Tuesday, January 19, 2010

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

ABSENT:  None  

STAFF:  Rod Tarullo, Director of Parks, Recreation and Golf  
        Amber Speedy, Parks and Recreation Coordinator  
        Paul Burkholder, Parks, Forestry, Cemetery Manager  
        Becky Richmond, Athletics Coordinator  
        Gary Lacy, Recreation Engineering and Planning, Inc.  

PUBLIC:  None  

COUNCIL:  None  

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

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:  
The agenda was approved upon a motion by Jerry Hodgden, seconded by Emmy Dimitroff, and carried unanimously  

3. APPROVAL OF THE NOVEMBER 18, 2009 MINUTES:  
The minutes of the November 18, 2009 meeting were approved upon a motion by Jerry Hodgden, seconded by Jeff Oxenford, and carried unanimously  

4. PUBLIC COMMENT:  
None  

5. WHITE WATER PARK CONCEPT- Paul Burkholder/Gary Lacy:
Paul Burkholder led the discussion and introduced Gary Lacy. He was the original designer of the kayak course in 1996. Paul said last year we completed the access and bank stabilization with Gary. We have two projects for 2010. We have a $25,000 budget for improvements for this year. October of last year we had a meeting and walked the course to talk about what improvements we could make. The improvement everyone agreed on is a movable structure under Washington Street Bridge by Golden Hotel. In addition, we are looking at a second and third ramp back by the new pedestrian bridge near 6th Avenue. Gary Lacy showed a plan to the Board. He said he has been involved with this project from the start and he enjoys working this site. He said he attended the Colorado School of Mines and used Golden as a great example of good positioning from a recreation standpoint with kayaking, hang gliding, biking, etc. He said the whitewater course was built in 1996 when the Golden Community Center had recently opened. He said there has been some design changes which put certain projects at the top of the list of improvements.

So what changes can be done to make this course one of the top in the country? We are considering additional ramps and improvements to channels above the library hole. In addition, the project we talked about in October is the upper Washington Street drop. It is just below the Golden Hotel. The existing drop was built in phase 2 or 3. It could become the main feature of this course and is a good location to the pedestrian overlook and the downtown area. It also would take some use off the upstream park. The idea would be to reconstruct a portion of this to make it a really dynamic and attractive feature with moveable objects. You can literally touch a button and change the wave. He passed around photos of Vail, Colorado, whitewater which features a moveable object. Paul said it would be similar to the bridge area in the Vail photos. Gary said when the water is low you can see the structures are flat to the bottom of the river. In the spring the river comes up and these control the flow of the water and force it over various angle drops. The objects are stainless steel which pumps up with air and create a dam. You can basically shape the wave. As the water goes down and spreads out you want depth and you push them up and everyone has fun. You can create a more intense feature for activities. There would be a few additions and rocks to what already currently exists. This is a preliminary look of what it might look like. There are a lot of technical details which tell these features what to do with the push of a button. There are also lower budget options which are manual.

Jerry Hodgden asked what kind of maintenance this structure has. Gary said electronic versus mechanical. So it shouldn’t add additional maintenance. There will be maintenance to keep them clean. The examples he as seen are very low maintenance very solid stainless steel shields and anything going down the creek just glides above. Jeff Oxenford asked if it is kicked will it hurt someone. Gary said it is all rubberized on the edges. He said the main maintenance issue that the City of Denver had was vandalism. Guns and knives were used to try to poke the bladder which holds up the stainless steel plates. Jerry said this being right across from the hotel should be safe from vandalism. Gary also added there are two pipes going under the structure; the idea would be to divert all the water while you do your work. Over the years you need to send the water into the pipes again to do maintenance. Meredith asked how long Vail has had their structure. Gary said about 5 years. She asked what the life span is. Gary said
Cherry Creek’s structure is 14 to 15 years old. There have not been any replacements of parts.

Gary said a cost estimate using Overmeyer with all the bells and whistles is about $230,000 dollars. With $150,000 to $180,000 you could do something similar which is only mechanical. Just construction without the bells and whistles you would save $100,000. A system of moveable objects can go to either extreme. What Gary said he doesn’t know is could we put blocks in one area and mechanical in another area. Jerry asked if placement dictates patterns which are more or less favorable. Gary said you have to do both. You need one piece to constrict the water and something to change the angle of flow. He added public safety is number one so you want to have it really powerful for an event and then lower the power for daily use. Vail could help us with this. Gary said we could do the lower budget option and we would only change it 3 to 4 times per year for events. Jeff asked if you go low tech on the design can you upgrade later. Gary said yes, we would just need to put conduit in the base even if we never use any electrical. Jeff said you will have to move the rocks that are currently there. Gary said yes we would be removing and adding. Jeff said one challenge is at high water it floods the ampitheater. Gary said it wouldn’t make it better. Peter Gotseff said we have a signature hole that is not being used as it is washed out.

Paul asked what it would mean to the kayakers. Gary said it would be a signature free style hole doing tricks and loops. Gary said standup surfing is also popular. Jeff said if we build the signature hole it is known that it brings major events and we could attract these events from all over the world. Our holes right now are great but this would be the best around. Like a perfect run for a skier. Jeff asked about traffic flow of people. It could be a huge issue. The ampitheater will be full of boats. Jerry said the trail coming down from the bridge is not as stable as some other places. Rod said there are several different access points to that area so we are okay to get people to that area. Rod said on the “push the button- bells and whistle” version he is assuming there is a need to put air in the bladders. Gary said you are running air into the bladders. The electrical is in the mechanical room. Gary said we would be the first. The others that are out there are different like legos in a dry area. We can’t turn the water off but something like that might be a possibility if we put the pipes in. During high flow it is hard to change it. It could be dangerous. Non-human intervention is good if possible. If we could get some cranes to maneuver shields on a hinge you should be able to adjust it that way. Gary said there is a possibility it might not work. Gary said the shields are cheap it’s the compressed air and the technology and controls that make it expensive. Gary said he is just thinking of a plastic block which is anchored which could be very cheap. Overmeyer has the patent on that. He said he is trying to get a price but Overmeyer won’t price until he gets a project. Peter asked what he holds the patent on. Gary said the entire concept.

Rod said we wanted the Board to know and understand the concept. This project isn’t currently in the CIP we are discussing later today and the Clear Creek Master Plan doesn’t touch the water but the traffic and access concerns do involve the Master Plan. We want you to be aware of this project and as we start discussing CIP so you have the opportunity to insert it or not along the way. Rod said we hear people ask whats next and how to keep the course current. Jeff said we are not talking about this project for next year. Rod said 2011 or 2012 at the earliest. Paul said the walkabout and water aspect with Public Works will happen this year. Gary said this is a big project we need to think through. Jeff said we would like to be
innovative if we could find the funding to get it done the way it has been proven that is the way to go. Gary said it could be fun but he isn’t sure Golden wants to be the guinea pig on the mechanical version. Overmeyer will do the entire project and warranty it. Gary said in Cherry Creek there was an entire year of testing. Overmeyer said he needed a purchase order in the next couple weeks to build for 2010. Gary said Venice on the Creek uses this concept and is currently flat. Starting Memorial Day they create six lakes as they raise the steel plates. It is the same technology but the end result is similar to a dam. Gary said in Green River, Wyoming, they put in a whitewater feature but it is a much larger river. Peter asked if Gary had the ability to tell us what we would need to budget for maintenance and operations. Gary said he can look into it and get that information for us. Peter also suggested getting numbers for replacements. Gary said he knows they have never replaced any equipment at Cherry Creek or Vail thus far. Gary said there will be a put-in by Six Avenue and we need to provide access for maintenance. It has to be a ramp. Jeff said he doesn’t know if that should be an access point as the Trout Unlimited rocks are quite dangerous. Jeff said this area is not designed for tubers.

6. ARCHERY LEASE- Tony Grampsas Park
Rod Tarullo said we are not allowed to do multiple-year contractual leases. This is a 5 year license agreement with Golden High Country Archers that is reviewed annually. He said he wants to make sure everyone is comfortable with another lease. He said we know there are future plans for a Master Plan at Tony Grampsas. The term of the lease allows us to decide every January if we want to renew the contract. Obviously if they don’t comply we have the right to terminate with 30 days notice. Jerry Hodgden said they have been a success and he doesn’t see any trouble with them. Jenny Ricks asked if they have exclusive use. Rod said what they have committed to us in the past is that they have offered public days per year. They are still responsible for safety, what they want to do is grow their club. The public opportunities are to gain people to join the club. Jenny Ricks said it should be in the Recreate Brochure. She said we need to ensure it is more accessible to the public. Jeff Oxenford said he doesn’t know anything about the archery program. Jeff Oxenford asked if you have to be a club member. Rod said they offer open shooting and events. Once a member is certified, he or she can use the course on their own. Jeff asked what the use numbers are. He said they should provide the City with use numbers so when we do master planning we can plan for the future. Jenny said that area and the dog park are so unique that we need to get everyone access to it. Jeff asked what the fees are. Rod said he doesn’t know but can look into it. Jerry said he doesn’t think there are fees for members.

7. OPEN CONTAINER PERMITS:
Rod Tarullo said coming up on Council’s docket in February are a series of discussions on alcohol-related topics including liquor compliance and liquor board sentencing guidelines and structures. We have concerns about alcohol along the creek and trash bottles. Rod said he has been asked to write a memo to Council regarding the permit policy along with the Police Department. He said he had a meeting with the Chief of Police, Recreation Manager, Athletics Supervisor and Rentals Coordinator. They walked through what we do and don’t do with regard to open container permits. It is a policy that has morphed overtime. If we start all over it could be different though we have minimal issues with the current policy. Currently, we have permits we authorize for adult sports leagues primarily softball. We have rules attached to the permits. What generally happens is the players tailgate and then go on their way. We also have
open container permits for events in the parks. Reunions, graduations, and birthday parties are a few examples. We provide permits for weddings and indoor rentals at the Golden Community Center. We also give permits to anyone who asks for one for a park. For example, Colorado School of Mines kids pay for an open container to play volleyball at Parfet Park. The permit is for wine and beer only. We charge $30 for up to 100 people. $40 if the group is has over 100 people. We ask those seeking a permit to get it two days in advance. We also ask for no glass, although know this still occurs. The permit is provided to the Police Department so when the police are monitoring they can ask for permits. The person responsible for the group who has received a permit must carry a copy of it throughout their event. There isn’t really any criterion that Larry, our Rentals Coordinator, has to go by other then what I have mentioned so far.

We have not had many issues. We occasionally have people stay later and the police will need to move them along or we have a trash issue. If drinking along the creek is a concern, the police would like better parameters. At Ulysses Park and Tony Grampsas Park it is pretty direct where one can and cannot drink. An idea staff is proposing would not allow any permitting south of 10th and west of Washington to the creek. This area includes Lions ball fields, the amphitheater, the kayak course, etc. We have one lady’s league which this will affect. This allows the police to know if there is alcohol in the area and they are better able to enforce. Jerry Hodgden asked about the RV Park. Rod said that is where it would end, if the campers are drinking on their site that is allowed. Meredith Campbell asked what the softball league would think. Becky Richmond said the women’s league loves Lions Park. They also really enjoy being able to drink at Lions. Becky said they would likely be moving the league to an area where they could drink. Jeff Oxenford asked if there is only one league that it impacts. Rod said if they wanted to continue their league at Lions they would be eligible to drink over at Lions Park near the pavilions.

Emmy Dimitroff asked if we could grandfather the womens league in for the area. She said it seems that no one enforces the dog leash law so the women’s softball league is following the rules and shouldn’t be punished. Rod said it boils down to enforcement. One of the other ideas the police had is when people see others drink legally or not, they assume it’s legal. If we have drinkers in the ballfield but we do not want drinking on the creek it could be difficult. Jenny said if the problems are along the creek maybe we should just restrict the creek. Rod said that’s the way we are today. The reason it is not working is because the police need better delineation. Jenny asked if the Clear Creek Corridor Master Planning Process will affect this later. Rod said someday this entire policy will be changed. Jeff said if there is anyway to get the women’s league grandfathered in that would be great. Becky said they would have very attractive alternative options. The facilities may be better at other locations. Becky also said the ballfields might not exist in the near future with the master planning process and the women’s league is aware of this situation. Jerry suggested a designated area for alcohol. Stephanie Sung said she doesn’t have any strong feelings but we could just leave it as it is. Rod said if we were to make the proposed changes and the problems continued then we would see what the real problems are. It could identify the sources of the problems other then open container permits.

8. CIP DISCUSSION:
Rod Tarullo said we have a 10 year plan for capital projects (CIP) and we have several buckets of money. Unless you are close to the current year the CIP is really saving places. The new
Council plans to rebuild the CIP this summer and start over. They will have meetings and public process beginning in May through September. Rod said he would like the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board to get ahead of them and come up with a CIP Plan before May. If we build for what we see based on recommendations from the Parks and Recreation Master Plan and other priorities we can rank and provide our recommendations to Council. Rod said we can send your recommendations in memo form. If you are in agreement, our first study session in February we can allocate to the CIP rebuild. The Clear Creek Corridor Master Plan schedule should also be out very soon and we can discuss it at that time as well. By May we need to have a good idea of what the next 10 years looks like. Peter asked for the current version of the CIP. Rod said he will send it to them. Rod suggested each of the board members look at the current CIP, dust off their copy of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan, and creates a personal wish list. February 2nd is the next study session.

9. UNIVERSAL/ADVENTURE PLAYGROUND DISCUSSION:
Rod Tarullo said he went to City Council in December and asked for a Resolution for a Joint Venture Grant through Jefferson County Open Space for the Clear Creek Corridor Master Plan and the Universally Accessible Playground. He said staff requested $250,000 towards the playground and $50,000 towards the master plan. Based on the revised Scope of Work, Wenk and Associates came in at $157,000 to complete the Master Plan. The day before we went to Jefferson County we discovered Open Space had about $2 million to allocate with requests for over $5 million. With this information we offered to reduce our request for the Master Plan to $38,000. It appears we will be awarded $38,000 for the Master Plan and the full $250,000 to the playground. The official award will come out in February.

Last Thursday at the City Council meeting we showed Council the Universally Accessible Playground video by Shane’s Inspiration. Rod said we were not asking for any action but debated it for some time. There were a few Council members who felt we had higher priorities and there were others who were very excited. In general terms, they are supportive of the project. Meredith Campbell said it was very much like the initial Parks and Recreation Advisory Board discussion. Rod added we are investigating and pursuing additional funding for the playground. We had a staff visit to Spring Canyon in Fort Collins and we spoke with their staff about their universally accessible playground in which they received $700,000 in donations. They had a citizens group do the bulk of the fundraising.
Rod said Jenny was in California and has talked about the concept of adventure playgrounds. She has some photos and information. Jenny said the week she was in California she was able to discover there are 3 adventure playgrounds in the US. She said adventure playgrounds are typically run as a programmed space not an open area. They are only open in the summer. They tend to have a wet feature and a dry feature. In the afternoon they have mudslides and a pool or pond for rafting across, etc. They do a minimal charge when they have programming $1 to $2 dollars. The camps have open play and activity. Jenny said the ages are typically 6 years and above. Younger children need parents with them though parents are always welcome to participate. They haven’t had any injuries and the rules are set when the children arrive. The size of Irvine, California’s playground was 3 acres. She said materials are provided through donations or purchased. They haven’t determined a limit of children; they tend to have 15 children to one staff member. She also had pictures for everyone to see. She showed different
features. She said Irvine staff said they budgeted $14,000 per year for the space aside from staff time. Rod said he will be visiting the parks and some universally accessible playgrounds on his trip to California next week. Rod said he will also be meeting with Shane’s Inspiration staff and they would like to assist us with our potential playground.

10. BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS DINNER:
Rod said invitations will go out soon for the February 24th at 5:30p.m. Boards and Commissions Dinner. It is designed to be an appreciation dinner. It will be at Fossil Trace Golf Club beginning with a cocktail reception and a cash bar. A nice dinner will be provided then each Board Chair will introduce the other members and give a brief synopsis of what is currently going on. They have a keynote speaker for the evening. The speaker is Reggie Rivers who is a former Denver Bronco and inspirational speaker.

11. BOARD MEMBER'S COMMENTS:
* Jerry Hodgden said we missed the Holiday Party and we should do an outdoor summer picnic. The Board agreed.
* Jeff Oxenford asked about Council’s view on the Clear Creek Corridor Master Plan. Rod said there is some concern about the interaction with downtown. Steve Glueck, Director of Planning, worked on the Scope of Work with us. We asked Wenk and Associates to come up with a bigger economic component. What they came back with we didn’t like. We have decided on more emphasis on the municipal building analysis based on what the Mayor suggested when he visited with the Board. The other piece we will need to discuss is what the advisory committee looks like. Who is involved and how many people do we want. Steve suggested the Chair of the Planning Committee be highly involved as well. We agree that would be wise. Potentially, we can discuss the calendar with Wenk and Associates at the next study session. We have to better identify which each of the stakeholder groups looks like. Jeff said he talked to one of the science teachers at Golden High School about the creek. Jeff said they would like to study the creek and be involved.
* Rod Tarullo said April 14th is the All Ward Meeting. We will have a table with information on the Clear Creek Corridor Master Plan to provide to the public.
* Paul Burkholder said the dog park light has been ordered and delivery is three to four weeks out.
* Rod Tarullo said board member gifts from the City are on the table so please take your gift tonight and thank you for all your hard work.
* Paul Burkholder said the 6th Avenue bridge work is beginning tomorrow and will be complete in the next few weeks.
* Rod Tarullo said we hope to see the 6th Avenue Trail along the south side of the creek complete by June.

12. ADJOURN:
A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Jerry Hodgden, seconded by Dylan Grange, and carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.