



Public Amenities Committee Summary

Wed. Sept. 10, 2008

10:30 a.m.

Conference Room 391

Committee Members Present: Lehmann, Chair; Madison, Vice-Chair; Johnson
Other Council Present: Garcia

Agenda:

- 1) 2008 One Book, One Denver announcement
- 2) Denver County Cultural Council: appointments and re-appointments
- 3) Final Playground Master Plan
- 4) Golf fees

1. 2008 One Book, One Denver announcement

Committee Discussion

Erin Trapp, Denver Office of Cultural Affairs, announced that "The Thin Man" by the American author Dashiell Hammett is the 2008 One Book, One Denver selection. She noted that the book and the movie are classics. Denver citizens are encouraged to participate in the program by checking out or purchasing the book and attending related events through October 31. Tote bags with books and information are available should someone want to host a book club. Information is on line at www.denvergov.org/onebook.

2. Denver County Cultural Council (DCCC): Appointments & Re-appointments

Committee Action

The Committee approved the following appointments to the DCCC:

At-Large appointment:

- Michael Uhlenkamp for a term ending 9-30-11

Representatives of Citywide organizations:

- Felix Ortiz, representing Denver Office of Cultural Affairs, for a term ending 9-30-10
- Capucine Chapman, representing Denver Public Schools, for a term ending 9-30-10

At-Large re-appointments:

- Harriet Hogue for a term ending 9-30-10
- Peggy Chiu for a term ending 9-30-10
- Andrew Hudson for a term ending 9-30-12
- Harry Sterling for a term ending 9-30-12

Committee Discussion

Councilmember Lehmann welcomed representatives from the Denver County Cultural Council. Michael Uhlenkamp, DCCC candidate, stated he is from Minnesota, originally from North Dakota. He has been involved with various boards in Denver since coming to the City and he is very interested in the arts. He is looking forward to participating on the DCCC.

3. Parks & Recreation: Final Playground Master Plan

Committee Discussion

Pam Schooley, Parks & Recreation, explained that the Play Area Master Plan was created to identify opportunities for play areas to meet the needs and abilities of all children. The Plan works in conjunction with the Park and Recreation Game Plan and compliments Denver's Learning Landscape Schoolyard enhancement program. She added that Denver is unique in this type of approach compared to other national cities. Ms. Schooley noted that Denver has 145 playgrounds and over the years, playground maintenance and replacement issues have been great challenges. Currently, 38% of Denver Parks & Recreation system of play areas is older than 15 years old and 65% of the system is older than 10 years and will need replacement within the next five years.

The Plan provides a framework for four values: a sustainable environment, equity in facilities and services, community engagement, and sound economics. In addition, the Plan incorporates management standards for three basic needs: behavioral needs, ecological principals, and management criteria which include access, safety, and risk management strategies.

The implementation of the Denver Play Area System will be grouped into five categories: leadership and management, public education and outreach, training and staff development, community partnerships and funding opportunities. Ms. Schooley indicated that some of the opportunities include increasing CIP funding, more "regional" focus to share open areas and costs, and analyzing capital replacement. She added that the City currently maintains eight regional park areas: Central Park, Parkfield Park, City Park, Washington Park, Bible Park, Ruby Hill Park, Bear Creek Park, and Sloans Lake Park. Because trends and standards change, the Plan incorporates children's perspectives, culture and art, health and accessibility considerations. Councilmember Johnson questioned if Denver Public Schools (DPS) was involved in the process for the Plan development. DPS is collaborating with Denver on this Plan and has two members on the Parks Advisory Committee. They spend \$475,000 on each Learning Landscape, commented Ms. Schooley.

Councilmember Garcia asked how the park rankings were established and asked how the terms "overserved" and "underserved" were used in those rankings. Ms. Schooley explained that the rankings were based on improvement priorities – what type of park it is, safety, accessibility, and focus of the neighborhood. She noted that the terms overserved and underserved are related to geographical designation and refer to play opportunities. Councilmember Johnson said in her district a constituent donated a parcel of land for use as a play area and encouraged citizens to consider donating land for use as "pocket parks".

4. Parks & Recreation: Golf Fees Clarification

Committee Action

The Committee approved codification changes approved last year but not reflected in the final ordinance as follows:

- Phase out of the Annual Golf Card, and replace with the Golf Loyalty Program; and
- Friday fees based on: weekend fees April-Sept. and weekday fees Oct.-March.

Committee Discussion

Scott Rethlake, Parks & Recreation-Golf, stated that two items needed to be clarified regarding golf fees related to weekday and weekend rates. First, the annual card will be removed as an option to people who are interested in purchasing new annual memberships and who did not purchase an annual card in 2007 and will be replaced with a "Loyalty Program", similar to industry standards. Secondly, weekend fee rates will now include Fridays on peak periods and during the off season, weekday fees will apply on Fridays. Mr. Rethlake noted that senior discounts will be applied to these rates. In addition, Parks & Recreation determined that it is better to raise fee amounts every year rather than every other year, so he announced that they will be coming to Council soon to propose another golf rate increase for 2009. A Golf Advisory Group is in place to help make these recommendations, said Mr. Rethlake. He added that since Golf is an enterprise fund, the division pays its own expenses.