



Denver City Council

Public Amenities Committee
Meeting Summary

Date: October 17, 2006 Time: 11:00 a.m. Location: Council Conference Room

Members Present: Lehmann, Johnson, Robb, Rodriquez
Members Absent: Montero
Other Council Present: None

Agenda:

Parks & Recreation – Mountain Parks boundary adjustments
Theatres & Arenas – Increase expending authority
Denver Office of Cultural Affairs – Filming operations permitting
One Book One Denver Program – 2006 title announcement

1. Parks & Recreation – Mountain Parks boundary adjustments

Committee Action

The Committee approved minor boundary adjustments at Echo Lake Park and Summit Lake Park with the United States Forest Service (USFS) to resolve trespass encroachment issues.

Summary of Discussion

A.J. Tripp-Addison, Mountain Parks Superintendent, and Patrick Wheeler, Assistant City Attorney, explained that for years, the City and USFS had only incomplete property surveys dating from the 1870s. Each agency made or allowed others to make improvements based on the old surveys. A 1995 survey revealed that some of the improvements had been on property actually owned by the other agency. The City initiated a Small Tracts Act (STA) exchange in 2002. In 2003, the City and USFS entered into a memorandum of understanding to define the role of each agency to complete the STA process with a property exchange.

The property exchange has no cost associated with it. The exchange will result in the City receiving 1.825 acres at Summit Lake Park and the USFS receiving 1.212 acres at Echo Lake Park. Denver's structures currently on USFS land are the Summit Lake Park historic shelter house, parking at the shelter, and a portion of the Chicago Lakes overlook trail. These will be on Denver property as a result of the exchange. The University of Denver's High Altitude Lab 2, Lab 4, a dormitory, a field station shed were constructed on Denver property, requiring an agreement between the City and DU. After this property exchange, this agreement will no longer be required.

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2. Theatres & Arenas – Increase expending authority

Committee Action

The Committee approved increasing the 2006 expending authority of Theatres & Arenas by \$3.3 million, which is available in the Theatres & Arenas Special Revenue Fund. The Committee also approved filing the bill so that first reading is prior to presentation at a Mayor/Council meeting.

Summary of Discussion

Lewis Colin, Finance Director, Theaters & Arenas, and Mel Thompson, Budget Director, explained that this is not a supplemental for the General Fund. Theatres & Arenas anticipates that its 2006 revenue will be between \$3.5 M and \$4 M over budgeted revenues. The funds will be used for personnel, supplies, material, and internal services.

In 2006, there will be over 100 more events than in 2005 at the Denver Performing Arts Complex. While this translates into more revenue, there are also related expenditures with each show. This year, the circus has done far better than expected. Mr. Colin said it is very difficult to predict revenue for each year. Mr. Thompson said he makes Theatres & Arenas wait until very late in the year to calculate if additional expending authority will be needed. At the end of the 3rd quarter, revenue already surpassed the anticipated 2006 total.

Asked about the employee pool, Mr. Colin said the stage hands are now employed by SMG. Ushers are on-call City employees. Theatres & Arenas has 60 regular, full-time City employees.

3. Denver Office of Cultural Affairs – Filming operations permitting ordinance

Committee Action

The Committee approved filing an ordinance authorizing the Denver Office of Cultural Affairs (DOCA) to regulate and permit filming operations under adopted rules and regulations.

Summary of Discussion

Kevin Scott, Film & Event Liaison, DOCA; Ginger White, Economic Development Specialist, DOCA; and Laurie Heydman, Assistant City Attorney, explained that DOCA has been handling filming operations for several years. The authority for regulating filming had been under the Zoning Administrator until last year, when that portion of the code was repealed in anticipation of moving it to DOCA, but that ordinance has not been ready until now. The rules and regulations are being revised and updated.

The Committee discussion included:

- Timely and adequate notice to neighborhoods is important.
- Insurance requirements are waived for educational, charitable and non-profit entities.
- The City does not take on liability by issuing a permit.
- All other City permits must be obtained, such as street occupancy, parks, etc.
- In 2005, 125 permits for filming were issued; 140 have been issued to date in 2006.
- Approximately 50 permits are issued each year to students and classes.
- Most filming operations take place in Downtown and Lower Downtown.
- Filming operation in Denver could result in \$10 M in economic development.

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- Denver is promoting itself as a film-friendly city.
- A single website with filming-related requirements of all departments is being developed.

4. One Book One Denver Program – 2006 title announcement

Erin Trapp, Director, DOCA Director, and Julie Rodriguez, Literary Program Manager, DOCA, arrived from the Mayor's press conference announcement of the title selected for the 2007 One Book One Denver Program: The Milagro Beanfield War by John Nichols.

Ms. Trapp said that more than 20 titles were suggested by residents, booksellers, and Denver Public Library staff. The Mayor said he selected this book because the issues are relevant, and he noted especially the environmentalism, which resonates with the Greenprint Denver initiative.

Ms. Trapp noted that books by local authors are considered, but some of the problems encountered with these include that publishers don't have enough copies on hand and there are not Spanish or paperback editions.

Councilwoman Robb called attention to the woodcut illustrations in the book and suggested that these be used in the program.

The list of One Book One Denver events and activities was announced, and the schedule will be printed as an insert in the Sunday Denver Post this week. Information is also available on www.DenverGov.org/OneBook. One of the events is a reading by the author on Monday, November 13 at West High School. In the past two years, this event has drawn 500-800 people.

Councilwoman Lehmann noted that Council members are not able to attend Monday evening events, and she invited DOCA to bring the author to Council on November 13 for a short reading. She will introduce a proclamation in recognition of the book, the author, and the One Book One Denver Program.

Gretchen Williams
10-17-06