Tuesday, April 20, 2010

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

ABSENT: Emmy Dimitroff

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

PUBLIC: Barbara Fall

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

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:
The agenda was approved as amended upon a motion by Jeff Oxenford, seconded by Jerry Hodgden, and carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF THE MARCH 16, 2010 MINUTES:
Jerry Hodgden made a motion to approve the minutes as amended, seconded by Jenny Ricks, and carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT:
None

REVIEW CIP PRIORITIES:
Rod Tarullo began the Capital Improvements Program (CIP) discussion by stating City Council plans to begin their CIP discussion at the end of May for the next 10 years. He said his goal is for the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board to come up with a list of what projects are priorities for the Parks and Recreation Department. We have one regular Parks and Recreation
Advisory Board Meeting scheduled in May and Rod said he will be out of town. We need to give City Council a priorities list in memo form. Meredith asked if the Citizens Budget Advisory Committee (CBAC) would also need to approve. Rod said ultimately it would be wrapped up into the budget and would go before CBAC during budget review. Rod said as a staff our general philosophy is to be conservative for what we ask for. When we make a request Council generally knows we have a real need. Rod said he would hope that the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board could guide staff in choosing priorities.

Rod said staff has provided documents to the Board including the current CIP, Master Plan priorities, Council priorities, and the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board CIP projects list. We have also included a second document that includes staff thoughts and ideas generated by Parks, Recreation, and Facilities. You will see projects are broken out into specifics by different parks and facilities in the community. There are duplications between the lists before you. Rod added he thinks it is important for Council to see we have a lot of needs. Rod said generally there is a cyclic process in the budget. In the early 2000’s, with passage of the bond, Parks and Recreation was able to build Splash, Fossil Trace and renovate the Golden Community Center. The highest priority for City facilities at the moment is office space for the Planning and Public Works Department. We don’t have the funds to build their facility and we are looking at leasing office space in another area of the community for those departments. There are also significant street needs that are coming up and will likely be funded.

Jerry Hodgden asked if there was a preference whether recommendations come from the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board or staff. Rod said we would blend them together. Rod said it would be helpful to acknowledge any priorities that tie into the Master Plan. Jerry said we are just beginning a Master Plan for the Clear Creek Corridor and should make some extra leeway for future implementation. Rod said you may identify that line item as Master Plan Implementation.

Jeff Oxenford said he looked through the staff list and many are maintenance items. He said maintenance is a must and may not be a capital improvement. Rod said generally some maintenance of parks and facilities put in the CIP would be identified as a capital improvement especially if they become a fixed asset of the City. Paul said an item like a backflow would be CIP in order to not devastate the Parks budget.

Jerry Hodgden also asked about the golf course. Rod said the golf course is operating as an independent fund and doesn’t have to complete for CIP funding. There is an upside and downside to this process as we can be limited with revenue production due to our debt. In 10 to 20 years when the golf course has failing infrastructure we may need to have a boost upfront of funds from the CIP. In two years we will need a new fleet of golf carts and it will be in the golf fund. It won’t likely be considered at all in the CIP.

Jerry then asked about Splash. Rod said Splash is in the general CIP. Rod said open space is also in the capital fund. Currently the Open Space Fund holds over 2 million dollars. How that money is spent is earmarked for acquisition.

Jenny Ricks asked about the trail from 19th Street to 6th Avenue and from 6th Avenue along
the creek to Billy Drew Bridge. Rod said the Colorado School of Mines is still working on getting their superfund site cleaned but we have poured the bed of the new pedestrian bridge and the trail is cut in up to 6th. They are going to move forward and construct the 19th Street to 6th Avenue portion this summer. They will likely make the cement wide enough to accommodate the vehicles removing dirt. The trail south along the creek will likely not begin until next year.

Rod said if the Board decides in their discussion tonight that spending money in underserved park areas is important, we may add a line item and plan to use open space funds for acquisition. Meredith Campbell said she wants a tennis bank board. Peter Gotseff asked how we make sure staff needs are addressed. Peter said we need to work on the plumbing before installing new granite counter tops. Rod said that was a topic of several discussions during the Clear Creek Corridor Master Planning Process. What we can and cannot do with constraints to operate.

Jeff Oxenford said he was talking with Dan Hartman and Anne Beierle from Public Works about what could be done with Lions Pond. Jeff said they are coming up with what it would take to filter or improve the quality of water. Rod said we would need to apply for a discharge permit. Jeff said a closed loop system like the pool would be necessary. Rod said Wenk Associates will address and work through alternatives regarding the pond. Jeff said the idea of getting the investigation conducted would be great.

Peter asked again how we make sure staff needs are met. Rod said he invited Paul Burkholder and Chad Meinert to give you some idea of what is needed to take care of our existing infrastructure. Jenny asked if it can be a general guideline. Rod said that might be the ultimate solution. Rod said this year in the CIP we have money for existing park improvements. We haven’t spent much yet as we need to ensure we fix the highest priorities including what the Board recommends. Jenny asked why staff couldn’t come later to approve maintenance needs with the Board on a case by case basis. Jerry said we are not the professionals and staff should determine the highest priority needs for maintenance. Jeff added we don’t use all facilities so staff recommendations would be fine. Rod said we have been making decisions on the areas you don’t care about; however, we need Parks and Recreation Advisory Board input on areas you are invested in such as play equipment in a park.

Rod suggested, based on Jenny’s comments, we begin sorting the CIP projects within the Master Plan priorities. Everything we have should fall into these categories. Tony Grampsas Master Plan, Clear Creek Corridor Master Plan, Existing Park Improvement, Underserved Park areas, Trail Updates and Improvements, and ADA Improvements. He added most of the ADA audit recommendations fall into the Parks and Recreation Department and could be a large dollar amount. Jerry said many of the improvements also fall under the Clear Creek Corridor Master Plan. Rod said an example of an ADA improvement is the Billy Drew Bridge slope which needs to be modified for grade. Jerry said it is difficult to determine priorities not knowing prices. Rod asked how the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board would feel if staff takes the priorities of the Board and groups them into the Master Plan categories while adding general pricing. Rod said we should add one additional item to the priorities categories such as New Development such as a new skateboard park, bandshell, universally accessible
playground, whitewater structure, etc. Meredith said people are now using downhill skateboards on Lookout Mountain and in Apex. Meredith said this might be a new trend. Rod asked if there were any pet projects we need to have on the table. Meredith said this is a part of the Master Plan process. Barbara said we need to do what will attract more people to Golden. She said she wanted to comment the old newspaper building is available for office space. Barbara said maybe it could be an indoor playground. In the winter time they could play some indoor games as that building is nice and in a good location. Rod said when we finish the Clear Creek Corridor Master Plan we will have itemized recommendations. Rod said what we need to do tonight is come up with a list that Council can see to keep projects on their radar screen for our department. When you add up all the items we have millions of dollars worth of projects. Jerry said the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board also talked about a steam room and a lazy river at Splash Aquatic Park.

Jeff said he thinks staff needs the Board to narrow down to the specifics. He suggested everyone take two priorities from the lists and discuss. Peter added let's do the basics. He said Existing Facility and Parks Improvements is one. Our next is New Infrastructure, then Master Plan Implementations including Clear Creek and Grampsas. Rod said we also need to fund implementation of the Clear Creek Corridor Master Plan. Jeff asked what we typically had in the CIP for the last few years. Rod said less than a half a million dollars. Barbara said the items people use that are getting crowded such as Splash will help the City the most. Rod said even if we can purchase Bachman for a south neighborhood park it will also take a lot of money to develop it. Council needs to see it so that we have a placemaker. Rod said he is not sure we can put a time on it; we need to put the concepts out there and put broad general costs. We don’t know how it will all shake out. Peter said we need to have funds available for when priorities come up and need to be taken care of. Barbara asked about the extra land around Splash. Rod said this could potentially be used for the Universally Accessible Playground. Categories the Board came up with include Tony G Master Plan, Clear Creek Corridor Master Plan, Existing Park Improvements, Underserved Park Areas/Acquisition and New Infrastructure. Barbara said we may also get money from outside sources such as grants and donations.

Under New Developments the Boards top projects included: the universally accessible playground; a band shell; a new skate park; Beverly Heights improvements; and the Washington Street structure in the Clear Creek Whitewater Course. Jenny commented many of Emmy’s comments fall under Existing Park Improvements.

Peter said we have 2 million in open space funds and Rod added this could be used for several areas. The County could also help us fund acquisition. Barbara said when the Fast Tracks comes we need to improve facilities as we will need them. Jerry said we have a parks system in this town which is great. We like the visitors to improve the economic vitality of the town. We may need to build more infrastructures that make revenue. Rod said the Community Center doesn’t make money. It could if Council directed us to but they have chosen not to. We need to be between 60 and 80 percent cost recovery and we cannot make that up on volume. Jerry said perhaps we should rebuild the vernacular railroad from the Coors parking lot to make money. Jenny said we have so many events maybe we need to charge a fee. There is a lot of opportunity to generate revenue for events. Rod said we are currently having the events
discussion during the Clear Creek Corridor Master Planning Process.

Rod said we will take the new projects listed and your categories and make a list with general prices which the Board can ponder at your next meeting in May.

CLEAR CREEK CORRIDOR MASTER PLAN UPDATE:
Rod said we have completed neighborhood canvassing with postcards announcing our upcoming public stakeholder meetings for the Master Plan. Monday night is the first meeting and we would love for Board Members to be a part of the process. The City Council is very favorable towards our consultant, Wenk Associates. Jeff said we need to get Wenk staff to the boaters on May 1st after the race to gather information.

VANOVER TREE HISTORY:
Jerry said he wished to discuss tonight Vanover Tree. Three or four slabs of the tree were saved. When it was cut down the historic community was very interested in the tree. We have a complete history of what happened during the life of the tree. The Golden Landmarks Association (GLA) held a festival and there was a lot of publicity. So we have slabs and can take them to an endrocornolgiest to identify the tree and its history. It could be a great monument for the town. The Coors bus passes by this area. We don’t have a war memorial in town and we could possiblly incorporate the names of residents who served. We want to place an object in the park. The architect who is assisting us found a good place in the park for a memorial where the hanging actually took place in the gallows. If the trail adjacent were to be completed they would pass by the memorial. Jerry showed sketches of placement. He added if we could raise the money we could make a playground of natural slabs similar to what was left after the Vanover Tree was cut down. Then he showed a sketch of the end result. Jerry said we could possibly get this paid for. GLA would like to see if they can raise the money to do this and then bring it back to the Board at a later date. Barbara said we need to pull people into Vanover and this might do it. Jeff said this would be good as long as nothing changes in Vanover due to the master planning process. Jerry said we could work with the process.

ROONEY ROAD DOG PARK:
Rod said you will be asked if you are interested in maintaining the option of constructing a dog park on the south end of the Rooney Road property. Some time ago staff and the Board worked hard to do it. There is in an agreement between the City and Jefferson County. We would need to fence the area and there will be some capital costs to construct the park. Rod said he has heard in the past it is too far from residents. The County may ask us to take the south end out of our lease for organic material recycling. They may want to make the area a permanent location for organic recycling. We don’t need any action tonight Rod just wanted to provide the information to the Board. Peter asked what we thought in the past. Jerry said at one time it was the plan and the Board was in favor. We might want to use our funds to better service the community. Peter said this would be a great regional dog park.

BIKE SKILLS PARK UPDATE:
Rod said the Tony Grampsas Bike Skills Park is being built and we will likely have a park in the next three to four weeks. Meredith added that she met with Taylor Shull of the Golden Bike Group today and they are working hard but they have had several issues. They are optimistic
but there is potentially some design changes needed. Meredith said she asked Taylor when she could cut a ribbon. He said Terry Breheny from the Colorado Mountain Bike Association (COMBA) was pushing for Memorial Day and he doesn’t think we can make it by then. The International Mountain Biking Association (IMBA) was at the park yesterday assisting. Meredith said it is phased development. It may make more sense from a liability standpoint to complete prior to opening.

Meredith said there is currently a film documentary on bike parks that is interviewing in Golden. Several Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Members and staff will be interviewed including the surrounding neighborhoods.

Meredith said they still need dirt and could potentially need to revisit parking in the future. They have also observed several mountain bikers in the area over the weekend. They have had contact with the nearest neighbors and had a good exchange. Peter asked if they had a mitigation plan. Rod said they have a very rudimentary plan.

**DIRECTOR’S REPORT:**
Rod said it is likely the Parks and Recreation Department will start managing and operating the Golden Museums beginning July 1st. Council will take action on the proposal on Thursday night. We will absorb the current staff of the museums, we will advertise and hire a new Museum Manager and we would operate them as a Museum Division. Rod said the existing museum has a Board of Directors and as a part of this transition their current 501C3 Board will be an Advisory Board to the City. They will advise us and City Council. This would be an independent Board and they would keep their status and become the Friends of Golden History Museums. We spoke with Council at the last Council Work Session and they have hired a consultant to research and make a recommendation on the transfer. Her name is Michelle Barnes and we are in front of the Citizens Budget Advisory Committee (CBAC) tomorrow to discuss it further. Jerry said a long time ago we appointed a member to go to the Public Art Meetings. Rod said he doesn’t think they have had any further meetings. Rod said we will call the Division Museums and Cultural Services because they need that to apply for SCFD funding.

**BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS:**
Jeff said the work on Lubhan Trail looks great. Paul said the Outdoor Stewardship Initiative program, an offshoot of Volunteers of Colorado, works with the City to do a leadership training project and will continue to do so in the future. They came together last weekend and Saturday is a training day with Sunday as a workday. Paul said it includes how to motivate people. He will likely have Parks Division staff participate in future years.

Jeff also asked about the pocket park by Harmony Village. They closed the trail and now the only access is through Harmony Village. Rod said the social trail runs through public property. Rod said we don’t have a right of way or easement so they have the right to tell people to stay off it.

Jeff also asked about the joint use of the Golden High School property. Chad Meinert said we work closely with their Athletic Department. We are using their tennis courts but they have top
priority on the fields and they often use it. Jeff said it would be great to use the track.

Jerry said he was listening to the radio and they had a discussion about a falcon used for geese mitigation. They use it on golf courses. The falcon captures the geese. The Falconirre takes care of the geese. Once that begins the geese go away. Jerry said maybe a falcon could take on the Lions Park area.

Peter said he saw staff from Jefferson County working on South Table. He said it would be interesting to know or ask them to develop the west side trail that was proposed in their Master Plan. There is still access points we would need to coordinate with them to make less social and actually trails. When the parking lot is in there will be more people. Rod said we haven’t discussed South Table lately as we have been focusing on Apex and sound mitigation. Peter said there are more and more people using the area. NREL will be doing some construction up there this summer. The road is no longer an easement road.

Jerry asked about the commuter bus. Is there any discussion about the bus bringing traffic to the Community Center? Rod said anything north of the creek for at least the first phase it is not likely to be considered.

ADJOURN:
The meeting was adjourned upon a motion by Jeff Oxenford, seconded by Jenny Ricks, and carried unanimously.