Tuesday, April 05, 2011

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

ABSENT: None

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

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 Stephanie Sung, and carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:
The Minutes of March 15, 2011 were approved on a motion by Jerry Hodgden, seconded by Dylan Grange, and carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

CLEAR CREEK CORRIDOR MASTER PLAN DISCUSSION:
Nicole of Wenk Associates covered any new changes in the Clear Creek Corridor Master Plan. There is a 486 page Appendix also included. It is available digitally and includes the transportation report, environmental study, comments from meetings and website and all data gathered during the process.
Nicole said text and graphic updates the consultants looked at included the sun setting of the Clear Creek RV Park. She said they looked at what would happen to be able to redistribute parking to that area. It also opens more space in Lions Park. We are showing a picnic shelter and sand volleyball as well. It needs to go through public process to determine what is best for that space at the end of the RV Park life. Parking definitely makes sense there. The Golden Community Center parking lot was larger and we made it smaller by redistributing spaces to the south side of the creek as the Colorado School of Mines lot is not available. The parking we gained on 10th with angled parking. We now have even more green space in Lions Park.

We also strengthened the language in the text about the ADA connections. ADA is one of the major goals of the plan. The connections from the north to the south really talk about clearly marking the bridges and making walkway connections to the north. 8th is a secondary entrance with grade challenges and to make it happen it modifies the existing Community Gardens slightly. Under the Policies and Management section we added text about permitting and metered parking in the surrounding neighborhoods.

Jonah of Wenk Associates said we added special pavement for the relocation of the municipal buildings if that happened in the future. It would be another opportunity to redistribute parking. It could be home to the farmers market, extra parking, kayak parking, etc.

Jerry Hodgden asked what happened with the dog park. Nicole said Clear Creek is listed on Colorado Department of Health and Environment as impaired waters. The City then directed the dog park to be away from the corridor although it could be downtown.
Meredith Campbell asked regarding the active use area which is currently the single tennis court, what could potentially go in there. Nicole said it states tennis; we could potentially add additional tennis, skate elements, or other active uses which should be vetted. To make the Billy Drew Bridge ADA compliant it is challenging to have the third tennis court in that location.

Jenny Ricks asked for clarification on the trails and divided trail section. Where does it have divided versus soft trail? Jonah said purple and orange signifies the trail separations. Jonah said they can make the color definition clearer. Jenny said she thought the plan was great and included smart changes from the last meeting.

Peter Gotseff asked about the Appendix. The Transportation Section is pages and pages. It would be nice if it included a summary. The appendices are broken up by size and not sections. If he tries to look at the traffic section it is just tables of data, it doesn’t make any sense. The Environmental Section is easy to understand. Peter said the final report gives a summary of the final result. He said it is likely a format question. Peter said he never found it but was looking for a summary. It is valid and needs to be included. We provide the data but not a clear conclusion. Jonah said that is included in the Master Plan document. The tables you see are the raw data backup that went into the final report. The reason to have it in the appendix is to provide it 20 years from now. It could be better organized. Jonah said the traffic study has an appendix within the appendix.

Jerry asked about restrooms. Nicole said there is a restroom at the playground which can be added to the text. Jerry said last year we removed the restroom near Lions Park so it would be good to add one to that area.

Jeff Oxenford said in the Policies and Management Section we cover components but not management of people. We are inviting a lot of people to the corridor, but not organizing or policing the area. He said he wasn’t sure if the Master Plan was the appropriate place for it. It should cover safety and inappropriate behavior. Rod said this may not be the right place. He added another item on your agenda is trail rules tonight due to public comment regarding trail use.

Jeff said it could be an ambassador program or law enforcement. Stephanie Sung said that is a large issue about the corridor and this isn’t the right place. It should be city-wide. Jerry said much of that is just city policy. Bill from Wenk Associates said it does imply a larger issue. Jeff said we need to visit it at some point. We need to talk about safety and experience. Rod said he anticipates this document around for many years and being a guiding document. When he thinks about management and rules he would appreciate as a staff person something that is more flexible that can address changes overtime. An example is the noise ordinance for the city. When the condos were built downtown they had to make adjustments. We will need to go over processes overtime. Rod said he would like to see it in something that has more flexibility. Jeff asked to just include a statement that there should be a management statement in the plan. Nicole said we can add management of people.

Emmy Dimitroff said under Policies and Management on page 57 there is discussion regarding meter parking in the neighborhoods. She felt it would be important to state as improvements are implemented, parking is in place prior to implementation or congruently. For example if they want a cul-de-sac we need to allow that to be a discussion.

Meredith said if we need to look at parking after changes are made, Dan Hartman said any unforeseen traffic impacts can be fixed. We need to include that sort of verbiage in the plan on page 57. This is especially important at the 10th and Maple intersection. Nicole agreed and said it is addressed in the parking section but should also be addressed in the plan on page 57. Jenny said it needs to be more general than just 9th Street. It should be worded to cover all the surrounding neighborhoods.

Jerry Hodgden made a motion to approve the Clear Creek Corridor Master Plan with tonight’s amendments for consideration of adoption by City Council, seconded by Jeff Oxenford, and carried unanimously.

**BACHMAN PROPERTY ACCESS:**
Rod said each Board member has the aerial of the Bachman property with a line designating the city’s ownership. Rod attended a pre-annexation meeting. Rod said we could discuss it with the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board. The Bachman family has fenced off their area and will be grazing sheep. The higher property is also Bachman ownership. What if any thoughts do the Board have concerning access for people on the property in its current state? Jerry Hodgden asked how large the property was. Rod said he believes 14 acres. Jerry said Lena Gulch is a dangerous place to be. We need to eliminate access to the...
gulch.

Stephanie asked what the issue is. Rod said there should be some process for citizens to look at and make a recommendation as to what if anything should be done on this park in its current state. It will be a future neighborhood park when funding is available. Rod said he is speculating that the most likely first development might be a trail in the Lena Gulch area. The city replaced a boxed culvert a year ago. They built it big enough for people to get through to the Apex area. We would likely be able to secure funding for a trail connection there faster and easier than we could develop a neighborhood park. If you were asking me I would say we shouldn’t encourage use at present but we should identify a trail connection and neighborhood park location. The Board agreed. Meredith asked what will keep people off. Rod said there is some fencing. If people want to walk on it they can. We don’t want to discourage it, if the Planning Commission or citizens request access, we will state the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board does not recommend any use until a trail connection or Neighborhood Park are in place.

Jeff said it could be great for event camping. Dylan agreed. Meredith said the city owns the land and it is currently being annexed. Jerry said the need for a park is in existence some very light things such as a picnic area could be authorized. Stephanie said it would just encourage other uses. Then you open up concerns with the gulch, etc. Rod said from his perspective, if we find there are management problems that arise we may come back to address them in the future. There is elk on the property a lot. When we develop the park we will do an asset inventory and an environmental study.

Stephanie Sung made a motion stating the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board do not encourage activity on the Bachman property until a trail connection and/or neighborhood park are developed, Dylan Grange seconded, and it carried unanimously.

TRAIL RULES:
Meredith Campbell said at our last meeting Bob Nelson suggested that we ban bikes and skateboards from the creek path during summer months. He followed up at CBAC the next morning. Meredith said her question was who else has banned this and how is it working for them. She said Bob’s wife had been hit a couple of times and perhaps the divided trails will mediate these kinds of issues. What does the Board think? Dylan said he disagrees. Stephanie said we are not going to ban anyone from the corridor. However she has no problem considering safety matters. Dylan said you can get to the Lions Park area without the trail. Peter said the RV Park area is the only dismount area. Jenny said leashes of the dogs could even be regulated.

Emmy asked how we can enforce these management problems. Jeff said it is an overall city philosophy that needs to be discussed and determined. Stephanie said no matter what you will find people who are not good at it and who are. We have had education with boaters in the past regarding not leaving your boats on the trail or parking boats in the library lot. Those issues need to be addressed. Jeff said this is an issue that has been on the back burner for awhile. This area needs a Group Management Plan.

Rod said he is hearing a lot of discussion regarding enforcement of the corridor. Rod said he doesn’t know where that is ultimately going to go. When it comes to enforcement our Department isn’t currently responsible. He said maybe there is a volunteer program as well like Jefferson County Open Space. Meredith said she has had calls regarding community service in the last couple weeks. Meredith said she isn’t sure how that all works. Jenny said we are getting comments from citizens regarding enforcement, can we ask Council to address this. Rod said what he is hearing is at a Council level and they are aware. We could lead out in regards to tackle an overall management plan. If there are ordinances or laws established our Police Department would be responsible for the enforcement. In Golden this is left to commissioned police officers.

Jeff said it is education that is needed more than anything else. An ambassador program would be great. Emmy said for example you could have “adopt the area” groups. Rod said to do it right you need structure and training. It can take a lot of resources. Jeff said the police officers riding their bikes are great, but we need more of that. For example when the creek is too high the Fire Department had a person available to educate. Paul said there are two issues, education and enforcement. Jeff said if we have eyes through volunteers on the creek they can also let law enforcement know if needed. Stephanie said everyone has gone to a park where they saw inappropriate things.

Peter said this isn’t the first time this has come up. How do other municipalities address this? Rod said he met with the Police Department on what type of rules and laws could or couldn’t be enforced. Rod said he has met with resistance implementing rules in parks. Rod said we have identified four key areas and we don’t know where it will go, or how strong the Council feels on the issue. The Board could make a recommendation.
Meredith said in Keystone they put up signage regarding not smoking for courtesy of others. It is more of public policing. That is different than an ordinance. It is education and not a law or ordinance that needs to go through Council. Jeff said someone that looks official. Paul asked what the ultimate goal is. Jeff said safety, people don’t have a clue. Sometimes people don’t think. Jeff said education is needed not necessarily new ordinances. Peter said you cannot tell someone not to bike. It always just leads to conflict. Peter said he will not engage with someone for that. Stephanie said you will always have people who won’t do what they are asked.

Jenny said what if we had a “Be Courteous” week and volunteers to educate people. It could occur a few times a year. It doesn’t need to be personal. Paul said there are much bigger issues including alcohol and smoking. Jeff said a lot of the user conflicts on the creek are because people don’t think about other users. Stephanie said she finds that interesting as the trails here are wide compared to Chicago for example. Emmy said at least those people who complain about issues will see that we are attempting to address them. Meredith said you often see speed limits on trails. She said the bikers on Lookout Mountain also need education regarding direction to Lookout Mountain. They don’t know there are other trails that connect and they don’t need to go along the Clear Creek Trail.

Rod said Joe Temple dropped a picture of the roof structure over the dinosaur fossils at Fossil Trace. It is their project, our contribution was $5,000.

Rod said the CPRA Byline Magazine featured Golden Parks and Recreation including a cover and three articles. It is distributed to all the parks and recreation professionals in the state and it was very nice to be honored that way. We have received many nice complements. Golden is also featured in the latest 5280 Magazine. In addition, Westword has an article on Golden, and Mountain Flier Magazine has an article on the Golden Bike Park. We are Golden!

The Cemetery Office Remodel continues to progress. The roof goes on this week. We will have some sort of ribbon cutting reopening Memorial Day weekend or the weekend before. We have the flyover on Memorial Day and veterans visiting.

We have been working on our Infrastructure Inventory and we are close to finished.

We are working with the Fire Department to update a Wild land Fire Mitigation Plan. Jeffco received a grant and Golden was a part of the process. The plan is available for homeowners and HOAs. The Fire Department and our Department will be working to dust that off and educate. Dylan asked how many acres. Rod said 1,500 acres.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS:
Peter asked what the Inventory Report looks like. Amber said it is in excel and covers amenity, lifetime, cost, replacement year, etc.

Emmy asked about counters in the parks. Rod said we do have counters out. Emmy said the willows cleared behind the museum look great.

Peter asked about the new berm at Parfet Estates. What is between the berm and the landing area? Is it a trail? Rod said we have had inquiries. They have some HOA money they want to spend. Rod said he put an email out to have us get together and determine where the right of way is and what our responsibility is. We are looking into what we can allow. Peter said there is a small crusher fine path. Peter actually rode it as it looks like a trail. Rod said he will find out and let the Board know.

Stephanie asked if the city owns the Heritage and 6th Property yet. Rod said there was a closing a week or two ago and we didn’t yet seal the deal, if it isn’t done, it is imminent. Stephanie said the fence is up showing our property line.

Meredith asked if we need to have another meeting this month. Rod said Council will have the plan for possible adoption on April 14th. They are doing interviews on the 7th for the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board. They are scheduled to do appointments on the 14th. The Board agreed to no additional meeting this month. This is also Jeff’s last meeting. Meredith said we will have at least one new member in May. The Board thanked Jeff for his service. Meredith asked Jeff to look for representatives from the boating community and encourage them to apply to the Board this summer.
Dylan Grange said Native Eyewear made a video about Golden Bike Park. The premier will be the 14th at 7pm. It will be at the Colorado Mountaineering Center. It is 30 minutes on Golden Bike Park.

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