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

ABSENT: None

STAFF: Amber Thill, Parks and Recreation Analyst  
Rod Tarullo, Director of Parks, Recreation and Golf  
Dan Hartman, Director of Public Works

PUBLIC: Bill Smith  
Chris Bidwell  
Ken Miller  
Simon Mayberry

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 Jerry Harcek, and carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:  
The Minutes of August 20, 2013 were approved on a motion by Laura Weinberg, seconded by Torsten Lyon, and carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT:  
All public wishes to comment on Clear Creek Discussion.

CLEAR CREEK PARKING DISCUSSION- DAN HARTMAN  
Dan Hartman began the discussion by stating his understanding is there are currently parking problems on 9th Street. He was wondering if problems with parking are due to the local watering hole. He said he is not here to discuss parking specifically; he has not worked
with Mr. Glueck on parking. He is aware of the desire for a potential permit parking solution on 9th. He knows there has been some research and work regarding Mountain Toad parking.

Rod Tarullo said just to set the stage, at your last meeting several issues came up including parking issues along the corridor and desire for the Board to take a more significant role. There was concern from the Board regarding the Clear Creek Master Plan and the 8th Street connection being overlooked with the new apartment development on 8th. There was also some discussion regarding back-in parking along 10th. Rod shared these concerns with Dan Hartman and Steve Glueck. Mr. Hartman said he could come and visit with the Board regarding some of the concerns. So that is where we are and why Dan is here.

Dan said what he is prepared to talk about is three different items. He said he will start with a pilot project- the concept of back-in diagonal parking. We want to try the test area along Lions Park right across from the Community Center. This really centers on safety. Typically a car pulls in and kids get out and it herds the kids and equipment to the street. When we are done we pile back in the car and back out. With diagonal parking there is a leap of faith until you are about 2/3rds out of the space. This new project would give a diagonal space, but you would back-in. Similar to parallel parking. Now when people get out of the car the doors act as a barrier to traffic for the passengers. When you pull out you can actually see. Dan said we have a lot of great literature on this concept. One example where this was a viable solution was in Tuscan. In a four year period they had zero accidents.

After a successful pilot, we will likely make this change all along 10th Street. Torsten asked if it changes the number of spaces. Dan said it does not. Jerry Hodgden said if you back in when you take items out of the trunk you are no longer in the street. Dan agreed. It is much safer. This is a very inexpensive safety improvement.

Craig asked about signage. Dan said we will add signage that talks about how it’s as easy as 1.2.3. There will be a place to send your comments and feedback.

Chris Bidwell asked if we will be blocking the sidewalk. Dan said when and if we do it all along 10th we will have curb stops to prevent blocking the sidewalks.

Laura Weinberg asked about the timeframe. Dan said likely into the spring and then come back to Council for feedback. Hopefully any changes at 10th would then occur prior to the busy summer season. Laura asked if this would include areas that are parallel parking. Dan said it would only be where we currently have head in parking; we would leave parallel on the residential side.

Dan Hartman secondly wanted to talk about the project on 8th Street. The area along the Community Center will have street parking all the way down with back-in diagonal. There will be a speed bump put into the road on that section of 8th next to the new development.
Part of the reason is to move traffic to the north side of the road. Between the two entrances we will add another 20 or so parking spaces to the Community Center facility. Again back-in parking.

Bill Smith asked if the new development will meet parking requirements for the residents. Dan said yes, we also want to create parking in the area at the same time. Bill asked if there is ever a plan to finish the sidewalk on the south side. Dan said what he would like to do is repave the entire street and then pour a sidewalk all along the new development all the way to Clear Creek Trail. Dan said the time to fix it would be when we repave the street.

Torsten Lyon said when we talk about 10th and 8th Street they are addressing some safety concerns, can you speak to the type of parking data that has been collected and what the city’s perception is of that data. Dan said we have collected a bunch of data regarding the amount of pedestrians in the corridor and citations.

Laura Weinberg asked if the connection from 8th to 10th came up during the review of the development. Dan said we cannot pin a new street connection on the developer. Dan said we have concerns about the water treatment plant; the Clear Creek Master Plan did not pay attention to our needs there. Dan said there is a huge amount of grade from 8th Street. It is not going to look like a normal street. There would be large retaining walls and no sidewalk. It is quite a challenge.

Rod Tarullo said when he talked to Mr. Glueck about this connection he said when and if they close the access from 58th onto 8th. That could potentially be a trigger point to address this connection. Laura said if it’s not a feasible project then it shouldn’t be in the Master Plan. It is there as a lynchpin. It provided a lot of flow and made sense for the rest of the land use plan and future modifications.

Dan Hartman said we are not opposed to the additional access; the issue becomes one of design. Through time we will need to be able to get equipment in and out of the water plant and it will be more difficult with this road change.

Dan said when we talk about the exit off 58th the right in/ right out will likely remain until the interchange at 6th and Hwy 93 is grade separated. The City heard last week that our grant application for $20 million to grade separate the intersection of 19th Street and 6th Avenue has been put on the recommended list to go to the Highway Commission. That could be under construction as soon as next year. It will be $25 million, Mines is putting in $1 million, and we will put in $4 million. It will be a significant interchange and at least 50% of the area on top will have a park like feel with lots of room for pedestrians and bicycles. Dan said there is still a tunnel for a section of Hwy 93 by Mitchell in the Mueller Plan.

Dan said under the Agreement and MOU we signed with CDOT the City was successful with keeping existing speed limits, we had a guarantee of no additional lanes beyond what is on 6th Avenue and no more than 4 lanes on Hwy 93 until traffic congestion meets triggers.
agreed to in the MOU by both parties. We had to concede the ability to toll new capacity. There will be at least two free lanes in each direction on 6th Avenue and one free lane in each direction on Hwy 93. So the 3rd and 4th lanes on 93 and if we reached the congestion triggers either section the 5th and 6th lanes could be tolled. If you look at traffic volumes and model numbers the free lanes will be uncongested if we eliminate the stoplights for the foreseeable future.

Jerry Hodgden asked about wildlife. Dan said the new highways will have that factored in the development. Dan said we have had three fatalities in the last few years tied to animal hits. There are times where you see the entire heard, that elk fence has been successful. If you look at the hillside you can see that it is being used. Jerry Hodgden said South Table Mesa has several animals that come down to the creek and quite a few kills. Dan said in that case it would be Jeffco.

Laura asked if the flooding will affect CDOTs Ramp Grant Program. Dan said at this time they believe federal money will pay for most or all of the repairs. That could change but at this time there has been no indication.

Bill Smith said he went to most of the Master Plan meetings last year. Where is the plan 8th Street connection projected to be? Dan said if you look at the parking lot for the Public Works Building it will go just west of the senior center just north of the existing road. He asked if it would be a public road. Rod said the design scale would have to be smaller than a public road. Dan said we have to leave room south of it for trucks to get to the water treatment plant. Emmy Dimitroff said that was tied to 10th Street. Dan said yes, 10th with the redesign will have to provide truck access to the water plant.

Dan said we are very fortunate to come out of this flood with minimal damage. We did not have water get out of the banks. We have erosion and a few homes damaged. This would be in excess of a 500 year storm. We received 11 inches of rain last week. Compare to our neighbors we are incredibly lucky. Jerry Hodgden said he wanted to complement the city and streets crew for doing a great job. Dan said Clear creek went from 400 cfs to over 1,000 cfs is less than three hours. It maxed at 1,500 cfs. It stayed in 1,500 until Saturday. Dan said if you think about it we had one spring runoff in the early 90s that was out of the banks and lost a lot of our inlet line to the water plant.

Torsten Lyon said he wanted to take the discussion back to parking. What is the city’s interpretation of parking based on the data provided to Council? Dan said he believes we have a summer of public input and data, Council has reviewed the data, we know we have additional fencing to do and erosion areas to armor. We had a big group of Coors employees who were going to assist us with revegetation along the creek but we will need to delay that. There are a couple thousand large boulders we will be using from Guenella Reservoir for the creek area. The other management strategies, regulations, parking, etc., will be part of Council’s and the community’s discussions over the winter.
Torsten said the Library would need to be involved. Rod said they have been included in the public meetings and have attended. The library security guard piece is specifically for the Farmer’s Market.

Rod said our next Clear Creek Management Plan Meeting will be October 1 at Council Chambers at 7pm. It will be the last public meeting before public review of our draft plan.

We also intend to continue the park ranger program and expand them throughout the trails and other parks. Rod said on Labor Day the Commissioned Officers were working as a revolving door making an arrest, taking them in, and having to go out to do another arrest. There were multiple contacts to the same individuals.

Laura said she reviewed the data provided to Council and wondered if we will continue to do traffic counts in the off season months? Dan said we do an annual count throughout the city. Traffic peaked in 2007 and has actually gone down since then but probably not along 10th. Laura said particularly along the creek it would be nice to have regular counts to have data behind the perceptions. Dan said that is something we can easily do.

The public had concerns with the east end of 9th street. Chris Bidwell also asked if back-in parking could add additional stress on 9th Street. Dan said we did counts years ago on 9th and again two years ago and traffic counts hadn’t changed. The last two or three blocks though likely have.

Simon Mayberry asked if there was a way to count returning cars. Dan said he didn’t believe we have that data.

Bill Smith commented that 9th and 10th Street are impacted by everything, every event, market, brewery, softball game, etc. It is not all right on 10th, it’s all the time and it flows three blocks into the neighborhood.

Chris Bidwell said another side effect of enforcement along 10th was alcohol use along 9th.

Dan said one of the things we have talked about is permit parking but the problem is when you squeeze one area it pushes the problem to another. If permitting is where we end up it is certainly going to spread. We will very quickly have permit parking from Hwy 58 through the Colorado School of Mines area.

Chris Bidwell said this area takes all events, Movies in the Park, the car show, can we spread out the events to other parks? A few days ago there were hundreds of volleyball players in Lion’s Park.

Dan said the pond did stay dry. Rod said the pond has had several issues; some of the soil reacted differently than anticipated. We had to go in and change the drains and now we seem to finally have some success. It really wanted to be a pond.
Laura said we have gone back to events. How do we define it and the perception is over the years we keep adding events. Do we know how many events we have and how many we can have? Rod said the city has a Special Event Permit Program and there are criteria in the process which dictates when it becomes an event. Our department would deal with an athletic tournament or whitewater park event, etc. We have records of what events have been permitted. Laura said she would be curious to look at that over the summer season and what their impacts might be. Do we need shuttles for events, etc? Laura said to be able to look at that could be really helpful and could be included in determining a permit process. Dan said the vendors at a Farmer’s Market are easy to corral, but participants are not so easy. We could do periodic permit parking during events. Bill Smith said couldn’t the horse ride be a shuttle rather than a horse ride.

Simon Mayberry raised the possibility; it is not obvious that permit parking is a yes or no. For instance, an alternative to paying could be displaying receipt from a local merchant. Torsten asked the public at the meeting if permit parking would be helpful. The residents said it depends on the criteria. Ken Miller said resident only parking would be an amazing solution. Bill Smith said there are different levels, we could have specific hours. So few along 9th Street have a driveway or garage. Dan said where we have implemented permit parking we have done around hours where we have trouble. It could be evenings and weekends along 9th street. By the Brewery it could be 11pm. Ken said he has been in contact with Rick Muriby and they are talking about how to amend the issue. Ken said he wishes the city had taken a closer look at the repercussions of the brewery before they approved the use in that area.

Dan said last year Clear Creek as a tubing park was found, and it unfortunately won’t be unfound. We will certainly spend this off season researching alternative options.

Laura said there is municipal code for parking for land development is there parking code for businesses in town? Dan said it is different in the downtown area, this brewery could be included in the downtown area and the parking surrounding included in their allotted parking options. Dan said 25 years ago Golden downtown was 75% vacant. Jerry Harcek said he is across the street from Cannonball Creek. They don’t have nearly the parking issues they did when they opened. As new breweries continue to come in they will continue to spread the wealth.

Chris Bidwell thanked the Board for their time.

Craig Middleton asked what the next step is to do something? Who do they take this to next? Dan said at the end of the day City Council has to hear and understand. Council needs to determine if we establish permit parking and if you haven’t talked to some of them you should. Dan said we are through the worst of it for this year; we would like to have some positive direction into next year.
Torsten asked if the best venue at this point is the October 1st Clear Creek Management Plan Public meeting. Dan said he is hearing pretty clearly that the problem is ongoing. Chris Bidwell said the Rangers helped a lot this year as did the management strategies.

LIONS CLUB UPDATE:

Jerry Hodgden said we meet with the Lions Club last week. We have had several contributions from the Lions Club in the past. They would like to contribute once again. We discussed the Board’s priorities and some maintenance needs. The Club wanted something they could do quickly that they could put labor into.

Rod Tarullo said one of the ideas presented was taking the trail along Clear Creek and putting up new exercise equipment. Rod said we have three small sheds at Tony Grampsas that we use for leagues and equipment and they are all in need of repair. We presented the Lion’s pages of ideas and they liked the idea of the fitness equipment and a garage at Grampsas. Rod said we have been giving them information to see what budget or preference they might have. The exercise equipment has several options from equipment you would put next to a playground to random units along a trail that are conducive to circuits. Part of this decision is if the Board wants to move forward with one of these projects. We will be partnering with them; there will be some costs for maintenance. Laura said she would question the placement of exercise equipment. She wouldn’t want to see more amenities on the N. Side of Clear Creek. She said Tucker Gulch or Kinney Run would work. Rod said we would then take out the existing equipment along Clear Creek. Laura suggested maybe start at Tucker Gulch next to Vanover.

Jerry Hodgden asked if it could be along the south side of the creek. Laura said exercise equipment at a neighborhood park could be good for older kids. Torsten agreed we don’t need to introduce more equipment at the creek. Stephanie said she would prefer we replace the existing equipment.

Rod said there was general consensus to replace what we already have in its existing location. Craig asked if we could keep it away from the existing trail.

Emmy added it could be a nice addition to other neighborhood parks.

Rod said what we would do is let the Lions decide which project if either they are interested in.

DIRECTOR’S REPORT:

Rod Tarullo said during the Council Study Session last Thursday night, they discussed the bond referendum for Splash, GCC and Open Space funding. That fund has been whittled
down to $250,000. We had been holding that money hoping for park land in eastern
downtown. Nothing has happened for years, finance would like to recommend we use that
money to pay off debt. What that means is we will not have those funds in the Open Space
fund, what will happen is we wouldn’t need money for a debt payment giving us $250,000
more in the 2014 budget for parks projects. Do you have thoughts or ideas on how the
money should be spent in 2014? Rod said he needs to remind the Board we have plugged
in $230,000 in the Sales and Use Tax Fund for playground improvements. If we have
$250,000 that gives us $470,000 or so to spend on playgrounds. Rod said he has looked at
the Board priority list. We have Norman D. Park underway, Vanover improvements are near
complete. That gives you a reference as to how far this money can go. There are a lot of
options. The hope would be that we do it in ways that touches a lot of people.

Beverly Heights has undeveloped space, we have Bachman land undeveloped, and we
already have funds for White Ash Mine. Laura said we had a great public process with
Norman D. Park and it would be great to have a public process for each park to see what
the public needs and desires before we make improvements.

Rod said the challenge with Bachman is when you develop a piece of raw land it is very
expensive. Discovery Park cost us almost $500,000 to give you some reference.

Stephanie Sung said the sensory park elements or play at existing parks was also an
option. We hear a lot of demand for swings and dog parks. We probably need to pay some
attention to the south end of town, Golden Heights.

Rod said besides Norman D. Park, Golden Heights is probably the oldest in the system.
Rod said South Ridge is in better condition than Golden Heights. If we choose a process
like Norman D, we could likely do two parks with this money.

Laura Weinberg said the only other comment she had was regarding the skate park. Rod
said from a funding standpoint it has gone away. To do it right it would cost over a million
dollars. We did have School of Mines Students come to Council and we will work with them
to redesign the skate park, we are their project and we will see how it works out. Jerry
Harceck said the current skate park is unsafe; we can’t just let it sit. Maybe we could
resurface the existing half pipe.

Jerry Hodgden said redesigning the park behind the Astor House was another option
presented to the Lion’s Club.

Laura asked about the status of the Astor House. Rod said many engineers have gone
through it; we have put out an RFP to contractors that specialize in historic structures. We
should have a dollar amount in the next couple weeks. It could be $100,000 to $200,000.
Laura said it’s a city museum and wondered if it was eligible for GURA money. Rod said
right now we are trying to get a grant from the Colorado Historical Society.
BOARD MEMBER’S COMMENTS:
Torsten Lyon said a couple weeks ago Jerry forwarded an email inviting board members to the Tobacco Free Alliance. He attended and said he felt he now has a better understanding. Golden is perceived as a leader with its rules and regulations on tobacco. Unincorporated Jefferson County is working on smoke free laws. There is some real momentum. The other thing he learned of value was some of the history with B Team. The Golden High School B Team was pretty involved going to City Council and had a good impact in getting the smoke free playgrounds around the city.

Rod said Bill Kilpatrick lead the charge regarding banning smoking in the parks and along the trails and Council gave the nod to prepare an ordinance to start discussing it.

Jerry Hodgden said he took several walks along the creek and there used to be a bench next to the new pedestrian bridge on the north side that needs to be replaced. Amber said she knew what bench he was referring to and would follow up with him on its status.

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