



Public Amenities Committee Summary

Wed. Jan. 14, 2009

10:30 a.m.

Conference Room 391

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

Agenda: Weather Station at City Park Golf Course
Clyfford Still Museum Land Transactions and Update

Announcements from the Chair

The Recreation Task Force has completed its *draft* recommendations for guiding the future decisions about Denver Parks & Recreation facilities and programming for the next several years. Public meetings will be held to discuss the draft, which can be found on DenverGov.org. All meetings will be held between 7:00 pm and 8:30 pm:

- Feb. 3 Martin Luther King Recreation Center
- Feb. 4 East High School Lunchroom
- Feb. 5 Swansea Recreation Center
- Feb. 10 Harvard Gulch Recreation Center
- Feb. 11 Barnum Recreation Center

Opening of the Ruby Hill Rail Yard at Ruby Hill Park for the 3rd year has been delayed until Jan. 24 due to the extraordinary warm temperatures. Opening ceremonies will be at 10:30 am.

1. Weather Station at City Park Golf Course

Committee Action

The Committee approved filing a bill adopting the proposed 5-year agreement with the Denver Museum of Nature & Science regarding installation of a weather station at City Park Golf Course.

Summary of Discussion

Scott Rethlake, Denver Golf Manager, and Dave Noel, Museum of Nature & Science (DMNS), presented the proposal. The Golf Division will receive \$5,000 to provide trenching necessary for the installation and \$120 per year to defray the cost of electricity.

This installation is the result of collaboration among the National Weather Service, the Denver Museum of Nature & Science, Denver Parks & Recreation, other weather and climate organizations, and the local television weather forecasters.

When DIA opened, the official weather station for Denver moved with it. However, weather at DIA can vary significantly from here in the city, and the TV forecasters and others have been working to establish an official station in town. This collaboration makes it possible to provide truly local weather conditions, and it supports the mission of the DMNS, which will own the installation. The station will transmit data to the museum and become a “real time” part of the Hall of Earth exhibit. DMNS will relay the data to the National Weather Service.

DMNS secured donation of materials and labor for installation. Alcore Fence Company donated the City-approved green 6-foot chain link fence for the enclosure around the 28-foot mast and instruments. DMNS will operate, service and maintain the facility. The site, selected by the Golf Division and DMNS, will be 400 feet south of E. 26th Ave., 700 feet north of E. 23rd Ave., and 2,300 feet west of Colorado Blvd.

The Committee had questions about the safety of the facility and was assured that the small-diameter mast was unlikely to be hit by golf balls, and the instruments, while quite sensitive, are durable. Hundreds of similar installations are found around the globe, many on remote mountaintops.

DMNS has met with some of the neighborhoods in the area and has meetings scheduled with others. A member of Mr. Noel’s staff working on the project is also a member of the City Park Alliance and has kept that organization up to date. Weather permitting, installation will begin in March, soon after the opening of the DMNS special exhibit *Nature Unleashed* concerning extreme weather occurrences.

2. Clyfford Still Museum Land Transactions and Update

Committee Action

The Committee approved filing the proposed Exchange Agreement necessary to complete various land conveyances allowing construction of the Clyfford Still Museum at Bannock and W. 13th Ave.

Summary of Discussion

Dean Sobel, Clyfford Still Museum (CSM) Director, and George Messina, The Romani Group, local representative on the architectural and construction team, described the proposed agreement and reviewed the site plan. The lead architect is Brad Cloepfil of Allied Works Architecture.

Mr. Sobel said all three finalists in the architectural selection suggested a north-facing front door rather than facing onto Bannock Street as a way to reinforce the CSM’s relationship to the neighboring Denver Art Museum. A north front also relates to the Civic Center and downtown. A one-acre landscaped forecourt north of the building will provide a transition for the visitor from the city to the museum.

In order to create the desired site plan, the following transactions are needed:

- Vacate a portion of a dedicated alley on the site;
- Convey land from CSM to the City for a new dedicated alley;
- Convey land from a vacated alley from the City to CSM;
- Convey 1248 Bannock Street from the City to CSM (City purchased the site for the museum with private funds raised by CSM); and
- Provide for CSM to use and maintain City-owned land on the southeast corner of Bannock and 13th Ave. for drainage, landscaping and public access to the CSM building.