Tuesday, August 16, 2011

PRESENT: Torston Lyon
Dylan Grange
Jerry Hodgden
Stephanie Sung
Jerry Harcek
Peter Gotseff

ABSENT: Emmy Dimitroff

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

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 Torston Lyon, seconded by Peter Gotseff,
and carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:
The Minutes of July 19, 2011 were approved on a motion by Torston Lyon, seconded
by Jerry Harcek, and carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT:
None

EXCESS PARKLAND DISCUSSION- Steve Glueck:
Steve Glueck said he is looking for comments on the Cemetery designation on the
National Register of Historic Places. The National Park Service administers the
National Register of Historic Places. It is the official federal list of districts, sites,
buildings, structures and objects significant in American history, architecture,
archeology, engineering, and culture. The nomination would be by the Historic
Preservation Board. It could be a marketing benefit to the Cemetery. Steve said this
has been an eye opening experience to check out the history of the Cemetery.

Jerry Hodgden said the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board used to set the
Cemetery pricing at Board meetings and it is fairly established now. We just renovated
the building and it is a really nice renovation and suitable for our needs. Jerry said
someone might actually think that it is comforting. Jerry would suggest we join the
Historic Preservation Board in approving the nomination. Stephanie Sung made a
motion to approve the Historic Preservation Board’s nomination of the Golden
Cemetery for the National Register of Historic Places, seconded by Torston Lyon, and carried unanimously.

Steve said his next topic is the sale of excess parkland. The City of Golden Charter states we cannot sell land in the city without a vote of the people. There is a portion of city open space that has been difficult as we don’t maintain it. The map provided gives an aerial of the Heritage Square Parking lots. There is an area of pavement in the upper lot that looks to be a different color. Heritage Square was a Disney spin-off park in the 50s. In the 70s it was replatted. They also planned a grand entrance in the 70s. The track that the city owns is Apex Gulch which connects to Apex Trail a piece of which includes a chuck of the upper lot and the extreme west end of the lower lot. The county also owns a large part of the lower lot that they received in a land swap with Lafarge, the owners of Heritage Square. That shows you how valuable 60 acres of land is. The issue is every year or two LaFarge asks if they could have the city’s piece of asphalt. Steve said this requires a vote of the people. Steve said from an economic development point of view, why does the city own a piece of a parking lot? He said the main question is should we go to an election? It is not something to be taken lightly. Steve said we have a list of property that we don’t benefit from but the land costs money to maintain. If we would be better off not owning the parcels, is it important enough to have an election to sell it?

Jerry Hodgden said we have a number of sites we have been concerned about that we have to maintain. We have one up north that is basically a residential lot next to a residence and no one can really use it. There is also one on 16th and Utah. Rod said we have identified a half dozen other locations. He said most people don’t realize they are owned by the city. They are generally very small and no one would be interested except perhaps adjacent property owners. We could save money in maintenance.

Stephanie Sung said she would be on board but she would like numbers. That would make a strong argument.

Torsten said, not knowing the specifics, in general he is hesitant to talk about letting go of property. They might not have much value today, but it is so hard to acquire land, do we want to get rid of anything? He said some of these properties could be made into community gardens for example.

Rod said there is no timeframe crunch. If the decision was made to go to vote it would be a pretty extensive process. Rod would suggest this fall we take a field trip and then the list of properties for consideration can grow or diminish. Jerry said it would also be important to know the cost of maintaining each area.

Steve said the logical piece to sell is an acre or acre and a half. Land like this used to be 5 dollars per square foot. That money could then go into park projects. If there is reasonable commercial use, then money can be made for the city as well. Torsten asked Steve if LaFarge is looking to purchase. Steve said Heritage Square is full and they are trying to stop losing money. LaFarge believes over time they would like to acquire the parking lot and it has to be sold at fair market value. Economically, it is not feasible for the city to put this to ballot other than during a November election.
Peter Gotseff asked who owns the lower parking lot. Steve said LaFarge owns most of it, the city owns a small part, and Jefferson County also owns a piece. Steve said both sides of Hwy 40 and the quarry are in the city. The park’n’rides are not.

Rod Tarullo said we don’t currently have funds allocated to develop the Bachman Property. We are not interested in access to the land until we develop it. The land is purchased and annexed. Steve said we own the 14 acres we purchased. Rod said we also officially own the Hogback.

CLEAR CREEK RV PARK TENT SITES:
Jerry Hodgden said we discussed the RV Park at our last meeting. There was a recommendation to eliminate the tent sites and there were a variety of opinions. Emmy Dimitroff sent an email to comment on the tent sites. She said she did not support closing any of the tent sites and she believes there should be even more tent sites. She said the occupants of the current tent sites are kind and often families looking for an inexpensive place to stay. She did not see a minor revenue increase outweighing the convenience of a low cost place to stay.

Jerry Hodgden said often the tent users are disruptive and there is a revenue increase to have an additional RV hookup in their place.

Torston said he has been observing the sites over the last couple weeks. He even has a friend using one of the tent sites. He put forth a compromise to go to two tent sites and one smaller RV site. He also liked Emmy’s comment of having more tent sites in the summer and RV sites in the winter. He said it is a little embarrassing to have such limited camping locations in Golden. Rod said we fill the RV sites all summer and may not fill them in the winter months.

Stephanie Sung asked if it was one tent per site. Rod said typically. Stephanie said she always prefers to generate revenue. She suggested keeping at least one tent site for camping and then have a smaller RV Site.

Torston said we talked about losing a couple RV Sites with the Clear Creek Corridor Master Plan to widen the path along the creek. He asked if we could consider redistribution of the park with tent sites along the trail where we remove the RV sites in the summer which will give us more green space along the trail and keep tents in the park.

Jerry Hodgden asked if the Board should consider tent locations at Tony Grampsas. Torston said one concern is if these are potentially problem users it might be best to be able to observe them. Rod said Tony Grampsas opens staffing concerns. The Clear Creek RV Park is successful because of its location. Rod said he spoke to Keith Isenberger, the RV Park Manager, and he is fine with leaving the site as it is. We also received a phone call from Meredith Campbell and she stayed at the RV Park for a week right across from the tent campsites. She said her perspective is continuing to keep the tent sites where they are.

Jerry Hodgden said he likes to think we don’t discriminate from the needs of the community. It is nice to have diversification in the campground.
Rod said as we look at the Master Plan recommendations we could give a buffer and potentially relocate tent areas to other parts of the park.

Peter said the RV Park is hard to access. If you are a resident of Golden you could sponsor someone and get them priority to get into the RV Park. Rod said the current system works well for the majority of people who use it. We are probably about half full most of the winter. In the summer months you can stay two weeks. If you know your parents are coming, it is first come, first serve. Our staff can tell you what will be opening up the following day.

CITY COUNCIL VISIT RECAP:
Jerry Hodgden said the main concern from Council was whether the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board should have oversight of the museums and disband the Cultural Services and Museums Advisory Board. There were four in favor and three against the recommendation. Rod said this will be up for consideration at their September 8th Regular Council Meeting. Jerry said we spent so much time on the museum discussion; we didn’t get to discuss other topics. Rod said we received email feedback from Councilors Claxton and Oxman on Lions Pond. Jerry said there was an idea that he was blaming the Colorado School of Mines for the lack of completion of their clean-up site for the future south side trail. That was not his intent.

VANOVER PARK UPDATE:
Rod Tarullo said we had a meeting with Dr. Brown with the Department of Forestry, he would like to have the community come watch him complete the tree ring count. He doesn’t want to move the wood from Vanover Tree twice for fear of breaking it. Everyone liked the looks of the stump on its own. It was suggested that we fix up the stump so the kids could play on it. If we moved it a little higher on the hill and got it out of the flood plain we could also tilt it on its side and make it look quite nice. We could add a shelter. Dr Brown is charging $5,000 for the chronology work. Jerry said we were invited to meet with the Historic Preservation Board and Jerry said we are completing the technical aspects of it. Jerry said Rick Gardner will also be involved as the local historian. Jerry said he read the Vanover Tree was 260 years old in a report by Sharon Bennett, former City Manager; however, Dr. Brown feels it will be somewhat younger than that.

Rod said we could mark both sides of the tree, one side with Golden history and one with US history. We would need a roof structure to protect it from the elements. It is in good shape right now.

DIRECTOR’S REPORT:

- Rod said he would suggest we consider cancelling the Study Session on September 6th unless we have items to cover.

- We have a vacancy on the Board with Meredith’s move to Mexico and he talked to the City Clerk today. We will advertise in the not too distant future.

- We have the First Annual Kids Triathlon this Saturday. We have 78 kids registered.
• At your next meeting we will prepare aerials of the excess parkland we discussed tonight so you will have hard copies to review.

• Paul said he did an inspection of the bike park last week, there was some maintenance issues including the gate lock, weeds and graffiti on the bathrooms. Jerry Harceck said the pump track needs some maintenance. Paul said he sent the information to Taylor Schull. Jerry said they were supposed to have a maintenance day last week. Paul said it was clean but some of the wood structures need maintenance.

BOARD MEMBERS’ COMMENTS:
Torston said he wanted to report that a month or so ago he attended the Department of Fish and Wildlife Open House for the Beltway. Where they are in the process is not should they consider bike path versus freeway, it is looking at an environmental impact statement and the outcome could be that it has no environmental impact or they need to do an impact statement before they move forward. The way they have posed the question is what is the assessment of expanding the wildlife refuge to include section 16? That is how it is phrased right now. They said the timeline is near the end of the year before the decision is made. They will present preliminary findings in September. November is the expected timeframe for the EA. If they can expand it to include section 16, they can then choose Option A or Option B, parkland or beltway.

He said he attended a wedding reception a couple days ago and the wife was from Venezuela. They visited Golden last summer and when Torston told her that he lived in Golden, she said Golden is her very favorite place in the United States.

Stephanie Sung said we didn’t have a holiday party or Christmas in July. We usually have a holiday get together. She asked if anyone is interested or should we wait until the holidays? Torston said that could be great as a new member to get to know everyone better. Maybe it could be after our field trip to look at excess parkland. Peter said during the week would work. The Board discussed September 6th after work around 7p.m. Stephanie suggested Blue Canyon and said she will follow up with an email.

ADJOURN:
A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Dylan Grange, seconded by Peter Gotseff, and carried unanimously.