Tuesday, July 19, 2011

PRESENT: Meredith Campbell  
Jerry Harcek  
Jerry Hodgden  
Torsten Lyon

ABSENT: Emmy Dimitroff  
Dylan Grange  
Stephanie Sung  
Peter Gotseff

STAFF: 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 7:00p.m.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:  
The Agenda was approved on a motion by Meredith Campbell, seconded by Torsten Lyon, and carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:  
The Minutes of June 21, 2011 were approved on a motion by Meredith Campbell, seconded by Jerry Harcek, and carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT:  
None

MEMORIAL BENCH POLICY DISCUSSION:  
Amber Thill led the discussion by stating there is a high demand for memorial benches in Golden especially along the Clear Creek Corridor. We are no longer adding benches to the Clear Creek Corridor due to the approval of the Master Plan and its unknown future. We also have a waitlist of 6 benches to be placed on the south side of the creek when the trail is built. Amber said unfortunately we do not have good records of when the memorial bench program started and who the contact person is for many of the benches in our system. We have records for the last three years since Amber and Paul have taken over the program. Many of the existing benches are around 20 years old and falling apart.
Benches today need to be made of recycled material. The New Memorial Policy is based on what other communities are doing. It states that the parks staff will determine bench locations. The donator will then choose which is most desirable to them. The benches will be guaranteed for 10 years in the location, after 10 years the donator may chose to replace the bench with a new one or take it home with them. The location will then be available for the next donation.

Jerry Hodgden proposed staff take out benches that are unknown and do not have contact information. He also suggested placing a article in the Informer Newsletter asking the community to identify any existing benches. Notification in the Informer will make the bench notice public and thus available to everyone; hopefully this will help the city to identify the unknown benches.
Meredith Campbell made the motion to pass the New Memorial Policy. Torsten Lyon seconded the motion, and it was carried unanimously.

CLEAR CREEK RV PARK TENT SITES:  
Amber asked the Board to refer to the Memo from Facility Manager, Keith Isenberger, concerning the small area for tents in the Clear Creek RV park. There are only three tent sites and staff is recommending the rarely used sites are removed and an additional electrical RV hookup be put in that location. This would result in
doubling the revenue the tent sites currently generate for the RV Park and would ensure the site was used year round rather than just 6 months of the year. Amber also added the three tent sites are often used by patrons who build fires which are not allowed, sleep in their cars, and can be disorderly. There have been complaints in the past by other RV Park users.

Torsten Lyon made the point the tent sites are great because it is cheaper for campers and is a nice option for recreation. Jerry Harcek said he wanted to know where else camping could be located before getting rid of these three existing sites. Jerry Hodgden said he supports removal of the tents because the current RV Park customers are not satisfied with having the tent sites there. Paul Burkholder stated the RV Park is run like a business, and we are searching for the best way to operate this business. Torsten suggested creating one smaller RV site and leaving one tent site as a compromise.

Torsten Lyon made a motion to table the decision on the removal of the RV Park tent sites until more board members are present. Jerry Hodgden seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

CITY COUNCIL VISIT AUGUST 4th:
Jerry Hodgden said we will be visiting with City Council on August 4th. He would encourage all the board members to attend. We will discuss the motion we made to absorb oversight of the museums and disband the Cultural Services and Museums Advisory Board. Meredith said it would be nice to have a museum person take a vacant position on this board.
Jerry said we also need to discuss Lions Pond. He said the Clear Creek Corridor Master Plan recommends it be filled in. Jerry said he wants to know what feature will replace it? He said if we fill it now, it will create a large green space. He said he would like to wait to fill the pond until funding is available to replace it with another water feature.

Meredith Campbell said she agrees with City Council to have it filled it now. Torsten said he agrees the pond should eventually be filled in, but also suggested that it requires more public process. Jerry Harcek agreed with Torsten.

Amber encouraged the board to also consider other topics they might want to discuss with Council. Jerry Hodgden said the trail and green belt along the creek would be better if we could complete the master plan recommendation to remove three RV park spaces along the pinch point of the trail next to the creek. It would show our residents we are moving forward where we can with the master plan.

Meredith asked what the agreement with the Community Gardeners entailed. Amber said the Parks and Recreation Department will have oversight of any future structures. She said the agreement will be reviewed annually and it is noted the community gardens have temporary use of the space. Terms and agreements include the Community Garden Group operating the gardens and having use of a water tap from parks. Paul said the fiscal impact to the city is the use of the water tap which costs approximately $50,000.

Jerry said the Community Gardens will be discussed at the City Council meeting August 4th.

Torsten Lyon said he would also like to encourage the 8th Street Access Road at the meeting.

Meredith said we received a grant towards the Vanover Tree Memorial and that needs to be a priority. Jerry said the dendochronologist is ready to go; he is awaiting the go ahead and funding from staff. Amber said we were planning on using Park Improvements funding along with the grant from Jefferson County Open Space. Paul Burkholder said he would contact Jerry tomorrow to discuss moving this project forward.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS DISCUSSION:
The Board discussed their prioritization of the Capital Improvements Program for Parks and Recreation. Amber said staff has submitted three priorities per the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board to Jefferson County Open Space for consideration for future local grant requests. A trail on the west side of Highway 93 to Pine Ridge Road, a trail along West 44th to Tony Grampsas and improvement to Splash Aquatic Park. The Board also discussed Vanover Park, Norman D Park, and the 8th Street Access as important priorities.

Jerry Hodgden said he has had requests for a ball field in Norman D Park. Paul Burkholder said the space is not level or a good location for soccer fields or baseball diamonds. He said a basketball court could fit into the park.
Jerry Hodgden said there has also been some discussion regarding Beverly Heights. Once the tank is moved from the area, there will be questions on what will be done with the space. Amber said she would be happy to take the priorities we have discussed tonight and combine them with existing priorities and email the list to the Board for discussion at the next meeting.

**BOARD MEMBERS' COMMENTS:**
Jerry Hodgden said the city made an offer to acquire the eastern edge of the Rocky Flats area north of Golden to make a bike path and help to prevent the future proposed Beltway. If the City of Golden wins, the Parks Department will be responsible for maintaining the path. Jerry said he would like to write a letter in favor of the bike path with Torsten’s assistance. Torsten said he would be willing to represent the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board at the US Fish and Wildlife meeting tomorrow night. The meeting will determine the extent of the environmental study which will be completed prior to any development of the area. Meredith said the soccer nets are terrible at Southridge Park. She said if they are the responsibility of Colorado Ice, what is the city’s agreement with Ice? She said they need to be replaced or the goals removed. Amber said she would find out more information and get back to her.

Meredith said she is resigning from the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board and moving to Mexico for at least a year. She plans to potentially reapply for the Board upon her return.

**BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS:**
Torsten Lyon explained the bike path would be in the Rocky Flats area between Highway 72 and 128.

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