



Public Amenities Committee
Meeting Summary

Wed. June 25, 2008 10:30 a.m. Conference Room 391

Members Present: Lehmann, Johnson, Madison, Robb
Members Absent: None
Other Council Present: None

Agenda: Theatres & Arenas: Signage lease with Denver Theatre District
 Denver County Cultural Council: 2008 grant awards
 Parks & Recreation: Bond Projects update

1. Theatres & Arenas: Signage lease with Denver Theatre District

Committee Action

The Committee approved a lease for 20 years plus two 5-year optional extensions with Denver Theatre District, Inc. Theatres & Arenas would receive 15% of gross revenues.

Summary of Discussion

Erik Dyce, Director of Marketing for Theatres & Arenas, said the proposed lease would allow signage, per the Denver Theatre District (DTD) sign plan, on the Denver Performing Arts Center (DPAC) parking garage, one portion of the Colorado Convention Center, and potentially a kiosk at Skyline Park, with the approval of the manager of Parks & Recreation. The signage would help create the desired "bright lights" identity of the Theatre District; improve connection and encourage movement between the 16th Street Mall, DPAC, and convention center; and provide economic support and funding for public events in the district.

Revenue from the signs would fund DTD programming and events and encourage private investment within the district. DTD would receive 15% of the revenue; Theatres & Arenas would receive 15%; and the remainder would go to the sign company providing the superstructure. If signage is installed at Skyline Park, Parks & Recreation rather than Theatres & Arenas would receive the 15%. At his time, the manner in which that revenue would be handled is under discussion with the City Attorney's office.

2. Denver County Cultural Council: 2008 grant awards

Committee Action

The Committee accepted the Denver County Cultural Council's 2008 Scientific & Cultural Facilities District (SCFD) grant awards report and requested a report sometime next winter on how the Tier III organizations and Denver Public Schools are working together.

Summary of Discussion

Jane Potts, Denver County Cultural Council (DCCC) Program Director, and Harriet Hogue, DCCC Secretary, presented the 2008 grant awards. DCCC will distribute SCFD funds totaling over \$1.8 million to 84 Tier III organizations this year. This is \$238,673 more than in 2007. Organizations may request up to 15% of the previous year's expenses, to a maximum of \$40,000.

DCCC reviewed 92 applications. Eight did not meet minimum threshold score. Eighty-one received more funds than in 2007 (16 received more in 2007 than in 2006), and three received less than in 2007.

Discretionary funds for 2008 will be awarded for Technical Assistance (\$30,000) and Organizational Collaboration (\$40,000). This is the third year of Collaboration grants, which are an effort to extend the limited Tier III funds by encouraging groups to work together on shared performances or management projects, such as evaluation or marketing. This year, these funds provided for organizations to participate in the National Performing Arts Convention and the National American Association of Museums Convention. DCCC was able to pay a small stipend to groups that performed during the conventions.

Technical Assistance provides scholarships for related seminars and workshops; customized consultations; and professional development.

Ms. Potts said DCCC has tried to develop a strong relationship with Denver Public Schools (DPS) for years with limited success. This year, DPS asked what the Tier III groups can bring into the schools starting this fall. Councilwoman Johnson said a focus of the SCFD Board is working with all the school districts.

The joint study by DCCC and the Denver Office of Cultural Affairs (DOCA) on the performing groups and their needs pointed out the lack of performance spaces in Denver. Tier III groups and others are being pushed into the other counties. Some spaces in Denver are too expensive; others, such as the Newman Center at DU, are booked most of the time. Churches and synagogues are used, but these venues are not suitable for every type of performance group.

Denver needs a 300-seat performance space with a proper stage for dancers and good acoustics for musical groups. The Urban Land Institute (ULI) has been working with DPS to identify uses for the district's surplus properties. Ms. Hogue noted that several of the older schools contain wonderful auditoriums constructed to a high performance standard. DCCC has tried to convey to DPS the possibilities for Tier III groups. She suggested that perhaps Council would be better heard.

3. Update: Parks & Recreation Bond Projects

Committee Action

The Committee had questions about parks maintenance and the Civic Center bond funds that will be scheduled for discussion at a future meeting.

Summary of Discussion

Scott Robson, interim Manager of the Department of Parks & Recreation, and Kelly Marlin, Manager's Office, presented status of the Parks & Recreation bond projects. A summary follows:

Under construction

Irrigation replacement: Berkeley and Cranmer parks

Recreation center maintenance: Eisenhower

Under Design

City Park Greenhouse maintenance

Washington Park Boathouse

Recreation center maintenance: Athmar, Cook, Harvey, La Familia, Montclair, Scheitler, 20th St.

Shade & Slide structure

Indoor pool maintenance/replace: 20th Street

Central Denver recreation center

Irrigation replacement: Highland, 6th Ave, ruby Hill, Washington, Lincoln, Speer Blvd., City of Axum

Babi Yar Park maintenance

Cherry Creek Greenway

City Park maintenance/repair

Ruby Hill Park maintenance

Parkfield Lake Park development

Design start date in 2008

Cheesman Park maintenance

Restroom rehab: Jefferson, Rude, Pulaski, City, Chaffee, Silverman

Outdoor pool maintenance/replace: LaAlma, Barnum

Playground rehab: Argo, City of Axum, Pulaski

Park roads & parking lots: Cheesman, Genesee, Bear Creek, Kennedy, Barnum, Ruby Hill

Irrigation replacement: Sanchez, Harvard Gulch, Park Ave, Cheesman

New restrooms: City park, Berkeley, Sloan's Lake, bible, Garland, Rosamond, Ruby Hill

Sloan's Lake Park maintenance

Mr. Robertson said nearly all of the projects will be under construction in 2008 or 2009, with the exception of the Washington Park Boathouse, which has several difficult elements.

Councilwoman Lehmann asked if the playgrounds would be designed in accordance with the Playground Master Plan. Mr. Robertson replied that the budgets are tight at \$200,000 each, but there were elements that can certainly be incorporated, such as grading for interesting landforms. Outside funding is a possibility. Councilwoman Robb noted it is frustrating for people when we have these master plans and then can't implement the plan.

Individual members had questions or comments specific to their districts. Councilwoman Robb asked about the bond money for Civic Center Park. Mr. Robertson said Mundas Bishop had been hired to work on the design guidelines. Councilwoman Robb replied that they have been working on those, and bond money was not supposed to be used for the guidelines.

Councilwoman Robb asked if staffing was adequate to manage all these projects and adequately maintain the parks and parkways. She asked if the maintenance districts have been enlarged or maintenance staff has been reduced.

The Civic Center bond funds and the maintenance issues were deferred to a later meeting.

Gretchen Williams, Council Legislative Services, 06-25-08