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 Emmy Dimitroff, seconded by Peter Gotseff, and carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:
The Minutes of July 17, 2012 were approved on a motion by Laura Weinberg, seconded by Torsten Lyon, and carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT:
Desiree Birkhow said she has been a resident of Golden for 20 years. She loves the community and has brought three suggestions. First, her son has been playing in-line hockey with Golden and this year Golden dropped the program. When he started there were over 24 kids and a league existed between Golden and Lakewood. It has dissipated through the years, there was no email notification and the program was cancelled. She said it’s too late for the fall season but hopes it will be available next year. Rod Tarullo said he doesn’t have the details tonight, he knows the numbers have been dwindling each year. It
may have come to the point it is not feasible to run the league. Rod said clearly we have the in-line hockey rink and he is happy to look into the status of the program. Desiree said she wants to support Golden and without ice hockey, there is a demand for in-line. She said the cost of running an ice rink is much more; there may just be a gap in promoting that sport.

Laura asked if there was a parent organization. Rod said The Colorado Association of Recreational Athletics (CARA) helps form leagues so we can play against other municipalities. We have a handful of CARA programs including youth and adult sports. Most of the youth athletics are run by contracted services.

Her second comment was regarding the Splash Aquatic Park. She is requesting teens, a missing demographic, have a new amenity. She said she would love to see a sand volleyball pit. Dylan Grange agreed it was a good idea; there is a huge volleyball population at Golden High school. It would give an incentive to go to Splash. Desiree said it would be a better place for them than the creek.

Lastly, Desiree said her daughter did a community service project cleaning up the creek picking up cigarette butts. She talked to a Golden Police Officer and asked why he couldn’t write citations. He said that wasn’t his jurisdiction. Rod said that isn’t true; in fact there are signs and enforcement for open containers, no smoking, dogs off leash, etc. She said that the signage was not clear and she told many people. Rod said also had electronic signage this summer in front of City Hall announcing creek bans. Rod added there is a group working for a smoke-free Golden with staff and the elected officials. Last summer we passed an ordinance prohibiting smoking in our playgrounds and this summer the City Manager put into place the smoking ban along the Clear Creek Corridor.

Desiree said she would love a reporting hotline also. She said let us self police.

Donna Viverrete said she works for Jefferson County Public Health, Health is Golden, and is happy to relay any information. She said she is certainly interested in increasing smoke-free areas. She doesn’t want to create hostile environments and said signage is very important. She wanted to give kudos to Golden for being proactive with the existing signage. She added this isn’t about creating separation, but about encouraging people to be healthier. Smoke-free parks support young people staying smoke-free. Some of Golden’s neighbors have gone this route. She said they are here as a resource and they absolutely believe minimizing and regulating is effective.

Laura Weinberg asked if there is a similar ban around Jefferson County Schools. Donna said yes. Laura said her children noticed someone smoking in the parking lot, she doesn’t know that there are signs. Dylan said there are signs all over the Golden High School.

**GOLDEN COMMUNITY CENTER FEE DISCOUNT:**
Emmy Dimitroff said she was approached by Tom Wheaten about the idea of potentially offering a discount to the Community Center similar to the senior rate for people with disabilities. Tom said he doesn’t speak too well, but did articulate his request in a one page
summary. He has been a resident of Golden for 16 years. He said personally there is less opportunity for persons with mobility issues to the access weight machines. There is a considerable amount of the Golden Community Center that cannot be utilized. His proposal is that the City would consider the limitations and thus reduce the admission fee. He is basing this on the sales tax refund; it is the same criteria or concept. This would typically be proof of a doctor’s letter or social security. He said he doesn’t know budget wise if it is the best climate. He is thankful for all the opportunities and increased access in Golden. He just wanted to see if this is something that makes sense and is open for discussion. Jerry Hodgden said he didn’t see any reason why we couldn’t consider it. He told Tom he is welcome to stay for the budget discussion tonight. Jerry didn’t feel it would be a large financial impact.

Laura Weinberg said she would like to know if the recreation software program could offer proof or tap into the City’s system. Rod said our software is capable we also have a scholarship program for financial need. Rod suggested Tom email the letter electronically so he can pass it onto the Finance Department and they can review it during the upcoming budget process.

Torston Lyon asked Tom if he was asking for additional accommodation in this building. Tom said no, he has served on the City’s Accessibility Committee and is aware some items cannot be accommodated. He said the bathrooms upstairs needed to have better access and that was provided during the renovation. Torston said he cannot imagine a large negative financial impact if we offer this to disabled individuals and may actually even attract additional users. Tom added that the new workout area on the main floor after the renovation is great.

Peter Gotseff asked Rod if this is common practice. Rod said he could do some research. Tom said Wheat Ridge does offer the discount.

CLEAR CREEK CORRIDOR DISCUSSION:
Jerry Hodgden said we had an intense meeting last month discussing the issues on the creek. We have had an unusual crowd this year due to unusual circumstances. We have had a low run off and abnormally high temperatures with minimal kayaking due to the shallow waters. Word got out Golden was a great place to have fun and the young people who are using tubes are out having a good time. We had traffic issues, enforcement issues, excessive alcohol, etc. The City Manager increased enforcement and instituted regulations banning smoking, open container, dogs off leash, etc.

Jerry said he was asked to speak to the Golden Good Government League, had a good reception, and discussed the Corridor for an hour. As a result, he has been asked to speak to the Lions Club. Tonight we are here to open the discussion on how we might address these issues next year.
Jerry said we have to continue to try to balance residents needs while still encouraging visitors to spend money in town and enjoy our community. Jerry said a good example is our golf course which draws mostly non-residents and is profitable.

Jerry said one of the things we have done already is created the Clear Creek Corridor Master Plan. One recommendation of the Plan was moving 10 Street to pull cars away from the river while adding secondary access to St. Another recommendation is a trail on the south side of the creek. Jerry said we need to request continued law enforcement.

Stephanie Sung asked how successful enforcement is. Rod said he is not aware of the money generated from fines yet, we will have that data soon. She said moving alleviates a section of the corridor but not the entire corridor. Stephanie said even moving still had angled parking, it won't take away the crowds.

Laura said we talked about this last month and she thought we ended on the idea we would have a meeting and invite the public to get ideas. She said we need to create a comprehensive list and that is not necessarily for the Board tonight. Over the course of the winter we can come up with policy suggestions based on community feedback from the meeting.

Torston said at the end of the last meeting we also discussed the reason we didn’t schedule the public meeting was because we wanted to possibly come up with some recommendations and then present something of a direction to the public and then take comment. Laura agreed a facilitated meeting would be best. Jerry Hodgden said a guideline to go by is always good for public process.

Stephanie said we cannot start banning activities.

Emmy said she would like to suggest an organized public process but also some specific immediate changes. She said limited staffing affected enforcement this year. We need to stress as a Board that we need to budget for more staff for the Police Department for next summer. If we pass regulations and increase signage we need the enforcement. She also said we should address what we can do; maybe we need to look at the west portion of the Clear Creek Corridor Master Plan and change the parking, etc. Perhaps we move but don't add the additional parking. She added Street gets closed a lot. She said she enjoys the Fine Arts Festival, but closing the streets off even more is not desirable to the neighborhood. She said permit parking and 2 hour parking are good ideas. Again we need enforcement.

Jerry Harcek said he wants the results of this summer before they make any decisions. How much revenue in fines, etc. Rod said he will gather the information. Emmy added she would like to see how the businesses are doing downtown even though it cannot be directly correlated to the creek.
Laura said parking is still a big issue and a combination of permit and paid parking would go a long way towards safety and creating a better environment.

Torston said we also need to find a way to generate revenue, not just indirectly in sales tax. Pay for your parking and get three dollars off at a business downtown, etc. Permits in the neighborhoods would be great. Peter liked Torston’s idea, this is Boulder’s method. Permit in the neighborhoods and rigid enforcement downtown.

Jerry made a suggestion that we form a committee to come up with a list of ideas and solutions. Peter said lets first accumulate the facts from staff. Stephanie said less of a committee and just a point person. Emmy said she could do that on behalf of the Board.

Torston said he is not convinced that trying to do this by the next meeting is adequate. Let’s schedule our next study session to work on this topic as a group. If we want to give recommendations by October and hold a public meeting shortly thereafter we need to get started to complete a recommendation to Council by the end of the year.

Rod said staff is working on hiring a consultant to do an environmental study of the corridor and determine impacts by users. Recommendations will include how to save the ecology of the area. This could have a significant impact on our recommendations. There is also some discussion on the consultant providing a management plan. Our Clear Creek Corridor Plan is based on land use more than managing people. Rod doesn’t yet know if the management plan is a go. The City of Durango is just finishing their management plan for their river using the National Park Service and that is another possibility for ideas we could use. Those things are happening behind the scenes. Rod said on the enforcement side, today the problem is not as much budget as it is process. It takes 6 months to get an officer on the street after hire. They are never full because they will complete a recruitment process, field training, etc. It is very time consuming. Due to the volume of the people, PD was not comfortable with non commissioned officers out there. Parking related violations are okay with code enforcement but not necessarily enforcement of the creek regulations.

**BUDGET DISCUSSION:**

Jerry said the Blue Ribbon Panel Committee has come up with their report addressing the financial needs of the city. The report has some good suggestions. What the Board has done for the economy is even better. Jerry said when he came to the town it wasn’t the place to be, very sleepy small town. Now Golden has changed and grown and has a great parks system. We had a very good group of elected officials who were forward thinking. We created the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board and we built the underpinnings for what became our award winning Parks and Recreation Department. We know that it costs 1.5 million a year to maintain what we have. We also know there is a need to keep growing. In our work recently we have created new partnerships with the Community Gardens and the Golden Bike Park. These locations don’t require a lot of maintenance. When residents from Norman D Park visited us, we gave them a garbage can and a bench. Now they are asking
how much amenities cost thinking forward to developing their own park. We can continue to work with our citizens to make great things happen with very limited resources. The Blue Ribbon Panel report has suggestions for increasing fees, taxation, etc. In some cases this is good, but thinking creatively and establishing partnerships is another alternative. He said he liked the Blue Ribbon Panel Report but he also wanted to thank the Board for supporting partnerships. We are finding a new way to do business.

Laura said one of the suggestions they talk about is a fee for dog use parks. Laura asked if that was for a new park, Rod said he doesn’t know. She also asked where licensing fees go. Rod said probably to the General Fund. We are part of several agencies that fund the Foothills Animal Shelter.

Jerry Hodgden said we have legislation that prohibits dogs off leash; we need free dog parks to allow them to run free.

Rod reiterated nothing in the Report is recommendations, just ideas for future debate and discussion. The Panel met with Council a couple weeks ago and now it is in Council’s hands.

Rod said we have a Fees and Charges Policy we have operated under since 2005. The Golden Community Center hasn’t raised fees in three years. We have submitted a lot of our budget documentation for consideration already. We have said GCC is an area we could consider raising fees. Our Recreation Manager has done his market study and is suggesting probably a .25 cent increase on admission fees. Our operational costs continue to climb. Fee criteria for the programs are generally cost recovery. Most youth programs are subsidized more than adult programs, with most adult programs covering their costs and sometimes making revenue to offset other programs. Generally Council approves admission fees. The Parks Board has historically made a recommendation.

Laura said comparatively across other programs in other communities it is less expensive in Golden. It seemed to her it would be really nice to charge more to those who don’t have an annual pass. This would give more incentive that could generate more revenue.

Rod said there is more to gain financially from daily admission or punch cards. People who purchase annual passes fee per visit is substantially less. We could make money at the Community Center, though in so doing, we may make the services we offer less available to members of the community. It is a philosophical balance.

Rod said right now the budget is preliminary; Finance is getting the budgets from every Department and will find where we are ending the year this year. Once they know what carry over is going to next year, they will determine revenue needed necessitating any fee increases. We have to have a balanced budget unlike the Federal Government. Based on Finance’s findings, they will give us feedback on revenue needs, reduction of expenses, etc. At that point we will likely come to you with ideas and let you advise us on direction.
A good example is the Cemetery Fund is not able to cover their costs every year. Paul Burkholder has been working on potential revenue ideas.

Generally, we are proposing fee increases at Splash, Community Center, Fossil Trace, and the Golden Cemetery.

Rod said the Fees and Charges Policy was adopted by Council prior to the museum integration into our Department. We are likely bringing the policy forward to them this fall. Rod would propose we shoot the policy out to this week and the Board take a portion of the September 4 Study Session to discuss it. We are also happy to share any budget information you would like.

Laura asked when customers will be able to purchase memberships online. Rod said we have the software capabilities and he can follow up with more information on the status of that.

Jerry Hodgden said he wanted to comment that $300,000 is not much to subsidize a Community Center. He would hope that we would not privatize the Community Center either. The Golden Vision Forum had a suggestion for a south area recreation center this week that we chose not to do many years ago.

Emmy Dimitroff said to circle back to Tom Wheaten. Torston said before we make a motion, let’s wait until our study session in a few weeks to review all fees before we make a recommendation on a reduced fee for those with disabilities. He likes the idea and said we should review at the right time. Tom said he agreed with Torston and appreciated the Board looking at fees for persons with disabilities.

**DIRECTOR’S REPORT**

- Rod said the Friends of Dinosaur Ridge would like a Lease Agreement for Triceratops Trail. They would maintain and program the trail. We haven’t worked out the details but Rod wanted conceptual feedback. Jerry Hodgden said it is a great idea based on the partnerships we have done. We are already working closely with our local citizens and organizations. Rod said they already have a similar lease with Jefferson County. Peter suggested we address parking for the trail. Rod said Steve Glueck is working with Colorado School of Mines.

- Rod said we thought we had a green light on the South Side Clear Creek Trail; we had it for about four days.

- Rod said the update on Vanover Park is Mr. Bestor has requested he write a Memo to Council and we may be able to move forward or I will meet with them. Rod will be writing the Memo to Council this week.
• Rod said we talked about the sale of possible land surplus and there are one or two pieces that we are currently looking at. One of the two is a piece of city property, not parkland. There is a possibility proceeds could go towards enhancing a park in a neighborhood.

• The Community Center is closed until Monday for annual maintenance. We are redoing valves and floors, cleaning ducts, painting, putting an audio visual sound system in the Community Room, etc.

BOARD MEMBERS’ COMMENTS:
Emmy said her family went to Norman D. Park a lot this summer and it wasn’t busy at all. The sand was a nice feature, the play structure is fine, the snake feature is not dangerous and she said the playground may need to be left alone.

Jerry Harcek said the Frisco Adventure Park is amazing and you should check it out. They have a skate park on a flat piece of concrete that is awesome.

Peter said Golden Connector Trails Bill Mangle submitted the proposal through the Mines Survey Field to Mines. Mr. Mangle did not hear back from them and now has asked Rod to follow-up.

Torston said the USA Pro Cycling Challenge is this weekend. A lot of great events to attend.

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