



Denver City Council

Public Amenities Committee
Meeting Summary

Date: May 16, 2006

Time: 11:00 a.m.

Location: Council Conference Room

Members Present: Lehmann, Johnson, Linkhart

Members Absent: Robb

Other Council Present: None

1. Theatres & Arenas – Amend Aramark contract

Committee Action

The Committee approved amending the Aramark Red Rocks concession contract to allow Aramark's \$250,000 investment in the north concession stand in 2007 rather than 2006 and provide for 5-year amortization of that investment, ending 12-31-12.

Summary of Discussion

Tad Bowman, Facility Manager, explained that when the original contract was signed in May 2003, another concessionaire was operating at Red Rocks. Aramark then acquired the other company, and the contract was renegotiated, including a provision that Aramark invest \$250,000 in improvements. Complications with plans and bids slowed the project, and the work can not be started until after the 2006 season.

2. Parks & Recreation – Colonnade of Civic Benefactors

Committee Action

The Committee approved recognizing the late Barbara Sudler Hornby as a Civic Benefactor with her name to be inscribed on the Colonnade of Civic Benefactors in Civic Center. Council should be provided a biography when the bill is on final consideration.

Summary of Discussion

Helen Kuykendall, Parks & Recreation Planner, and Ellen Ittelson, Community Planning & Development, explained that the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board had reviewed and approved the proposal to add Barbara Hornby's name to the Colonnade, based on the requirements. The Colonnade was designed in 1918 for inscription of the names of people who contributed to the improvement and culture of Denver. Mrs. Hornby's name will be added to the wall facing the State Capitol. The west-facing wall will be inscribed with names of 21st Century leaders, and another wall is reserved specifically for contributors to Civic Center Park.

Threshold for inscription of a name, subject to change over time, are:

- A lifetime of various kinds of contributions;

--continued--

- A gift of value of \$100,000 from an individual;
- A gift of value of \$500,000 from a corporation;
- A gift of \$25,000 in one year from an individual; or
- A gift of \$250,000 from a corporation.

3. Summer Fun with Parks & Recreation

Daniel Betts, Deputy Manager for Recreation, Recreation Directors Dolores Moreno, Dody Erickson, and Michael Barney, and John Martinez, Citywide Sports, presented an overview of the Department's summer programming. Through the Mayor's Office of Workforce Development, 52 additional summer positions were filled this year. Information on all programs is available at www.DenverGov.org/ParksandRecreation. For the first time in nearly a decade, a full, citywide program brochure is being printed this week. The initial run of the 100-page brochure is 50,000 copies.

A sampling of programs includes:

- Summer in the Parks, offering licensed sites for child care in collaboration with Denver Public Schools for this 8-week program.
- Summer Day Camp for ages 6 through 12. Each of 11 recreation centers is licensed for 30 children, 5 days per week between 9:00 and 4:00. Programs are scheduled for two 4-week sessions
- Summer Scholars for 13 year olds in cooperation with Denver Public Schools. Literacy programs are available in the mornings with recreation and applied learning in the afternoons at 18 sites serving at least 50 kids each.
- Swimming pools are open June 3 – August 19 (DPS starts Aug. 21).
- Swimming lessons are offered in 4 sessions of 2 weeks each.
- Community Partnership – Mestizo-Curtis Community Alliance obtained a \$2,000 grant to purchase swim suits and pay fees for kids who could not afford lessons.
- Boating is available on 3 lakes: Berkley, Smith, and Sloan's. The Park Ranger at Sloan's Lake provides all boating permits.
- Special needs programs for all age groups are staffed by certified recreation assistants.
- Citywide Sports for youth (ages 5-18) include tennis, T-ball, softball supported with 48 coaches.
- Citywide Sports for adults (18-65) includes 3 softball divisions (men, women & co-ed) with a total of 230 teams this year.
- Adult tennis programs have expanded from 15 last year to 65 this year.
- Mile High Movies in the Parks, shown on an inflatable screen. There will be 14 around the city with pre-movie entertainment. The Department is seeking additional sponsors for the program.
- Outdoor Recreation rafting, hiking, fishing, wildlife tours, and more in partnership with such entities as the State Division of Wildlife and the Denver Zoo.
- Youth will be able to obtain an American Mountain Guide certification.
- Youth Summit Leadership Program helps connect inner-city kids with the outdoors.
- Denver Kids Prime Time at various recreations centers; first at Montclair on June 17.
- Denver Skate Camp will offer skateboard lessons in 3 hour blocks.

--continued--

Mr. Betts said that in 2005, the scholarship program covered between \$75,000 and \$100,000, and he expects about the same this year. Sponsorships are being sought for various programs. Stapleton Development committed \$3,000 for Summer Day Camp, which will also offer a payment plan for families that can afford the \$420 fee but not all at once.

Councilman Linkhart stressed the importance of tracking the number of participants, costs, scholarships, and other data.

4. Civic Center Conservancy Update

Committee Action

The Committee requested information about the full schedule of activities and public meetings with Daniel Libeskind on June 15 as soon as possible and suggested that some of the follow-up public meetings be held outside of downtown because Civic Center Park is of citywide importance and interest.

Summary of Discussion

Helen Kuykendall, Parks & Recreation, introduced Civic Center Conservancy president Elaine Asarch and other Conservancy members. The Conservancy is a private 501(c)(3) organization committed to raising funds to help the City activate, restore and enhance Civic Center Park. The Civic Center Park Master Plan identified \$40 million in capital needs. The City cannot commit nearly that much to one park, but private fund-raising can help. The Conservancy will also sponsor activities, such as the Wednesday farmers market, concerts, and films, in the park.

The City and the Conservancy will sign the attached 20-year cooperative agreement. The agreement:

- defines the roles of the City and the Conservancy;
- specifies that the Civic Center Park Master Plan “provides the cohesive framework” guiding decision-making, and that any proposed “substantive deviation” requires a public process to amend the Master Plan;
- specifies that the Manager of Parks & Recreation is the final decision-maker;
- ensures that all funds raised by the Conservancy are used exclusively for Civic Center;
- specifies that the Manager reviews all messages and marketing;
- provides for audit of the Conservancy by the City;
- specifies that the agreement can be terminated at any time.

Ms. Kuykendall stressed that the recommendations of the Civic Center Park Master Plan are also in the Civic Center District Plan, adopted by City Council. Extensive public input shaped the Park Master Plan, and it is the basis for a common understanding of the goals for the park.

Tiffany Moehring, Communications Director for Parks & Recreation, said that the message was heard that the Department needed to do better outreach to the community. A public process is being developed for presentation and discussion around the Libeskind ideas, and the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board will continue to be involved. Information on the

--continued--

series of public meetings will be sent to a huge list of interested parties, including the registered neighborhood organizations.

Ms. Kuydendall said that the 1918 Edward Bennett master plan for the park was only partially realized. Especially the middle of the park was left incomplete. People want better connections between the park and downtown and the Art Museum and Library. A gathering place within the park is desired. All of these components need a design, and because Daniel Libeskind is working on the Art Museum, there was an opportunity to engage him in focusing on the park and its surroundings. His ideas help the City to explore the possibilities and provide a starting point for a public dialog. Libeskind developed bold, interesting ideas that are consistent with the master plan. Now we can discuss how bold we want to be.

On the evening of June 15, a public presentation at the Convention Center will kick-off a month of public dialog in a series of listening sessions. The Advisory Board will host one of the sessions. These are not yet scheduled but will be announced as soon as possible.

5. Winter Park Master Plan

Liz Orr, Winter Park Recreation Association Board member, and Gary DeFrance, Interwest, updated the Committee on the Winter Park Master Plan and the 2006 construction activities. The Winter Park Recreation Association (WPRA) recently sold to Interwest the first piece of property for development. Ground has been broken for the first phase of the village core, which at build-out will consist of 1500 condo and townhome units, retail, and a 3-level parking garage. The garage will be built into the side of a hill to mask its size. The first phase is two buildings with 194 units ranging from studio to 3 bedrooms. Units will be ready for the 2007-08 season.

Other close-in parking garages will replace most of the outlying lots. Interwest is required to maintain the same amount of day parking at the area. An exclusive housing area with ski-in/ski-out access to one of the lifts will be built in a later phase of development. A goal is to have 70% of residential buyers to put their units into the rental pool, which will mean more people in the village and on the slopes.

The proceeds from this first land transaction provides funding for WPRA and pays down the principle of the indebtedness. A minimum of 90% of sale proceeds must be used to pay off debt, per the agreement with Interwest.

Ms. Orr reminded members that Interwest provides \$2 million per year to Parks & Recreation for the first ten years of the agreement, and this is year 3. After ten years, the amount of that payment will be performance-based.

Mr. DeFrance reported that the temperature in Winter Park was 60 degrees on Friday before the Wednesday opening. By Monday, 40 inches of new snow had fallen, and opening day had 500 skiers to start off a 1 million visitor season. The ski school had its largest year ever. The summer season opens June 10 and will include the Jazz Festival and a Widespread Panic concert.

Gretchen Williams
06-01-06