



**Public Amenities Committee
Meeting Summary**

Wed. Jan. 23, 2008

10:30 a.m.

Conference Room 391

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

Agenda:

Bookmobile purchase for Denver Public Library
Seat purchase for Buell Theatre
Daniels Park Master Plan and Cooperative Agreement

1. Denver Public Library: Purchase Bookmobile

Committee Action

The Committee approved purchase of a bookmobile by the Denver Public Library with a \$300,000 gift from the Janus Capital Group.

Summary of Discussion

Shirley Amore, City Librarian, introduced representatives of the Janus Capital Group Blair Johnson, Senior Vice President, and Gretchen Gruver, Corporate Communications Manager. Mr. Johnson said Janus has 1000 employees in Denver, and it decided to focus its giving on public education in Denver. Two statistics about Denver's schools caught its attention: only 46% of students graduate high school; and 50% of the teachers leave within their first five years. Janus made a commitment to help elevate the teaching profession and to help educate Denver's children. The bookmobile is being provided especially for DPS schools.

Only four or five companies in the U.S. manufacture bookmobiles. The Request for Proposals was issued in December, and bids are due on January 28. With luck, the vehicle will be delivered by the time schools open next August. It will run on alternative fuels.

Councilman Chris Nevitt commended Janus for stepping up and creating a public/private partnership. He noted that the City's systems had been frustrating for Janus to break through at first, and he thanked everyone who made this finally happen.

2. Theatres & Arenas: Purchase Seats for Buell Theatre

Committee Action

The Committee approved the \$975,000 purchase of new seats for the Buell Theatre from Theatre Solutions to replace the original, 17-year old seats and requested a tour after installation.

Summary of Discussion

Jennifer Macy, Director of Administration, and Tad Bowman, Director of Events, Theatres & Arenas, said that one half of the cost of the new seats is being paid by a grant from the Temple Hoyne Buell Foundation. A Request for Proposals was issued in September, a selection committee reviewed the four submitted proposals, and Theatre Solutions was selected for the following reasons:

- No spring lift mechanism in the seats;
- Superior plywood used;
- Superior references ;
- Life time warranty; and
- Best aesthetics and comfort.

The Committee was assured that exhaustive testing had occurred to determine the most comfortable seats. The new dark red seats will be installed in August, following replacement of the carpet.

Councilman Hancock suggested that the old seats could be used to replace seats in theatres in Denver Public Schools.

3. Daniels Park Master Plan & Douglas County Agreement

Committee Action

The Committee approved the proposed cooperative agreement with Douglas County regarding improvements at Daniels Park, a Denver Mountain Park located in Douglas County.

Summary of Discussion

Dick Gannon, Parks & Recreation Planner; A.J. Tripp-Addison, Mountain Parks Superintendent, and Gary Walter, Douglas County, presented an overview of the Douglas County Master Plan and the cooperative agreement. The 1,000-acre Daniels Park is steeped in history:

- Daniels Park Road, running along a ridgeline at elevation of 6,250 feet, was a wagon and stage road from the 1850s; it was formally platted as the first Colorado Territorial Road in the 1890's. Ruts formed by early wagons are still visible.
- The park contains the 1920's-era Florence Martin Ranch site, designated a Denver landmark district in 1995. Martin donated to Denver the land included in the park in 1920 and 1937.
- The park contains the Kit Carson Memorial at the site of Carson's last campfire in 1868.
- The park contains the Tall Bull Memorial site, which continues to be used by Native Americans for ceremonies and other activities important to their culture. The park contains the historic stone picnic shelter designed by Denver architect Jules Benedict in the 1920's, located on the first 38-acre tract donated by Martin.
- The park contains a Bison herd.
- The park is the high ground in the 11,000 acres of dedicated open space surrounding it.

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The master plan was developed over several years. Goals include:

- Discouraging unnecessary traffic through the park;
- Improving parking area, trails (including a regional trail) and other amenities;
- Creating a more park-like identity along the road and at the north and south entrances; and
- Reducing dust, erosion and sediment.

The cooperative agreement outlines specific improvements, costs and responsibilities:

- Ten-year build-out for all improvements;
- \$8 million total cost for all improvements, mostly for roadway improvements, which Douglas County will provide (the County owns and maintains the road).
- Denver's portion of the cost is \$600,000 over the 10 years. This is the cost if contracted out; Mountain Parks will do much of the work, along with volunteers.
- A regional water line is to be installed along part of the Daniels Park Road alignment by a consortium of water providers, including Denver Water; cost-savings will be realized by doing much of the work in conjunction with that major project.

Councilman Garcia asked about the arrangements regarding the Tall Bull site. Mr. Tripp-Addison said Denver has a long-term agreement with Tall Bull for access and use of the site. Rich Tall Bull, Jr., was consulted on the plans. His primary interest was in obtaining more privacy by moving the road further from the site. The plan moves the road. The site is protected by a Cultural Overlay District with a 1-mile radius from the site.

Mr. Tripp-Addison said the master plan and cooperative agreement were well-received by Denver's Park & Recreation Advisory Board, which reviewed them in July 2007. The Manager of Parks & Recreation will adopt the Master Plan. The Douglas County Board of Commissioners will sign the agreement on January 29, after which it will go to Mayor Hickenlooper. The signed agreement will go before the City Council for approval.

Councilman Garcia requested a letter from the Manager regarding her adoption of the master plan. He said this should be the procedure for all of the Department's master plans. Patrick Wheeler, Assistant City Attorney said that Exhibit A of the cooperative agreement is the master plan.

4. Denver County Cultural Council: Transition of Program Manager position

Committee Action

The Committee approved hiring Denver County Cultural Council (DCCC) Program Manager, Jane Potts, as a City Council employee.

Summary of Discussion

Councilwoman Lehmann reviewed the history of the Scientific & Cultural Facilities District and Denver's approach to administering the SCFD Tier III funding.

Lauri Dannemiller, City Council Director, reviewed the history of Denver's Tier III program manager. City Council initially chose to create an "arms length" relationship between itself and distribution of the Tier III funding. Council created the DCCC and provided for a program manager to staff it. For several years, Council executed an annual contract with the program manager, Jane Potts. The

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annual renewal of this contract was eventually challenged by the City Attorney's Office (CAO) under the Executive Order 8, which interprets the Charter's unspecified limit on "temporary hiring" as one year.

In mid-2007, the CAO directed that Council should either hire a full-time employee or an independent contractor. After analyzing the pros and cons of the two options, Ms. Dannemiller recommended that Council hire Ms. Potts as a full-time, at-will employee. The independent contractor option presents too many disadvantages for the DCCC, the City and Ms. Potts. These include:

- Potential loss of service if contract is expended before year's end;
- Potential loss of continuity;
- Added costs (liability insurance, tax reimbursement for expenses, workers comp)
- More cumbersome invoicing/reporting process;
- More out of pocket expenses for Ms. Potts;
- Increased administrative work for Ms. Potts (obtaining LLC, tax preparation, etc.)

Bringing this function in-house will require that Council pay taxes and retirement in addition to salary (\$58,432). City Office space will be identified, and the office space lease (\$425/month) will be terminated at the end of 2008. Operating expenses will continue at \$6,000 annually. The total for two years is \$133,964.

Gretchen Williams
Legislative Services
02-08-08