



Public Amenities Committee Summary

Wed. March 25, 2009

10:30 a.m.

Conference Room 391

Committee Members Present: Lehmann, Johnson

Committee Members Absent: Madison

Other Council Present: None

Agenda: Agreement between Parks & Recreation and CSU Extension Service
Denver County Cultural Council quarterly report

1. Intergovernmental Agreement with Colorado State University Denver Extension

Committee Action

The Committee approved filing the proposed new IGA between Denver Parks & Recreation and the CSU Extension Service. Members requested information on the various programs and recruitment of adult volunteers in electronic format for their newsletters and periodic updates at Committee.

Summary of Discussion

Jude O'Connor, Director of Natural Resources at Parks & Recreation; Barbara Martin Worley, CSU Extension Service Director; JD McFarland, Master Gardener; and Patrick Wheeler, Assistant City Attorney, described the proposed agreement and the relationship between the two parties.

The current agreement was signed in 1982 and needed extensive updating and modification. The proposed agreement will maintain the relationship between the City and CSU, and Denver residents will continue to receive many of the services as well as a variety of new programs. It is a framework agreement that reflects a partnership in which both parties have flexibility.

The primary changes are:

- Extension Service personnel will now be CSU rather than Career Service Authority employees, no longer included in the City's payroll.
- Extension Service will use the CSU procurement system rather than Denver's.
- Parks & Recreation will provide quarterly payment of a general annual appropriation, which will be defined by the jointly-developed annual work plan, rather than paying for specific supplies, copying, travel, and partial salaries.
- Extension Service has flexibility to work with other City agencies, such as Human Services.

Examples of services provided by the Extension Service in 2009:

- Consultation and evaluation of 6 of Denver's athletic fields.
- Provide training in shrub and tree care and pruning for Parks staff and for facility managers at DPS schools.

- Creation of a Native Plant Masters program.
- Develop environmental education programs.
- Expand the Health and Nutrition program with emphasis on food safety and good nutrition on limited income.
- Formation of two new 4-H Clubs in conjunction with Parks & Recreation at St. Charles and La Alma recreation centers.
- 4-H programs include certified baby-sitting classes, photography, nutrition and cooking.

Parks & Recreation's 2009 budget for the Extension Service is \$238,000, after the required 5% reduction. Ms. Martin said that each dollar of City funds is leveraging \$2.50, mostly in federal funds.

2. Denver County Cultural Council Quarterly Report

Committee Action

The Committee thanked all members of the Denver County Cultural Council for their commitment and hard work on behalf of the small organizations in Denver.

Summary of Discussion

Bernie Karshmer, Chair of the Denver County Cultural Council (DCCC), and Jane Potts, Program Administrator, discussed the 2009 grant cycle and the impact of current economic conditions on the sales tax revenue for the Scientific & Cultural Facilities District (SCFD), of which DCCC represents the Tier III organizations.

- DCCC received 98 grant applications requesting a total of \$2,110,902.
- SCFD funds available total \$1,573,729.66 (13% less than for 2008).
- Organizations may request up to 15% of the prior year's operating budget to a maximum of \$40,000 (approximately a dozen qualify for \$40,000).
- Six organizations applied for the first time this year; seven eligible organizations did not apply.
- Interviews with applicants will be held through May 12; DCCC will determine final allocations on May 19.
- DCCC has \$25,445 for Technical Assistance in the 2nd and 3rd quarters.
- DCCC has \$67,767 for collaboration grants, applications for which are due May 1.
- The collaboration grants have been very successful, not only leveraging funds but also leading to valuable cultural collaboration.
- Tier III organizations from all seven counties now have a website where they post their performances, exhibits, and other events.
- Tier I and II organizations have indicated they would provide in-kind services to the Tier III groups, and DCCC is in discussions with them.
- In 2010, several of the current Tier II groups will fall back into Tier III, based on attendance, and several of them will qualify for the \$40,000 maximum.
- Tier III attendance in the seven counties surpassed that of the Tier I or II groups.
- Most Tier III museums have a monthly free day supported by SCFD funds.
- Tier III groups know how to work without resources so many of survive the economic decline.
- DCCC members are committed to the cause and are very supportive of the Tier III organizations.
- Taxpayers are to be commended for their support of SCFD.