



**City of Spokane Park Board
Recreation Committee Meeting**

5:15 p.m. Wednesday, Apr. 03, 2024
Hybrid in-person and WebEx teleconference meeting
Jennifer Papich – Recreation Director

Committee members

X Sally Lodato – Chair
X Greta Gilman
X Jennifer Ogden

Parks staff

Jennifer Papich
Ryan Griffith
Fianna Dickson
Kris Behr

Guests

Sheila Gerahty
Dave Willman

SUMMARY

- The committee passed the following action items which will be presented to the Park Board for consideration and approval:
 - None
- Sheila Gerahty gave a presentation on the Northeast Youth Center.
- Downriver Disc Golf Course name change was discussed.
- Jennifer Papich shared the quarter one recreation report.

The next regularly scheduled Recreation Committee meeting is set for 5:15 p.m. Wed. May 01, 2024.

MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 5:15 p.m. by committee chair Sally Lodato.

Public Comments: None

Action items: None

Discussion Items:

1. **Special Guest Report - Northeast Youth Center**– Sheila Gerahty
 - a. Sheila explained the Northeast Youth Center (NEYC), which opened in 1971 with grant funding, is connected under the same organizational affiliation as the west and east central centers, sharing the same values and providing opportunities for at-risk youth in their neighborhoods. When the grant funding dissipated, Spokane Parks and Recreation Department (SPRD) added a funding mechanism for the centers. Today NEYC serves nearly 200 children from Pre-K through 12th grade in the Hillyard area and is a fully licensed childcare facility.
 - b. Thanks to grant funding, they were able to build hard walls to accommodate the Early Childhood Educational Assistance Program (ECEAP), which is in its second year and will soon have 60 preschoolers enrolled, many with mental health and behavioral issues.
 - c. From 6 am – 6 pm students from six different elementary schools are dropped off for a hot breakfast, then bussed to the various schools and picked up again after school for another hot meal prepared by the center’s chef. They pride themselves on having a very healthy menu, both during the school year and during summer camps, with no processed foods, which is funded by the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction.
 - d. A great majority of the children aged 3-11 come from low income (89%), single parent families (93%). Many have experienced trauma, displaying various behavioral issues putting them at risk of expulsion. A mental health counselor was contracted to train the staff, assist in behavioral care plans and meets with parents to train them to use the same tools being used in the classroom. It has been such a remarkable transformation that kids are no longer being sent home for disruptive behavior; kids and instructors are happier.
 - e. NEYC will be having their dinner & auction fundraiser April 27th with keynote speaker Levi Horn, former NFL football player and NEYC alum.
2. **Downriver Disc Golf Course name change** – Ryan Griffith
 - a. Dave Willman shared a brief history of Disc Golf both internationally and in Spokane. Although it has been around nearly a century, it was recognized professionally in 1976. The Spokane Disc Golf Association was established in the 1990’s and has experienced significant growth. It is one of the fastest growing sports in the world. The City of Spokane manages four 18-hole courses (High Bridge, Downriver, Camp Sekani and Liberty Parks) in addition to five junior courses at Loma Vista, Friendship, Hayes, Ben Burr and Cliff Parks.
 - b. Downriver is one of the oldest disc golf courses in the community. Construction began in 2022 for a major redesign by MT•LA, PLLC in conjunction with the Cochran Basin/Downriver stormwater project. The objectivity for the redesign consisted of safety, technology, quality (to draw people from outside the area). The new course, which is almost ready to open, is very nice and welcoming.
 - c. Both the disc golf community and Parks staff have requested the name be changed for a number of reasons, including the confusion with Downriver Golf Course and a fresh name for the fresh renovation. A survey went sent out with possible name choices including Ponderosa

Pines DGC, Whitewater DGC, Soaring Eagle DGC, Hawks Ridge DGC and Ponds DGC. Of the 728 respondents, Whitewater Disc Golf Course was the clear favorite. The neighborhood council has approved the name change. The next step would be to request approval from Park Board for the name change of the course only. The name "Downriver Park corridor" will not change.

Standing Reports:

1. [Recreation First Quarter Report](#) – Jennifer Papich
 - a. January-March had 231 sessions/programs, 171 athletic teams and 3,618 participants signed up. Despite the lack of snow, it was a great winter season with only 115 less participants over 2023 in outdoor recreation whereas Corbin Arts Center saw an increase of 122 participants; volleyball continues to grow with 11 more teams; adult flag football decreased slightly due to a new private league; the wellness programs appear to have less participation, however, the USTA numbers are not included; TRS exploded over the winter with 258 more participants over 2023; field allocations are down from 2023, which is most likely due to the timing.
 - b. Recreation highlights include an increase of 16 volleyball teams; the outdoor program has rejuvenated their activity guide descriptions to be more attractive; 100 people have already accepted summer job offers through aquatics; most of the new ArtSci Summer Camp at Finch Arboretum are already full.
2. Marketing First Quarter Report – Fianna Dickson
 - a. Josh Morrisey worked on several great ads for the new Activity Guide, which has been distributed throughout the community. Many locations have been asking for more guides. The website has had nearly 5,000 hits on the guide already; The Google search buy is being adjusted to make sure to capture the right audiences; outdoor recreation earned some media coverage regarding their groomed trails and trips on the event calendars.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

The next regularly scheduled Recreation Committee meeting is set for 5:15 p.m. Wed. May 01, 2024.

Northeast Youth Center

Hillyard, Washington



Northeast Youth Center

- The Northeast Youth Center opened in 1971, thanks to the vision of our very own Hal McGlathery and the Spokane Parks and Recreation Department. Hal saw a need in the area and used a grant opportunity to help create the center. Shortly after, Hal brought funding to the West Central and East Central communities. Each of the centers are linked through the same organizational affiliation; the Spokane Parks and Recreation Department. The centers all share the same values, providing opportunities for At-Risk youth. After the grant ran out, the Spokane Parks and Recreation Department added a funding mechanism to their budget including these centers.
- In 2009, motivated by the increase in children attending the center and a desire to serve as many families as possible, the youth center outgrew the facility at 2121 E. Wabash and underwent a huge move to our current facility at 3004 E. Queen Ave.
- Today, NEYC not only serves school age children, but we also have a full ECEAP program with 40 preschoolers in three brand new classrooms built with a grant from the Dept of Commerce. ECEAP is a state funded free preschool program managed by the Community Colleges of Spokane. NEYC enrolls approximately 150 Hillyard and area students every year.
- NEYC is a fully licensed childcare facility certified with the State of Washington.



NEYC serves students that attend 6 elementary schools in Hillyard. Students are dropped off by parents in the morning and we bus them to school, then pick them back up after school. Students are 3-11 years old.

- Arlington
- Bemiss
- Cooper
- Regal
- Longfellow
- Whitman



Everyone has to pitch in!

- All staff must be licensed to drive and have 5 years of a clean driving record.



NEYC Healthy Food Program

- Everyday our students are fed a healthy, fresh, hot meal from our own Chef and kitchen staff. We do not serve any processed foods.
- Our food program is funded by the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction
- CACFP is school year meals
- SFSP is summer camp meals





Northeast Youth Center

- Our focus program is mental health support for children ages 3-11 enrolled in our daycare and early learning programs, most who are low-income (89% qualify for free and reduced lunch) and come from single parent families (93%). We serve a high percentage of children who are enrolled in special education services, have experienced complex trauma and multiple Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACES), have varying physical, emotional and cognitive needs, and display various behavior issues that can put them at risk of expulsion. We see a wider range of behavioral needs and disabilities including aggressive behaviors, ODD, ADHD, and autism spectrum disorder. Due to living in poverty and individual special needs, most of our children are at higher risk of suffering mental health issues such as depression, anxiety, and suicidality.
- NEYC contracts with a mental health counselor who assists in the care of the students in our care that need the most help in dealing with life. The MHC trains staff, writes behavior and care plans, meets with parents, and generally keeps everyone safe and sound at the Center.
- NEYC takes care for our children seriously and offer many different types of behavior and care training to all our staff and volunteers. Half of the trainings offered are mandated per licensing with the state.



Field Trips!

- THANK YOU PARK BOARD!
- When schools are out on break NEYC is still open. We do Winter Camp, Spring Break Camp and Summer Camp all day programs.
- Students go on numerous field trips during camps thanks to our fleet of buses and vans.
- Mobius, Shadle Library, Garland Theater, Riverfront Park, Pattison's Skating Rink, North Bowl, Hillyard Pool, Triple Play Waterpark, Chuck E. Cheese, Finch Arboretum, Manito Park, and more!
- Field trips offer our students an opportunity to do things they most likely would never have the chance to do due to economic and parent reasons.











2024 Building Brighter Futures

Dinner &
Auction
Fundraiser



Save the Date

ALL THAT Jazz

- HOSTED BY
92.9 ZZU'S **MOLLY ALLEN**
- KEYNOTE SPEAKER
LEVI HORN, FORMER NFL
FOOTBALL PLAYER AND
MEMBER OF THE NORTHERN
CHEYENNE TRIBE

🎵 **APRIL 27, 2024**

🎵 **5:30 PM - 9:30 PM**

🎵 **DOUBLETREE DOWNTOWN**



Downriver Disc Golf Course Name Change



Spokane Disc Golf History

The Spokane Disc Golf Association played a crucial role in introducing disc golf to the Spokane area in the 1990s.

This community group was responsible for installing and maintaining the High Bridge and Downriver Disc Golf Courses until 2014.

Since then, disc golf has experienced significant growth and is now one of the fastest-growing sports in the world.

The City of Spokane, in collaboration with community volunteer groups, now manages and maintains four 18+ hole disc golf courses, including :

- **High Bridge**
- **Downriver**
- **Camp Sekani**
- **Liberty Parks**

Additionally, there are five 3-4 hole junior courses at:
Loma Vista ~ Friendship ~ Hayes ~
Ben Burr, and Cliff Parks.



Downriver Disc Golf Course Redesign

Timeline of the redesign Master planning for the disc golf course in conjunction with the Cochran Basin/Downriver Stormwater project started in June 2018.

Construction started in 2022. Construction on the stormwater projects are complete within the Downriver Park Areas including TJ Meenach River Access and Disc Golf Course

Project Status

- ✓ Stormwater project completed
- ✓ Parking lots paved & improvement to the main course access points improved
- ✓ 2 new kiosks installed
- ✓ Maintenance road access improved
- ✓ T-pads, most all basket anchors, and T-sign posts installed
- ✓ Hydroseed sprayed and waiting to germinate
- ✓ Mulch on pathways being spread
- ✓ Out of Bounds Markers installed
- ✓ T-signs being designed



Downriver Disc Golf Course Under Construction



Downriver Disc Golf Course Under Construction



Parking Lot Improvements



Downriver Disc Golf Course Redesign

Depending on when the hydroseed germinates and muddy conditions improve, we aim to be prepared by late April with the goal of opening the course in May, weather permitting.



KEY VOLUNTEER GROUPS WHO CONTRIBUTED TO THE PROJECT (700+ HRS.)

- Dave Willman and many local community members
- Spokane Disc Golf Club
- Chainsayers Disc Golf

Downriver Disc Golf Course Name Change

- Requested Course Name Change from both from Disc Golf community and Parks Staff.
 - Frequently confused with Downriver Golf Course
 - Desire for a fresh new name for the renovated course.
 - Disc Golf Community Group came up with various names and agreed on five to submit for a survey:
 - Ponderosa Pines DGC
 - Whitewater DGC
 - Soaring Eagle DGC
 - Hawks Ridge DGC
 - Ponds DGC

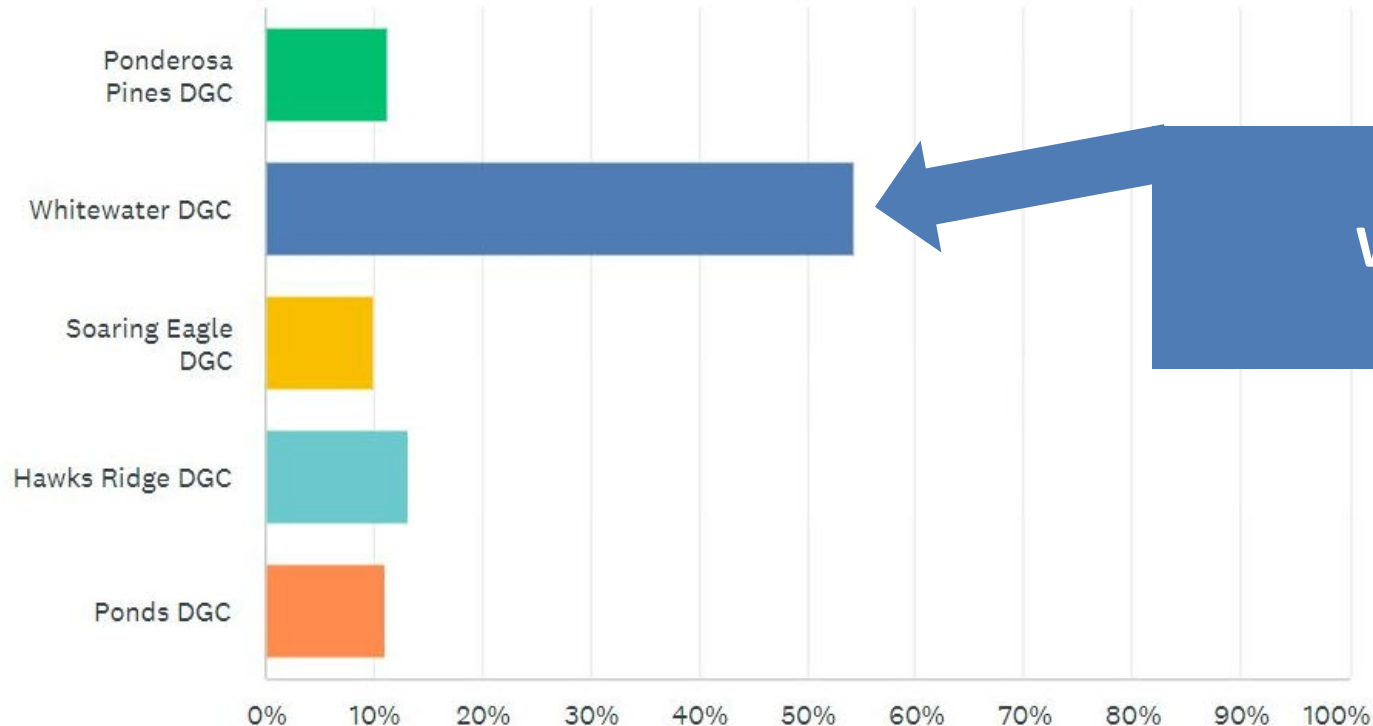
The survey received **728 responses**, it was promoted by Spokane Parks and Recreation Communication and Marketing, as well as through the disc golf community.



Downriver Disc Golf Course Name Change Survey Results

Please select your favorite name

Answered: 728 Skipped: 0



The survey results had **WHITEWATER DISC GOLF COURSE** as the clear favorite

Downriver Disc Golf Course Name Change Next Steps

- Have already received approval from the neighborhood council
- Asking for Park Board approval of name change of the course only.
- The Downriver Park corridor will not change.



RECREATION 2024 Q1 REPORT

- **231** SESSIONS/PROGRAMS
- **171** ATHLETIC TEAMS
- **3,618** PARTICIPANTS

RECREATION 2024 Q1 REPORT (JAN. – MARCH)



Volleyball – 11 Winter Leagues

- **152 teams** (11 more than 2023)
- **912 participants** (103 more players than 2023)



Adult Flag Football – 5 Winter Leagues

- **19 teams** (6 less teams than 2023)
- **237 participants** (179 less players than 2023)



Outdoor Recreation – 28 Sessions (15 less than 2023)

- **237 participants** (115 less than 2023)
 - Even with a low snow year, we still got many people out on snowshoes and did better than expected.
 - The low snow did impact cross-country ski lessons, saw a dramatic drop in year-over-year comparison.



Corbin Art Center– 71 Sessions

- **751 participants** (122 more than 2023)
- ***\$10,000 more in revenue than Q1 2023**



Wellness & Enrichment– 58 Sessions (27 less than 2023)

- **609 participants** (266 less than 2023)
 - Podium programs, 2 Run, Jump, Throw events & Tiny Tots Soccer Skills program



Therapeutic Recreation– 57 Sessions (8 less than 2023)

- **872 participants** (258 more than 2023)
 - More volunteers and Powderhounds program restructuring allowed for increased participation!



Field Allocations

- **223 Bookings** (14 less than 2023)
- **766 Hours** (51 less hours than 2023)
- **\$5,986 SPFIF** (\$3,331 less than 2023)

RECREATION HIGHLIGHTS

SPRING VOLLEYBALL:

- **142** teams registered this spring season – **16** more than last Spring!
- Spring league will be played in The Podium as well as middle school gymnasiums

OUTDOOR SPRING HIGHLIGHTS:

- Wildflower walks in April and May have all met the minimum. These were started last year to try to entice people to go on guided hikes and it has worked!
- Outdoor has revamped activity descriptions to be more compelling. We have emphasized visiting places and experiencing their unique qualities.

AQUATICS HIGHLIGHTS:

- **100** people have already accepted job offers for this coming summer season.
- Zach Carman, Seasonal Aquatics Supervisor, will participate in the American Red Cross Lifeguard Instructor Trainer Course to certify lifeguard instructors and lifeguards in-house, increasing staff knowledge and preparedness while decreasing outsourcing expenses.
- 360 new Swim Lesson Sessions Pre-Season, Post-Season and Regular Season have been added to Witter Aquatic Center to meet the swim lesson waitlist demands. There have already been **76** registrations to date!

ARTSCI SUMMER CAMP @ FINCH

- Added 7 new weeks of summer camp at Finch Arboretum to address waitlist demands. All camps are already full or almost full!



MARKETING

SOCIAL MEDIA: ~60,000 followers across platforms

PRINT/DIGITAL:

- Activity Guide ads
- Google search buy
- 33,000 subscriber emails for Recreation
- 90,000 emails for City e-newsletter
- 30,000 emails for Spokane Public Schools families

DIRECT MAIL & DISTRIBUTIONS:

- Guides via direct mail and distributed through 28 grocery and convenience stores, plus libraries and community centers

EARNED MEDIA:

- Outdoors – groomed trails, trips (events calendar)

WEBSITE:

- 4,848 winter activity guide flipbook views

