



Public Amenities Committee
Meeting Summary

Date: May 15, 2007

Time: 11:00 a.m.

Location: Room 391

Members Present: Lehmann, Johnson, Robb

Members Absent: Montero

Other Council Present: None

Agenda:

1. Skyline Concession Agreement with Biker Jim's
 2. Westerly Creek Connection
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1. Parks & Recreation – Skyline Concession Agreement

Committee Action

The Committee approved a 1-year concession agreement with Biker Jim's Gourmet Dogs for the Skyline Park Pavilion.

Summary of Discussion

Linda Nedved, Parks & Recreation, presented the request, including the following information:

- The Pavilion at Skyline Park is between 15th Street and 16th Street on Arapahoe Street.
- It consists of an information kiosk, a concessions kiosk, public restrooms, and a service area.
- Downtown Denver Partnership will manage the information kiosk and monitor restroom use (the restroom keys will be available at the kiosk).
- The concession was advertised twice during 2006; each time, one proposal was received.
- Biker Jim's is owned and operated by Jim and Karen Pittinger.
- The term of the proposed agreement is from 6-1-07 to 6-1-08 with an optional 1-year renewal; guaranteed annual minimum payment to the City is \$1,200 plus 5% of gross receipts; concessionaire pays one-half the utilities.
- In addition to the food & beverage service, concessionaire will clean the restrooms, pick up trash around the Pavilion, and monitor the activities in Skyline Park.
- Hours are generally 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. weekdays & 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. weekends, with later hours during special events.

2. Westerly Creek Connection

Committee Action

The Committee supported Councilwoman Johnson's efforts and her proposed proclamation of support.

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Summary of Discussion

Councilwoman Johnson introduced the Westerly Creek Connection project, and Robert Krehbiel of Matrix Design Group further described it. Westerly Creek flows through East Denver from Lowry to Stapleton and then into Sand Creek. The portion between Lowry and Stapleton, approximately 11th Avenue at Uinta to Montview at approximately Boston Street in Aurora, is the “missing link” in the open space and trail corridor. Many people, both from the neighborhood and bicyclists from around the region, have advocated for a connection in the trail system in this corridor.

The project is designed to provide the connections to both local and regional trails, as well as to mitigate storm water drainage problems. Portions of Westerly Creek were put underground in the 1980s, breaking the identifiable corridor. The culverts in some locations are now undersized and cannot handle a 100-year flood event. Localized surface flooding, especially at Colfax and Yosemite, is a problem. Ninety-four structures are in the 100-year floodplain (2/3 are in Aurora).

The vision for the Westerly Creek Connection is that it will:

- provide connectivity between Lowry and Stapleton;
- connect the Highline Canal and the Sand Creek trail corridors;
- establish a safe and attractive trail corridor;
- use the creek corridor as visual way-finding for the trail;
- solve residual drainage problems; and
- provide equitable access to open space in an under-served neighborhood.

Initial efforts and improvements in the corridor from 11th to 13th avenues include:

- Installation of a traffic signal and pedestrian crossing at 11th and Uinta (Lowry Redevelopment Authority funding);
- trail improvements in Verbena Park, 11th to Richthoven;
- enhancement of existing trail, Richthoven to 12th;
- construction of bike path and landscape buffer north of 12th (pending negotiations with private property owner);
- official designation of bike trail (in process);
- way-finding trail signage throughout the corridor (Parks & Recreation is pursuing a Great Outdoors Colorado grant);
- Urban Drainage & Flood Control District is undertaking a “Major Drainageway Planning Study” in Aurora portion of the corridor, which should produce engineering alternatives this fall; and
- integration with redevelopment adjacent to the corridor (i.e., Lowry community college site).

Alternative routes beyond 13th Avenue will be identified and evaluated using this criteria:

- alignments are safe and attractive;
- improvements reduce risk of flood;
- future Yosemite regional traffic needs are met;
- property impacts are minimized; and
- the community accepts the route.

Councilwoman Johnson said the current estimate for the project is \$600,000. She plans to introduce a Council Proclamation in support of the project in the near future.