DISTRICT COURT, CITY AND COUNTY OF DENVER, COLORADO Civil Action No. 90CV2822, Courtroom 21

FINDINGS OF FACT, CONCLUSIONS OF LAW AND JUDGMENT

ANNA D. MCRAE; MARK E. APPEL; KATHERINE POPPE MCNEIL; GREGORY M. ROSE; ELAINE F. BROST; GEORGE K. MCLEOD; BARBARA WRIGHT; MARK P. KELLY; PATRICIA L. PAUL; DAVID V.S. KNOWLES; CYNTHIA J. CRONAN; and DENIS FRANK,

Plaintiffs,

v.

CAROLYN ETTER and DON ETTER, co-managers, Department of Parks and Recreation, City and County of Denver, DOROTHY NEPA, zoning administrator, City and County of Denver; FEDERICO PENA, Mayor, City and County of Denver, and CITY AND COUNTY OF DENVER, a municipal corporation,

Defendants.

Pursuant to the findings of fact and conclusions of law announced in open court on July 25, 1990, a copy of which is attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference, at which time all parties were present in person or through counsel, the Court orders, adjudges, decrees and declares that the proposed use of the Pavilion at City Park located in the City and County of Denver, as a headquarters administrative office building for the Department of Parks and Recreation of the City and County of Denver would be an illegal use of City Park, which land was acquired by Denver in 1882 for public park purposes and dedicated to such use by the City Council at that time and by the Charter of the City and County of Denver and by the continued uninterrupted use of the land as a public park since its acquisition in 1882.

The Court further order, adjudges and decrees and declares that the proposed use of the Pavilion at City Park as a headquarters administrative office building for the Department of Parks and Recreation would not be a proper and legal use by right or a proper and legal accessory use pursuant to the Zoning Ordinances of the City and County of Denver. The Court further orders, adjudges, decrees and declares that the zoning Administrator of the City and County of Denver does have jurisdiction and the obligation to enforce the Zoning Ordinances

in the public parks in the City and County of Denver, and in particular City Park.

It is further, ordered, adjudged and decreed by the Court that a permanent injunction be and the same is hereby entered enjoining and restraining Carolyn Etter and Don Etter, Co-Managers of the Department of Parks and Recreation, City and County of Denver, Dorothy Nepa, Zoning Administrator, City and County of Denver, Federico Pena, Mayor, City and County of Denver, and the City and County of Denver, a municipal corporation, their officers, agents, servants and employees and all persons in active concert or participation with them, who receive actual notice of this order, from using or attempting to use the Pavilion at City Park or any other portion of City Park as the headquarters administrative offices for the Department of Parks and Recreation of the City and County of Denver.

DONE this 7th day of August, 1990, nunc pro tunc to the 25th day of July, 1990.

BY THE COURT:

CLIFTON A. FLOWERS

2 Slowers

District Judge

cc: William G. Imig, Esq.
Walter W. Garnsey, Jr., Esq.
Dudley R. Griggs, Esq.
John L. Stoffel, Jr., Esq.

1	DISTRICT COURT, CITY AND	COUNTY OF DENVER, COLORADO
2	Civil Action No. 90CV282	2, Courtroom 21
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4	REPORTER'S TRANSCRIPT	
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6	ANNA D. McRAE, et al.,	
7	Plaintiffs,	
8	v •	
9	CAROLYN ETTER, et al.,	
10	Defendants.	
11		
12	The trial in this m	atter recommenced on Wednesday,
13	July 25, 1990, before the HONORABLE CLIFTON A. FLOWERS,	
14	Judge of the District Court.	
15		
16	FOR THE PLAINTIFFS:	
17		Walter W. Garnsey, Jr., Esq. Dudley R. Griggs, Esq.
18	FOR THE DEFENDANTS:	John L. Stoffel, Jr., Esq.
19		Assistant City Attorney
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- 1 THE COURT: The record should reflect that
- 2 the Court has examined the file in this matter and has
- 3 heard the evidence and the arguments of counsel and has
- 4 observed the demeanor and determined the credibility of
- 5 the witnesses and has examined the exhibits herein, and
- 6 based thereon, the Court finds, concludes and orders as
- 7 follows: The Court finds that it has jurisdiction over
- 8 the parties and the subject matter of this proceeding.
- 9 The Court further incorporates into its findings of
- 10 fact the stipulated facts which are in evidence as
- ll Exhibit 8.
- 12 The Court further finds as facts those
- 13 admissions of the Defendants as set forth in their
- 14 Answer herein and which the Court will highlight as
- 15 follows: That the Defendants have developed plans for
- 16 the renovation of the City Park Pavilion to be used for
- 17 the administrative offices for the Department of Parks
- 18 and Recreation. Further, that the original 1882
- 19 ordinance authorizing the acquisition of City Park
- 20 indicated that the lands were being acquired for park
- 21 purposes. Further, that City Park is a designated park
- 22 pursuant to sections A4.4 and A4.4-1 of the Denver City
- 23 Charter.
- 24 Further, that parks may only be used for park
- 25 purposes; that City Park is zoned R-1 under the Denver

- l Zoning Ordinances which allows a public park as a "use
- 2 by right"; that the applicable Zoning Ordinances of the
- 3 City and County of Denver only authorize "accessory
- 4 uses" to a "use by right" which are clearly incidental
- 5 and customary and commonly associated with the
- 6 operation of a "use by right". Further, the Defendants
- 7 have admitted in their Answer that the Pavilion was
- 8 constructed in the mid 1890's and has been used over
- 9 the years as an open air shelter and as an eating area.
- 10 Further, that the Pavilion is an integral part of City
- ll Park.
- 12 Further, the Defendants admit in their Answer
- 13 that the initial development plans of the Park and
- 14 Recreation Department's administrative offices called
- 15 for at least seventy-five full-time administrative
- 16 employees. Further, that the administrative employees
- 17 of the Parks and Recreation Department intended to be
- 18 housed in the Pavilion are not limited to only those
- 19 employees whose primary responsibility is the operation
- 20 and maintenance of City Park. And lastly, a material
- 21 admission of the Defendants in their Answer is that the
- 22 employees proposed to be housed in the Pavilion will
- 23 transact departmentwide programs and parks, including
- 24 City Park.
- In addition to those findings which are

- 1 stipulated to in Exhibit 8 and those material facts
- 2 which the Defendants admitted in their Answer, the
- 3 Court would make further findings of fact: That the
- 4 Plaintiffs are residents and taxpayers of the Defendant
- 5 City and County of Denver. That the Defendants,
- 6 Carolyn and Don Etter, are the duly-appointed and
- 7 acting Co-Managers of the Department of Parks and
- 8 Recreation of the City and County of Denver; that the
- 9 Defendant, Dorothy Nepa, is a duly-appointed and acting
- 20 Zoning Administrator for the City and County of Denver;
- ll that the Defendant, Federico Pena, is the duly-elected
- 12 Mayor of the City and County of Denver.
- 13 The Court further finds that the Denver City
- 14 Park, which is the subject matter of this proceeding,
- 15 is located within the perimeters of the City and County
- l6 of Denver and is bounded generally on the east by
- 17 Colorado Boulevard, on the south by East 17th Avenue,
- 18 on the west by York Street, and on the north by East
- 19 23rd Avenue. The Court further finds from the evidence
- 20 that this property consists of approximately 320 acres,
- 21 more or less, exclusive of the golf course, and was
- 22 acquired by the City of Denver in 1882 for public park
- 23 purposes, and that this property has been used
- 24 continuously since its acquisition as a public park.
- 25 The Court further finds from the evidence and the

- l admission of the Defendants to that effect in their
- 2 trial brief that the parcel of land known as City Park
- 3 has been dedicated by the City for public park purposes
- 4 since its acquisition by the City in 1882.
- 5 The Court further finds that there has been
- 6 for many years a Pavilion in City Park located on the
- 7 west side of the so-called "Big Lake". And the Court
- 8 further finds from the testimony of the witness Don
- 9 Etter that the Pavilion was historically used for
- 10 serving of food and also as an open veranda-type
- ll building. And the Court would further find, by way of
- 12 elaboration of the stipulated facts, that under the
- 13 proposed plan to relocate the administrative offices of
- 14 the Department of Parks and Recreation in the City Park
- 15 Pavilion, that all of Denver's numerous and widespread
- l6 park facilities and Denver's recreation system will be
- 17 administered out of that office in the Pavilion in City
- 18 Park. And this would include, as incidental thereto,
- 19 the housing of the facilities for the granting of
- 20 various permits that the Parks and Recreation
- 21 Department grants. Persons in general having business
- 22 with the Department of Parks and Recreation would use
- 23 the offices at the Pavilion and various vendors who do
- 24 business with the Department of Parks and Recreation
- 25 would also have to use the facilities at the Pavilion

- l at City Park.
- The Court further finds that under Denver's
- 3 R-l zoning, a public park is expressly authorized as a
- 4 use by right, and the Court further finds that under
- 5 Denver's R-1 Zoning Ordinance, an office building is
- 6 not authorized expressly, at any rate, as a use by
- 7 right. The Court further finds that pursuant to
- 8 sections A4.4 and A4.4-1 of the City Charter mandate
- 9 that park facilities be used only for park and
- 10 recreational purposes. The Court further finds that
- ll the Plaintiffs, prior to the filing of the instant
- 12 lawsuit, inquired of the Defendant Nepa as to whether
- 13 she intended to enforce the R-1 zoning with respect to
- 14 the intended use of the Pavilion as an office facility
- 15 for the Department of Parks and Recreation, but that
- 16 the Defendant Nepa informed the Plaintiffs through
- 17 their counsel that she did not feel that she had any
- 18 jurisdiction over the matter.
- The Court further finds, pursuant to section
- 20 A4.4 and A4.4-1 of the Denver City Charter, that those
- 21 two sections purport to vest exclusive management,
- 22 operation and control of all of the city parks in the
- 23 Manager of the Department of Parks and Recreation. The
- 24 Court further finds that pursuant to the Denver Zoning
- 25 Ordinance, specifically section 59-132(3), that

- l accessory uses are defined as follows: "Accessory
- 2 <u>Uses</u>. Incidental only to a use by right, any use which
- 3 complies with all of the following conditions may be
- 4 operated as an accessory use and need not be enclosed."
- 5 Subsection a., "Is clearly incidental and customary to
- 6 and commonly associated with the operation of the use
- 7 by right."
- 8 Pursuant to the foregoing findings of fact,
- 9 the Court makes the following conclusions of law: The
- 10 Court concludes that when the land upon which City Park
- ll is situate was acquired by the City of Denver in 1882,
- 12 it was thereupon dedicated by the City Council for
- 13 public park purposes, and I think in view of the
- 14 evidence in this case, that fact is really undisputed.
- 15 There is no question but that City Park has been not
- l6 only acquired originally by the City of Denver and
- 17 dedicated by the City Council for public park purposes,
- 18 but the evidence shows that that fact is not in
- 19 dispute. So City Park is a dedicated public park that
- 20 is dedicated for public park purposes.
- 21 The first issue really in this case, as I see
- 22 it, is whether or not the use of the Pavilion for
- 23 administrative offices for the Department of Parks and
- 24 Recreation is a legal use of that property in view of
- 25 the fact that City Park has been dedicated for public

- l park purposes. The law in Colorado on that subject is
- 2 not too plentiful, but there are several cases, I
- 3 think, that bear on that issue. Probably the principal
- 4 case is the McIntyre v. Board of Commissioners case,
- 5 which appears at 61 P. 237 (Colo. App. 1900). That was
- 6 the case, as you know, where there was a dedicated park
- 7 in Colorado Springs, and the City of Colorado Springs
- 8 attempted to convey the park to the county
- 9 commissioners of El Paso County for use as a
- 10 courthouse. The Supreme Court held that that could not
- ll be done because the use would be inconsistent with the
- 12 purposes and objectives of the dedication of the
- 13 property as a public park.
- 14 The court in McIntyre, in effect, held that
- 15 property that's dedicated as a public park is held by
- 16 the governmental agency that holds it, and in that
- 17 instance, the City of Colorado Springs, in this
- 18 instance, the City and County of Denver, that the
- 19 property is held by the governmental authority in trust
- 20 for the benefit of the members of the general public,
- 21 and that the City cannot impose upon such dedicated
- 22 property any servitude or burden inconsistent with the
- 23 dedication of the property for public park purposes.
- 24 The court in the course of its opinion said that, "The
- 25 term 'park' in its ordinary and useful significance,

- l imports a plot of ground in a city or town set apart
- 2 for ornament, a place which the residents of the
- 3 municipality may frequent for pleasure and exercise or
- 4 amusement."
- 5 The court went on to say that, "It is,
- 6 besides, conducive to health; furnishing to the
- 7 citizens of crowded cities a place where they may
- 8 breathe the pure air, untainted by smoke and noxious
- 9 gases." You have to keep in mind, this opinion was
- 10 written ninety years ago, and that portion of the
- ll opinion in McIntyre probably is not too significant in
- 12 1990, but I think the intent is the same. And the
- 13 court concluded, insofar as material to this case, I
- 14 think, that they said, "It cannot be contended that the
- 15 erection of a large building, namely, the courthouse,
- 16 in such a place, however massive, grand or beautiful
- 17 may be its architecture, to be used by either city or
- 18 county for the carrying on of its business is
- 19 consistent with this use," that is, as a public park.
- 20 The court went on to hold in that case that, "By the
- 21 great weight of authority is that a resident taxpayer
- 22 of a municipality has the right to maintain a suit to
- 23 prevent the unlawful disposition by the municipal
- 24 authorities of the money or property of the town, and
- 25 to restrain the diversion of property in his town from

- l any public use, in which he shares, to which it has
- 2 been dedicated."
- 3 I conclude that the proposed use of the
- 4 Pavilion at City Park as an office building for the
- 5 Parks and Recreation Department is a prohibited use of
- 6 City Park and the Pavilion in particular. I find and
- 7 conclude that the proposed use of the Pavilion for such
- 8 purposes would be inconsistent with the historical use
- 9 to which City Park has been put and would be
- 10 inconsistent with the dedication of City Park as a
- ll public park. The case of Melin v. School District, the
- 12 Illinois case which was cited in the briefs, and the
- 13 case of Kelly v. Town of Hayward, the California case
- 14 cited in the brief, both buttress the proposition that
- 15 Denver may not appropriate City Park for the
- 16 administrative offices of the Parks and Recreation
- 17 Department, for to do so would be to interfere with the
- 18 public's common use and enjoyment of the park. And I
- 19 note that the California case cites the Colorado case
- 20 of McIntyre v. Board of County Commissioners as
- 21 authority.
- The case of Baker v. Norwalk, which is the
- 23 Connecticut case cited in the briefs, held -- and I'm
- 24 not guoting directly, but in substance, that case held
- 25 a park is commonly understood to mean a place of

- l ornament, recreation and amusement, but not a place for
- 2 a civic center or city hall. There was some dispute in
- 3 the evidence in this case as to whether the proposed
- 4 use of the Pavilion to house some seventy-five plus or
- 5 minus employees of the Department of Parks and
- 6 Recreation would really be using that Pavilion for
- 7 governmental office purposes, and I would find as a
- 8 fact and conclude as a matter of law that the use of
- 9 the Pavilion for that purpose would undoubtedly be
- 10 using the Pavilion for governmental office purposes.
- ll Whether you call it an extension of City Hall or
- 12 whatever, any suite of offices or set of offices that
- 13 houses seventy-five persons, more or less, is certainly
- 14 the use of the premises for governmental office
- 15 purposes. It would, in fact, be an office building,
- 16 and I really think that that's virtually indisputable
- 17 from the evidence before the Court.
- 18 The McLauthlin case which has been cited by
- 19 the parties, another Colorado case, McLauthlin v. City
- 20 and County of Denver, 280 P.2d 1103 (Colo. 1955), that
- 21 case involved Congress Park and whether or not it was
- 22 within the discretion of the then Manager of Parks and
- 23 Recreation to use part of the park for a swimming pool
- 24 and the necessary bathhouse to accompany the same. And
- 25 the McLauthlin court identified various uses that are

- l consistent with park purposes and upheld the building
- 2 of a swimming pool and a bathhouse at Congress Park as
- 3 being consistent with proper park purposes. And it
- 4 goes without saying that amongst those proper park
- 5 purposes delineated by the McLauthlin court, a
- 6 governmental office building was not one of those
- 7 proper and legal uses.
- 8 Just one other comment. I'm satisfied that
- 9 under the Denver Charter, the management, control and
- 10 operation of the parks and recreational facilities
- ll within the City and County of Denver are clearly vested
- 12 in the Manager of that Department, or in this instance,
- 13 the Co-Managers, but I don't believe that that grant of
- 14 authority vests the Manager with unfettered authority
- or discretion to use city parks for any use that the
- 16 Manager determines. And that's been one of the
- 17 contentions in this case, that the Charter gives the
- 18 Manager exclusive management and control and operation
- 19 of the City Park and, therefore, the Manager can use
- 20 these parks for what the Manager sees fit. I don't
- 21 believe that. It has to be a legal use. If it's not a
- 22 legal use both under general law and under the Denver
- 23 Zoning Ordinances, then the Manager can't use it for
- 24 such a purpose. And I doubt that the Manager would
- 25 seriously question that.

- 1 For example, and probably a bad example, but 2 the Manager couldn't put a hazardous waste plant in the middle of City Park just because he's the Manager and 3 those facilities are under his exclusive management and 4 Under general law and under the City 5 control. ordinances, it has to be a legal use, and if it's a 6 legal use, such as was involved in the Congress Park 7 case, the McLauthlin case, then there is a presumption 8 that the decision of the Manager is correct and that 9 decision will not be set aside except for abuse of his 10 11 discretion. But that's not the situation that we have in the case at bar. I'm satisfied that under the law, 12 13 the proposed use of the Pavilion at City Park for the 14 general administrative offices of the Department of Parks and Recreation is an illegal use of that property 15 16 under the general law of this state involving dedicated public parks. 17 18 Assuming, arguendo, that the proposed use of the Pavilion for the administrative offices of the
- the Pavilion for the administrative offices of the
  Parks and Recreation Department is not illegal as being
  in violation of the dedicated purposes of City Park,
  then the next question is whether, under the Zoning
  Ordinances of the City and County of Denver, such a use
  can be made of the Pavilion. I think that question
  must be answered in the negative as well. As

- 1 previously noted, a City Park is zoned R-1 and a public
- 2 park is a designated use by right within an R-1
- 3 district. An office building is not a designated use
- 4 by right within an R-l district.
- 5 And there's no doubt but that the Zoning
- 6 Ordinances of the City and County of Denver apply to
- 7 the public parks, and in particular to City Park. And
- 8 that property can only be used by the City in keeping
- 9 with the Zoning Ordinances. And within a particular
- 10 zoning district, only those uses which are uses by
- ll right or those which are permitted as an accessory use
- 12 may be permitted. As I think previously noted in the
- 13 stipulated facts, but at any rate, the Denver Zoning
- 14 Code, section 59-132(1)m. defines a public park as a
- 15 parcel of land intended to promote recreational
- 16 activities by the general public. And City Park,
- 17 undoubtedly, falls within the definition of a public
- 18 park under Denver's Zoning Code.
- 19 The real question then, I think, insofar as
- 20 zoning laws are concerned, is whether the use of the
- 21 Pavilion as proposed would be an accessory use to City
- 22 Park. Under the accessory use provision of the City
- 23 Zoning Ordinance, an accessory use is a use that is
- 24 "Incidental only to a use by right," that is to say,
- 25 "any use which complies with all of the following

- l conditions," one of which in subsection a., "Is clearly
- 2 incidental and customary to and commonly associated
- 3 with the operation of the use by right." In the case
- 4 of East Side Baptist Church v. Klein, which is cited in
- 5 the briefs and which involved Denver property, the
- 6 court held that whether an accessory use is clearly
- 7 incidental to a use by right is a question of fact.
- 8 And they further held in that case that to be clearly
- 9 incidental, the accessory use must be clearly
- 10 subordinate to the primary use by right.
- 11 And in the case at bar, I find, as the fact
- 12 finder, that an administrative office building housing
- 13 some seventy-five plus or minus employees of the Parks
- 14 and Recreation Department is not a clearly subordinate
- 15 use to the primary use of the property in question as a
- 16 public park. The housing of that many people, Parks
- 17 and Recreation Department personnel, whose duties in
- 18 major part would have nothing to do with the management
- 19 and control and operation of City Park, I find, is not
- 20 a use that would be clearly subordinate to City Park as
- 21 such. I think what the ordinance contemplates and what
- 22 the court in the East Side Baptist Church case was
- 23 saying is that to be a subordinate use or a use that's
- 24 commonly associated with the use by right, it must be a
- 25 use that has to do with the normal day-to-day operation

- 1 of the primary use, in this instance, City Park.
- 2 Undoubtedly, the use of the Pavilion as the
- 3 administrative office headquarters for the Department
- 4 of Parks and Recreation for the conduct of that
- 5 Department's general day-to-day business would be
- 6 incidental to the operations of that Department, but I
- 7 don't think it can be said to be incidental to the use
- 8 of City Park for public park purposes. So I find and
- 9 conclude that the proposed use would not be clearly
- 10 incidental to the primary use of City Park for park
- ll purposes.
- 12 I further find and conclude that the use of
- 13 City Park for the headquarters office building of the
- 14 Department of Parks and Recreation cannot be said to be
- 15 a customary park use. The fact of the matter is that
- 16 this is the first instance -- at least I think the
- 17 evidence supports that finding and conclusion, this is
- 18 the first instance ever that a park such as City Park
- 19 has been proposed to be used for governmental office
- 20 purposés as a headquarters office. So it can't be said
- 21 that this is a common use of City Park facilities owned
- 22 by Denver.
- The fact that public parks in other
- 24 communities in Colorado and in other states throughout
- 25 the United States may be used to house the

- l administrative offices of the respective parks
- 2 departments, I think, has no real bearing on the
- 3 question whether City Park can be used for such
- 4 purposes. We don't know what the general law in those
- 5 other states is. We don't know whether those parks
- 6 were all dedicated parks. We don't know what the
- 7 zoning laws or ordinances in those various states and
- 8 communities are. So I really don't place much
- 9 significance on the fact that in Illinois, for example,
- 10 at some public park, the parks department housed its
- ll administrative offices therein. That has nothing to do
- 12 with this case. For example, the Rocky Mountain
- 13 National Park, I think it's probably common knowledge
- 14 that there are park headquarters in Rocky Mountain
- 15 National Park, but I don't think we can compare Rocky
- 16 Mountain National Park to Denver's City Park.
- 17 Incidentally, Denver's City Park was referred
- 18 to by Mr. Lewis, the witness Harry Lewis, as a crown
- 19 jewel of Denver's park system, and I think he's right.
- 20 And I think even Mr. Etter, I forgot his exact
- 21 terminology, but Mr. Etter's testimony was to the same
- 22 effect, that this is a real jewel of a park, and I
- 23 think it should be kept as such. So I would conclude
- 24 that the proposed use would not be a customary use of
- 25 City Park property. And the other prong of the

- 1 accessory use ordinance requires that it be commonly
- 2 associated with the operation of the use by right, and
- 3 I don't think that the proposed administrative offices
- 4 would be or could be said to be commonly associated
- 5 with a public park use.
- 6 As the court stated in the <u>City of Sheridan</u>
- 7 <u>v. Keen</u> case, which is reported at 524 P.2d 1390 (Colo.
- 8 App. 1974), an accessory or incidental use has been
- 9 defined as a use customarily incident to the principal
- 10 use and so necessary or commonly to be expected in
- ll conjunction therewith that it cannot be supposed the
- 12 ordinance was intended to prevent it. I think, as has
- 13 previously been noted, the proposed use of the Pavilion
- 14 for administrative office purposes is not a use that is
- 15 customarily incident to the principal use of City Park
- 16 for public park purposes, and I don't think it can be
- 17 said to be a commonly expected use in conjunction with
- 18 City Park's use as a public park.
- The proposed use of the Pavilion for the
- 20 administrative offices of the Parks and Recreation
- 21 Department is not a use that is either necessary to the
- 22 operation of City Park or one that is commonly expected
- 23 to be found in conjunction with a public park such as
- 24 City Park. So the Court concludes, insofar as the
- 25 Zoning Ordinance and accessory use provision, that the

- l proposed use of the Pavilion at City Park for the
- 2 administrative offices and headquarters for the Parks
- 3 and Recreation Department would not be a permissible
- 4 accessory use to the park itself pursuant to the
- 5 applicable Zoning Ordinances of the City and County of
- 6 Denver.
- 7 The Court would further conclude that, as
- 8 stated in the McLauthlin case, the Charter does vest
- 9 the Manager of the Parks and Recreation Department with
- 10 sole management and control over the city parks, and so
- ll long as the Manager exercises that discretion fairly,
- 12 reasonably and legally, the Court will not substitute
- 13 its opinion for that of the Manager in deciding the
- 14 various uses to which a park may be put. But where, as
- 15 here, the Manager seeks to use a public park for a
- 16 purpose in violation of the dedication of that park,
- 17 then the Manager has abused his or her discretion and
- 18 the Court will intervene. And the Court concludes that
- 19 the use of the Pavilion for administrative office
- 20 purposes is not a park purpose for which City Park was
- 21 dedicated and is therefore illegal. And as I've
- 22 previously indicated, I also conclude that the Pavilion
- 23 cannot legally be used for administrative office
- 24 purposes as an accessory to City Park for the reasons
- 25 heretofore stated.

- The Court further concludes that the Defendant 1 2 Dorothy Nepa, in her capacity as Zoning Administrator, does have jurisdiction to enforce the Zoning Ordinances 3 with regard to the public parks owned by the City and 5 County of Denver, and particularly with respect to the enforcement of Denver's R-1 Zoning Ordinance with 6 7 regard to the uses to which the Pavilion in City Park 8 may be put. I would further find and conclude that the 9 bond issue of last fall has no real bearing on the 10 issues before the Court. The electorate can't change 11 the Zoning Ordinances by voting on a bond issue, and it 12 can't undo the dedication of City Park as a public park 13 by virtue of a city bond election. So I really don't 14 believe that the bond issue has any bearing on this 15 case at all. 16 So in conclusion, I would simply state that 17 the issue here is not the propriety or the desirability 18 of using the Pavilion for the purposes sought to be 19 used by the Co-Managers of the Department of Parks and 20 Recreation. Let me say that the Co-Managers, Don and 21 Carolyn Etter, are to be commended for their efforts 22 with respect to the parks of the City and County of
- 24 commend Mr. Harry Lewis, who testified in this case.

Denver and their management thereof. And I would also

25 Their efforts to do something constructive with the

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- l Pavilion of City Park is to be commended, and it's a
- 2 laudable effort, but I find and conclude that what they
- 3 want to do with it is simply illegal not only under the
- 4 general law, but contrary to the City's Zoning
- 5 Ordinances.
- 6 There must be many uses that the Pavilion
- 7 could legally be used for that should be considered and
- 8 explored. The Congress Park case lists many uses that
- 9 are clearly legal, swimming pools -- I don't think the
- 10 Congress Park case mentions a skating rink -- but the
- ll Court can think of various uses that would comport with
- 12 the dedicated use of the crown jewel City Park as a
- 13 public park, and I'm satisfied to use it for office
- 14 purposes is not.
- A pavilion, incidentally, has been defined --
- 16 I'll just mention this in closing, this is by
- 17 definition in the World Book Encyclopedia Dictionary, a
- 18 pavilion is defined as follows: "A light building,
- 19 usually one somewhat open used for shelter, pleasure,
- 20 et cetera, in other words, a dance pavilion." If the
- 21 Pavilion were converted to general offices for the
- 22 Parks and Recreation Department, it would clearly not
- 23 any longer be a pavilion, at least by definition.
- 24 Pursuant to the foregoing findings of fact
- 25 and conclusions of law, the Court orders, adjudges,

- l decrees and declares that the appropriate use of the
- 2 Pavilion at City Park as a headquarters administrative
- 3 office building for the Defendant Parks and Recreation
- 4 Department of the City and County of Denver would be an
- 5 illegal use of the City Park land, which land was
- 6 acquired by Denver in 1882 for public park purposes and
- 7 so dedicated to such use by the City Council at that
- 8 time and by the continued uninterrupted use of the land
- 9 as a public park since its acquisition in 1882.
- 10 The Court further orders, adjudges, decrees
- ll and declares that the proposed use of the Pavilion at
- 12 City Park as a headquarters administrative office
- 13 building for the Parks and Recreation Department would
- 14 not be a proper and legal accessory use pursuant to the
- 15 Zoning Ordinances of the City and County of Denver.
- 16 The Court further orders, adjudges, decrees and
- 17 declares that the Zoning Administrator of the City and
- 18 County of Denver does have jurisdiction to enforce the
- 19 Zoning Ordinances in the public parks in the City and
- 20 County of Denver, and in particular City Park.
- 21 It's further ordered, adjudged and decreed by
- 22 the Court that a permanent injunction be and the same
- 23 is hereby entered enjoining and restraining the
- 24 Defendants, their officers, agents, servants and
- 25 employees and all persons in active concert or

- l participation with them, who receive actual notice of
- 2 this order, from using or attempting to use the
- 3 Pavilion at City Park or any other portion of City Park
- 4 as the headquarters administration offices for the
- 5 Parks and Recreation Department of the City and County
- 6 of Denver.
- 7 Anything else, Mr. Garnsey?
- 8 MR. GARNSEY: Nothing else, Your Honor.
- 9 Thank you.
- THE COURT: Anything else, Mr. Stoffel?
- 11 MR. STOFFEL: Nothing else, Your Honor.
- 12 THE COURT: Either of you want to prepare a
- 13 written order? Would you like a written order, Mr.
- 14 Stoffel -- I mean, Mr. Garnsey?
- MR. GARNSEY: I'd be happy to prepare a
- 16 written order to submit to the Court.
- 17 THE COURT: I think at least under Rule 65,
- 18 injunctions have to be, I believe, in writing. If you
- 19 want me to check that, I will.
- MR. GARNSEY: We're happy to do that. We'll
- 21 do so as soon as possible and submit a copy to Mr.
- 22 Stoffel for his review before we submit it to the
- 23 Court.
- 24 THE COURT: I think it would be fair to say
- 25 that Rule 65 doesn't expressly require injunctions to

- l be in writing. I think by implication, it does. So
- 2 will you prepare an order in conformance with the
- 3 Court's bench ruling and tender to Mr. Stoffel for his
- 4 approval as to form and tender to me for my signature?
- 5 MR. GARNSEY: Yes, Your Honor.
- 6 THE COURT: How much time do you want?
- 7 MR. GARNSEY: We can have that to you
- 8 tomorrow morning.
- 9 THE COURT: How about ten days then?
- MR. GARNSEY: Ten days would be fine.
- 11 THE COURT: And the order will, of course, be
- 12 effective upon signature by the Court. Let me commend
- 13 counsel for a case well presented. It's been an
- 14 interesting case. And Mr. Etter and Mrs. Etter, I want
- 15 you to not take my ruling personally. This is the way
- 16 I think the law is. And as I've said, I commend both
- 17 of you. You're doing an excellent job as Co-Managers
- 18 of the Department, and maybe some other use can be
- 19 found for the Pavilion.
- MR. ETTER: Thank you, Your Honor.
- 21 THE COURT: If there's nothing else, the
- 22 Court will be in recess.
- (Whereupon, at 10:20 a.m., the trial was
- 24 concluded.)

1	REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE	
2	The above and foregoing is a true and	
3	complete transcription of my stenotype notes taken in	
4	my capacity as Official Reporter of Courtroom 21,	
5	district Court, City and County of Denver, Colorado, at	
6	the time and place above set forth.	
7	Dated at Denver, Colorado, July 26, 1990.	
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