

# **SPOKANE PARK BOARD**

June 13, 2013 Regular Monthly Meeting

1:30 P.M., City Council Chambers

## **Minutes**

1. **Roll Call:** *Jacki Faught*

Park Board members present: Randy Cameron, President; Leroy Eadie, Secretary; Jim Santorsola; Ross Kelley; Chris Wright; Susan Traver; Ken Van Voorhis; Andy Dunau (2:03 p.m.); Sam Selinger; Mike Allen, Council Liaison

2. **Motion No. 1:** Jim Santorsola motioned to approve the May 9, 2013 Regular Park Board Meeting Minutes and May 22, 2013 Study Session Meeting Notes.  
Sam Selinger seconded.  
Motion carried.

3. **Additions or Deletions to the Agenda:** None

4. **Monthly Highlights:** *Randy Cameron, President*

- A. Urban Forestry contractors have finished work on forest health improvements and fire risk reduction in four parks: Camp Sekani, Palisades, Hangman and High Drive Parks
- B. Youth Summer Day Camps begin June 17<sup>th</sup> and run through August 28<sup>th</sup> see listing in the 2013 Summer Youth camp Guides posted online.
- C. Aquatic Centers open June 17<sup>th</sup> with swim lesson packages starting at \$48 and offering pool rentals for birthdays.
- D. The \$18 Riverfront Park "Premium Ticket" promotion includes 1 IMAX movie, 1 Carrousel Ride, 1 SkyRide and 1 Train Ride. Attraction Day Passes are also available with Pavilion rides operating 7 days a week beginning June 15.
- E. The new Fountain Café in Riverfront Park features a great menu along with local beer, Washington State wine and self-service ice cream.
- F. Pemco Insurance presents outdoor movies in the Lilac Bowl every Wednesday evening for \$5 per person.
- G. The IMAX is featuring "Great White Shark".
- H. The new department wide summer program Activity Guide is now available online and in City Library branches.
- I. Splash pads have been open for two weeks, locations are listed on the website or call the Aquatics Hotline at 625-6960.
- J. Parks rents facilities for weddings, birthdays, corporate events, family reunions and other group gatherings at the following venues: park shelters and gazebos' recreation facilities including sports fields, courts and complexes; six aquatics centers; Riverfront Park, Ice Palace, IMAX Theatre and Carrousel.
- K. The Park Bench Café in Manito Park is open for the season. The free Friday night music series began May 31.
- L. The annual summer concerts in city parks are beginning to take shape with details now posted online.

5. **Special Guests:** None

6. **Motion No. 2:** Ross Kelley motioned to approve claims for the month of May 2013 in the amount of \$1,510,999.20.  
Jim Santorsola seconded.  
Motion carried.
7. **Financial Report & Budget Update:** *Rebecca Madany*
  - A. Park Fund is at 100% in revenue and at 99% in expenses. Revenue is the highest May on record.
  - B. Golf Fund is at 103% in revenue and at 103% in expenses.
8. **Riverfront Park Master Plan Update:** *Juliet Sinisterra, Phase II Project Manager, No report*
9. **Foundation Report:** Heather Beebe-Stevens, Executive Director, Spokane Parks Foundation reported that a memorial fund has been created in Jim Quigley's honor. Approximately \$7,500 has already been raised. The new brochure has been completed. This morning Make-A-Splash held a press conference with KHQ, KREM and KXLY at AM Cannon Aquatics Center. A new Make-A-Splash poster recognizing the top donors has been created and will be posted in all Aquatics Centers in Spokane County near where concessions are sold. 210 City Youth Aquatics Passes were handed out at the Salvation Army last Saturday. Last year 199 passes were handed out. There are currently 1,378 on the waitlist for City passes. The County, Spokane Valley and Cheney are nearing a wait list situation. Girl Scout Troop 3664 did the Great Swimsuit Challenge 2013 and gathered 31 brand new suits for the Foundation. Heather has been meeting with staff to talk about the Park Bond Campaign relationship with the Foundation. Randy Cameron donated to the memorial fund at this meeting taking the balance over \$10,000.
10. **Special Discussion/Action Items:**
  - A. **Motion No. 3:** Sam Selinger motioned to approve a Resolution Posthumously Honoring Dr. Quigley.  
Jim Santorsola seconded.  
Motion carried.
11. **Committee Reports – Action Items:**  
**Golf Committee:** May 15, 2013, *Ross Kelley*
  - A. The Golf 4 Play Pass is being offered for Father's Day.
  - B. Downriver Golf Course is in exceptionally good shape and is listing their specials on Facebook.
  - C. Esmeralda just finished the first series of First Tee. Adult lessons are going well. The Memorial Day amateur was a success.
  - D. The greens are improving rapidly at Indian Canyon. The Rosauer's Open will be held July 17-21.
  - E. Rounds are up by 1,600 over 2012 at The Creek at Qualchan. Large numbers of junior golfers are signing up for First Tee.
  - F. The committee discussed Passes, Discount Cards, Multi-Play Cards, and 4 Play Passes; the online and point of sale software; and the letters of interest for capital investment in Spokane City golf Courses.
  - G. The committee received a financial updates, a revenue enhancement/advertising update, and an update on course conditions.

**Land Committee:** June 5, 2013 – *Ken Van Voorhis*

- A. The committee discussed the integrated Stormwater Management Program; Conservation Futures nomination at Palisades; Veteran's Court; and park irrigation projects and capital funding.
- B. The committee received an update on the Centennial Trail through Kendall Yards.
- C. The Park Operations budget overview was deferred to the next meeting.
- D. The capital projects list was reviewed.

**Recreation Committee:** June 6, 2013 – *Susan Traver*

- A. Susan Traver noted that fee increases this year are related to softball only. She advised that several years ago the Board made a conscious decision on the dais to phase in fee increases to meet cost recovery goals so that the impact on the user groups could be better accommodated over a longer period of time instead of implementing a one-time large fee increase. She believes the Board has listened and taken into consideration what fee increases could mean to each player. In some cases the increase will impact players \$0.20 per game. The Board feels that this is a nominal fee increase. The committee discussed the idea of a facility dedicated to baseball, however there is no capital funding for it at this time. It is unfortunate that this was not included in the 2008 bond but there is nothing that can be done about that now.

**Motion No. 4:** Susan Traver motioned to approve the 2014 Field Use Fees.

Ross Kelley seconded.

Speaking to the motion:

Carl Strong gave a presentation on the current requests for fee increases. He confirmed that the only proposed fee increases are for softball. In 2010 when Merkel was opened the probable expenses for running the facility was divided by the probable rental hours. Grass soccer field use and softball field use was calculated and staff proposed to the Board the fees that would generate the 100% cost recovery they had requested. The softball groups came to the Board expressing they felt the fees were too high. The Board then chose to cut the fees approximately in half for softball only and coupled with that the decision to slowly and incrementally increase softball the fees to meet cost recovery goals. The soccer fees were approved at the proposed rates and have remained at that rate. We are approximately 35-45% cost recovery. Since 2010 the Board has heard a large amount of public testimony about the impact fee increases would have on softball families and have been increasing fees only a little bit at a time. Last year's 2013 fee proposal included a preview the recommended fee proposal for 2014. This is the recommendation that is being presented today and if it passes the recommendation for 2015 is anticipated to be no fee increases. If the 2014 increases are approved 40-50% cost recovery is anticipated, short of the 100% cost recovery goal of the Board, and leaving the subsidy from Parks in the 50-60% range. The subsidy is for the complex as a whole and not broken up by user group. Examples of the cost for fields per participant for several different user groups were presented. The per child field rental costs in 2013 for Babe Ruth Players was \$6.84 per season which would increase to \$11.27 per season. Calculations were based on an estimate of approximately 750 kids, though Babe Ruth has reported they will have somewhere in the neighborhood of 900 kids which would reduce the per child impact. The length of game times, costs per hour, and locations where different groups play were reviewed. The public participation process for this fee increase included the 2014 fee increases being presented as a part of the 2013 fees presentation last year, an email was sent out to groups this year noting that the recommended fees for 2014 are the same as

the recommendation that was presented last year. He recognized that some of the groups are here today to speak to the proposed increases. The 2012 fee increases were approved in January 2012. Discussion on those fee increases began in late summer 2011. It took some time to get through the public process and to hear testimony. The reason for starting the conversation so early this year is predicated mostly because the soccer groups need to have fees set far enough in advance of the October allocation process to allow for them to plan financially and for allocations to be finalized in January before the season starts.

Public Testimony:

John Isles tournament director for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Shootout that held in City Parks for about 30 years. Mr. Isles took over as tournament director in 2011, the first year Dwight Merkel was available. In 2011 costs for Franklin Park and Dwight Merkel was \$2,348.98, in 2012 costs were \$3,391.16, projected costs for 2013 are \$5,800, and 2014 with the projected increase it will be \$6,600. He would like the tournament to stay in City Parks, unfortunately with the increases they may have to do what a number of the other girls softball tournaments have done and move out of the City parks. Parks and Recreation lose the field rental revenue and the concession revenue at Franklin and Merkel would be lost. The tournament will have between 50-60 teams this year, over half from out of town. The tournament has a great impact on the City's finances and they would hope to see a little bit of relief in these constant increases. Leroy Eadie noted that there was only a \$100 change in the half day and the full day and in looking at the numbers provided by Mr. Isles the math does not quite work out. He inquired if the numbers of teams remains constant from year to year. Mr. Isles advised the number of teams each year depends on what is going on in other states at the same time. This year they already have approximately a dozen teams from Montana so the numbers will be up, while last year they had zero. The tournament grows periodically. It has stayed between 40-46 teams but this year they are looking at a bigger increase because there are more teams that want to come here because of the facility. This is one of the reasons they want to stay at Merkel and Franklin. Susan Traver inquired if Mr. Isles has more teams if it would lead to increased field use time and therefore an increased cost. Mr. Isles advised that this question would be difficult for him to answer. He stated that as the tournament grows they need more field use. 2011-2013 the number of hours stayed constant. Ken Van Voorhis confirmed with Mr. Isles the 2013 & 2014 prices he quoted represents the total price for the hours they plan to reserve. Ross Kelley noted that 2013 prices only went up \$100 per day for a 2½ day tournament and that the total increase should only be \$250. He inquired how Mr. Isles came to the total of \$2,000 increase. Mr. Isles stated that the youth tournaments have to pay an additional of approximately \$500 to have fences set up and taken down bringing his projected costs to \$5,800, though, it could be less or could turn out to be more. Ross Kelley noted that even with the \$500 he could see the field usage going up only \$200. He doesn't care how many fences they use the actual field usage only went up \$200. Mr. Isles offered to send the board the total breakdown of what it is going to cost. His figures are accurate and what he expects to pay this year. Ken Van Voorhis confirmed with Mr. Isles that he is paying for field use and then also paying Parks and Rec to do the fences. He asked if it included benches and other accoutrements they might need. He is curious how Mr. Isles accelerates just field use to those dollars. The reality is that he loves that people come from out of town, he loves that people are using our facilities, facilities cost a lot of money to create, he does not embellish that the citizens of Spokane are subsidizing play that comes from out of town. He wants to be sure he has this right in his head before the Board makes any decisions. The good news is that 2014 is tapped out, we are trying to get to the cost recovery. The bad news is that people have to bear the cost, but these fields cost a lot of money to build, and they cost a lot of money to maintain. He understands a little bit of what

Mr. Isles dilemma is but he wants to understand all the pieces before he makes a decision. Sam Selinger confirmed with Mr. Isles that he is expecting to pay \$5,800 this year and that is already factored in for this year and that Mr. Isles concern is for next year and that if these go through the \$5,800 would then change to \$6,600, approximately an \$800 increase, and asked if it corresponds to the proposed fees. Carl Strong stepped in to explain that the first day Mr. Isles will pay \$250 more, the second day he will pay \$250 more and the increase on the ½ day is about \$150. They will pay the fees, plus the cost of the fences since they have asked the fences be up, some tournaments want extra field preps over and above the included one prep every three games at the cost of \$52.50 per prep, and we are not proposing to increase these fees. Tournament directors will find when they go to the complexes is that we have done a lot of research on other complexes and they do have a lot lower fees. Their communities, not just their Parks Departments, but the entire community, has decided to back the fact that they are bringing in outside people. The reality is that here we are not, we are trying to get to cost recovery and the subsidy right now is at a higher level. We have a thank you email from another municipality saying that they were able to get a tournament because their fees were much lower. For those who are putting on tournaments this is a challenge that they are facing. Sam Selinger asked to confirm how the extra things they are getting besides the fields, fences and extra prep, relates to cost recovery. If they are items at full cost recovery and excluded from the things we are talking about versus the field per-say. Carl Strong noted that quite a while ago we met with ASA and broke it down very specific as far as cost recovery. As far as getting up to 40-50% cost recovery that includes all of the fees we get, any revenue that is generated from operating Merkel. All the additional functions go towards cost recovery. The \$52.50 per prep is the actual cost is to do the prep. Concession is its own budget.

Dan Peck, Spokane Babe Ruth, stated that he wanted to point out that the fee schedule includes a typographical error with 2013 & 2014 columns mislabeled. The Board acknowledged they are aware of this error. What he looks at when he looks at price increases is that soccer, including adult soccer, has not increased at all for turf, and for grass it's gone up \$5 in three years. The price for their baseball league has doubled in that same amount of time. Cost recovery cannot be brunted by youth sports and asks why adult and youth soccer aren't paying incremental price increases for everything. The costs basically sits on leagues like his. They take all single registrations. Sometime kids receive scholarships because they are unable to afford it. His league is charged the same amount of money as other leagues that take select teams, travel teams that go all around the state and play. Those people obviously have a lot more money to put into fees than his league does. To them a price increase is not that big of a deal, but for his kids it is a big deal. He heard the increase stated that it is \$0.20 and also \$1.67 per player. By his calculations it's \$2.29 per player for his players for the season. In 2015 where no increase is anticipated Parks can come back and raise it again. He cannot count on 2015 unless the Board is going to pass 2015 fees right now. This year adult softball came in on May 15 and took pretty much all of the fields he had reserved until the 8<sup>th</sup> of June. He had to go back and change his schedule to match theirs. He asks how he can be expected him to run a league when Parks and Recreation can just come in and take reserved fields ¾ of the way through the season. He asks where his kids are supposed to play, when we are giving the adults an opportunity to play. If we are truly about kids in this community then it has to be kids first, not adults first. Mr. Peck had 4 fields at Franklin Park on the 8<sup>th</sup> and 4 on the 6<sup>th</sup> in the evening and concession stand was not open. There are no concessions at Franklin and the department is losing a ton of money because they are not open. The Pony disabled player group has offered to run concessions but have not been allowed to. Merkel field 6 was originally scheduled to be a youth baseball field. It was put in with the complex by Parks

and Recreation and is now \$20 per hour not \$1 per hour like the other youth baseball fields as it should be and was originally supposed to be his. He stated they will take care of the field the same way they do Clark and that \$20 per hour for a field that is outside of the complex is too much. A lot of the time the complex is locked up and you cannot get into the bathroom though there is a porta-potty. He is paying the same amount of money for no concessions and a porta potty that people are paying inside the complex for concessions and restrooms and he does not believe it is fair. Ken Van Voorhis asked Mr. Peck to talk about his organization, the ages of players for disabled group and other groups and the number of players. Mr. Peck advised that their group is Babe Ruth Baseball. Non-disabled players range in age from 4-15 and the disabled group players range in age from 4-20. Their spring/early summer leagues have approximately 870 ball players. There will be approximately an additional 400 in the fall. Overall they have about 1,300 players. Sam Selinger asked for clarification on the \$2.29 figure quoted earlier and explained that he is asking because Mr. Peck indicated that a number of his users use Merkel. Mr. Peck confirmed that it is \$2.29 per player for the season. He stated his teams ages 9-12 get the most use out of Merkel and Franklin and that there are approximately 384 kids that play in that division. He is looking at the possibility of getting an extra field at Merkel or Franklin for next year. If he has to put out more money due to increased fees and would not be able to justify paying for an extra field. Randy Cameron confirmed with Mr. Peck each player gets 18 games per season for the \$2.29 per person and noted that the increase would then be 12.5 cents per game per person. Mr. Peck advised that statistically you can break it down to whatever small number and it doesn't sound like much. In order for him to be cost neutral he would have to pass that entire \$2.29 off on to his players. In a two year period that is a \$5.00 price increase. Susan Traver asked if Mr. Peck has commercial sponsors for his league and if sponsor money goes for uniforms, registrations or sign up costs. She inquired if it would be fair to say an average registration cost for a user yearly is around \$90, \$75 for the younger kids up to \$115 for the older players. Mr. Peck stated they have some commercial sponsors. They charge a \$250 sponsor fee some of that goes for uniforms. The money goes into their general fund and helps to keep costs at a low price. Right now they are \$30 less than their competitor per player. They currently charge \$110 for ages 9-10, for ages 11-12 they charge \$120. That money goes towards field use fees, uniform fees, and baseballs. Uniform fees are partially covered by sponsors. The uniform cost to the league is approximately \$50 per player with teams having 12 players each. Chris Wright noted Mr. Peck's observation with regards allocations and who gets fields, though today's discussion is on fees, and hopes the committee goes back and explores the allocation process. He is concerned that Mr. Peck was bumped. Mr. Peck commented that with regards to the allocation process, they received notice of the price increases 8 days ago, less than 24 hours before the Recreation Committee agenda was sent out. Recreation Committee was the only public comment opportunity. Councilman Allen noted he has some concerns about the bumping as well. Leroy Eadie advised, in regards to the bumping issue, that last year staff proposed the adult softball league in Parks and Recreation that was just starting to come together about the same time as the allocations in the fall. He asked the Board to remember that the primary part of the conversation today is softball complexes, Merkel and Franklin, whose primary use is softball. We know that baseball user groups also reserve fields at the complexes. All user groups were told at that time that depending on the size of our softball league there was a chance there could be some impacts in the spring and at that time we would all sit down and try to work those out and do the best we can. Our business plan estimated we would have 50 teams and had 80 teams sign up. At that time the Board seemed very positive. With that amount of teams staff sat down and decided we needed to move teams around. Sometimes these groups were in the complex, sometimes not, sometimes they were moved to other locations. Leroy received more emails from the

new softball league and their frustration of not getting access and that we were being too lenient to the youth baseball side of it than the baseball groups, though we heard from the youth baseball side as did the Mayor's office. We warned the groups in the fall that this could potentially happen, the league was successful, it happened, and we worked our way through it. There was frustration on both sides, youth baseball and softball, as we worked through our first league. Remember the leagues don't overlap exactly so the conflicts only happened for a certain time period and then youth baseball finished up and softball is continuing on. Mike Allen confirmed that these fees are for 2014 and would not affect the current in season budget. Mr. Peck assured that it would not affect the current in season budget but that he is unhappy that the Board is voting on something with him barely having a chance to know about it. Mr. Allen also confirmed that 9 fields were renovated for youth baseball with the 2007 bond funds and asked what the utilization percentage of those fields is now. Carl Strong advised that he does not have an exact number however Mr. Peck uses the BA Clark fields extensively. The other fields at Chief Garry, Underhill and Liberty get a little bit less use because other groups have been on the fields. The 9<sup>th</sup> field at Merkel was the last field we added. Dan and Pony are the primary users. Mike Allen confirmed with Carl that there are 3 at Garry, 2 at Underhill and 1 at Liberty for a total of 6. Mike Allen stated that it sounds like we have excess capacity at the dedicated baseball fields. Mr. Peck advised that fields were handed out Chief Garry was given as a Pony priority and they have priority to take whatever they want there. The two fields at Underhill and the field at Liberty were given to the South Hill Little League and they have priority there. He got two fields. Mike Allen inquired confirmed with Mr. Peck that Babe Ruth is a 501c# non-profit organization. Ken Van Voorhis asked if they are using Parks and Recreation fields exclusively or if they are using some of the school district fields as well. Mr. Peck advised they use some of the school district fields. Most of the school district fields are used for coach hit and t-ball. They use a couple for their 9-10 year old program. They try to get their 11-12 year olds into either Clark, Merkel or Franklin because they are better fields and the kids are hitting the ball a lot harder and could be more easily injured at some of the school district fields. Arlington School was available but inaccessible due to the road construction. He tries to use as many City fields as he can because they are in better condition than the schools.

Randy Hastings, Vice President, Spokane Girls Fastpitch, and has been involved in softball since 1979 either playing or coaching. Four to five years ago Spokane Girls Fastpitch decided to take their weeknight 10U – 18U leagues away from Franklin Park and move them to the high schools because there were scheduling conflicts. They had some games going on when adult games were going on and it just wasn't a great atmosphere. They have fields at U-High, CV, North Central, Mount Spokane and Mead. After the proposed fee increases for Merkel came out last year he crunched the numbers and even if they slightly increase the fees for the tournament they couldn't make it, so for 2013 they decided to move the tournament to the high schools. Two weekends ago they had 44 teams including teams from Canada and Montana. They thought that if they slightly increased it this year and again next year and then tried to catch up and go back to playing at Merkel and Franklin but they can't keep up with the price increases. The price increases on the fee schedule are only a part of the puzzle and there are a lot of pieces missing, the prep of the fields every other game, the umpire fees, etc. When it all comes together it's a huge impact even when it's only a couple of dollars here and there. When he crunches the number he has to look at it and see if they can break even or make a little bit of money. After 2013 he crunched the numbers, he could send out his spreadsheets but he doesn't want to though he would like to see the City's numbers at Merkel and costs are recouped. He does not see the actual expense of \$52.50 to prep a field. He can prep a field in ½ hour plus the cost of material is \$10 at the most. The way he sees the number his

tournament will remain at the high schools. Ken Van Voorhis asked if their fees to the teams remained the same and if the schools are charging. Mr. Hastings advised that they raised the 12U-18U by \$20.00. They pay the schools a fee to rent to the fields and then also pay a donation based upon what they think they have at the end to all the high schools. The high schools don't get funding from the district for fences and scoreboards. In the last 4-5 years Girls Fastpitch has donated \$40-50K to buy fences. Merkel and Franklin are softball fields but they are not considered youth. They have to have the fences up and they didn't want to pay to put them up for one day. Chris Wright stated he heard that the per game fee structure for girls softball compared to boys baseball is such that the girls end up paying more per game and inquired if Mr. Hastings agreed and if so why. Mr. Hastings indicated his agreement. Baseball was given the benefit of paying \$1.00 for Clark and Garry if they do their own field prep and softball was never offered that. They have the benefit of playing on fields for \$1.00 and the girls cannot play on any fields for \$1.00 and that is a real disadvantage. Ken Van Voorhis asked if City Parks and Recreation requires teams to do field prep between games. Mr. Hastings advised that the department does not require it but his organization desires it. They try to do a prep every two games because at that point the batter's box and pitcher's mound need to be fixed.

**Motion withdrawn:** Susan Traver, withdrew motion to give the Recreation Committee and the Board more time to gather information and take a look at the fees. She reminded the board and audience that you cannot make everybody happy and that decisions are sometimes made where someone is unhappy. However, she does want to make sure that everyone is heard before the decision is made and today's schedule is very tight. Sam Selinger supports the withdrawal of the motion and believes that there may be some concerns with equality that need to be discussed as well. The Board needs to be comfortable that things are relatively equal and would be better handled in Committee giving everybody a chance to submit in a very organized way.

Ross Kelley, the second on the motion, agreed with the withdrawal.

Dave Ayers, Catholic Diocesan Baseball League, advised he is not here to complain about the fees as they utilize the third tier. They have a really good relationship with Carl and his people and offered his thanks to them. Suggested Carl could put together something to give to the youth softball and baseball groups that would show the number of hours utilized at the three main complexes, Merkel, Southeast and Franklin, from 2011-2013 and showing increases, decreases, and the trend along with the fees brought in. They understand that Parks needs to get money back and if people are willing to pay for it then it's ok. If the utilization isn't there or the money brought in from the fees hasn't increased then that is something that needs to be looked at. Susan Traver noted that we need to look at other fields as well and if hours are available, why are they not being used and if they can be used by other groups.

Leslie Sigrah, oversees the baseball program for children with disabilities under the umbrella of Babe Ruth Baseball. The program has grown from 20 kids to almost 100 in the last 5 years, giving these kids opportunities they wouldn't have otherwise. It bothers her that the City says the citizens of Spokane are covering the cost of the fields. She has lived in Spokane 45 years and has been a softball player and feels that is a part of being a City. The City provides things like this for the citizens and that is why we pay taxes. She is paying taxes so that we can have all these things available for our kids yet she goes out with her kids with disabilities and in wheelchairs and play on fields that are unacceptable, that have ruts and holes. She had a kid who went head first into 1<sup>st</sup> base due to field conditions. It is really frustrating to hear someone say that we are subsidizing. We are subsidizing because these kids deserve to have good fields, a place to play and a place to



be a kid. Mrs. Sigrah asks how many places are there in this day and age where kids can be kids and noted that this is something we fight all the time. Kids are growing up too fast. They are home all by themselves. They have matured too quickly. She has had kids with disabilities that don't get to do anything besides come out and play baseball 8 weeks a year on unsafe fields. She brought the Cal Ripken Foundation to the City to try to get help building a field. They have told her they will come up with one third of the money if Mrs. Sigrah raises the other two thirds. She advised she can raise the money and just needs somewhere to build the field that is appropriate for our kids. She stated she has asked many times over in different forms to try to do this. She is not asking for Parks and Recreation to build the field for her however, she wants to build it and is willing to let other people use it. She only needs to space to do it, a piece of flat land to put the field. She has been unable to get anyone to offer up anything with the exception of the county offering her a 25 acre piece of property for 20 years for nothing that it is not usable because it is not level. If she were offered a suitable property that was remote she would not care because her kids would drive from all over the city and county to play in her program. They will go wherever the field is. She offered to build it at Franklin and this was brought to the attention of City Parks and Recreation via the Cal Ripken Foundation though it has not proceeded any further than that. Her group has been approached by the Little People of America's Association wanting to bring their tournaments to Spokane on her field. The City is getting money from people from out of town. They are staying in hotels and eating in our restaurants. Mrs. Sigrah has been in the hospitality business for over 25 years. They tourists are creating revenue by coming into town for tournaments. The view that they get of our City when coming to play on these fields is important. It is important for them to see we are doing it right. Mrs. Sigrah is paying for Webster and Harmon and as far as she is concerned she would more than happily give Parks and Recreation twice that amount to run the concession at Franklin. She has 25 years of experience in food and beverage. She can run the concession stand and have it open and available for people. She could make her program some money and it would be good for the City. If we did not charge her \$0.25 for her fields she would pay Parks and Recreation to let her run the concession stand. Chris Wright confirmed that he is hearing the preferred place to play would be Franklin. Mrs. Sigrah advised that there is a piece of flat land at Franklin that they could build two fields. One smaller field for the younger kids and kids that are less mobile, and one larger field for kids that have more mobility. She advised that there are probably lots of places that would be suitable. She approached District 81 and proposed using one of their schools with a big open field that is sitting empty and unused. There is a Federal Mandate that says the school district has to provide outside extracurricular opportunities in athletics for kids with disabilities. The school district declined stating that eventually they will want to use the building, they are using it for storage and a lot of other excuses but not a lot of help. Susan Traver asked Leroy if staff is looking into this. Leroy Eadie advised that he has had two meetings with a representative from Cal Ripken Foundation, one via a conference call. They talked about Franklin Park. Leroy thinks that as far as a central location it is a great place for the field. It meets Mrs. Sigrah's needs real well and would show off our organization. Franklin has a little bit of a challenge because there is a lot going on there. It is not just a softball complex. There are a lot of activities at Franklin. The area that we've looked at has good possibilities however it is also used for soccer practice and we run an ultimate Frisbee league there. We have to look for opportunities to move those activities to other locations. This is where the proposed fields got held up. It is not that Parks and Recreation is not interested, it is that we have to look at the system, talk to the user groups, and see if there is a possibility of relocating them. You may think that soccer

practices are not a big deal, however it is a big deal. We are still very much interested in the idea and want to continue the conversation with Cal Ripken Foundation. It is a great organization with wonderful opportunities and we are working on finding a recommendation. Mrs. Sigrah expressed her appreciation for the ongoing work with the Cal Ripken Foundation and also asked the Department consider her proposal regarding concessions.

Randy Cameron summarized that the motion was withdrawn, the item will return to the committee level, opportunity for additional public input will be provided and that there is a need to accomplish this in a timely manner was acknowledged.

- B. The committee received updates on the East Central Community Center, the status of the Peaceful Valley Community Center, and the City Softball League.
- C. The committee discussed the Class Matrix and categorization of classes and the Corbin Art Center.

**Riverfront Park Committee:** June 10, 2013 – *Chris Wright*

- A. The creation of the memorial fund for Dr. Quigley was announced. The intent is to replace the plastic benches near the Rotary Fountain with black iron benches with at least one containing a plaque honoring Dr. Quigley.
- B. The Committee received an update from the Sports Commission, an update on the Bosch Lot long range plans, an update on the IMAX top grossing films, an update on the sale of the portable restroom, an update on the Riverfront Park Master Plan, an update on Avista Huntington Park, an update on the Public Facilities District expansion, and an update on the dairy building site restoration.
- C. The Committee received and reviewed the new financial reports and the 2014 Budget Calendar.
- D. The committee discussed Financing irrigation projects and the 2014 Budget.

**Finance Committee:** June 11, 2013 – *Andy Dunau*

- A. **Motion No. 5:** Andy Dunau motioned to accept the 2014 Budget Guidelines as amended at Finance Committee.  
Ken Van Voorhis seconded.  
Speaking to the motion:  
Susan Traver would like to address the Corbin Art Center and the plan for that building and asked if a guideline should be added that a program plan should be established.  
Ross Kelley confirmed that it would affect the 2014 budget and should be in the guidelines.  
Sam Selinger agreed noting that the discussion involves both maintaining the building in an appropriate way and the programs that are within it.  
Ken Van Voorhis expressed that he agrees with both Susan and Sam however believes it falls under the last item of the guidelines and needs to be listed as one of the items to be addressed this year.  
Andy Dunau recommended that the verbiage of the final bullet on the first page after “such as the RFP Master Planning” be added to read “and Corbin Art Center Budget Program Plan”.  
Motion carried.
- B. The committee received and reviewed the Financial Reports, the Budget Calendar, the 2012 Fund Balance Report, and the Financial Projections.
- C. The committee discussed the Financing of Irrigation Projects.

**Urban Forestry Tree Committee:** June 4, 2013 – *Ken Van Voorhis*

- A. The committee discussed the role of Urban Forestry in water quality projects and about the public process timeline for the draft Low Impact Development Ordinance and the planning of a Green Infrastructure seminar expected to happen this fall.
- B. The committee received an update on the Citizen Advisory Committee.
- C. The committee reviewed the Urban Forestry Staff Report.

**By-Laws Committee:** Ross Kelley noted the committee did not meet and asked Board members to keep track of things they come across they think should be addressed in the By-Laws.

12. **Reports:**

**Park Board President:** *Randy Cameron*

1. Thank you was given to Sam Selinger in taking the lead for the Dr. Quigley Memorial Fund.
2. Randy met with Mayor recently. Positive discussion was had about Stormwater opportunities, concerns about the General Fund, and the two finalists for the two vacant Board positions that will be forwarded.
3. Recently there were two great articles featuring Parks in the paper.

**Liaison Reports:**

1. Conservation Futures Liaison – Ken VanVoorhis reported that the Land Evaluation Committee for the County lost one of its key members. Robbi Castleberry passed away. She was instrumental in a number of things in this community and the County. She will be missed. There may be some Conservation Futures properties coming forward within the City. The Conservation Futures process was briefly explained and discussed.
2. Parks Foundation Liaison – Susan Traver, no report
3. Council Liaison – Councilman Mike Allen, no report
4. Parks Department Revenue & Sponsorship Subcommittee – Councilman Mike Allen a meeting will be scheduled in the near future.
5. Ad Hoc Committee for Improved Financial Reporting – Randy Cameron, no report
6. Ad Hoc Committee for RFP Facility Naming/Sponsorship – Chris Wright, no report

**Director's Report:** *Leroy Eadie*

1. The Friends of Comstock Park and Parks and Recreation are putting together a rededication of Comstock Park on July 11<sup>th</sup> for its 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The rededication will be followed by a concert in the park.
2. There is a meeting Monday with all parties involved to discuss the tree topping issue at Indian Canyon.
3. The next Riverfront Park Citizens Advisory Committee meeting is next Thursday.
4. Leroy recognized Robbi Castleberry's contributions to the City. She worked hard and was respectful to everyone she worked with. We have lost a tremendous citizen.

13. **Correspondence:**

- A. Letters: Friends of Manito, Invitation to Picnic for the Pond (Randy Cameron, Andy Dunau, Ross Kelley, Sam Selinger, Jim Santorsola, Susan Traver, Ken Van Voorhis)
- B. Newsletters: Southside Senior Activity Center  
Corbin Senior Activity Center

14. **Public Comments:**

15. **Adjournment:**

A. Next Committee meeting dates:

Golf Committee: June 19, 2013, 7:00 a.m., Downriver Golf Course

Riverfront Park Committee: July 8, 2013, 8:05 a.m., City Hall Tribal Conference Room 1

Land Committee: July 3, 2013, 3:30 p.m., City Hall Conference Room 5A, (subsequently changed to July 1)

Recreation Committee July 8, 2013, 3:30 p.m. City Hall Conference Room 2B (subsequently changed to July 10)

Finance Committee: July 9, 2013, 3:00 p.m., City Hall Conference Room 5A

Urban Forestry Committee: July 2, 2013, 4:15 p.m., Woodland Center

B. Next Park Board meeting date: July 11, 2013, 1:30 p.m., City Council Chambers

C. Next Park Board Study Session: July 11, 2013, 3:00 p.m., or as soon as possible thereafter, directly following Park Board meeting, City Hall Conference Room 5A (subsequently canceled)