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Who pays for DNC protests cleanup?



The 2008 Taste of Colorado faces a new problem this year because it's scheduled to start the day after Civic Center will be used by demonstrators. Organizers are giving up one day for set-up.

A key issue is if the protestors leave a messy, garbage-littered Civic Center, who will pay to clean it up?

(At left - Civic Center Park during a previous 'Taste')

It's always a big job to stage the annual Taste of Colorado, which annually attracts 500,000 visitors to Civic Center over Labor Day weekend and features food from more than 50 restaurants.

But this year organizers face a bigger and a unique challenge – the Democratic National Convention.

The convention runs from Monday, Aug. 25 to Thursday, Aug. 28 – ending just before the Taste is supposed to kick off on Friday, Aug. 29. According to the city website, Civic Center is available for convention-related

events until 6 p.m. that Thursday. The city says the park has a capacity of 25,000 for convention events.

“We welcome protesters ... at the same time I believe it is their responsibility to pay for cleanup.”

Councilman Charlie Brown, Economic Development Committee, February 6, 2008

Civic Center (and other city public spaces) are expected to be heavily used by demonstrators and other groups, raising concern about whether Civic Center can be cleaned up in time for

Taste organizers to set up their event.

Councilman Charlie Brown first raised the issue at a recent meeting of the City Council's Economic Development Committee, which he chairs.

According to Susan Rogers Kark, vice president of the Downtown Denver Partnership, which produces the annual event, “It will be important that park maintenance and trash removal be done on a daily basis and on Wednesday leading up to the scheduled set-up for Taste in

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News & Notes

DENVER EAST HIGH SCHOOL students Nick Brown and Troy Weise are hosting a used sports equipment drive. The donations from the drive will provide hundreds of boys and girls in Denver with sports equipment they need to participate in community athletic programs but cannot afford. Equipment is needed for basketball, baseball and soccer.



Currently collections are taking place at Hamilton Middle School and the District 6 Council office of Councilman Charlie Brown, 2324 East Exposition.



If you wish to donate new or gently used equipment or support the drive in any other way, feel free to stop by the office. Additionally, if you have any questions, concerns or comments do not hesitate to call Nick Brown (Charlie's son) at 303-907-8266.

Thanks for supporting a great cause!



(Continued from page 1)

order to make sure the park is ready. It takes a great deal of time to set up for an event of this size—we will have crews and suppliers working around the clock for more than sixty hours. Normally, we have the entire grounds of Civic Center park and the surrounding streets starting on Wednesday. This year, some street closures will be delayed by 24 hours and a portion of Civic Center Park will be permitted for convention-related events until 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday.”

Cleaning up Civic Center Park during and after an event is a big job. Costs can range up to \$40,000 for major event such as Taste.

Brown warned at the Feb. 6 meeting that “This is an issue we are going to have to deal with. ... We welcome protestors ... at the same time I believe it is their responsibility to pay for cleanup.”

On Feb. 29, city officials issued guidelines for park use during the convention, but some key questions remain.

The city on March 3 started accepting requests from groups that want to hold rallies, marches and other events. The application window was to remain open through March 14. Requests that overlap

for place and time will be decided by lottery. Permits for park use will be good only for one day and can't be transferred.

Once the lottery has decided event priorities, groups can apply for permits and pay the appropriate fees.

The city will take requests for permits and licenses through Aug. 11, but submissions after March 14 will be granted first-come, first-served.

The city won't require insurance for groups, and it is banning overnight camping in Civic Center. According to the city's website, there will be no fee for groups that want to hold assemblies. Fees will apply for an event that has commercial elements, such as admission fees or items for sale.

David Broadwell, assistant city attorney, said it's very difficult legally to require damage deposits for free speech events. Brown has met with City Attorney David Fine and is continuing to monitor the issue of who will pay for cleanup.

Details about the permitted process are on the city's website at www.denvergov.org/dnc2008.

Would-be DNC protestors talk a big game

There's a lot of incendiary rhetoric about the Democratic National Convention floating around the Web, some of it from a Denver-based group named “Recreate 68,” which has promised to mount major protests during the convention.

Here's statement from its website, www.recreate68.org:

“We intend to recreate that revolutionary feeling and pick-up where our predecessors left off.”

Another site, www.unconventionalaction.org, tries to sound even more militant: “We aim to organize militant direct action that manifests opposition to both the Democratic and Republican Parties. ... We can expect the 2008 conventions to be a major flashpoint.”



Recreate 68's website promises a five-day “Festival of Democracy” in Civic Center. Given that the city says it will issue only single-day permits, it will be interesting to see how the group deals with that. Recreate 68 already has complained about the city's not lifting the standard ban on overnight camping in any city park.

The group also promises five “themed” days of protest, starting on Sunday, Aug. 24.

Changes considered for landmark designations

Landmark preservation is an important and integral part of Denver's history. By designating and preserving eligible structures and districts, the city of Denver can retain parts of its unique heritage while it grows and redevelops over time.

Over the years, many landmark designations have occurred, acting as a positive force to preserve Denver's historic structures. However, in my tenure on the council, I have witnessed several attempts for historic designation that have shed light on some serious issues and problems with Denver's Landmark Preservation Ordinance.

Most notably, our preservation ordinance does not contain adequate protection for personal property rights. In one recent example, a property owner did not receive notification that an application had been submitted to designate their property. Currently, there is no requirement to notify the affected property owners until the application is well along in the city process.

Our ordinance needs reworking. We must ensure that the notification process works and is fair to all sides. It is not difficult to submit an application for designation (there's only a \$250 application fee), so the ordinance needs some changes to make the process fair and equitable for property owners.

Changes that I am considering include requiring proof of upfront notification to all property owners for an application to be submitted and considered complete. This common sense measure would protect against situations where an application proceeds through the designation



The S.R. DeBoer property on East Iliff Avenue just east of South Logan Street was the focus of a hostile historic designation that highlighted problems with the current designation process.

process while property owners remain unaware of others' proposed changes to their long settled property rights.

Other potential changes may include requiring applications to meet a higher threshold for designation when a property owner does not consent to the designation and perhaps make designation easier when the owner wants it. This higher threshold for the so-called "hostile designations" may include requiring applications to meet further criteria for designation. A super-majority vote of the Landmark Preservation Commission and City Council would also be required for designation.

Only in rare and unique circumstances should an individual property be designated without owner consent. Frankly, I don't like hostile designations. It seems unfair that a private citizen, with no ownership in the property, can put a cloud on the use and enjoyment of another person's property.

Landmark preservation can be misused as a tool to halt the redevelopment that is necessary for our neighborhoods' vitality. These abuses injure property owners and harm the landmark designation process.

I plan to work on these issues in the future to ensure that Denver's Landmark Preservation Ordinance achieves the worthy intent of preserving history while doing so through a justifiable process that respects and protects the rights and interests of all involved.

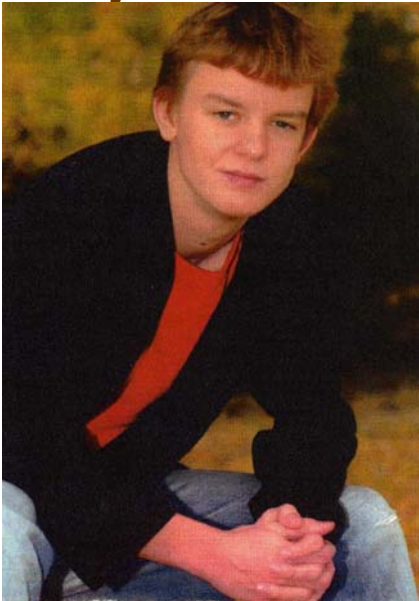
- Councilman Charlie Brown

"We have only sought to ... exercise our rights as Denver property owners."

- DeBoer heir Elizabeth Potts

Turn to page 4 for an update on the DeBoer heirs' struggles with their neighbors

Cody Brown wins NYU social entrepreneurship scholarship



Cody Brown, son of Charlie and Suzanne Brown, has been named a recipient of the of The Catherine B. Reynolds Foundation Undergraduate Scholarship in Social Entrepreneurship at New York University. The program carries up to a \$20,000 tuition award each year for the final two years of study.

Out of 300 applications, 30 applicants were interviewed for three hours each and 10 scholars were selected.

The program is designed for students who 1) have or are planning to develop an innovative idea to address a specific

social issue, 2) those that will work in and/or build the infrastructure needed for social entrepreneurial work to take root, and 3) those who will spur others to action on a national and/or global scale to particular social problems through media.

Cody Brown is a sophomore studying film at NYU. His scholarship project is nyulocal.com, a website designed to create a new kind of campus newspaper.

He attended University Park, Knight and Thomas Jefferson schools and graduated from Denver University High School. He transferred from Chapman University (Orange, CA) to NYU last fall.

Another chapter closes in DeBoer debacle

Nearly a year after the City Council designated part of the S.R. DeBoer property on East Iliff Avenue a historic district, another legal cloud has lifted for the embattled DeBoer heirs.

The landmark designation in March 2007 seemed to end long-running problems the family had with neighbors, but the heirs suffered a series of harassment incidents last spring, and in May one neighbor, Ana Novas, filed an adverse possession claim on a 15-foot wide strip on land on the western edge of the DeBoer property, claiming title should revert to her because she'd had use and possession of it since 1978.

(An unrelated but even more egregious adverse possession claim in Boulder has received widespread national publicity, sparking pro-

posed state legislation to better regulate use of the ancient legal doctrine. That bill is pending in the legislature.)

Fortunately for the DeBoer heirs, Novas has dropped her adverse possession claim, cancelling the court case that had been scheduled for February.

The long struggle over the property by the late city landscape architect S.R. DeBoer started in 2005 after the death of DeBoer's daughter, Elizabeth T. Wright. Her children, Elizabeth Potts and Thomas and Lawrence Wright, decided they needed to sell the property in order to settle the estate.

That prompted action by neighbors to designate the property as a historic district - without informing or involving the DeBoer heirs. (See

related story on page 3 about problems with current historic designation procedures.) A smaller version of the proposed district was approved by City Council in March 2007. (Councilman Charlie Brown voted against the designation, calling it "legalized claim jumping.")

The DeBoer heirs are continuing towards their original goal.

"After all that has happened to us, I hope we can count on the city's (and the rest of the City Council's) support if we are able to find a responsible developer for our property. All through this struggle, we have only sought to settle our late mother's estate as the law requires, and to exercise our rights as Denver property owners to pass our property along to a new owners," Elizabeth Potts recently wrote to Brown.