



Public Amenities Committee
Meeting Summary

Wed. April 23, 2008 10:30 a.m. Conference Room 391

Members Present: Lehmann, Johnson, Madison, Robb
Members Absent: None
Other Council Present: Montero

- American Assoc. of Museums meeting in Denver
 - Event Facility special revenue fund
 - Parks alcohol policy
-

1. American Association of Museums Annual Meeting in Denver

Tom Downey, President & CEO, Denver Children’s Museum, told the Committee about the American Association of Museums Annual Meeting in Denver starting April 27. George Sparks, President & CEO of the Denver Museum of Nature & Science, is the General Chair for this annual meeting. The theme is leadership, and discussions will be about getting the message out about how important our museums are in efforts to inspire kids about learning.

The Colorado Convention Center is the main venue, but sessions and events are scheduled for a long list of local museums and venues, including Red Rocks, Denver Art Museum, Museum of Modern Art, and many others.

Councilwoman Lehmann noted that several of Denver’s Tier III organizations will be performing during the meeting.

2. Parks & Recreation – Event Facility Special Revenue Fund

Committee Action

The Committee approved filing a bill to:

- change the title of the “Chief Hosa Lodge & Campground special revenue fund” to “Event Facility special revenue fund”;
- allow expenditures from this fund for improvements at Chief Hosa, Washington Park Boathouse, City Park Pavilion, The Molkey and the concession building at Central Park at Stapleton; and
- close out the City Park Pavilion Historic District special revenue fund and transfer its funds to the Event Facility special revenue fund.

The Committee wants to review any proposal to add an Event Facility in the future.

Summary of Discussion

Fred Weiss, Director of Finance & Administration; and Jill McGranahan, Director of Communications; explained that the proposed bill would rename and repurpose the existing Chief Hosa special revenue fund in order to create an Event Facility special revenue fund into which the rental proceeds from the event facilities would be deposited. These revenues would be used for improvements to these facilities. Generally, the funds from any one facility would be used on that facility. However, if there were major repairs needed at one facility, funds from others could be put toward making those repairs.

Mr. Weiss said that the language of the ordinance would allow for other facilities to be added by the manager. He said the only one known at this point is the concession stand at Central Park at Stapleton. The Committee suggested that the ordinance language include the Stapleton facility, since the City will be taking it over soon. Any additional facility the manager wants to identify as an event facility will need to be reviewed by Council.

Councilwoman Robb asked if any funds raised by an organization such as the City Park Alliance would go into this fund. Mr. Weiss said no; the only funds that would be deposited to this special revenue fund would from rental of these facilities.

The Committee expressed concern that special revenue funds become less transparent and that the pooling of funds would take funds away from some facilities in favor of one. Mr. Weiss said that the intent is to reinvest funds in the facility from which they derive. But the special revenue fund provides some flexibility when one facility needs major repairs.

The Committee did not want the ordinance language to allow for the addition of event facilities without Council review.

3. Parks & Recreation – Review proposed changes to Alcohol Policy

Committee Action

The Council has no official action on proposed Parks & Recreation Manager's policies, so the Committee took no action. It noted that the Park & Recreation Advisory Board will hold a public hearing on May 8 on the proposed changes.

Summary of Discussion

Fred Weiss, Director of Finance & Administration, told the Committee that the Department proposes to amend the Manager's Rules & Regulations to:

- add Central Park at Stapleton (the City will soon take over the Stapleton facilities from the Stapleton Development Corporation) to the lists of:
 - Special Occasion permit sites;
 - Festival permit sites; and
 - Race/Walk permit sites;
- add City Park Pavilion to the list of Event Facilities; and
- allow spirituous liquors to be served (but not sold) at all of the Event Facilities, except for the Washington Park Boat House, which would remain limited to beer, 3.2 beer, wine, and champagne.

Mr. Weiss said Parks & Recreation will soon be taking on responsibility for Stapleton's Central Park from the Stapleton Development Corporation. The Dept. has been asked to maintain the level of service to which the users have become accustomed, including the serving of spirituous liquors at some events. This large park should be designated as a Special Occasion Permit Site, Festival Event Permit Site and Race/Walk Permit Site anyway, according to the Dept., and this designation will allow the same amenities the Stapleton community wants.

The City Park Pavilion has been operated by a concessionaire until recently, but the Dept. soon will take over its management. The Pavilion, which is similar to Washington Park Boathouse, is seen as a good addition to the list of Event Facility Permit Sites. These facilities are managed by the Parks & Recreation Event Facilities Coordinator, Carol Delude.

Another proposed change in the policy is to allow service of spirituous liquor at the Event Facilities (except for Washington Park Boathouse). Mr. Weiss said this is a continuation of enhancing the Event Facilities and the rental revenue from them. The Dept. is working to have the Event Facilities revenues earmarked for maintenance of these facilities.

The Committee agreed with the addition of Central Park at Stapleton and City Park Pavilion as an Event Facility. Members asked about the requirements for security at event facilities when liquor is being served. An Event Coordinator from Parks & Recreation must be on-site, and as part of the liquor license requirement, a licensed bar tender must be serving. Caterers, who have the liquor license and insurance, have licensed bartenders who are trained to recognize intoxicated guests and underage guests.

Mr. Weiss said that some people have linked the proposed policy change to the on-going discussions of a task force studying admission-based events. He said there is no linkage. This change would remove only one of the hurdles involved in allowing that type of event.

Keith Pryor, Councilwoman Madison's appointee to the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board, said that the Board discussed the draft policy at its March 13 meeting. The Board will hold a public hearing on the proposed changes to the policy on May 8 at 6:00 p.m. at the La Alama Recreation Center. The public comment period is open until May 23, and comments may be posted on the DenverGov Website. Following the public hearing, the Board will make a recommendation to the Manager. He noted that the only proposed change is to allow serving of spirituous liquors at the Event Facilities.

The Committee discussed the notification concerning these changes and complaints about the lack of adequate notice. Councilwoman Robb indicated she was considering offering an amendment to Chapter 12 to require that Parks notify the Registered Neighborhood Organizations when changes to policy are being considered.

Following are descriptions of the various types of permit sites and the parks and facilities included in each group. Below that is a chart summarizing the current and proposed policies regarding service and sale of alcohol allowed at each type of site. Highlighted in red are the proposed changes from current policy.

Special Occasion Permit Sites are for by-invitation-only private affairs, such as a wedding. Beer, 3.2 beer, wine and champagne only may be served but not sold. These sites are:

- Centennial Gardens
- City Park (Flower Garden & Meadow)
- Confluence Park
- Skyline Park (South, Middle & North)
- **Central Park at Stapleton shelters (pending adoption of the proposed amendment)**

Festival Permit Sites are for major festival events, such as Dragon Boat and Taste of Colorado. Festival permits are available with and without the right to serve or sell alcohol. Beer, 3.2 beer, wine, champagne, and hard liquor served as mixed drinks in prepackaged or premixed form may be served and sold, but the appropriate liquor licenses must be obtained from the Denver Dept. of Excise and License and Colorado Dept. of Revenue. These sites are:

- City Park
- Civic Center Park
- Confluence Park
- Creek Front park
- Denver Performing Art Sculpture Park
- Skyline Park
- Sloan's Lake Park (limited to 2 events per year; limited to sale of beer and wine only)
- **Central Park at Stapleton (pending adoption of the proposed amendment)**

Race/Walk Permit Sites are for races and walking events. Race/Walk permits are available with and without the right to serve or serve or sell alcohol.

Beer and 3.2 beer only may be served or sold within a restricted area at the termination point. The appropriate liquor licenses must be obtained from the Denver Dept. of Excise and License and Colorado Dept. of Revenue. These sites are:

- Bear Creek Park and Trail
- Berkeley park
- Bible Park
- Cheesman Park
- City of Cuernavaca Park
- City park and Esplanade
- Civic Center Park
- Cherry Creek Trail
- Confluence Park
- Gates Crescent Park
- Red Rocks Park
- South Platte River Trail
- Washington Park
- **Central Park at Stapleton (pending adoption of the proposed amendment)**

Event Facility Permit Sites are for by-invitation-only private affairs, such as a wedding. Beer, 3.2 beer, wine, champagne, and spirituous liquor (except at Washington Park Boathouse) may be served. No alcohol beverages may be sold under an Event facility Permit.

These site are:

- Montclair Civic Building (The Molkery)
- Chief Hosa Lodge
- Washington Park Boathouse (only beer wine and champagne may be served)
- **City Park Pavilion (if the proposed amendment is adopted)**

Comparison of Current and Proposed Policy

Type of Permit	SERVE 3.2 beer, beer, wine, champagne		SELL 3.2 beer, beer, wine, champagne		SERVE spirituous liquor		SELL spirituous liquor	
	Current	Proposed	Current	Proposed	Current	Proposed	Current	Proposed
Special Occasion (Private event)	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No
Festival (Public)	Yes*	Yes*	Yes*	Yes*	Pre-mixed only **	Pre-mixed only**	Pre-mixed only**	Pre-mixed only**
Run/Walk (Registrant only)	Beer only	Beer only	Beer only	Beer only	No	No	No	No
Event Facility (Private event)	Yes	Yes	No	No	No***	Yes*** (the only change)	No	No

* Sloan's Lake: No champagne; limit of 2 festivals/year serving alcohol.

** Sloan's Lake: No spirituous liquor in any form

*** Washington Park Boathouse: No spirituous liquor in any form