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

ABSENT: Dylan Grange  

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

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 Torston Lyon, seconded by Emmy Dimitroff, and carried unanimously.  

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:  
The Minutes of August 21, 2012 were approved on a motion by Jerry Harcek, seconded by Torston Lyon, and carried unanimously.  

PUBLIC COMMENT:  
None  

OPEN SPACE PROPERTY DISCUSSION:  
Rod Tarullo included a memo from Steve Glueck, Planning Director, regarding the sale of open space property. He said we will need a vote of the people to sell surplus land. We have a new addition to the properties we have discussed in the past, Canyon View. It is a lot originally contemplated as an emergency access point for the Canyon View Subdivision. Since that time the City has contemplated selling it as a buildable lot. It doesn’t do much for
us, it is just a lot. If we are able to sell it, the funds would then be put into Norman D. Park within the Subdivision. The HOA is on board; this idea was informally proposed from staff and Council.

Torston Lyon said he would recommend the funds from any sale be tagged towards Parks and Recreation though the Board should prioritize where the funds would be allocated in the future based on their previous prioritization of needs for the parks system. Rod said Council will discuss this concept at their next Study Session this Thursday. Rod said he would suggest the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board discuss the concept tonight and make a recommendation to Council as they see fit.

Rod said the land was originally a public land dedication from the subdivision not dedicated to parks. The reason it was transferred to the city was for an emergency access route. Rod said he thinks that the city doesn’t want it on our books due to change in its original purpose and in order to be palatable to those within the Canyon View Subdivision it was proposed to be sold, developed, with the proceeds dedication to park improvements within the subdivision.

Rod said in Mr. Glueck’s Memo he discusses potential ideas for the land including community gardens, HOA determined, a future developable lot, or building the originally proposed secondary access. There are other elements of the City tied into the idea, it is not strictly parks. The HOA wants to see proceeds coming to them indirectly if possible.

Torston said he has read all the attached documentation. The concept seems to come from a suggestion of the Council. Torston said it is city inventory; it is not currently a part of the subdivision. He said he agrees we should work with the HOA; however, he is not supportive of strong arming the funds to Norman D. Park. We have gone through an extensive prioritization process, heard public comment, and made recommendations to Council on the parks and recreation system needs. We need to be able to determine where the funds should go. There is probably a compromise that could be made with the HOA. He would suggest using the funds for parks based on the Board prioritization.

Laura Weinberg said she agrees with Torston. It is currently a vacant lot; the HOA will still be benefited from the sale of the lot and development including landscape, etc. It will increase the value to the subdivision. We shouldn’t disregard the fact the funds should go in order of priority. Laura said it sets a bad example to have funds for city land go to Norman D. Park without discussion about our other priorities.

Rod said another piece of information that might be pertinent is that this HOA has already approached him asking for landscape improvements on the lot because it is under city ownership and they don’t like looking at the vacant lot as is. They asked for it to be dressed up in order to save their property values. It is currently somewhat of an eyesore. If the decision is made to do nothing, we will likely receive pressure to increase maintenance to the lot and provide some additional landscaping. The city could make the decision to sell
the lot and use the proceeds for police cars, streets, etc. Rod said if you feel strongly you could make a motion to allocate funds for a broader use should the land be sold.

Jerry Hodgden asked who would make the decision for allocation of funds. Rod said it is Council’s decision and he feels they saw from the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Minutes that Norman D. Park improvements have come up in several discussions. He feels they connected the dots. Rod said another discussion he heard was we should work towards developing a concept for the future of this park. Rod said he didn’t think we should do anything until we knew what funding we would have. Management Team suggested we allocate funds to begin conceptual plans, which would then require our normal public process and suggestions from the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board.

Laura said if the funds have to be used at Norman D. Park that is very limiting. I would be better to specify the funds be used in Norman D. Park or the surrounding area to allow for funds to be used on trail improvements or other nearby needs that would still benefit that neighborhood.

Rod said the value of the lot is about $110,000.

**Torston Lyon made a motion to recommend to Council the funds from the proceeds of the potential sale of the Canyon View Subdivision Lot 1 be allocated to parks and recreation with future use to be determined based on public process and existing parks system priorities with special consideration will be given to Norman D Park. Motion was seconded by Laura Weinberg. The motion passed 4 votes to 3.**

Jerry Harcek said he would suggest Norman D. Park should get something from the sale of the lot. He said the dedication of this lot to the city was based on an established process. If we take it away, now we are saying it is ours and we are no longer honoring the original intent. He added he definitely feels Norman D. Park should have special consideration and be a top priority when funds are allocated from the sale of the lot.

Stephanie Sung said the city will need to take care of the lot as it exists and put more funds into it if we don’t sell.

Emmy Dimitroff asked if it was big enough for a community garden. Rod said likely it would be.

Rod said if we sell the lot and it is developed we will receive income through property taxes rather than liability and maintenance costs we currently have. Torston said adding residents are not free either and each resident does incur expense to the city. Rod agreed that was true.

Jerry Hodgden agreed though said we should make suggestions as to how we want to address the Norman D. Park needs. They are on our prioritized list after all; we may find this is the highest priority.
Emmy said in our prioritization list we specified Norman D. Park as one of the top ten parks that needs funds. Rod added that $110,000 doesn't get very far unfortunately.

Laura said if Council chooses to go ahead, it might be better to make the fund allocation more open.

Jerry Harcek said the Mesa Meadows neighborhood is also supportive of the concept.

Rod said if there are funds available we will set up the public process and invite the surrounding neighborhoods.

Jerry Hodgden said his neighborhood doesn't have a park, if the proceeds came to the department decisions could be based on need. Norman D. Park may even be a top priority due to the number of children in the neighborhood.

Stephanie Sung said she was thinking along the lines that she would rather ensure the funds are in the parks system than lose them entirely.

Jerry Hodgden said he is undecided. Many of the residents of Norman D. Park have come to him and he feels that he has shot them down. However, this might just be a matter of procedure because most funds spent by City Council are looked at by their advisors and their advisors have given them some direction. We voted not to take out Lions Pond until we had funds to replace the feature with something else. He said Torston's motion seems to be putting it into a procedural format treating it like all other available funds. Jerry said we advise Council and they make the final decision.

Stephanie said she felt caught between a rock and a hard place as the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board did not have a chance to discuss this first. Rod said the other pieces we discussed were designated park land; this situation was unique as it wasn't parkland. Rod said he thinks the intent was well-meaning based on several discussions.

Jerry Hodgden said anything that is done in the city for any park purpose should be discussed with this Board first. He said he has had several discussions with the neighborhoods. Rod said unfortunately in this case it isn't a park decision until it is determined the funds will be allocated to parks. The neighborhood is in the loop on the concept and will likely visit the Board.

Laura said the impression she got from the Norman D. Park residents was they were looking for a major park investment. Will we need to contribute additional funds to the park to create their concept? As it will likely cost more than $100,000. Rod said they are asking for more modern play features and swings. Rod said swings could be $15,000 to $30,000. Rod said he doesn't envision us contributing any additional funds over the sale. That is why he suggested we wait to develop the concept until after we have the proceeds.
Rod said the other two lots do not require action tonight. Realistically if Council took action, it would be on the ballot in November 2013.

Peter Gotseff asked what perceptions were on Mesa Meadows Tract B. Jerry Hodgden said it was the former parking lot for N. Table. Rod said as you can see it wouldn't be getting rid of everything it would leave room for trailhead access and utilities. Rod said one of the ideas Peter has brought before is Jefferson County Open Space is right turn in, right out to North Table. If you want to come back to Golden after visiting the trailhead, you have to turn around or make an illegal turn. For Golden residents if there was parking here even on the street there might be some value to access.

Laura asked if there has been any opposition to developing this lot. Rod said he doesn’t personally know of any. Rod said he has talked to the neighbors adjacent and they are not opposed to the sale.

Torston said a fair amount of value should be placed on the Jefferson County trailhead access issue. Peter said if you use Jeffco Open Space you want the easiest access. Getting to White Ranch during high traffic times for example is difficult. Peter said it is a great spot we have in our system.

Rod said if you visit and count cars the lot isn't being utilized. Peter said it is a great amenity to a few. Torston said 10 years from now we may wish we had it; you cannot ever get land back.

There is also a lot in Mesa Meadow Phase 1. Rod said the neighbor would love to have the lot. We have irrigation, a bench and mow the grass on the lot. Most think it’s the neighbor’s yard, though it is actually maintained by the city.

FEES AND CHARGES DISCUSSION:
Rod said we sent you information on proposed fee changes and some additional back-up documentation including admissions reports. What are your views and perspectives?

These items were submitted to finance for the proposed 2013 and 2014 budget. Council will be asked to take action in November on fees and charges independently of the budget. October the City Manager will review with Council. A public hearing for fees and charges will be November.

Emmy asked if there would be any inclusion regarding combining rates for seniors and those with disabilities. Rod said we can make a formal recommendation. He does not feel there will be significant budget implications. Rod said he will approve the new disability rate at the Golden Community Center. He will submit it officially and we will modify the proposed fees and charges sheet. We will then need to establish some criteria.

Laura said she was concerned about the fee study; some of the other municipalities have taken an “across the board” approach. Apex for example has a savings of 50 cents per visit
for annual pass holders. The Golden Community Center is all over the board. We are saving an adult resident $1.25 per visit for punch cards and non-residents $.75 over daily admission. She said it is a great deal. The rest of the passes are time bound. We are driving the behavior to the cheapest rate. She would suggest a more standard rate, for example, a .50 cent discount per visit or 15% to encourage annual passes instead. The 20-visit card is probably the least beneficial to the Community Center. Private centers make money when annual pass holders don't visit enough to break-even (over the daily rate). Having promotions or discounts to our other facilities would also encourage annual pass purchase. Free visitor passes is an idea as well as Splash discounts. She would recommend changing the 20 visit pass to less of a discount.

Torston said making the 20 visit pass less attractive could also have an adverse affect on visits. Rod said 20 visit cards are similar to gift cards. At Fossil Trace we make $30,000 per year on gift cards that are not redeemed for example.

Laura said perhaps having an expiration date on the Community Center punch cards could be a solution.

Rod said we can run the numbers to see how we might play with the 20 visit fees.

Torston asked about the Clear Creek RV Park rates. The proposed increase to the RV sites is only 5% and the tent sites 10%. The tents are not currently fully utilized so that doesn't make a lot of sense. Rod said there is great debate among staff on the tent sites. Rod said he will follow up with that. Jerry Harcek asked about the rates at Dakota Ridge. Rod said they are private and looking to make as much profit as possible.

Rod said he will be at CBAC tomorrow to talk about the Cemetery Budget. Rod said Finance is hoping the Cemetery operation can be neutral or cover its operating costs. For the last several years we have used the Perpetual Care Fund to offset costs. We have been working on possible revenue streams to help us cover expenses. The discretionary expenses we have are minimal. We have water costs and others that are associated to use that we don’t have any control over such as insurance and fleet. We have been looking at potential marketing and promotions of the sale of headstones and potentially selling vaults. Any of these take away from the private sector we work with. The profitable cemeteries are similar to a car dealership. When we hired Paul Burkholder we consolidated two positions and didn’t fill the Superintendents position. We also have used parks seasonal staff to help us get through critical times. Preparations for Memorial Day for example are the Super Bowl for the Golden Cemetery.

Peter asked how full the cemetery is. Rod said we have lots of room. Paul said it is about one third full. We also do big business on the columbarium side. Rod said Paul has talked about having a place for a wall memorial for those whose ashes have been dispersed elsewhere. Fort Collins has one; the city would keep the records for genealogy purposes.
CLEAR CREEK CORRIDOR DISCUSSION:

Rod said we have a meeting Friday with Anne Beirele, from the Public Works Department, with a focus on the Environmental Study of the corridor. The study does not include a management plan for the corridor. Management Team knows that the Board has been working on this. Next Tuesday Rod will spearhead a meeting with the Police Department, Public Works, and other staff to develop a proposed plan taking into account the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board recommendations. We will then have a public process. Rod said he will keep the Board in the loop we know it is imperative that we address and strategically plan for next summer.

Laura said there are very few dogs off leash along the creek recently so she does feel behavioral change is happening.

DIRECTOR’S REPORT:

*Rod said he could tell the Board several stories from the President’s visit last week. He did meet the President and got to take a picture. The most fascinating part was the logistics between the Campaign and the Secret Service. Rod said it all started when he received a call from Mike Bestor on Saturday afternoon asking him to make it happen. Mike’s wife had just passed away. Rod worked through Sunday to clear the Community Center and Lion’s Park of rentals and determine where to put programs, etc. He started working with the Campaign and developed a contract on Sunday with the City Attorney. Secret Service arrived on Sunday.

*Rod said your next meeting is October . Amber and Rod will be at a National Conference in California. Rod said we can look at having your regular meeting during the Study Session on October or we can schedule it on October which gives us a couple weeks. The November regular meeting is the . Torston Lyon made a motion to move the next regular meeting to October ; it was seconded by Jerry Harcek, and carried unanimously.

BOARD MEMBERS’ COMMENTS:

-Jerry Hodgden said there were 8,500 people in attendance for Obama and the crowd was handled well. Jerry said a lot might be learned from what they did. It was a well organized situation. Parking was difficult but they handled it. They had people at the street corners turning traffic away. Jerry Hodgden added that at his age it would be difficult for him to go to Lions Park from downtown. He was able get parking for disabled closer to the park.

-Torston said he agreed there were lessons to be learned, specifically 8,500 people and lack of parking issues in the corridor. Torston said it lends credence to less parking in the area and driving parking downtown. Just watching what happened on Thursday he hopes that the city recognizes taking parking away from the problem area can be a large part of the solution.
ADJOURN:
A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Stephanie Sung, seconded by Jerry Harcek, and carried unanimously.