Tuesday, January 18, 2011

PRESENT:  Meredith Campbell
          Jeff Oxenford
          Jerry Hodgden
          Emmy Dimitroff
          Jenny Ricks
          Peter Gotseff
          Stephanie Sung

ABSENT:  Dylan Grange

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

PUBLIC:  Taylor Schull, Golden Bike Park Group
         Nathon Fons, Golden Bike Park Group
         Susan Westhof, Tobacco Prevention Policy and Program Specialist, Jefferson County Public Health

ROLL CALL:
Meredith Campbell, Chair of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board called the meeting to order at 7:00p.m.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:
The Agenda was approved on a motion by Jerry Hodgden, seconded by Jenny Ricks, and carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:
The Minutes of December 7, 2010 were approved on a motion by Jerry Hodgden, seconded by Emmy Dimitroff and carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

INTRODUCTION OF SUSAN WESTHOF- Tobacco Prevention Policy and Program Specialist, Jefferson County Public Health
Susan said she met with Amber Thill and Rod Tarullo last week and recently started at Jefferson County Public Health. She is working on tobacco prevention. She is working with Grant funding through Jefferson County. In her first week Golden voted on two ordinances regarding tobacco. One of the ordinances impacts Golden playgrounds. The ordinance provides a smoke free zone within 25 feet of playgrounds in Golden Parks. There wasn’t a lot of education prior to the passing of the ordinances. She said we have money that can be used for signs. She brought some handouts and copies of the ordinance. The ordinance has a second piece to it that states you cannot smoke inside of tobacco oriented retail stores. The basis is protection from second hand smoke.

Susan said from talking with staff is sounds as if smoking wasn’t an issue in the first place. She also passed around fact sheets based on the harms of secondhand smoke. It reaches out to people who are social smokers as well. The other is about tobacco free recreation. She wanted to ask if anyone feels strongly about a way to tell the community. She also wanted the Boards thoughts about signs. She said typically people follow the rules. Signs can empower people to self-police. Meredith Campbell said we need signs posted. Emmy Dimitroff said a parent newsletter would also be an option. Meredith said if you have a rule you need to have a sign. Jeff
Oxenford asked how it has been advertised. Rod said there has been little education. Rod said as a staff we have challenges, for example at Lions Park, the shelter is within 25 feet of the playground. It could fall into that zone. We have some of those unique circumstances. We can put on the rental form no smoking in this shelter. Meredith asked how we determine where to measure from. Rod said he has only seen smoking in the parks during the Fourth of July or another big event.

Susan said she is interested in how funds would be spent. She is seeking input. Susan said Jefferson County has $7,000 in grant funding that goes away at the end of June. She said maybe it is an opportunity for a sign that includes other things as well such as no alcohol, drugs, etc. She noticed at Lions the leash law sign. It actually lists the ordinance. Having something in the Informer is another option. The other thing is, if something were to go out in the paper it would need to have a cohesive message. Maybe a video could be a good message. It could be a video on the city’s website and Channel 8. She also ventured signs could be up for the first couple years to establish the norm and then come down. She wanted to explore YourGov.com as an application for enforcement. Susan suggested the Board send her ideas. Meredith said she still likes the signs.

BIKE SKILLS PARK UPDATE:
Taylor Shull said he wanted to thank everyone for their work and cooperation in making the Golden Bike Park a reality. He said the park was really busy after opening. In general, between the opening and a few weekends ago, the park has seen on average 15 to 20 people a day. It is being used heavily by both residents and nonresidents. He said when he is near local parks they are never used this much. Meredith asked how maintenance is going. Taylor said we had some big holes due to use October to December. The Golden Bike Park Group is evolving with new local residents. They will work with a focus group on how to spend their funds, etc. They will have a bigger volunteer list of around 100 people. It’s going to be a task which we need to sit down and put together. February will be a planning month for the spring season. They still work with COMBA and will keep the Board updated.

Jerry asked if there were any mistakes looking back. Taylor said there are a lot of lessons learned. They need a parking lot. One of the things that have held up really well is the pump track. We kept watering and packing it. We didn’t have that approach to all the berms and now pot holes are present. We had a water problem this year as well. It will take some slumping and water to get in the berms. It will get easier as we go along. Nathan Fons said there were not any major design flaws. Taylor said we definitely want to talk about expansion. We need to get what we have under control first. As far as keeping it new, we will keep looking for new ideas.

Taylor said he has spoken to a few of the neighbors, Larry Kline is not happy. We haven’t had a parking problem outside of Opening Day. A lot of local residents use the path from Tony Grampsas Park. Taylor said it would have been great to have a location closer to Golden even if it is just connector trails. Taylor also said they have $3,800 left in the volunteer fund through COMBA. There was no paid labor during the building of the park. We are looking at grant funding. He said he would like to plant a seed regarding exploring what Parks and Recreation can do to contribute to the park improvements. The funding would be used for maintenance, furnishings, parking, or adding amenities to other areas. We want to bring in more dirt, probably 10 truck loads. We have at least $20,000 of work left. We have looked at a grant through Great Outdoors Colorado, although we don’t have enough time to get an application in for the spring cycle but we are looking into it. We are hoping to get $300,000 if possible. The spring cycle is due on February 14th. We are talking about general fundraisers as well. Belmont Bike Park in Boulder got a lot of funding from GOCO while partnering with the city. Taylor said there will continue to be a local need for bike parks. Everyone is learning off each other.

Peter said it is a park and play park and it is not currently connected. Taylor said we are connected to Fairmont and we get people from North Table. Right at Easley Road there is a small trailhead. There is trail across the road on the east side of North Table. Peter said we should connect to the Jefferson County Trail system.

Taylor said maintenance days will be coming up. The first Saturday of every month from 9 a.m. to 12 noon. Maintenance goes quick with 5 or more people. Taylor said he keeps up with the trash and dumps it at the Grampsas Park dumpster. Paul Burkholder agreed trash has not been an issue. There is also recycling at the park. We talked about training days and event days. We can come back in February or March. We were thinking about getting some professional riders out and racing teams. The only other thought was working on signs. We do think we need to look at the return trails. The no parking signs from the County are still hanging out there.

Jerry said some of the Council was concerned about kids going all the way out to the park. Taylor said parents usually drive kids out there. Jerry said one idea could be a small park closer to downtown. Taylor said we want to put a proposal together. The Board thanked the Golden Bike Park for really good work.
PARK SITE FURNISHING DISCUSSION:
Paul Burkholder provided a handout of proposed new picnic tables throughout the park system to replace the wood tables. It is about a $40,000 purchase, Paul wanted to make sure the Board knew what they looked like and everyone was on board for the purchase. Jenny asked if these were new. Paul said yes, you can do recycled and wood, these have a rubber coating. Peter asked how long they will last. Paul said we would keep them out of the sun. We are looking at a 10 year life cycle. There is one example out at Norman D Park.

Peter asked if this was the current standard. Paul said there are a couple options, including recycled plastic and wrought iron. Paul said these are easily cleaned and you can't put graffiti on them. We have any color to choose from. Paul said he can put the order in tomorrow. The Board agreed they looked good.

CLEAR CREEK CORRIDOR MASTER PLAN:
Meredith said at our last meeting we decided to invite Council to attend. Meredith didn't invite the Council yet. Meredith said she sent the Mayor an email regarding inviting the Council. He couldn't come tonight; our next meeting would be a Study Session February 1st. He also couldn't come that night. It looks like the February 15th meeting is when we would likely see City Council.

Rod Tarullo said in front of you is a plan showing a portion of the Clear Creek Corridor and how they have tweaked the plan based on the last meeting. Rod said he has a bigger version that they are continuing to work on. Paul from GURA has had concerns about the potential of the dog park and more permanence to the farmer's market area. We sent you all a copy of the Lions Club letter. The Library people are also concerned. We are finding that almost no one has been through the entire process. So as we have time gaps we are getting more challenges to the plan. Their intentions are good but they didn't hear all of the debate through the last year. Everyone has issues that are very important to them specifically. There will be more situations. There has to be a point where you stop and propose a plan. Hopefully the Board will look at the plan and feel good about it for all the parties involved.

Tomorrow night Rod and Meredith are going to the Planning Commission to talk to them about how it works into the Vision 2030 Plan. Steve and Rod have been working on it. Rod think almost everyone feels that we have done a good job meeting the values in the Vision 2030 Plan. Thursday night Rod will be at the Library Board and give a brief presentation on the Master Plan Process. Rod said they need to know the impact on the library. Their Board hasn’t been following the process.

Rod said he hasn’t had any feedback from the 9th Street neighborhood.
Rod also said Dan Hartman is putting traffic counters on 9th Street.
Jeff said the parking looks good; perhaps even more parking than needs to be there. It is easier to view than what we see. Stephanie said this drawing could help the Lions Club in response to their letter. It would be great if Wenk could provide a measure of green space to compare to what was there before. That way we can show. We need to respond to comments with facts.

Rod also said Steve Glueck is doing a lot of negotiations with Mines on several issues between Mines and City. School of Mines appears to be changing their position on pieces of this land. Mines has been renegotiating city access to the parking lot on their side and the trail on their side. They may consider removing both.

DIRECTOR’S REPORT:
Amber Thill said we requested Jefferson County Open Space Funding for both the Vanover Tree Memorial and the Splash Pad Improvements. We had funding in 2006 from Jefferson County that was never used due to issues of the poles and new lights working together and had to forfeit the grant award. Jefferson County has allowed us to reallocate the funding to fund both of the projects we requested. For about $25,000 we are replacing the lights anyway.

Rod said we may be getting new art in Norman D Park. There were three key boulders and the artist Robert Tully went up to the climbing area on North Table and found three boulders he thought would be suitable. The Access Fund said the boulders are within City of Golden property. He needs permission to relocate these rocks. The Board agreed to give permission.

The City Management Team met a week ago and came up with three different areas of 2011 projects. Under capital investment projects the Cemetery Office Remodel was approved and we are off to the races. The Clear Creek South Side trail depends on Colorado School of Mines, general park development and investment will continue to happen. The last one is the Inspiration Playground. On that we are facing a lot of resistance. The
people who don’t love it think we have greater priorities and we don’t want to add a regional draw. Meredith also said we can’t afford it. Rod is in the process of meeting with Lakewood and Wheat Ridge to potentially consider a regional effort to make the playground a reality.

We also discussed the completion of the Clear creek Corridor Master Plan and a prioritization of improvements to begin overtime.

We are beginning a Reinvestment Analysis and Plan for the Parks and Recreation Department. We have spent a lot of money on streets in the last year. We are coming up with a plan which shows all the parks and recreation infrastructure and how much money we will need in the future to maintain what we have. We want to remind the elected officials as to how much investment they have in parks just like streets. We hope to complete it in the next couple months as a part of the budget process this year.

Jeff asked what program we might use. Paul said we will use Cartegraph is an asset management program. We will try to use the same program as streets. This is department wide and will also include facilities and areas like the indoor aquatics area. It will also include taking the original Parks and Recreation Master Plan and the Clear Creek Corridor Master Plan. We will bring the information to the Parks Board for review.

Rod said also coming up is the Feb 3rd Council Study Session at Fossil Trace talking about Golf and reinvestment in Splash. It will begin at 7p.m. and you are welcome to come. Meredith said we don’t need a February 1st Study Session of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board.

We also got approved to purchase a new fleet of golf carts at Council last week.

The Parfet Restroom roof is under renovation.

The Bachman Property Social is January 30th from 2p.m. to 5p.m.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS:
Peter asked if Jefferson County wanted to grow recreation in open space. Taylor said he goes to their Board meetings. Peter said we just need more trails. Taylor agreed he would like to see more mountain bike trails built by Jefferson County.
Jenny said she is moving to Michigan.

Rod said Council has cued in March 10th for Parks Board Interviews. Jeff, Peter, Stephanie, Dylan and Jenny all have terms expiring.

Meredith asked where we are at on covering the fossils. Rod said they have their funding and they haven’t started building yet.
Jerry said he had a visit with the Dendochronologist in Vanover Park. His name is Dr. Peter Brown and he is a professor at CSU and has a PHD. He has a lot of experience and the Vanover Tree Memorial was not a problem, he was excited. Jerry asked him if there was an estimated price. Mr. Brown said he could slice the trunk or take the whole stump and polish both sides and on one side have the history of Golden and the other the history of the world. It could be a larger piece. It will probably be bolted to the shelter. He said he would charge about $5,000 and it would take four to five days and he would do it onsite. Rod said now that we have funding we will have to meet to address the details. Jerry said staff also had good ideas about placement.

Jeff asked Paul if we met with Gary Lacy from Recreation Planning regarding the Whitewater Park. Paul said we don’t have extreme needs in the Whitewater Park currently. We will address any damage in the spring.

Peter asked if it was legal to drink on the river and float. Rod said we don’t issue permits for the river. Peter said it isn’t being enforced. Peter said it is not the boaters. Jeff agreed that at some point we need a policy for what is acceptable along the creek. Jeff said we can also let people know that there is enforcement. Jeff said we could do a lot of education.

ADJOURN:
A motion to adjourn was made by Jeff Oxenford, seconded by Dylan Grange, and carried unanimously.