Tuesday, June 21, 2011

PRESENT: 
Meredith Campbell  
Jerry Harcek  
Jerry Hodgden  
Stephanie Sung  
Torsten Lyon  
Peter Gotseff

ABSENT: 
Emmy Dimitroff  
Dylan Grange

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

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 Jerry Hodgden, seconded by Stephanie Sung, and carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:  
The Minutes of May 17, 2011 were approved on a motion by Meredith Campbell, seconded by Torsten Lyon, and carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT:  
Peter Gotseff said he asked Patty Pinkham and Bart Pinkham to attend to give input on the whitewater park as play boaters. Patty serves on the Board for Colorado Whitewater Association and teaches for Renaissance Adventure Guides. They are the number one kayak lesson facility in Denver. She is in her fifth year as a Board Member for the Colorado Whitewater Association. They own Golden River Sports. She also has ties to the Dawson School, GOALS, Junior Olympics, veterans program, Trout Unlimited, etc. She moved from New York State in 2004. Peter asked them to speak towards the current features and future needs. Patty said they came to discuss the Master Plan Implementation of Clear Creek.

She first wanted to talk about user conflicts. She said most is related to parking issues, usually parking on the north side of 10th Street. It is dangerous with children and dogs. Often boaters also park on Maple Street which can cause issues with private property. There are traffic user conflicts in front of bleacher hole.

The current state of the water features at the rodeo hole is well liked. The hole below that was also improved. The improvements to bleacher hole have not been well-received. It can be a violent ride. There have been rocks removed affecting the eddy’s. Library hole is also well liked but the hike back and forth is a problem as they cannot park in the library lot. Thus there is not a lot of use in the west end. Looking over the proposed Master Plan the most important element is parking. Moving the lots further from the creek or splitting the lots.
Having one parking area with easy access to the creek is important. We spend a lot of time running shuttle to tunnel one. A common parking lot is important including trailer areas for kayaking clubs. Access to gear is important. The existing kayaking features should be messed with as little as possible. Once you change too much kayakers will not come back. Idaho Springs is an example. Boulder Creek also changed some of the features which are causing injuries.

The splash pad is a fantastic idea. The removal of duck poop pond is strongly supported as long as a practice roll area can be established. Expanded parking and the adjustable feature is really wanted. It needs to have proper parking and improvements to the eddy’s surrounding it. Kayakers flock to Golden due to easy access. Several area parks are not doing well. Too much change is not a good idea.

Jerry Hodgden asked about the inflatable structure. It would go down by the Washington Street Bridge. There is not a parking location in that area. Patty suggested an agreement with Golden Hotel or the History Park for use of their parking lots. She said people want to use library hole as it is a great feature of the creek. The adjustable feature would bring people to the area but boaters need access.

Jerry added we have a lot of stakeholders in the Clear Creek Corridor and it is quite difficult to find parking for one amenity. We are increasing the number of spaces along Clear Creek. On the south side we hoped to put more parking and Colorado School of Mines doesn’t agree with us. Patty said they would love to buy the land across from the RV Park. A drop off point is also very important. The proposed lot in the master plan is great. Jerry Hodgden said another element we need to discuss is closing 10th Street. Patty said closing it and moving it further north is fine as long as parking close to the river is still available. Jerry said we are trying to do our best to service the entire community.

Paul Burkholder said every other year we have maintenance money to make improvements. We work very close with Gary Lacy who originally designed the course. He can’t speak to the master plan and what will happen in the future. What we have right now will likely stay that way for the near future.

Jerry Hodgden said right now we are trying to create one linear park. We don’t yet know the details of the realignment of 10th Street. Patty said the practice area will be incredible. Jerry said we are not going to rock any boats in the near future. Jerry invited them to come back and keep us updated.

Peter Gotseff asked if there was a grant or any other entities that support whitewater play features. Patty said American Whitewater does. She said they would love to have a retail shop around 15th. The space they do find is pricy and has limited parking.

Jim Grinert came to discuss White Ash Mine Park. He is a resident of Mountain Ridge. He would like to propose for discussion the possibility of White Ash Mine Park being sold to the HOA. It could then have a pool, club house, etc. He said the HOA has discussed this, but it is not yet official. Jerry Hodgden said we had a letter regarding a basketball court improvement. Jim said he didn’t have a specific comment about the basketball court at this time. Jerry said we have prioritization of expenditures on our agenda tonight. Improvements in existing parks could be included in this discussion. If you could advise us of specific features, we could then include them in our priorities. Jim asked what we are considering for White Ash Mine. Rod said the basketball court is in deep disrepair due to soil conditions. We need to make the decision to repair it or remove it and replace it with something else. The Parks Board is entering into a mode where almost all the capital funds we have are geared toward taking care of existing infrastructure. We have had requests for a basketball court at Norman D. Park as well. Rod said anytime we take parkland out of public hand requires a vote of the citizens. It would be a vote of the whole community. The best way to propose that is through the HOA. We could reference the HOA representing the entire neighborhood. We have had a couple neighbors strongly ask to repair to the court. Jerry said one consideration that is going around is we always have a lot of requests for skateboard parks as well. It could be a large regional destination or a small skate element. Taylor suggested a pump track in place of the basketball court. The Golden Bike Park has discussed a trail accessible feature. The kids ride their bikes on the court. A skateboard park can serve both skaters and bikers. Jerry Harcek said he has also heard mention of a dog park.

GOLDEN BIKE PARK:
Taylor Schull came to the Board to talk about Golden Bike Park. He brought a quick update for the Board to review. Page two shows what the park is today. It is still highly used by residents and non-residents. He said they have complied with the neighbors requests, and have changed the start hill at the top of the flow trail and brought it back further away from the ridge line and added a temporary fence. Rod thanked the Bike Park Group for their efforts. Taylor said they also put in no parking signs. The County also put in no parking signs on
the shoulder of Easley Road. The number one complaint is parking just like the boaters. Taylor once again suggested building a parking lot for 16 spaces along the south side of the park. It would take a lot of money; they will work on some grants. The neighbors have strongly enforced they are against the new lot. Taylor said they also limited some of the parking on the sides with rock. We have had some unofficial small events for birthdays. We have been toying around with a picnic area which could also be rented out for birthday parties and events. Maintenance days have good turn-out. They have completely re-layered all the dirt. They are expanding a few small features as well.

There has been some vandalism with an ATV. Taylor takes care of trash removal himself every other week. There was a request by Tracy Pond for lids on the trash cans. Paul Burkholder said the city can help with that.

Taylor said Boulder’s Valmont Park opened a week ago. He would like the Parks Board to visit. Taylor said there are many great ideas. He said they would like to do a master plan for the next 3 to 5 years. It is 3 million dollars worth of amenities. Taylor said the Golden Bike Park Group is proposing a few new trails. It would include making a regular social trail legit in the park. He said they might find some wood and dirt for the trail. A new return trail is also needed. They also want permission to bring a pump track to the south side of the road. He said we would not add a huge amount of dirt; the goal is a single track for kids that are really little. This would allow some trail access to the pump track. Taylor said they are looking for the Board’s endorsement. Rod said the only new trail that gives him pause is the south side of the road. Rod said they probably need Tracy Pond and the ditch company to look at it. If you can get them to nod, then we are okay. Jerry Harcek said there is enough room outside of the right of way. Rod said we can get the contact for the ditch company from Anne Beierle for you. Jerry Hodgden asked if the return trails crossing will cause any safety problems. Taylor said we can add signage if necessary.

Taylor said people love the pump track and we may need to redesign the area. He said he hasn’t had much trouble with mud or rain. Taylor said Valmont Park has a sprinkler system. Jerry Harcek said they also had grade issues. Taylor said the skills area additions include little rollers and bumps. The bioswale is growing back really well. Weed mitigation has been done on maintenance days. Taylor said we are hoping to go back to the initial discussion regarding doing connector trails. They will sit down and work through a complete proposal working with the neighborhoods. They have also talked about small pump tracks in area parks. They will look for funding including applying for neighborhood grant improvements through Golden. They looked at other sites including a triangle property between Tucker Gulch and Vanover Park.

Stephanie Sung asked if Taylor has spoken with the Beverly Heights neighbors. She said there are a lot of people who might want this amenity. Taylor said the Golden Bike Group wants to come up with a solid proposal for Golden and could try to do a lot of the lifting with regard to the funding.

Jerry Hodgden said if you are making proposals in various parks, we do not have a lot of funding available. Jerry would suggest finding ideas and funding for Vanover and Beverly Heights first. Peter asked about the trails west of the mines housing. He said we talked about a Tank to Tank Trail from Chimney to Apex. Taylor said some history includes some ecological restrictions to that area. To keep the trail high would be extremely difficult to do. OSAC would turn it down. You would need to move it further down the mountain. Taylor said he knows the president of the Mountain Biking Club. Peter said he doesn’t know how they are still maintaining access there. It does need to be rerouted. Taylor asked how we got the path. Rod said through an easement that the city acquired with the School of Mines. Taylor said we should also work with Jefferson County to make integral connections. Peter said a multiuse trail connection is ideal. Peter said he does see the fact that if you can expand open space connections it can be enjoyed by multiple sports. Going from Chimney Gulch or Beverly Heights to Kinney Run would be awesome. Taylor said we can look into those connections as well.

Rod said he had his first insurance claim for the bike park today. We will say no, sometimes there is litigation. They can submit a claim and the insurance company will choose whether to pay it or deny it. Rod said we don’t have further information, they didn’t use an ambulance.

**CAPTIAL IMPROVEMENTS/JOINT VENTURE GRANT DISCUSSION:**
Jerry Hodgden said after the Board’s last Study Session we ended up with a list of 12 priority improvements. He has put numbers to the improvements and invites the Board to make changes. Rod said the most important is three priorities for Jefferson County Open Space. Jerry said so far they have:
1. Clear Creek Trail on the South Side
2. Vanover Park Improvements
3. Existing Park Improvements including natural elements and skate park features
4. Whitewater Park Improvements
5. Trail connections to Tony Grampsas Park and Fairmont Trail
6. Dog park
7. Beverly Heights Park Improvements
8. Bachman Trail Connections to Apex Trail
9. Splash Improvements to preserve the existing infrastructure
10. Highway 93 Trail connection to Pine Ridge Road
11. Bandshell in Parfet Park
12. Tank to Tank Trail

Meredith Campbell commented Emmy Dimitroff left notes with her. Emmy felt maintaining our existing parks should be our number one priority. Small improvements to existing parks would be second. The Vanover Park Improvements would be following. Emmy said the South Side Trail is already funded and doesn’t need to be prioritized. She felt easing congestion on the trails would be next. She also liked Splash Improvements and a dog park at Beverly Heights. She said she does not want Lions Pond filled in. Meredith said she agrees with all of Emmy’s points but disagrees with the pond. She would like to see it filled in. Meredith said she does not want a band shell. Rod said we pulled the potential public meeting in July to fill in the pond. When and if it is ever filled needs to be a fall project.
Meredith suggested the Board focus on three priorities to send to Jefferson County Open Space for consideration for Joint Venture Grant funds.

1. Existing Park Improvements
Torsten suggested existing park improvements include pocket elements and the dog park at Beverly Heights. Rod Tarullo said Beverly Heights is aware a public process needs to occur to determine what amenities will go in the park. He also said there needs to be a connector trail to Pine Ridge due to safety. It could be a great Joint Venture proposal. It is a really dangerous intersection. Rod said it would be something they would likely fund.

Jerry Hodgden said we could include White Ash and Norman D Park improvements under existing park improvements. Stephanie said with regards to Beverly Heights Park, it is more about expansion and not improvements. Jerry said last week we had requests for Norman D Park as well.

Jerry Harcek said Vanover Improvements would be a priority for him. The South Side Trail connection is important but already funded. He liked the Highway 93 to Pine Ridge.
Stephanie Sung said we should submit a trail connection from Highway 93 to Pine Ridge Road for Joint Venture.

Rod said the items on the priority list which have the most potential for success include the trail connection to Tony Grampsas and Fairmont Trail, Bachman Trail connection to Apex Trail, Highway 93 to Pine Ridge Road and Splash Improvements.

Peter Gotseff asked what our chances were to get funding for Splash Improvements. Rod said the Jefferson County Commissioners like Splash because it is a regional destination. Peter said it is important to take care of it.

Jerry Hodgden said Grampsas to Fairmont is the only trail which doesn’t connect to Jefferson County. Rod said it does have a connection to North Table so it also provides access to Jefferson County Space. Peter said you also can connect to the Front Range Trail.

Stephanie Sung made a motion to submit the following three priorities to Jefferson County Open Space for Joint Venture Grant Consideration: Splash Improvements, Trail to Tony Grampsas Park and Fairmont Trail, and Highway 93 Trail Connection to Pine Ridge Road. Meredith Campbell seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

Rod said we will table the Memorial Bench Policy and the Clear Creek RV Park discussion until your next regular meeting.

DIRECTOR’S REPORT:
Rod said on August 4th the City Council would like to visit with the Parks Board. That evening will also include
infrastructure maintenance policies. Our Department Infrastructure Report will play a role in that. Please mark your calendars. Council will want to discuss the Parks Board taking over the Museum Board. Rod will prepare a Resolution for them to take action following that meeting. You may also want to discuss with them the Community Gardens.

Do you want to have a Study Session on July 5th? The Board agreed not to have a Study Session on the 5th. Rod will be out of town for your next regular meeting, staff will attend to support. Rod said briefly the Golden Girls Softball Association requested to sell concessions at Lions Park. They came to Chad and Rod and were told no. They then went to Council. Rod wrote a follow-up to Council which he will share. They claim the ball fields were built in the 1950s and are their fields. One of the suggestions they have is they would like to sell advertising on their fields as a fundraiser. Rod will have to respond and will suggest that is an item which will come before the Parks Board for consideration. Rod passed the letter to the Board for their review.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS:
Torsten Lyon said since our last Study Session we had a 9th Street block party and invited 150 residents. It was a part of the neighborhood grant program. He said he was able to meet many neighbors. He took an informal survey. The result was residents did not want the pond but majority were not in a hurry to fill it in. Torsten said he wasn’t surprised.

ADJOURN:
A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Meredith Campbell, seconded by Jerry Hodgden, and carried unanimously.