



Denver City Council

**Public Amenities Committee
Meeting Summary**

Date: Feb. 7, 2006 Time: 11:00 a.m. Location: Council Conference Room

Members Present: **Lehmann, Johnson**
Members Absent: **Linkhart, Robb**
Other Council Present: **Garcia**

1. Denver Public Library – Selection of City Librarian

K.C. Vieo, President of the Denver Library Commission, and Letty Icolari, Director of Human Resources for DPL, introduced themselves. Ms. Icolari will be Interim City Librarian as of March 1 while the search is completed. She has a Masters degree in Library Science and began her professional life as a public school librarian. Prior to joining DPL, she worked in Human Resources for Storage Tech.

Mr. Vieo said that the Commission published a Request for Proposals for an executive search consultant, and three respondents were interviewed. Dubberly Garcia Associates, a library consulting and research firm, was selected. Both principals are former public librarians, and Ms. Garcia is a Denver resident. Currently, the position is being advertised nationally, with special focus on publications for librarians. The Commission intends to reach a final decision in late Spring with an anticipated start date of July 1. The new City Librarian will be the ninth person in the position since 1889.

2. Parks & Recreation Department – Project Updates

Downtown playground project

Tom Hawkey, Special Projects Manager

- Located in Lower Downtown, surrounded by Speer, Cherry Creek, and Wewatta.
- Design includes completely fencing the site, rubberized surfaces, grassy berms, a climbing structure and other appropriate play equipment, all designed to compliment the more industrial, modern setting.
- Construction slated to commence in the Fall.
- Overall budget is \$782,000, phased over a period of time.
- Residents have raised \$70,000.
- Greenway Foundation is contributing \$50,000.
- Parks & Recreation 2006 Capital Improvement Program has \$150,000.
- The department will submit an application to Great Outdoors Colorado for a \$200,000 grant this Spring.
- Metered parking abuts the site, and the department will pursue acquiring that as free playground parking.

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Great Outdoors Colorado Grants

Tom Hawkey, Special Projects Manager

- GoCo grants are available on a Spring and a Fall cycle.
- Grants are either 1) local government grants at a maximum of \$200,000, intended to expand or improve existing facilities; or 2) planning grants at a maximum \$75,000, for activities such as preparing a playground master plan.
- This Spring, the department will submit applications for 1) a \$200,000 grant for the Downtown Playground; and 2) a \$40,000 grant for a Mountain Parks Master Plan; that project will be partially funded by the Mountain Park Foundation.
- The Spring grant recipients will be announced in late June.
- An application for improvements to the Gates Tennis Center will be submitted this Fall.

Councilman Garcia asked if playgrounds in the 2006 capital budget program (CIP) will be completed in 2006. Andrea Riner, Director of Parks Planning, said the schedule is being set for the coming construction season. The playgrounds in the 2006 CIP should be completed in 2006, but it will depend largely on the level of public interest and/or controversy in the design process, the bidding climate, and the weather. There is no guarantee that the projects in the 2006 CIP will actually be completed in 2006. The usual overall timeframe is around 18 months.

Golf Program and Bonds

John Overstreet, Deputy Manager for Parks & Planning, and Eric Hiraga, Treasury

- The Career Service Authority description for the Manager of Golf position has been updated.
- The position should be posted in the next week or so.
- The director must be a Class A professional, a rating of the Professional Golfers' Association (PGA).
- The PGA will screen applications free of charge through its Career Links program.
- The goal is to have a director on board by July 1.
- Concerning the pending bond issuance: The Treasury Division is assessing the impact of the management changes, updating the financials, and determining the best moment to access the market.
- The Manager of Revenue is authorized to issue the bonds prior to March 1. After that reauthorization will be required, and the deal may have to be restructured.

Parkway Assessment Project

Andrea Riner, Director, Parks Planning

- A cooperative, 3-phase project is underway to develop an over-arching strategy and unified approach to parkway management by the departments of Parks, Public Works, and Community Planning & Development.
- The assessment, creating an inventory of existing conditions and management, will be presented to the Parks Advisory Board in about 6 weeks, then to the Planning Board and City Council.
- The next 2 phases are to establish a set of design guidelines and to develop a set of rules and regulations to implement the policies and design guidelines.

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- Both the Parks department and Public Works have parkway projects in their respective Capital Improvement Programs (CIP). The two departments need to coordinate their projects to take advantage of economies of scale, minimize disruption, and maximize impact.
- “Parkways” are those listed in the Designated Parkways ordinance.

Councilman Garcia asked about narrowing the time between completion of a master plan and getting specific projects into the funding cycle, and he specifically asked about Berkeley Park the Master Plan. Ms. Riner said the Berkeley Park plan will be presented to the Parks Advisory Board on February 8. The department is focusing on taking plans forward as quickly as possible. She noted that the annual Capital Budget for the department is approximately \$9 million, which does not cover many projects. Mr. Hawkey noted that backlogged needs total \$100 million.

In response to a question, the organization of the Parks Planning Department was described as follows:

Kim Bailey, Manager of Parks & Recreation
John Overstreet, Deputy Manager for Parks & Planning
Andrea Riner, Director of Parks Planning
16 staff members responsible for

- planning
- development review

Gretchen Williams
02-10-06