



---

Public Amenities Committee  
Meeting Summary

---

Oct. 10, 2007                      10:30 a.m.    Room 391

**Members Present:**                      **Lehmann, Johnson, Madison, Robb**  
**Members Absent:**                      **None**  
**Other Council Present:**              **Garcia, Linkhart**

---

- Proposed lottery for permits for downtown-area parks, Aug. 15-31, 2008
  - Winter Park update
- 

**1.     Downtown area parks permits**

Erin Trapp, Director of the Denver Office of Cultural Affairs, and Scott Johnson, Assistant City Attorney, talked to the Committee about the Administration's thinking on an alternative process for issuing permits for certain parks during the Democratic National Convention next August.

The City anticipates a large demand for permits to hold events and assemblies in parks in the Downtown core area. In preparation, the Administration is proposing to suspend the regular permitting process and hold a lottery for permits:

- for parks within a geographically defined zone encompassing Downtown; and
- for August 15 through August 31, 2008.

The area would include Civic Center, Skyline, and the sculpture park at the Denver Center for the Performing Arts; it would not include City Park, Cheesman Park, Washington Park or Commons Park. No permits are issued for Commons, designated as a passive park, since the land was acquired with Great Outdoor Colorado funds and contains many natural areas.

Applications for 2008 park permits will be available as of Nov. 1, making the decision on how to handle the permit applications timely. Ms. Trapp asked that Council members contact her with any questions or issues about the plan. Councilman Garcia said that priority should be given to Denver-area groups and vendors.

**2.     Winter Park update**

Liz Orr, member of the Winter Park Recreation Association Board (WPRA), and Gary DeFrange, Intrawest, updated the Committee on activities at the ski area. Ms. Orr noted that Mr. DeFrange is a Denver native and worked for Winter Park prior to Intrawest's involvement. She gave a brief history of the area, culminating in the December 2002 agreements with Intrawest making it a partner with the City. The City needed five major attributes in a partner:

- Adequate investment on the mountain and in the support facilities to maintain and grow the asset.
- Ability to develop a village at the base of the mountain to make it a destination resort to provide revenue stream.
- Ongoing, secure revenue stream for rehab and maintenance of Parks & Recreation facilities.
- Ability to retain and support the National Sports Center for Disabled Skiers.
- Ability to retain and support the children's programs.

The agreement requires:

- \$50 million capital investment in the first 10 years (currently in year 5):
  - As of Sept. 30, 2007, \$21.88 million will have been invested
  - As of Sept. 30, 2009, \$40 million will have been invested
  - As of Sept. 30, 2012, \$50 million will have been invested
- 6% of gross revenues to be used for capital projects (4% would be more typical);
- \$2 million annual payment to City for 10 years; performance-based payment after that.

Mr. DeFrange provided the following information:

- 2006-07 was the second biggest year ever with 1.7 million visitors, even with several days of closure due to snow, wind, and avalanche.
- Intrawest has been purchased by Fortress, but Intrawest will continue to operate Winter Park.
- Master Plan includes 7800 acres, 3000 of which can currently be skied.
- Winter Park's "comfortable carrying capacity" is 16,000 skiers; more terrain is needed.
- Intrawest purchased a site right in the Town of Winter Park for the base of a new gondola to new Cooper Creek Summit on Vasquez Mt.
- \$1.5 million project to expand the ski school area from 0.4 acre to 5 acres, including two "magic carpet" lifts.
- Eagle Wind, a new 75-acre advanced area with 7 runs won an environmental award for sensitivity to the high alpine terrain.
- Installed the first high-speed quad lift in the US.
- \$6.2 million will be invested in the highest 6-pack lift in North America (altitude = 12,060 feet; capacity = 3300/hour).
- The Village is being developed with condos, town homes, 25,000 sq. ft. commercial, parking garages (one 900-space; one 287 spaces), 200 units of employee housing.
- 194 units under construction to be delivered early February, all but 40 sold.
- Pine beetles are taking care of the problem of old and unhealthy lodge pole pines.
- Intrawest is spraying important tree islands and around buildings; spraying is 90% effective.
- The pine beetle cycle has about 2 more years.

Kids and Disabled Ski Programs:

- 2001-2002, kids program served 524 kids.
- 2006-2007, kids program served 1193 kids.
- A 4-week progressive program offered free to kids.
- Intrawest is donating 1000 lift tickets to Denver Parks & Recreation (DPR) for schools and non-profit organizations that can provide transportation, clothing, equipment and 1 adult per 7 kids.

--continued--

- Ruby Hill Rail Yard was a great success; target opening for 2008 is Jan 19.
- Intrawest works very closely with Denver Parks & Recreation Dept.
- Disabled Program provided 19,323 lessons last season, 2/3 to kids under 18.
- 19% of participants are from Denver; 57% from Denver metro area.
- 750 volunteer instructors.

Committee discussion included the following:

- Councilman Garcia said Denver and Winter Park should be leaders in making more ski days available to low-income kids, given the relationship, and there should be automatic qualifies as low-income.
- Ms. Orr noted that a lift ticket is only good if there is transportation, appropriate clothing, and equipment. Other organizations work on that part.
- Mike Barney, Director of Recreation for DPR, said the Department's Ski Club Program works with several other programs and organizations, such as the Eskimo Club.
- Transportation is the most expensive element, costing between \$700 and \$1200 per trip from Denver to Winter Park.
- Winter Park tickets are much more reasonably priced than 20 years ago, with Friends & Family 4-packs available.
- Winter Park's core market is the medium-income family. Vail and Aspen are much more expensive.
- Season pass to Winter Park is \$349; for Winter Park + Copper Mt. is \$369.
- Some of the 1000 tickets for kids this season might be for Copper Mt.
- Discussions are underway with DPR about taking 75 kids to Steamboat (25/trip) this season.
- Intrawest has a commitment to minority hiring and contracting; it works with Denver-area school systems and the minority chambers of commerce. It is difficult to get minority contractors for projects in the mountains, due in part to the increased costs involved.
- Councilman Garcia encouraged Intrawest to keep trying to increase the numbers of low-income kids it serves.
- Mr. DeFrange extended an invitation to all Council members to go up and spend a day with him at Winter Park.

Gretchen Williams  
Council Legislative Services  
10-26-07