision site.

Amber also explained the site has an awards program. Points are earned by users as they contribute good ideas. For example, if Torston put up a great idea and several others seconded the idea, he would be attributed points. The site shows a leader board and rewards could include things like a tour of the Fire Department or passes to the Splash, etc. She encouraged the Board to sign up for the site and become familiar with it.
DIRECTOR’S REPORT:
Rod Tarullo said the Summer Solstice was well attended with almost 900 people having raised approximately $10,000 for the Golden History Museums. We were talking about how the outcome was incredible but if an hour earlier the weather had turned it could have been different.

The South Side Trail update from Mr. Glueck is we will be able to construct the South Side Trail as imminently as it has been for the last several years. Colorado School of Mines is still working through their internal issues prior to releasing the land to us. The State grant has an extension so that is a positive thing.

Taylor Shull and Bill Mangle came to Council last week to present the Concept of Golden Connector Trails, staff is currently working with them to make it happen.

Rod said we talked about Rooney Road last month and what to do or not do with the Organics Site. The County wants to give the contractor through the end of the year to clean up the site and put it in its previous condition. We would cooperate with the County to do whatever they need to do.

We have told you previously about the Plains to Peak Trail and we were notified we received the grant of 4.6 million! Only 8 of 60 applicants were awarded.

Your CIP Prioritization Memo has been passed on to Council and various committees and Mr. Bestor assured us today that it will be an integral part of our upcoming CIP Budget preparations.

Rod said he thinks the Board is all aware of the different levels of fire bans in the State and County. There will be a more significant fire ban coming this Friday. Likely if you can turn the fire out it will be legal, if not illegal. We will cover the grills in the parks and be contacting pavilion renters. It looks like right now the plan for the Fourth of July fireworks will be determined July 1st. Rod said he would be surprised if we could have the fireworks on the Fourth, there will likely be an alternative date for setting them off.

BOARD MEMBERS’ COMMENTS:
Laura Weinberg asked about recycling in the parks. Rod said we started a pilot recycling program with the Sustainability Board last year at our athletic fields. There is intent to spread it system-wide over time. Jerry Harcek said they have them in the bike park. Paul Burkholder said they have recycling containers at Lions Park, Golden Heights, Grampsas, Golden Bike Park, Rooney Road and Ulysses Park.

Jerry Hodgden said we have become a city of cycling fame and he was wondering if the Board had ideas we could do for the upcoming race. Laura said there are several volunteer groups doing a lot of cool things. Jerry Hodgden asked Jerry Harcek if he could come up with a way the Board could contribute.
Torston Lyon said Summer Solstice is the most fantastic kid-friendly event in Golden. He said we invited lots of friends this year; it is a fundraiser for our museums and preservation of history in Golden. He said his little boy and his friends had a great time. He said they plan to attend next year, it is fantastic. He said the food and beverages were also great.

Stephanie Sung said the water tank has been buried in Beverly Heights, what can happen. Rod said we do not have funding at the time. She asked if residents could put tennis courts over it. She said she would provide feedback to her neighbors. Rod said they will be bringing in fill dirt and creating different grade on the site. The elevation will fall off to the north. They will finish up the parking area and it will be left in a native state until we have funding to make improvements.

Jerry Hodgden asked about the asphalt behind the new Public Works Building. Rod said asphalt has been taken out to comply with LEEDS requirements for the building. They have left recycled asphalt millings so it can be used to access 8th Street. It will be closed except for during special events as was the case historically. Jerry said that is opposed to our Clear Creek Corridor Master Plan. Rod said the Public Works Department did contact Rod and asked where the priority was for that access. He told them it falls at number 5 or 6 on the Boards Prioritization List. Rod said Public Works had a plan to plant trees in the roadway, so they decided not to plant trees there as to not interfere with a future connection. Rod said what happened in this situation was due to conflicting desires; the Clear Creek Corridor Master Plan was approved and adopted with a lot of public input. With the construction of that building there is an emphasis put on LEEDS and in order to get close to LEED certification they had to tear out a lot of existing asphalt.

Jerry Hodgden asked if the Board needed to address the issue. Mayor Sloan said LEED certification is also a goal of the city; it seems to her that this situation can be worked out when we can fund the Clear Creek Corridor Master Plan.

Jerry Hodgden said we had hoped it would be addressed first as a project we wanted to move forward with in order to complete the rest of the Clear Creek Corridor Master Plan. We cannot make improvements to the kayak area and realign 10th Street without first providing the 8th Street access road. Rod said he doesn’t think the elected officials were aware the building changes would affect the Clear Creek Corridor Master Plan. Jerry Hodgden reiterated if we can’t open the 8th Street road we cannot complete the rest of the master plan.

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