

MEETING NOTES

Project: Clear Creek Corridor Master Plan

Meeting Date: May 1, 2010

Re: Active Recreation

Location: Golden Council Chambers

Date Issued: May 4, 2010

Present: Wenk Associates (WA) – Bill Wenk, Jess Clark, Jonah Weiss
City of Golden Parks & Recreation (PR) –Rod Tarullo, Amber Speedy
Members of the Public (MP)

Topics Discussed:

General Discussion:

(MP) Milwaukee uses elevators to get people to the river.

(MP) The RV park is an opportunity to pull people upstream if it was more green park like.

(MP) Maybe put a parking structure by the Recreation Center.

(PR) The community garden folks really like the more parking in the public works center. There was talk of underground parking by the Recreation Center but there was some concern about water table/flooding.

(WA) We haven't heard that parking was an issue.

(MP) I'm concerned that if you pull people to the Recreation Center parking will become an issue.

(PR) Part of the issue convenience vs. availability.

(MP) Is there a reason to move the parking lot?

(WA) There is some discussion of using that lot for a reading garden/green space ...maybe some type of multi-functional space.

(MP) Was there a problem with doing the 150yr parade?

(PR) No not really

(MP) Could you use parfet to hold some events and the famers market?

(MP) If you were going to put in a band shell it might work to put it in the ball fields.

(PR) The events people would rather do events in Parfet.

(MP) Have you looked at the apartments of Golden Mills as an option for expanding Parfet?

(WA) Its up for discussion.

(MP) What about the dead-ending of 10th street?

(WA) It's being discussed there are several options:

- Access to 8th from 10th
- Re-route the road south of the Recreation Center & exit on 8th
- Or leave tenth and add a road south of the Recreation Center

(MP) It would be nice to have more separation of trail/road at 10th west of the triangle lot.

(MP) Could you keep the triangle lot & close the stretch of 10th between the triangle lot & the RV lot?

(WA) Yes, but you would need to maintain access to the RV lot.

(MP) Maybe you could pedestinize the road so you could drive through it but you wouldn't want to.

(WA) There is an option where you provide limited access for RV's tankers ...etc.

(MP) Is the kayak course competition length?

(PR) Yes, we have competition on it now.

(MP) How important is the RV park where it is located?

(MP) It makes money for the City.

(MP) It's such a prime location & a huge economic driver ... the users spend money in Golden. It's a unique facility.

(MP) What if the RV park moved north?

(MP) Wouldn't have the same feel as it has now... wouldn't be as close to the creek.

(MP) It's hard to get everything through that area because the RV are close to the trail.

(MP) I think when the south trail opens up it will be less congested

(MP) The pond could be removed and a spray park for kids could be put there.

(MP) If you get rid of the pond you get rid of the geese

(WA) Some people use the pond for kayak practice & fishing... maybe we can divert some of the water from the creek and it could be used by kids.

(MP) Another thing it would be nice to talk about would be to widen the trail & put a line through the center for bikes on one side - pedestrians on the other.

(WA) The kayakers are staging on the path ... there is some talk about using different surfaces so that you can separate traffic.

(MP) People really enjoy having City Hall where it is but what if the City Hall moved into the history building and the history museum was moved to near History Park? It could provide restrooms for users in History Park.

(MP) It would be great if there were police substations elsewhere in the city so that if the police station floods we could still have a police presence.

MEETING NOTES

Project: Clear Creek Corridor Master Plan

Meeting Date: May 1, 2010
Re: Creek Users

Location: Golden Council Chambers

Date Issued: May 3, 2010

Present: Wenk Associates (WA) – Bill Wenk, Jess Clark, Jonah Weiss
City of Golden Parks & Recreation (PR) – Rod Tarullo, Amber Speedy
Members of the Public (MP)

Topics Discussed:

Introduction:

(WA) We are interested in activities in the creek and conflicts between creek users such as tubers, kayakers and people fishing.

General Discussion:

(MP) I'm concerned that children will be attracted to the swim beach and will enter the creek which is dangerous. Since sand was put at the kayak park families' picnic there and people are not aware of the dangers of the creek.

(WA) Is a solution to that a design of a creek replica (for kids) away from the creek? Like a spray park?

(MP) shouldn't even be near the creek because kids won't be able to tell the difference between what is and is not safe.

(MP) It's up to the parents to teach their kids to respect the creek...we could do signage but nature is unpredictable.

(WA) What current activities take place in the creek that shouldn't? What activities should take place? Is more interpretive signage about dangers/natural processes a good idea?

(MP) Creek has been modified it use to be braded but now it's channelized.

(MP) 20yrs ago it didn't have the kayak park & wasn't trout friendly...Now we have great trout habitat

(MP) The kayak park was built for kayakers but the trout are an unexpected secondary benefit.

(WA) The stream has been heavily modified...should the stream be modified more?

(MP) Modified for what? Most people like it for its play features ... it's already over crowded.

(MP) Bigger issues are user conflicts.

(WA) One option is to spread out activities.

(MP) There is limited space to spread out...in the south there is Coors ... up stream might work for people fishing.

(MP) it's no longer a kayak course it's for tubers/people fishing etc.

(MP) The kayak course has a gradient of difficulty from difficult to less difficult.

(MP) The dam at Coors stops all activities downstream. Maybe in 20yrs that dam can be removed and a class 1 & 2 course could be installed for beginners.

(MP) There is no recover pool by the library so it can't be a beginner course.

(MP) There needs to be some serious signage ... it's a dangerous place.

(MP) Would like to see some [place online or offline of the creek that is more kid friendly.

(MP) Heard talk of making the pond a kid play area

(MP) Lions Pond is a great place to practice rolling.

(WA) Is the Pond big enough for multiple users?

(MP) Yes, but we need to lean to share it is a multi-user area

(MP) Don't want to see creek monitors out there giving out tickets.

(MP) The issue is people who don't know the people who do don't go there

(WA) What about in August?

(MP) The tubers are a problem; the creek can't be used by boaters / people fishing.

(MP) Tubers get drunk and do dangerous things.

(MP) The biggest issues are the simmers kayakers can't see them when they are under water.

(WA) How do we educate people? Is signage enough? What's attractive to the Kayakers? Is it the sidewalk?

(MP) Yes easy in & easy out

(MP) There are conflicts between boaters carrying boats up the trail and other trail users.

(MP) To avoid congestion you either run early in the morning or late at night when no one is around.

(MP) I think opening up the south side and providing carry out on the south side will help reduce conflicts on the north side. But right now it's difficult to get out on the south side.

(MP) the library hole & the bridge needs take out landings.

(WA) Do you think the kayakers will use the new Mines parking lot?

(MP) They will use anything if its convenient.

(WA) What is a reasonable distance to carry a boat to the creek?

(MP) For people fishing a mile away is better...you can avoid congestion and there's not much to carry

(MP) How many spaces is the Mines Parking lot and is it open parking

(WA) 150 spaces and yes it will have open access.

(MP) Will that parking lot attract more people to the river increasing congestion?

(MP) I'd rather see the RV park be a parking lot.

(MP) the more convenient something is the more people will use it.

(MP) back to distance kayakers will drop off at the RV lot but kayaks are relatively light so they can carry them farther..bigger boats are more of an issue.

(WA) Distance and access may be one way to limit congestion on the creek.

(WA) Jefferson County open space has some limited access days ...a day for bikers/ a day for hikers.

(WA) People are accustom to getting easy access..what if we moved the triangle lot farther north?

(MP) That could work people use it because it's a great staging area. ... it could be a grass drop off area it doesn't have to be asphalt.

(WA) What about facilities...changing areas/restrooms? Do people use the changing enclosure?

(MP) Yes, but not everyone uses them it's not big enough or it's too far away when it gets busy its more convenient to use the car.

(WA) Access, changing rooms & bathrooms are important would use shift to the south side if those things were provided?

(MP) There needs to be a good take out at Vanover

(WA) Could we say kayaks only out the south side? Would people respect that?

(MP) No people will do what they want.

(MP) There is a plan to put an inflatable structure at Vanover...Parking and access is an issue.

(MP) What about a boat service that takes your boat up the river for a few bucks?

(MP) What about parking that serves tubers/kayakers?

(PR) How important is visibility for boaters?

(MP) Some people like to showoff along the creek.

(MP) Why don't we make the trail wider? Most trails are designed for bikers not kayakers.

(MP) There is no landing up along the Kayak course for people viewing events so the trail fills up

(WA) Are the gravel bars good for access/beaches?

(MP) Yes, the gravel bars are great for kids to be on and great for access.

(MP) What is the status of the tailing ponds can it be used?

(WA) We don't really know about that yet. It will get cleaned up ...the orchids might stay or go.

(MP) Assuming that it gets cleaned up it seems like it will be a great place for access to the river.

(WA) People will use it for access when the parking lot appears.

(MP) Could see some type of loop put in..circle and then you take out.

(MP) In steeper areas slides can be used to help boaters put in.

(WA) What about access north of the kayak park?

(MP) Not a lot of vehicular access so it doesn't get a lot of use.

(MP) Some people use it to get a little farther away from the course

(MP) There is some worry that people will use the tout drop structures when the trail is added...they can be dangerous.

(WA) Is there a need for a crossing over the kayak course?

(MP) When the parking lot is added people will want one to cross.

(MP) The pedestrian bridge is not that far.

(MP) Personally I would not want to see more crossing along the river

(MP) The city property along the creek is incredibly valuable for retail

(WA) What about the merchants along Washington street?

(MP) Difficult to drive to Washington street it could be like pearl street in Boulder.

(MP) The library fits well but the Fire/Police/City Hall don't belong because they don't take advantage of the river.

(WA) More publicly oriented facilities along the creek?

(MP) Police do keep the creek safe

(WA) It's also convenient to have fire nearby for emergencies along the creek

(MP) is the RV park busy?

(PR) Yes, there is a two week limit in the summer

(MP) is there some amenity that could go where the RV park is?

(WA) Maybe there is a better use for the RV park?

(MP) Why is the RV park in a prime spot?

(MP) Maybe in 20 yrs that space could be something else?

(MP) Its the best RV Park in Colorado...the users walk downtown and use the trail system.

(WA) Maybe part of the RV park could move?

(PR) Some of the buildings could be moved along the water treatment plant... the ones not required for the treatment facility.

(MP) Maybe you could add a circular route up by 8th for people to get out

(MP) The some of the RV units are too close to the trail and impact the trail...it feels like you are in someone's back yard.

(MP) There should be places to camp with a tent

(WA) How many spots would be reasonable?

(MP) It would be great to have a space that could be converted for tent users..maybe the ball fields?

(MP) The area south of the creek on the School of Mines would be a great tent camping area.

(WA) Is there a need for a space for permanent tent camping?

(MP) It would be empty 6 months out of the year

(MP) The trail south of the RV park is only hard surface ... it's bad for runners

(MP) Just need a soft band next to the trail.

(MP) it would be nice to next to run along the creek.

(MP) On the south side of the trail should be as close to the creek as possible.

(MP) How wide is the proposed trail along the south side?

(PR) 8' wide concrete trail so that it is plowable.

(MP) The trails by the RV park are narrow and it hard to keep aggressive dogs separated.

(WA) Would people divert across the river to avoid the RV park?

(MP) Yes some people would...but its not close to the creek it would be better if the south trail was closer to the creek.

(MP) Would love to see the south side of the creek remain natural

(MP) West of the bridge on 6th Ave is more natural

(PR) I have walked along the trail alignment...it has great views

(PR) People who want to see people will walk along the north side

(PR) Anytime we do things on the creek we need to get equipment in the creek we have access points at the Library, the beach, bridge, Washington.

(MP) In some places you have to go on the main road because the trail doesn't connect

(MP) Needs to be a connection on the south side by Golden Mills so people can avoid the main road.

(MP) Would be nice to have food on the visitor center balcony...it is close to the river.

(MP) The visitor center would be a good place for that people could watch the boats if an inflatable structure is place there

(MP) Is that the right place for the inflatable structure?

(MP) Yes it would help spread out the kayak course a bit.

(WA) What about extending downtown or park assuming the city buildings go away?

(MP) It is great to have Parfet Park... its very visible to Washington and brings people to the park.
(MP) Parfet Park rings people to town I like the idea of extending it west
(MP) Like to see a greener area over the city hall property
(MP) Like to see more parking along the street or maybe a parking garage on the north side
(MP) Would like to have people park downtown and then walk through downtown to get to events
(MP) Can't get into the most parking structures with boats or bikes.
(WA) One of our main tasks is to stitch the community together with the corridor. Is it a good idea to spread parking out along the corridor?
(MP) Should be concerned with buffering residential areas with parking.
(WA) Do you like parallel parking?
(MP) I don't know but you don't want a lot of parking along residential areas
(MP) if you eliminate the triangle lot it is important that you put boat access someplace else.
(WA) Does the boat access need to be close to the creek?
(MP) you don't want to cross streets with a boat
(MP) Parking up by the Recreation Center might be too far to walk with a boat
(MP) The proposed lot on the south side is more typical of other kayak parks.
(MP) Make sure the new lot at the School of Mines has 2 or 3 spaces for vehicles with trailers.

MEETING NOTES

Project: Clear Creek Corridor Master Plan

Meeting Date: May 1, 2010

Re: Trails

Location: Golden Council Chambers

Date Issued: May 3, 2010

Present: Wenk Associates (WA) – Bill Wenk, Jess Clark, Jonah Weiss
City of Golden Parks & Recreation (PR) – Rod Tarullo, Amber Speedy
Members of the Public (MP)

Topics Discussed:

General Discussion:

(MP) Many runners would like to see a soft surface material for the trails ... maybe along the south side.

(WA) Could the concrete trail have a band of crusher fines area along the trail?

(MP) Yes that would be great.

(MP) There are conflicts along the trail between bikers/runners/ADA users.

(MP) There are conflicts between biking areas and ADA requirements.

(MP) Bikers need to slow down when there are people along

(MP) I would be in favor of closing the north side for bikers when the south side opens.

(MP) People are always going to ignore signs but if you are going to have multiple uses on a trail it needs to be wider.

(MP) What maintenance issues are there with crusher fines trails?

(WA) It can't be plowed & it can be washed out.

(PR) The trail along the south side is going to be concrete the whole way.

(PR) The City of Golden is committed to making every trail possible ADA compliant.

(MP) Is it possible to have a soft surface along the south side trail?

(PR) Yes that is a possibility

(MP) You have got to get rid of high speed users

(WA) Maybe where the trail lets out you could direct bikes away

(WA) What about strollers? Can you be near a bike route?

(MP) That's where you get conflicts

(MP) The trail needs to be wide enough

(MP) Any concrete trail is going to have conflicts

(MP) The trail along the north side has too much congestion for people to ride on

(MP) Maybe you wouldn't prohibit bikes on the north it would be a natural thing to shift cyclists to the south side because of trail access from 6th...Canon Gulch

(WA) What about a crossing south of Lions Park ...good or bad thing?

(MP) Its good to have access to the new parking lot.

(MP) Its inevitable to have another bridge to establish a connection

(MP) If the idea is to bring events down to 10th street it would be great to have that crossing

(MP) You don't need to have the ball fields down by the river there are better things could happen there.

(WA) Does there need to be a connection between Ford and Washington?

(MP) A lot of people come to see Coors and its a huge revenue source for downtown.

(MP) Maybe you can use signage to funnel people downtown and to the creek corridor

(WA) Is Ford street important to create a connection and if so what improvements are necessary?
(MP) A green feel... right now it feels unsafe needs to be green
(MP) There is a lot of traffic along Ford
(MP) The walk along Ford is not pleasant ... visitors who don't know the area don't want to take the risk on walking along Ford to get nowhere.
(MP) The stretch along the creek corridor is not inviting.
(WA) Better to bring people north of the creek?
(MP) Yes
(WA) What about Tucker Gulch? Is it easy to get there?
(MP) No its hard to find
(MP) Signs are not enough ... need other improvements
(WA) What about brick crosswalks?
(MP) Crosswalks are great, brick crosswalks are great
(MP) What about pedestrian activated crossings?
(MP) Nice but need to be spread out.
(MP) Crossing Ford is difficult
(MP) Need to pick spots where people cross (Tucker Gulch & 10th is a good place)
(PR) Public works is talking about improving Tucker Gulch and 10th
(WA) What about raised crossings? They help an area feel more pedestrian.
(MP) We like them but would like to see the same thing on 11th.
(MP) Between Ford and Washington along 11th is a no-man's land ...maybe traffic could be slowed.
(MP) There is a tendency for people to cross in-between blocks from the Mountaineering Museum & Parfet Park along 10th.
(MP) What about using Coors employee parking?
(PR/WA) Coors is not really interested in that...the lot north of the Recreation Center is more open to that.
(WA) Coors is interested in connecting their employee recreation center to the creek corridor.
(MP) Could the garages be used for Coors visitors and then they are already downtown when the bus drops them off.
(MP) It would generate money by bringing people downtown.
(MP) There is a trail connection from 58 through the community garden south to the creek corridor.
(MP) We hope to connect the community garden to the visitor center to help draw visitors.
(MP) Maybe place the farmers market next to the community garden.
(MP) The current location of the community garden is located near the apartment complex which is convenient for them.
(MP) What are the plans for the community garden area?
(WA) We are looking all areas...we don't have plans yet.
(MP) Some people have talked about connecting to 8th through the garden
(MP) Heard it was too steep to do that
(WA) We are exploring all options ... we are concerned about traffic / access / parking
(MP) I'd like to see less vehicle connections
(MP) It would be nice to see traffic circulate through there ... right now its one-way in one-way out.
(MP) Is the farmers market going to stay?
(WA) Our goal is to reduce the amount of paving in this area ... we are looking at how to make spaces multi-functional...what are other places we can hold farmers market or event spaces. We heard a lot of people want the Library to stay.
(MP) Yes, the library is in a great place.
(MP) Crossing the potential road next to the community garden might cause issues.
(MP) Could the area next to the Community Center be used for overflow parking or event parking?
(MP) Need dense parking in that area maybe underground parking?
(MP) Think about making people park on the outside of the corridor and then shuttling them in.
(MP) The RV park should be turned into a tent camping area.

COMMENT CARDS

Project: Clear Creek Corridor Master Plan
Date: May 1, 2010
Re: Creek Users, Trails, & Active Recreation Comment Cards
Location: Golden Community Center
Date Issued: May 4, 2010

PLEASE NOTE: THE IDEAS AND COMMENTS BELOW ARE OPINIONS EXPRESSED BY COMMUNITY MEMBERS WHO ARE NOT ON OR A PART OF THE DESIGN TEAM OR EMPLOYEES OF THE CITY OF GOLDEN. A BEST EFFORT HAS BEEN MADE TO INPUT COMMENTS EXACTLY AS THEY WERE WRITTEN ON COMMENT CARDS.

Comment Cards:

- The creek corridor is used and valued by a very diverse group of people including Golden residents, visitors from the greater Denver area and tourists. This multi use aspect should be maintained and enhanced through (1) greater integration of disparate user groups and (2) expansion of uses. Although I don't kayak or have a child in little league softball, I enjoy watching those groups play - drawing me and others into those activities will enhance my use of the corridor and my sense of belonging in this place. My family belongs to the community garden and history museums, and we use the walking paths for pleasure and to get across town. Efforts that build on those resources are of great interest to me-particularly efforts that solidify the community gardens role as a long-term asset, not just for gardeners but for the larger community. I also am a regular customer of the Farmers Market and would like to see that event expand.
- Specific ideas that can support some of my suggestions:
 1. Create a Clear Creek communication tool for sharing information about events and activities along the corridor. Perhaps weekly bulletin listing softball game times, kayak course events, special Farmers Market events and open houses at the community garden.
 2. Develop signs to highlight the assets/elements along the Creek and educate on key aspects: history, recreation, entertainment, sustainability, volunteerism.
 3. Sponsor evening events to follow the Farmers Market, including prepared food sales, entertainment, and community fellowship: could happen just at the site along the creek.
 4. Develop additional entertainment venues and events: music at the CCHP or the amp theater by the visitors center.
- As a member of the Community Sustainability Advisory Board, all efforts to increase the creeks contribution to local events, sense of community and diversity of use will support our vision of vibrant, healthy future for Golden.

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- Please make strong connection between Washington & Ford and Parfet and Vanover Parks.
 - Also separate pedestrian from bike traffic (either separate trails or delineated with striping).