Tuesday, May 18, 2010

PRESENT: Meredith Campbell

Jeff Oxenford

Jerry Hodgden

Stephanie Sung

Jenny Ricks

Dylan Grange

Peter Gotseff

Emmy Dimitroff

ABSENT: None

STAFF: Amber Speedy, Parks and Recreation Coordinator

Paul Burkholder, Parks, Forestry, Cemetery Manager

PUBLIC: Shaun Brooks

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

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:
The agenda was approved as amended upon a motion by Stephanie Sung, seconded by Dylan Grange, and carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF THE APRIL 20, 2010 MINUTES:
The minutes of April 20, 2010 were approved upon a motion by Jerry Hodgden, seconded by Emmy Dimitroff, and carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT:
Shaun Brooks gave public comment regarding a sensory park in Golden. Shaun provided her research to
Paul Burkholder and Amber Speedy. The Children’s Hospital has sensory parks. It is enjoyable for all abilities. It is not just ADA accessible. She was told the parks are typically 90 – 98% accessible including access for adults. There is one in Westminster and Northglenn. She felt it would fit well in Golden. She said she had spoken to Paul and agreed there might be a large support in the community for a park like this at the Splash Aquatic Park. The park would have ramps for each play area and sensory items for autism or deaf children for example. Shaun hoped the City would consider and volunteered to assist with the project.

Jerry Hodgden said our biggest difficulty is funding at the moment. Amber Speedy said our Universally Accessible Playground has received some funding already and offers several sensory elements for all disabilities. The only other park in Colorado is in Fort Collins. It was built in partnership with a non-profit called Shane’s Inspiration. Amber said the park would cost over a million dollars and Paul Burkholder added the City has received $250,000 to date with a match required. Shaun said her understanding is to have the public help design the park and Amber agreed and said we would likely have a citizen support committee as well as professionals perhaps from Children’s who could help us develop the park. We could also potentially use Shane’s Inspiration for assistance with development and funding. The Board thanked Shaun for coming and for her support. Amber asked for Shaun’s contact details and said she would keep in touch regarding the development of the park.

**ELECTION OF OFFICERS:**
Jerry Hodgden made a motion to re-elect Meredith Campbell as Chair of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, seconded by Emmy Dimitroff, and carried unanimously. Meredith Campbell said Jerry has offered to fill the role again as Vice Chair and she felt he should continue to do so. Stephanie Sung made a motion to elect Jerry Hodgden as Vice-Chair of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, seconded by Dylan Grange, and carried unanimously.

**ADA AUDIT:**
Jerry Hodgden commented he received information from Lynda Wentworth from the ADA Advisory Committee for the City of Golden. He said she is working with the City ADA Coordinator, Dan Hartman. There are several recommended improvements that have come to light during the audit and many are parks and recreation facilities and parks. Jerry said this may affect the CIP allocation of funding. He provided the information to Amber. Amber said they have received a similar document from Dan Hartman which included prioritization of ADA improvements over the next few years. It is a very good guideline. Meredith added that at least one picnic table per park should be accessible. She felt we could slowly chip away at the ADA improvements. She added more rubber surfacing is important around the playground areas rather than sand. We need to keep these in mind as we are making park improvements. She said the Parks and Recreation Department is doing a great job with ADA accessibility compared to other communities.

**CIP PROJECT PRIORITIZATION:**
Meredith began the discussion of the need for the Board to prioritize remaining CIP funds for 2010 from our current CIP Budget including $380,000 for Master Plan Implementation Projects and $34,000 for Golden Heights Park Improvements. Amber Speedy said we also have funds for
parks and forestry maintenance in the CIP Conservation Trust Fund which includes $110,000 for parks maintenance and $50,000 for forestry. Paul added that some of the basic improvements will come out of Conservation Trust.

Jerry said it is important to address underserved park areas. Amber said we won’t be addressing park acquisition tonight; Steve Glueck, Director of Planning and Development will be here next month to prioritize with the Board the allocation of the two million available including whether we pursue the Bachman Property, Delong Property or the Hogback near Loaf and Jug. Amber asked if the Board was aware of the approval by Council last week of the Jackson Street Corridor Project. The project has been in the works for nearly 10 years and includes recommendations by the Bikeability and Walkability Reports. The project will include narrowing of the street and the addition of a bike lane from 14th Street to 24th Street. It will also include improvements to the 19th Street and 6th Avenue intersection. Council determined it best to tackle the entire project in one funding cycle rather than phase it; the project will cost the City approximately $1.6 million in 2011. The funding will come from the Sales and Use Tax Fund in the CIP using all reserves in the fund. The good news is current projections for sales and use tax in 2012 will replenish this account to around one million. This has occurred since we asked you to prioritize CIP projects at your meeting in April.

Stephanie asked what funds were still available. Amber said we have $380,000 for Master Plan Implementation projects in 2010, $34,000 for Golden Heights, $60,000 for irrigation improvements, $2 million in open space earmarked for acquisition, and $160,000 in Conservation Trust for parks maintenance and forestry which we will continue to receive in upcoming years. The Conservation Trust Fund is funded by the Colorado State Lottery.

Emmy Dimitroff said on Monday her family walked by the Golden Mill and enjoyed watching the skateboarders in the area. She said it is the perfect location for it. She said it is a high priority downtown to service the teenagers in the area. They are there anyway. She also said things we count on like regular upkeep sounds like it will be taken care of and allocated for by parks staff in the CIP. Dylan Grange said he met up with some kids last week and they are looking for places to hang out downtown.

Emmy said she is still interested in small playground features which could be available in different areas. Stephanie asked if the location was more important than the amenity. There was discussion regarding the empty GURA lot by the parking garage. Meredith said GURA wants to develop the area. Jerry said he mentioned the Golden Landmarks Association (GLA) project in Vanover last year which would be very inexpensive and involved the Vanover Tree. He said kids loved to play there. Jerry said we could fund a natural playground in the area. Amber said we need to be sure to avoid Clear Creek Master Plan projects at this time to ensure the outcome of the project will not produce changes in an area we have just recently developed. Peter asked when we can expect to see changes to the corridor. How do we determine what is best for teens? Stephanie asked about Tony Grampsas. Amber said we will master plan Tony Grampsas as well.

Stephanie asked about a skate park at Ulysses. Dylan said Ulysses is fine but needs new amenities. It would be used if it was updated. Jeff Oxenford said he is hearing that we need to wait to address master plan projects which is a good idea and we will address finding a location for teens in the downtown area through the process. He said it sounds as if a Ulysses Skate Park
development might also be a good idea.

Emmy said she doesn’t know how to address getting features suitable for a specific age range. Her son is 8 years old and does not have features in the parks to suit his abilities. Jenny said it would be great to add amenities for older age groups but teens tend to not want to play in a feature created for them. We are not teens or children so how do we tell them where there space should be. Paul said it is difficult to add a playground feature for an older child to a playground targeted towards 3 to 6 year olds. It would more likely mean developing an entirely new park which would need to include a public process.

Stephanie said we need to see the final outcome of the City ADA Audit and ask staff to come back to us with a budget for ADA improvements and what projects could be tackled first. Paul agreed we could provide the Board this information. Jerry said Southridge has a soccer field by it, could teens use this area? Meredith said it would require public process. Jeff commented that the area is quite close to Ulysses as well. Emmy asked can we add just an extra piece of equipment not necessary fixed to the playground rather than completely renovate each park? Jenny asked about large boulders or climbing structures. Paul said we also have to make sure the parks are safe and secure. Amber asked which parks needed features. Which park was a priority if we are adding features? Emmy and Meredith said all of them. Amber asked if an improvement geographically is the goal. Jenny liked the idea of providing a new park amenity for each area of town. Meredith also said we were going to start replacing the worst offending picnic tables. She said benches are not as big of issue. Paul said we are working to replace benches and tables. To summarize Amber said she heard the Board would like to use the 2010 Master Plan Implementation Projects fund of $380,000 to make improvements as per the ADA Audit, replace the highest offending picnic tables and benches, make a skate park improvement at Ulysses Park, and finally add new playground features to existing parks. Meredith said this could be like the dragon at the Arvada Center. Jerry said he would like to talk about which parks need something new. Stephanie said if we have money for four improvements we should approach geographically. Jerry asked if the Board should base it on the age of the children in the neighborhood and prioritize that way. Stephanie said we need costs for one improvement to see how far we can stretch dollars. Jenny asked if we can have zip lines in parks. Paul said he hasn’t seen it in a playground.

Meredith asked if we should discuss the $34,000 available this year for improvements to Golden Heights and determine our priorities there. Meredith said it is difficult to get to Golden Heights for children. Dylan said a lot of kids live there and use the features. Paul said they need to complete improvements to the pavilion, restrooms, concrete repair, basketball court, railroad ties, etc. Jerry said a lot of people liked the pavilion, because it is an interesting structure rather than just another rectangular metal roof over a concrete slab as we have in many of our parks. Amber added the pavilion also generates rental income. Emmy said it would be great to have a playground which is more appropriate for 10 years and older. Emmy said it is fun to go to different parks and her family travels to parks for specific different amenities. The play structure at Golden Heights isn’t bad and it is interesting. Meredith asked if we need to look at the park prior to making a recommendation. Stephanie said toilets are a good idea. Peter said it is a neighborhood park and so most of the users are likely using their home restroom. Meredith said we need to maintain the park first. Jerry asked Paul for his recommendation. Paul said the nature
of his position is to maintain what we have prior to adding features.

The Board agreed it was important for Paul to address maintenance of the existing park amenities and take the money as far as he can. Peter suggested creating a wall along one side of the pavilion to make the pavilion more usable. He added currently one cannot hear anything when utilizing the pavilion space. Paul said they are available although quite expensive which may tie up the funds available this year for the parks’ improvements.

**CLEAR CREEK CORRIDOR MASTER PLAN UPDATE:**
Meredith Campbell asked the Clear Creek Corridor Advisory Committee Members to provide an update to the Board regarding the status of the Clear Creek Corridor Master Plan. Jerry said the first meeting of the committee was this month and included a regurgitation of the comments heard during the public stakeholder meetings. Jeff said he had the pleasure of taking Bill Wenk of Wenk Associates to the creek during a busy day and a boating race. He said he liked Bill’s thought process and he had several good ideas for the future of the creek. Jerry added the plan is for the next 20 years. Many items require a lot of thought and discussion including the community gardens, Lions Pond and the civic facilities. Jeff added a law has recently past that emergency response facilities cannot be in the 500 year flood plane. This is a problem for Golden’s municipal facilities including police and fire. Peter said historically the entire corridor is in the flood area.

Amber added the first Public Workshop for the project will be Tuesday, June 1, at 5:30p.m. Wenk Associates will be providing drawings and project alternatives with the intention to generate discussion. She also added the next Clear Creek Corridor Master Plan Advisory Committee Meeting will be June 24th at 5:30p.m. Jeff Oxenford said he will be out of town. Meredith asked the Board if anyone could attend in Jeff’s place. It was determined Meredith would join the committee on Jeff’s behalf on the 24th. Amber also encouraged the Board to visit the master plan project site as we have received several interesting comments. She reminded the Board the site is [http://www.clearcreekplan.net/](http://www.clearcreekplan.net/).

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