Tuesday, November 16, 2010

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

ABSENT: Stephanie Sung
        Jeff Oxenford

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

PUBLIC: Laura McCall, Historic Preservation Board and Golden resident

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 upon a motion by Jerry Hodgden, seconded by Jenny Ricks, and carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:
The minutes were approved upon a motion by Jerry Hodgden, seconded by Dylan Grange, and carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT:
Laura McCall said she lives at 2127 Vernon Drive, Golden. She serves on the Historic Preservation Board and is here as a private citizen. She wanted to talk about the Clear Creek Corridor Master Plan. She said she knows the City and Jefferson County are working on Master Plans and we need to remember the Welch Ditch which has been on the endangered sites list twice. She asked the city to encourage saving the historic structures in the canyon. The structures were part of the ditch itself. She also asked how many were at the last public meeting of the Clear Creek Corridor. She said the audience was divided between locals and outsiders. A man named Henry Tiberi raised the point asking if we are going to become a
regional destination or a town for the locals. He used the swimming pool as an example. It was a neighborhood pool. The Splash Aquatic Park is utilized much more by people from out of town. Talking with her neighbors, she said perhaps the closing of 10th may lead to future development of the shoreline of the creek. It’s nice to have the library and City Hall downtown.

Jerry Hodgden said we don’t go as far as the Welch Ditch in our Master Planning process. Rod said for planning purposes we stop right at the Sixth Avenue Bridge. The County process goes from the bridge to the county line. The ditch is further west than the City of Golden planning area and they are on Jefferson County land likely. Rod said we communicate throughout our planning processes and keep each other well informed. A lot of Jefferson County’s planning is complete and it is primarily trail work. Rod suggested Laura contact Thea Rock from Jefferson County Open Space. Jerry said Tom Hoby is the Director of Open Space. Pete asked Laura what her personal opinion was on the structures. She said they need to be stabilized. She added the concern is whether Jefferson County will put the trail where the structures exist. Rod provided Laura with Thea Rock’s phone number.

Jerry said Laura is a Professor of History at Metro State University. Laura said there are still dead bodies in the mines in Golden which is interesting. She said they are working on putting together the Golden Story. Jerry said it could be important to get the story out on the Welch Ditch. She said she has a 1930 photograph of the area where the golf course is today. You see the ditch and orchards and wheat fields. When you get away from the ditch there is nothing. Now that the ditch has been cut off the animals come down the street near Jerry’s home. She said there was talk about opening the ditch and letting it run when the golf course doesn’t need the water. Jerry said that happens on 32nd by Coors as well. We could also make stock watering ponds on open space and near the top of the Mesa.

NORMAN D PARK ART PROPOSAL:
Rod Tarullo said Mayford Perry and his family donated the land for Norman D Park. It is named for his son. Mr. Perry died in the last year and his surviving daughter and son want to do a sculpture in the park to remember their father. They contracted with Robert Tully. Tully has done a lot of work in other parks, trails and drainage ways. He has pieces in Breckenridge and in Longmont. He typically uses stone. The family and Robert came to us and have had several renditions of rock sculpture work. They have settled on the sculpture you see before you and would donate it to the city. We would maintain it. It’s self-explanatory. The concept and size are shown on the documents provided to you tonight. He has tried to give you perspective of the location in the park.

Jerry said Mayford also was the owner of the face of North Table Mesa and refused to sell it to the county and sold it to the City of Golden. Now we own the scenic backdrop. He was a friend of the Parks and Recreation Department. Jerry said it’s a worthwhile project to consider and the rocks are natural and can be climbed on by the children. Jerry said it will make a third nice feature in the park. Jerry Hodgden made a motion to approve the sculpture donation in Norman D Park, seconded by Emmy Dimitroff, and carried unanimously.

2011 JOINT VENTURE GRANT IDEAS:
Rod said as a department, we continue to provide a high level of service with less staff and money. We don’t have much money on the capital side. We don’t have a lot available for matching a Joint Venture Grant with Jefferson County Open Space. To qualify, we do have projects ongoing and they may not be finished by the end of the year including benches, tables, a shelter at Golden Heights, ADA cement improvements, the Cemetery Office remodel and maintenance at the Splash. We have $50,000 for trees in the City which is our typical annual expenditure. For discretionary park enhancements we have only $100,000. Rod said his recommendation would be to set aside $30,000 to 50,000 for incidentals. Historically, we typically match the grant requests at 50%. Smaller communities have less match. It doesn’t leave us with a lot to work with for a new project.

Rod said as a part of the Capital Improvements Program (CIP) the city has one million dollars earmarked for the Universally Accessible Playground. To get that money we also have to meet a target for miscellaneous revenue to offset it. We received $250,000 from Jefferson County last year and we have had some leads on private donations that may be $100,000 or $150,000. We have already completed some of the initial planning and have generic plans that were custom made for us. Mr. Bestor has asked Rod to talk with Arvada and Lakewood about partnering on the project. There is some feeling that it might be better suited for one of those communities. There may be better sites than Splash out there. Rod said he will be investigating this in the near future. Jerry said if it will be a joint venture with another community then we should evaluate Tony Grampsas Park. Jenny said Evergreen could be brought in as well. She works with a lot of families in Evergreen who have kids with disabilities. Jerry said GOCO money may be easier to get with more communities involved.

Jerry said on the Golden Landmarks Board they discussed building a memorial after cutting down the Vanover Tree. The tree is a living landmark. That tree gathered publicity and dates back to 1771 and we have a piece of the tree sitting against the fence. We need to do something with it to preserve it. Golden Landmarks can get the tree marked as to its history with the help of a dendrochronologist. It could be toured. There is an architect in town who did a rendering of the park and found that although the tree was located in a different area the best place to locate a memorial is in the grove area. If we do something with the Clear Creek Master Plan possibly we could connect the trail loop to Vanover. It would be an ideal location. There is also a lot of land on the east side of the park. We could add a pavilion and in the vacant land make a synthetic duplication of the tree segments stacked for the kids to continue to jump and play on. Maybe a picnic table or two as well. No one knows what to do with Vanover Park even with master planning process. This could get us a play facility. The grove is growing trees again and we can recreate what was there so many years before. He said when he presented the project at the first Clear Creek Advisory Meeting everyone was receptive to it. The Golden Landmarks Association can make a contribution.

Rod said in general the philosophy has been to wait until the Master Plan is adopted before undertaking corridor projects. The project definitely has merit. Meredith said she thinks it is a great idea. Jerry said we need to get it taken care of and to the dendrochronologist. Rod said we could move forward with the dendrochronologist even if we don’t know where the memorial will end up. We will find a place for it. Jerry said he wants to be able to tell Golden Landmarks that they have the go ahead to begin raising money and begin work with the
Dendrochronologist.

Jerry asked if this project would qualify for a Joint Venture Grant request. Jerry said a pavilion of some sort to display the memorial could be costly but it needs to be covered. He suggested maybe we pick up $25,000 from Jefferson County and match it. We talk about waiting for the Clear Creek Plan but Vanover seems to be left out of the plan remaining as is. It is a gateway that should be considered improved. Can we include a few paragraphs in the plan? Rod asked how much the chronology work will cost. Jerry said it could be a contribution. A lot of the history is known. By and large, lists of hangings, when Coors came to town, etc. Richard Gardner could also be of assistance. Paul Burkholder said he is unsure how to cut a slab of the tree to provide it to the dendrochronologist.

Emmy Dimitroff said a Youth Center and an improved skate park at Ulysses where her ideas for capital projects. She said the Youth Center could be similar to a satellite recreation center geared towards teens. Dylan said it would be destroyed. He said it would be hard to maintain. She said at least the skate park needs to be updated similar to REI.

Meredith said she wants recycling in all the parks. She asked if we could ask Jefferson County to help us meet our sustainability goals. Paul said the pilot program has not yet begun at Rooney Road.

Dylan said the bike park has a volunteer recycling program that is going well. Meredith said on Sunday after the Bike Park Opening there were 40 people there. It is very popular. Rod said staff has a couple ideas for the Joint Venture Grant. One could be to request funds to complete more rubber surfaces under playgrounds for ADA accessibility making them more usable for kids and parents. It is a recommendation of the ADA Audit.

Rod said he spent a day at the Landscape Structures facility in Minneapolis studying playgrounds. There were experts in the world of play and a tour of actual playgrounds in nearby parks. Rod said he was educated and one of the things he learned was that kids play differently on different kinds of structures. The traditional playground for 20 years has been post and platform. The new play systems do a lot more with shapes and cables and balance objects. Manufacturers have completed a lot of testing and kids get their heart rates up on both, but on the newer equipment they will stay and play longer. The new playgrounds work with different elements in your body to help develop balance and coordination not just strength.

Rod said he looks at the Universally Accessible Playground and knows it is important to put them everywhere. He added the value of the development of the new playgrounds is also important. Manufacturers have not figured out how to create the new playgrounds so they are accessible. The bottom line is that we might be wise to look into some of the older structures in our system and put one or two new playgrounds. One of the challenges of that is, if you change a playground there needs to be a public process. What has to happen is a willingness to try a different style. They look futuristic and modern. We could potentially request assistance from Jefferson County for one or two structures. Overtime we are going to develop a replacement program for our playground system. Jerry said we used to have rubber tires and other balance
features that were used like crazy. Jerry said maybe we need to go “Back to the Future.”

Meredith said there was an article in the National Recreation and Park Association Magazine on outdoor natural parks with water, dirt, and mud. Kids tend to play longer. Rod said the new playgrounds he is speaking of are different than that. We have had the discussion on the nature playground before that is also gaining popularity. There is also a trend for senior active adult play elements.

Rod said when he spoke with the owner of Landscape Structures; the owner suggested that there is a niche for each skill. They are going to compartmentalize park ideas. Jenny said we have Grampas and the area just west of 6th Avenue Bridge and both could be great nature playgrounds. Rod said they would need to be fenced and staffed.

Emmy said every week her play group meets at different playgrounds. She said most of the parks are the same in Golden. She said it would be great to integrate variety in town. It would be nice to have natural areas and futuristic parks. Rod said one of the downsides is finding a neighborhood willing to take a different playground. There could be enthusiasm and resistance. Rod said we need to replace some structures anyway due to long-term maintenance. Emmy suggested we complete a public process letting the neighborhoods decide who should have the new park. Like an application process. Paul showed pictures of what the park features might look like. Emmy said her kids have played on some like it and love it. Meredith said there is one like it in Fort Collins.

Rod asked if there were any other ideas.

Jenny Ricks suggested using Jerry’s Vanover proposal for the Joint Venture Grant. Rod said one of the questions he has would be what do we go for? We see the tree and the pavilion and potentially adding some play features. Amber Speedy said we will need a detailed budget and site plan to apply for the grant. Jerry said Golden Landmarks is very excited and they are willing to help with funding. We would need to find some numbers from the architect. Jerry said that since this idea was brought to the board as a concept rather than a finished project design, a detailed cost estimate for this project would require a more in depth look at what is to be done with the several elements....For instance, the request for a Jeffco grant could be for just the work to be done on the preparation of the tree slab and the dendrochronological work alone...or it could include the concrete base, a protective shelter and, perhaps, landscaping. It could be either inclusive or exclusive of the play area and picnic table at this time. So the cost estimate could be relatively small to accommodate a part of the design, or it could be as much as it costs to do the whole project.

Jerry will ask Andy Lemmer, the architect at GLA who provided the drawings to also provide us with some estimates broken down into workable segments to allow us to go to the county but allow Rod some flexibility in determining how much he can request at this time.

In the long run, Vanover may be the eastern or downtown gateway to the Clear Creek Corridor (if a cantilevered creek trail is built by the Golden Mill), but as it stands currently it is viewed in the Clear Creek Master Plan as a quiet, restful park with simple amenities....so it is not necessary to do everything at once. But the addition of the dendrochronological information,
the log and a simple play area related to the Vanover tree slabs would make Vanover Park a much more functional, attractive and interesting city amenity.

Emmy Dimitroff said it is a great idea but we have a short timeframe. Emmy asked if we have had assistance for pavilions from the Lions Club in the past. Paul said he also needs to figure out how to cut a slab of the tree to get it to the Dendrochronologist. Rod said the Master Plan hasn’t been adopted and we have had problems with special interest groups moving forward without the plan adoption. We may be doing the same thing moving forward with this project before the plan. Jenny said they have already had public process for Vanover Park through the master planning process.

Emmy said she likes the playground idea and it seems more feasible given the timeframe. Rod said we still need to determine which neighborhood location. What’s left is recycling in all parks or the rubberized surfaces under play structures.

Jerry Hodgden made a motion to use any of the following projects for an upcoming Joint Venture Grant Request including the Vanover Park Proposal, new playground, ADA surfacing, and recycling in all parks. Pete Gotseff seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

**CLEAR CREEK MASTER PLAN UPDATE:**
Meredith Campbell said due to several concerns the breaks have been put on this project. Emmy has attended a neighborhood meeting and they will have another meeting Thursday here at the Recreation Center at 6p.m. Wenk Associates and Rod will attend for the first hour. Rod said Meredith, Amber and I met with Beth Bidwell and Bill Smith. We offered the Community Center for their meeting. Rod said he would ask the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board to study the 2008 Parks and Recreation Master Plan section beginning on page 4-15 regarding what we wanted to do in the Clear Creek Corridor. Our intent is to listen to the neighbors to hear their concerns. We are going to look carefully at their concerns and see if we can address them to help solve and complete the project. We will work to try to incorporate any needs. If there are changes that are significant it will come back to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board. There are many stakeholders who have gone through a public process and thought they were being heard. They cannot be left out. What process we put in place moving forward needs to be fair to all the stakeholders. Ultimately we want the plan to get to a point where the elected officials are comfortable adopting it.

Jenny Ricks asked if Council would make the decision whether the neighborhood has more weight than other stakeholders. Rod said ultimately. The neighborhood has talked to elected officials, Planning Commission and the Historic Preservation Board. The Planning Commission and HPB do not know their role. In the ordinance in the City it has the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board subservient to the Planning Commission. Emmy asked what our options as a board might be if the neighborhood requests significant changes. Rod said we would need to determine another public process to get the plan to Council. It could be more public meetings.

Rod said our intent is to be as helpful and informative to them as we can be. We will give a
process overview and answer questions Thursday night.

Meredith said one of the points the Mayor has mentioned is that Golden will change whether we like it or not. If we guide the change we can control it. Rod said the local business and other users of the corridor need to be kept in mind. Our goals are to be fair and transparent. Wenk has subcontractors who can provide statistics and traffic counts, etc. Jerry said the 9th Street neighborhood bought into a historic district sometime ago. Lions Park is not within the boundaries of that district.

**DIRECTOR’S REPORT:**
Rod said we won’t have the regular December meeting only the December 7th Meeting as discussed last month. We will take care of business and have a holiday celebration after. There could be decisions to be made regarding the Clear Creek Corridor Master Plan that night.

On February 3rd we will have a study session regarding Splash and Fossil Trace. We need to get your perspective and input specifically on Splash. We can maintain the existing amenity or we can update it regularly to change the features, and be more marketable.

**BOARD MEMBERS’ COMMENTS:**
* Meredith said Golden received the Quiznos Bike Race.
* Paul said the Cemetery Building has gone back to bid for the third time, we can award after the 6th of December.
* Rod said the Friends of Dinosaur Ridge are moving forward with the shade structure

**ADJOURN:**
Motion to adjourn was made by Jenny Ricks, seconded by Dylan Grange, and carried unanimously.