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Public Amenities Committee  
Meeting Summary

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Oct. 24, 2007                      10:30 a.m.    Room 391

**Members Present:**                      Lehmann, Johnson, Madison, Robb  
**Members Absent:**                      None  
**Other Council Present:**              Hancock, Nevitt

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- Donation of art works
  - Mayor's Climate Action Plan
  - Aramark Facilities Services contract amendment
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**1.      Denver Office of Cultural Affairs – Donation of art works**

Committee Action

The Committee approved filing bills accepting donation of two pieces of art work.

Summary of Discussion

Kendall Peterson, Public Art Administrator, presented two donated sculptures, both approved by the Public Art Committee for acceptance into the permanent public art collection.

"Two Hundred and Twenty Two Point Five Degrees Arc" by Bernar Venet for display in Commons Park, where it is already installed. The 7-foot core tin steel artwork is donated by NBT Charitable Trust. This piece came to Denver with a traveling Venet show and has been on loan to the City.

"Tulga" by artist Tsogo Mijid for permanent installation in Ulaanbaatar Park. This artwork is donated by the Mongolian Community Association of Colorado, Denver Sister Cities International, Inc., and the City of Ulaanbaatar. The 15-foot stainless steel sculpture represents the traditional Mongolian hearth. Denver is home to more Mongolians than any city in the world outside of Ulaanbaatar. The installation will cost \$60,000, ten percent of which will be set aside for future maintenance. The Lowry Foundation donated 50% of the cost.

Councilwoman Johnson asked for a list of the 1% for the Arts installation and their locations, as well as how many are in progress and where they will be. Ms. Peterson agreed, adding that an updated Public Art brochure will be available in December.

**2.      Mayor's Climate Action Plan**

Michele Weingarden, Greenprint Denver Director, and John Powers, member of the Mayor's Greenprint Denver Advisory Council and founder of the Alliance for a Sustainable Colorado,

discussed the Mayor's Climate Action Plan with the Committee. They arrived directly from the Mayor's press conference announcing several sustainability milestones:

- Adoption of the Climate Action Plan;
- Certification of the Webb Municipal Office Building as a LEED Gold Existing Building (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, a nationally recognized standard for sustainability); and
- Executive Order 123, formally establishing the City's sustainability policy.

The Climate Action Plan contains ten steps intended to reduce the City's per capita greenhouse gas emissions 10% by 2012. The Plan was formulated over a year of study and discussion by the Greenprint Denver Advisory Council, which published a draft for public comment last May. The official list is below, with comments from the Committee meeting added in different font.

**1. Corporate and Residential Climate Challenges** (28 percent toward 2012 goal) — Develop major business and residential outreach campaigns supporting the adoption of best practices related to energy conservation, purchase of renewable energy, support for multi-modal transportation, and waste reduction in the commercial and residential sectors.

**2. Incentivize Energy Conservation** (25 – 40 percent toward 2012 goal) — Introduce a proposal to apply a tiered rate structure to electrical and natural gas usage. Similar to water-use rate charges, such electrical and natural gas tiered rates would impose a premium charge for excessive electrical and natural gas usage. Voter approval should be sought for this measure. Funds generated would be used to support energy conservation and greenhouse gas reduction programs, especially for lower income neighborhoods.

Councilman Hancock cautioned that lower income families often live in older homes that tend to use more energy. We must understand where the burden falls, and any fee structures should not be regressive. Ms. Weingarden said that funds generated from the new structure would be used for energy conservation in older homes.

Councilwoman Johnson said that replacing high-energy use appliances with more energy efficient ones sounds great until you realize the old one just goes into the landfill or is recycled to someone else to use, which dilutes the benefits. She noted that Habitat for Humanity now only installs energy efficient appliances. Councilman Hancock added that a Habitat project in his district has raised conflicts of values. Placement for the best solar access conflicts with other aesthetic values.

**3. Voluntary Travel Offset Program** (20 percent toward 2012 goal) — Provide the opportunity to pay a small voluntary fee, at the time of air ticket purchase or motor vehicle registration, to offset the carbon emissions related to travel. Funds would be used for carbon-absorbing or carbon-reducing activities. Explore potential partnership with the Governor's Energy Office to develop local offset investment opportunities.

Part of the plan is to install kiosks at DIA at which travelers can purchase carbon offsets, contributing to carbon reducing activities. Installation is planned prior to the Democratic National Convention.

**4. City Leading by Example** (9 percent toward 2012 goal) — In addition to the 5-year goals for city practice improvements outlined in the 2006 Greenprint Denver Action Agenda, aggressively pursue opportunities for energy efficiency and renewable energy at Denver International Airport, work to develop "carbon neutral" city buildings through application of energy efficiency savings to the purchase of Windsource, and make additional city fleet improvements.

**5. Enhance Recycling Programs** (2 – 5 percent toward 2012 goal) — Support new and expanded recycling initiatives throughout Denver, including multi-family, commercial, and green waste recycling, as part of the development of a comprehensive Solid Waste Master Plan.

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A Solid Waste Mater Plan is now underway, and its goal is to reduce solid waste by 50%. Councilwoman Madison said buildings with over 7 units do not have City recycling, and we need to get them recycling. Councilwoman Lehmann said Denver Public Schools must start a recycling program. Schools need to be educating kids how to and why to recycle, but the schools don't have funds for this. Councilman Hancock suggested providing teachers kits on how to be a good recycler.

**6. Energy Efficiency Standards for New Buildings and Remodels** (4 percent toward 2012 goal; long-term impact up to 12 percent) — Adopt a set of mandatory building standards for commercial buildings and building codes for new homes and some remodels that incorporate energy efficiency standards and renewable energy requirements.

John Powers said review of the Building Code is necessary to require greener building practices, materials, and fixtures. He explained the LEED Certification is the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design.

Councilman Nevitt encouraged Councilmembers to tour the Alliance's building at 1536 Wynkoop, Suite B500 to see all of the ways to reduce energy use.

Councilwoman Johnson suggested a sliding scale of permit fees based on the overall "greenness" of proposed buildings.

Asked about check lists for home energy use self-audits, Mr. Powers said there are several available on the Internet.

**7. Increase Energy Efficiency in Existing Homes** (1– 4 percent toward 2012 goal; up to 10 percent toward long-term goal) – Promote basic energy efficiency measures at residential properties as a way to improve the energy efficiency of older housing stock. Incentives to plant shade trees and install in-home energy display systems would enhance the effectiveness of this program. Attention must be given to equity in impacts across income levels.

In the draft document, Step No. 7 was mandatory before an existing home could be sold. Based on the public input, this has been changed to a voluntary measure. Ms. Weingarden said she is working with the Board of Realtors to gain their support to promote these measures to their clients.

**8. Community-wide High-performing Green Concrete Policy** (3 percent toward 2012 goal) — Require, through city policies, the use of "green" concrete, consisting of at least 20 percent fly ash, in all public and private construction projects. Pilot projects are recommended using both fly ash and recycled aggregates, in public and private projects to evaluate the feasibility of large-scale implementation.

Denver is the first city with this policy, which is included in Executive Order No. 123. Fly ash strengthens concrete (it does not color it green).

**9. Compact Growth Boundary with Incentives for Density in Urban Areas** (2 percent towards 2012 goal; greater than 10 percent long term) – Support maintenance of the existing DRCOG growth boundary and support additional population growth around transit in the metro area to promote denser, walkable, bikeable, and transit-friendly neighborhoods that will reduce the demand for motorized personal transport.

Councilwoman Lehmann suggested that Councilman Garcia, who chairs DRCOG, be consulted on the urban growth boundary. While it does not impact Denver, it does impact the outlying counties.

Councilmembers Johnson, Lehmann and Nevitt noted that connectivity of bike lanes and trails is critical, especially in the transit-oriented development areas.

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**10. City Support for Alternative Transportation Strategies** (~2 percent toward 2012 goal) – Develop various city policies that promote the transition over time to the use of alternative transportation sources and alternatively fueled vehicles, including parking subsidies for car-share, high fuel economy or alternatively fueled vehicles, or possible access fee discounts for hybrid taxis at Denver International Airport.

DIA is considering a fee discount for hybrid taxis, and the City's motor pool is being converted to hybrids as vehicles are replaced.

### **3. Theatres & Arenas – Aramark contract**

#### Committee Action

The Committee approved filing a bill for a \$4.2 million contract with Aramark for facilities maintenance at Red Rocks and the Coliseum through 2011.

#### Summary of Discussion

Jennifer Macy, Theatres & Arenas, and Tad Bowman, Facilities Manager, explained the proposal to convert an existing bid agreement to a professional services agreement. This is a more formal relationship and offers more protection for the City. It also allows Aramark to purchase necessary equipment to perform its services at Red Rock, because Aramark employees are not allowed to use City equipment.

The contract provides for prevailing wages plus a markup to cover overhead, administration, and required payroll taxes. The price structure is very favorable to the City.

*Gretchen Williams  
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