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## Public Amenities Committee Summary

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**August 26, 2009**

**10:30 a.m.**

**Conference Room 391**

**Committee Members Present:** Lehmann, Madison, Johnson

**Other Council Present:** Hancock, Lopez, Nevitt

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*Agenda: Acceptance of two works of art into the city's public art collection.  
Recreation Center Task Force Recommendations*

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### 1. **Denver Office of Cultural Affairs – Art work donations**

#### Committee Action

The Committee approved filing bills to accept two pieces of art work for Denver's Public Art Collection.

#### Summary of Discussion

Kendall Peterson, Public Art Program Manager, requested approval for addition of two works of art to Denver's Public Art Collection, as described below. Both additions have been reviewed by the Public Art Committee and the Public Art Commission, as required by ordinance, and are recommended for acceptance.

"Garden Stories" by Lars Stanley, a blacksmith, is located at the Denver Urban Garden in Greenway Park at Stapleton. It was created through the Stapleton Public Art Program during development of the park. Denver Parks & Recreation Dept. has accepted and is maintaining the park. The piece consists of hand-crafted, wrought steel sculptural elements based on imagery of vegetables, flowers and gardening implements, and a gate at the entry to the Urban Garden. The work was selected in an open public art competition overseen by the Stapleton public art program. The piece will not be a maintenance burden.

The second piece is "Untitled" by Anthony Magar, one of the nine nationally-recognized sculptors who created large works made from donated plywood in 1968, for installation at D.C. Burns Park at Colorado Blvd. and Alameda. "Untitled" was bequeathed to the City by the late Suzanne W. Joshel, a patron of the arts and former resident of the Hilltop neighborhood. This work will be installed at Burns Park, joining those remaining from the 1968 "Art for the Cities, Inc." project. The new piece will be moved to the park and restored, as have the others in this sculpture park. The estimate to relocate, install and restore the work is \$3000 to \$5000, which is available from the Public Art maintenance budget.

Ms. Peterson said the City often receives offers of donated art work. The Denver Office of Cultural Affairs has established a Public Art Committee to review these offers and help selected public art generated by capital projects. The Denver Commission for Cultural Affairs, appointed by the Mayor for two year terms, also reviews these offers to consider how the piece will benefit the collection; determine if it would present a maintenance burden; whether or not the collection already contains any of the artist's

works; and where it might be appropriately sited. Donations are a good way of obtaining public art for parks not scheduled for major renovation that would trigger the Public Art requirement.

## 2. Recreation Center Task Force Recommendations

Kevin Patterson, Manager, Denver Parks & Recreation (DPR); Dody Erikson, Deputy Manager for Recreation and Facility; Chantal Unfug, Policy Adviser to the Manager; Chris Dropinski, Green Play Consulting; and Dr. Urbana, member of the Task Force; presented the recommendations of the Recreation Center Task Force.

### Summary of Core Recommendations:

- Establish a tiered system of centers
  - Neighborhood – serves primarily immediate area with basic amenities
  - Local – serves a slightly larger geographic area with a broader array of amenities
  - Regional – serves city-wide with larger facilities and more amenities (indoor pool, state of the art fitness equipment, etc.); goal of 7 days a week.
- Engage local communities to guide transition to the new model and on-going programming.
- Embrace partners and other service providers as part of the DPR system.
- Set fees based on the amenities available at each center.

### Pilot Recreation Center Sites:

- Harvey Park                      Council District 2
- Hiawatha Davis                Council District 11
- Scheitler/Highland          Council District 1
- St. Charles                      Council District 8
- Globeville                        Council District 9
- Central Park at Stapleton    Council District 11

These sites will establish Community Advisory Committees (CAC) to provide feedback and assistance to the recreation center for identification of:

- Community needs;
- Partnership opportunities;
- Marketing strategies;
- Programming and volunteer needs;
- Enhanced recreational opportunities;
- Assist in promoting the center's image in the community;
- Engage in open exchange of ideas and communication with center supervisor and department staff;
- Identify and align potential community partners to enhance recreation services; and
- Seek to increase center participation and meeting the community's recreation needs.

Members for the CACs are being recruited with a posting on the website and at the recreation centers. The schedule calls for selection of members by October and have partners in place in the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2010. Partners will compliment the services already offered at the center.

Councilwoman Montero reminded the Committee that the Recreation Center Task Force process was started in response to the controversy during the budget process and potential closure of Globeville recreation center. She asked Mr. Patterson to be up-front with the residents if this is a first step toward a closure. Mr. Patterson said he does not see it that way,

but there are other considerations. Neither Globeville nor St. Charles has the physical layout or amenities the residents and the Department would like. But the CAC's are going to address the operations and services, not the capital needs. It is possible that a partner could make capital improvements, but that will have to be considered if offered.

Councilwoman Madison said Globeville is near a FasTracks station, which will change the demands on it.

Councilwoman Lehmann, Co-Chair of the Recreation Center Task Force, thanked the Department and the members of the Task Force for all the work that has been done to date. She noted that the departmental budget discussions will be held in September, where Parks & Recreation will have more to report on this process.