PRESENT: Jerry Hodgden  
            Jerry Harcek  
            Torsten Lyon  
            Peter Gotseff  
            Stephanie Sung  
            Emmy Dimitroff  
            Dylan Grange  

ABSENT: None  

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

PUBLIC: Bill Mangle  

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 Torston Lyon, and carried unanimously.  

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:  
The Minutes of September 20, 2011 were approved on a motion by Torston Lyon, seconded by Dylan Grange, and carried unanimously.  

PUBLIC COMMENT:  
None  

JEFFERSON COUNTY JOINT VENTURE GRANT:  
Rod said Jefferson County has changed the format and procedure for Joint Venture Grants. He said staff had to submit up to three priorities for potential Joint Venture Grant projects earlier this year. They wanted to see what we might be submitting and wanted to give us feedback. The three items we submitted were two trail pieces and Splash Improvements. One of the trails is along Highway 93 heading north to Pine Ridge Road and the other is a connection from downtown to Tony Grampsas on 44th Avenue. Looking at our Capital
Budget, both appear to have large costs associated we may not be able to match with funding should we be awarded a grant. One of the other challenges this year is Jefferson County Open Space will only fund up to 25% of the total project cost. In years past we have received 50% or more. We are looking at a total project cost of about $95,000 for Splash Improvements which would include resurfacing the second largest slide, new chairs, branding and signage, remodeling the sand play area, replacing umbrellas, resurfacing the kiddie slide, and ADA improvements. We would likely get about $24,000 from the County, with our match at $71,000. Jefferson County requires a Resolution from the City Council authorizing the grant application. If you concur tonight, we would recommend you take action. Our deadline is November 4\textsuperscript{th}.

Jerry Hodgden said we have gone over this to a certain extent when we submitted the grant priorities. He said he is happy with this; the Splash is in need of some upgrades. Rod reminded the Board if we go forward, we will be asked again early next summer to submit three additional projects and we can choose different projects at that time.

Jerry Harceek asked how the County will gain more funding. Rod said he hasn't heard any discussion at this point.

A motion was made by Torsten Lyon to recommend Council approve proposed Resolution #2157 approving the request for Jefferson County Open Space Funds be applied to Splash Aquatic Park improvements. It was seconded by Jerry Harceek, and carried unanimously.

**GOLDEN CONNECTOR TRAIL PROPOSAL:**

Bill Mangle said he was at the meeting to present the information in your packet regarding Golden’s Connector Trails. He is a resident of Golden and works for an environmental consulting firm, is an avid trail user, and has an eye for potential. He said Golden could be really cool with increased connectivity and we could enhance what we have with the city trails and county open space trails. Bill said Jerry Harceek and I have discussed this in the past.

Bill said he put together the plans he is presenting tonight with the Parks and Recreation Department Master Plan and the City Comprehensive Plan and tried to put together a concise strategy. We don’t currently have connections between neighborhoods and less advanced areas to bike. This concept is an integrated system and runs through six key segments. He discussed each segment and showed the location on maps included in his proposal. Segment A- Beverly Height Park to Kinney Run Trail, Segment B- Kinney Run Trail to Heritage Road, Segment C-Jefferson County Campus, Segment D-Ulysses Park, Segment E-South Table Mountain, and Segment F-Golden Gate Canyon Road to White Ash Mine Park.

Bill mentioned that one of the segments is already in Jefferson County Open Space’s Master Plan. In general he said a lot of the connections are small enough to be taken on as
a city initiative. Segment A requires quite a bit more coordination; the first step is School of Mines as much of the proposed trail would be located on their land.

Bill said his goal is establishing a long-term vision that enhances our existing trails and creates an integrated system that circles the Golden Valley. Ken Caryl is a good example. In terms of the bigger plan there is probably some other opportunities that the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board have been discussing that need to be included. Going back to Segment A, he sees it as the linchpin of the whole system. It is about a mile of trail, two sections of existing road that provide some opportunity. Making that connection from the south side neighborhoods and the existing social trail would be great. What he has shown are two conceptual alignments. The higher trail is beautiful but perhaps longer and more difficult. The two items to discuss are construction and approvals. Most of this segment is Colorado School of Mines. What is the process to work with Mines? Secondly the implementation is bigger than could be accomplished with volunteers but it is a potential opportunity. He is working with Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado and they would use this opportunity for crew leader training. They are always looking for work in the metro area. He asked for questions from the Board.

Jerry Hodgden said there is a potential for volunteers, what would be the cost to the city? Bill said the construction could be zero cost but there could be some costs associated with materials and small bridges. Typically even with VOC there is usually raw material cost. There may be some environmental permitting which Bill could assist with as he does it for a living. Jerry said the city has been very pleased with the Golden Bike Park. Bill said he is seeking advice on how to proceed. He said it makes more sense to him for the city to have this discussion with Colorado School of Mines.

Rod asked Bill to articulate a typical trail profile. Bill said it is a standard two to four foot wide tread natural surface constructed in a way that takes care of drainage and minimizes erosion thus minimizing maintenance cost. Usually this type of trail is less than 10 percent grade. It is the typical trail standard for most open space trails. Jerry Hodgden asked if there are any particular places he would consider the ultimate. Bill said Segment A is a critical link and a good starting point. Jerry said we would need to get an easement through the Planning Department, probably Steve Glueck, Director of Planning and Development. Rod said when this was presented to us; he shopped it out to Dan Hartman and Steve Glueck. He hasn’t received much feedback yet, there were some concerns about project costs and maintenance.

Rod said most of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board know that the city is in negotiations with Colorado School of Mines for a lot of land use. Discussions include the south side of 19th, Brooks Field, the south side of Clear Creek, Chimney Gulch, etc. Most of it gets packaged together. One of the big issues has been the south side Clear Creek Trail. They have issues with their old lab site. Bill asked if there is an easement at Chimney Gulch. Rod said he believes we are all technically trespassing. We own a small portion of the landing area for hang gliders. Bill said it occurs to him that even though a group of citizens could
approach Colorado School of Mines, it might not go anywhere. He said if this is something the city would support he would like to get it into the cue.

Jerry Hodgden said he felt most people would like the see the connector trails happen in Golden. Jerry said he doesn’t think the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board has much to say about it. Emmy Dimitroff said she felt that they might actually listen to a group of citizens more than in city negotiations. Since it isn’t city land maybe it would be better approached by citizens. Peter said four years later this is still a dream of his. Peter said he wondered if Mines has a Master Plan. Bill said they have a facility plan but they don’t show anything for this area. Peter said it really takes someone at Mines who wants to do it. He said they have some free ride trails. Maybe this needs to come up from a different angle. Jerry said maybe if the students were also involved. Bill said we were kicking this around through the biking community a few weeks ago and Taylor Shull also has some connections at Mines. Jerry said this is much more than that segment. He said most of the other sections are almost entirely on City of Golden land. Jerry asked what would be the second segment priority. Bill said likely Kinney Run and Heritage Road. It is almost entirely on City Open Space. Bill said some of the other sections are small enough they would be much easier to implement with local volunteers.

Bill said in terms of the big picture he imagines there are other concepts the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board is interested in. Torston said he loves the idea but he is new enough to the Board he doesn’t have great exposure to what other plans are on the table. It is great how Bill applied this concept to existing Master Plan documents. He thanked Bill for all the time he has point into it. He would love to see it supported by the city. Rod said part of this depends on what segments we are interested in. Long term we as the city will have responsibility to maintain the trails. Bill asked what the level of maintenance is on the North Table Mountain Trail. Rod said we generally do not do a lot of trail maintenance. As they get more popular we will need to allocate more resource. Rod said he would also be concerned about user conflict. You will have bikers, hikers and walkers. Bill said being cognizant in the design is part of that. Torston said Segment A would be great, also B and F would offer the most value to the city. Emmy said it would be great to see this plan move forward. She suggested starting with Segment B and then going to Mines for Segment A. It could be a great design project for the students. Dylan said he likes the idea and agrees with Emmy and Torston. Jerry Harcek said obviously he is behind it and a way to connect the parks in the city is important. Jerry Harcek said he has worked with Colorado School of Mines a little and we might have more headway going straight to Mines as citizens rather than through the city. Stephanie and Peter agreed.

Bill asked in terms of talking about the Segments that do not involve Colorado School of Mines, what is the process to get to the point to turn dirt. Rod said we will need to hash out capital costs and long term maintenance costs. The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board would need to give approval as well as Golden City Council. Rod said we had COMBA to sign a contract with for the bike park. Bill said we could probably use COMBA in a similar
role for this project. Jerry Hodgden said the Board agrees this is a good idea but we won’t at this time be able to contribute to maintenance. Jerry suggested Bill come back to when he is ready to make a proposal.

EXCESS PARKLAND DISCUSSION:
Rod Tarullo said he can be really brief, we said we would provide maintenance costs on excess land in the city. We don’t know if the concept of selling city property will get legs. We have had a meeting with Jefferson County regarding the Apex Trail Head. He said LaFarge is in the process of selling and there will be new ownership there. We don’t know what impact that will have on us. Torston said that something that costs nothing to maintain should not be removed from city ownership.

VANOVER PARK TREE MEMORIAL:
Paul Burkholder said the dendrochronologist has visited and started looking at the rings and that section of the Vanover tree dates back to only 1890. The growth rings don’t pop out really well. We need to now consider what we want to do. Rod Tarullo said it is close enough to the creek that things such as drought years don’t show. Almost half of the historic events discussed at your last meeting don’t even have a place on the tree. We can continue as determined if you choose to.

Jerry Hodgden said the various historic groups in town are really interested in this tree. If the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board doesn’t feel they want to carry on do we want to let the historic groups continue? Jerry said he was surprised at the age; it is a feature in this town that has had a long history. Obviously Vanover wasn’t hung from the tree. Rick Gardner said all the trees at the end of Jackson Street were well over 100 years old and not nearly as large as this tree. Jerry said he would hate to drop the project.

Emmy said she has seen this done once with a redwood. It made an impact because of the age and the tree rings. She wonders if there could be a different way to memorialize the Vanover Tree. She suggested a less expensive, more interactive approach. Discovery Park could be an example. Maybe the tree isn’t historical but a piece of a play area. Jerry said we could showcase the history in other ways. Emmy said we don’t want to be in completion with the Clear Creek History Park. Torston said in our previous discussions we were getting excited about the history and this park may be a good location. Given the new data on the tree he doesn’t think the tree should be the centerpiece of the park. Stephanie said it should move to a nature experience, maybe a measuring stick on the slab of a 100 year old tree that kids can compare themselves to. She said take the focus of history and focus on making it a fun park. Dylan said if it is not what you wanted, why would we spend money on it? Stephanie’s idea is cool and perhaps we could make it inexpensive. Jerry said he felt the tree would be of interest to youth. Peter Gotseff said Maple Grove has a tree slab on display. Stephanie said it should be something to play on. Amber said we have flexibility
with the grant award we received from Jefferson County Open Space. Rod suggested we meet at Vanover Park and look at the tree and talk about it.

**LIONS POND UPDATE:**
Rod Tarullo said we don’t need to talk a lot about the pond. Council voted to fill in the pond. We are draining it; we appreciate your presence at the Council meeting. For those of you that weren’t there, even after their discussion, Council became concerned about funding the Master Plan for the Clear Creek Corridor. They will discuss funding possibilities for the corridor including using alternative funding sources this Thursday. It is an agenda item during their Study Session. You are welcome to attend. Torston said if we have ideas for funding we should visit our Council representative. Rod said at least a couple of the elected officials are frustrated that we have master plans that we are not implementing. To some degree a Master Plan is a long term guiding document. It will be interesting discussion and debate.

Rod said he has met with the Lions Club and the Downtown Merchants Association and they both have ideas what to put in place in the filled in area of the pond. Rod said he is concerned that if we propose anything other than what the Master Plan suggests there could be adverse fall out by the citizens. We have adopted a plan and we can’t yet do a water feature due to funding. One idea we heard was a small bandshell. We have the bandshell in Parfet Park in the Clear Creek Corridor Master Plan. Rod’s recommendation is to fill in the pond, put the grass on it and let it rest. Peter said every space doesn’t have to be programmed. It is hard to just have open space to just be. Peter said he agrees with Rod’s statement. Rod said it doesn’t preclude you from doing something in the future. Stephanie said temporary features make it difficult to change in the future. She said she agrees with Peter that space would be nice.

Torston said he disagrees. He said just because the Clear Creek Corridor Master Plan calls for something, doesn’t mean it should dictate the process on the best use. One of the key provisions of the master planning process was that we would be revisiting all these components along the way. Public process is most important. Rod said one of the challenges we have as a staff is getting 20 ideas every year. Part of the purpose of the document is collectively we have taken a long term look. We can bring every idea to the Board if you would like. The plan is intended to be a direction and a guiding document. Torston said the plan is not the end all. Jerry Harcek said knowing the cost of the grass we should leave it alone for some time. Rod said transportation of the dirt is the largest portion of the cost not the grass. We have removed the dock, and the water is dropping. We have submitted the free dirt for testing for the water table. We don’t have an exact timeline but we will actually have a tight schedule to fill it in. There are signs posted that say toxic waste site. We are using Cemetery fill dirt and Public Works has another location of dirt that could be utilized.
DIRECTOR’S REPORT:

- Council interviewed Laura Weinberg and Robin Patton for Parks and Recreation Advisory Board. Appointment will occur this Thursday and the new Board member will begin immediately to fill Meredith’s vacant position.

- The city is making a proposal for the USA Pro Cycling Challenge again next year. As a part of the proposal they are mandating some type of public art that goes along with the race. There will be some generic offering of that in the proposal. Rod said he suspects that it will end up in a public space. We won’t be responsible for funding it. If this becomes a reality the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board will need to provide feedback.

- Rod said we need to discuss the meeting schedule for the rest of the year. He would propose we not have the November 1st Study Session but we have our regular meeting November 15. In December we often have a regular meeting the first Tuesday instead of the third. You would then have one meeting in December. The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board agreed.

BOARD MEMBERS’ COMMENTS:

Emmy Dimitroff said there is a sign just past the 6th Avenue overpass that says there is a meeting tomorrow to take land that is city owned and turn it into city limits. Rod said he doesn’t know of anything on the city’s side. He would speculate it is probably County land. Rod said he will talk to Steve Glueck and email the Board tomorrow morning.

Torston said he attend the Rocky Flats Meeting where they released their Draft Environmental Assessment. He said almost every person in the room was not happy with the direction of the assessment. The most vocal group at the meeting was a group stating both options for the beltway area were not legit due to the plutonium. Torston asked for a full Environmental Impact Statement. Torston said the public comment period is through October 31st. He will put together a comment, has reviewed their assessment and he would encourage the Board to submit a comment by the 31st. The proposed Solution B is very compatible with the beltway. The biggest deal coming out of the Environmental Assessment is whether an Environmental Study is required or not. Peter asked about wildlife crossing especially with Standley Lake. Torston said the assessment is good. They do bring up wildlife crossing. In the plan as written they have emphasized adding Section 16 and a wildlife refuge and they de-emphasized cutting off other public lands. A lot of information is also available on their website. He said if you have any questions, let me know.

Peter Gotseff asked that the Board not let the momentum slow down on the connector trails.
ADJOURN:
A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Jerry Harcek, seconded by Stephanie Sung, and carried unanimously.