



**Spokane Park Board  
Development & Volunteer / Citizen Advisory  
Committee  
4:30 p.m. Wednesday, September 20, 2023  
In-person and WebEx virtual meeting  
Fianna Dickson – Marketing & Communications**

**Committee members:**

**DVCAC:**

- Kelly Brown – Chair/The Friends of Manito Park (*absent/excused*)
- Greg Connolly – Friends of Spokane Skate Park (*absent*)
- X Jeff Lambert / Trevor Finchamp – Friends of the Bluff
- Lindsey Shaw – Community Assembly representative/Logan Neighborhood Council (*absent/excused*)
- Cole Taylor – Friends of Riverfront Park (*absent*)
- X Lee Williams – Friends of Coeur d 'Alene Park
- X Paul Lindholdt – Friends of Palisades

**DVC:**

- X Jennifer Ogden – Chair/Park Board
- X Bob Anderson – Park Board
- Gerry Sperling – Park Board (*absent/excused*)
- Doug Kelley – Park Board (*absent/excused*)
- Kelly Brown – Development & Volunteer Citizen Advisory Committee representative (*absent/excused*)
- X Julie Biggerstaff – Community Assembly representative
- Rick Romero – Member-at-large (*absent/excused*)
- X Matt Antush – Member-at-large

**Park staff**

Fianna Dickson  
Sarah Deatrich  
Mels Felton

**Guests**

**Minutes**

1. **Call to order** – The meeting was called to order at 4:32 p.m. by DVC Committee chair Jennifer Ogden. See list above for attendance.
2. **Public comment:** None

### 3. **DVCAC discussion items:**

#### A. Welcome Mels Felton – Fianna Dickson

Fianna introduced new employee, Mels Felton (they/them), Inclusion and Grants Coordinator. Mels comes to us with a background in non-profit advocacy. They worked five years as Project Director of the Inland NW Disability Experience, which is a disability focused non-profit in Spokane, and serves Spokane County and where they found their love for grant writing and diversity, equity, and inclusion. Mels' goal in their position with the Parks department is to secure funding for Parks to complete projects. They have completed their first grant and are working on the next. Project priority is determined by the Master Plan.

#### B. Basecamp demonstration – Fianna Dickson

Basecamp is an internet-based project management tool that the City is using for EXPO+50 management, however, the DVC/AC could create a separate, private group. Each member of the group would receive an emailed invitation to create a username and password (no cost). The DVC/AC page will contain three tools to begin with: message board; docs & files; and schedule. Fianna explained the message board is used for members to share information/ideas, ask questions, and communicate needs such as a need for volunteers. The docs & files tool is a place to share pertinent documents such as the DVC Mission/Goals/Objectives and the Adopt a Park & Friends of Parks policy. The schedule tool is a calendar which would be helpful for sharing events and meetings. Additional tools could be added later, if needed.

Having received no objections, Fianna will move forward in creating the DVC/AC space for the committees.

### 4. **DVCAC standing reports**

#### A. DVCAC member news – Jennifer Ogden

Paul Lindholt provided a Friends of Palisades update.

- The City of Airway Heights had planned to dump wastewater into swales in parts of the West Plains. Friends of Palisades, along with other groups, were successful in halting that project.
- As Palisades Park is at large risk for wildfires, having had 42 of 720 acres burned last year. The City is planning a "lop and scatter operation" which is basically to thin the fuel and lessen the chance of fast-spreading fires.
- There will be a cleanup in October – date TBD. The Friends of Palisades are hopeful it will assist in creating new membership to their group.

Lee Williams shared a Friends of Coeur d'Alene Park update.

- The Rising performed a concert in the park at no cost to the Friends group. The Friends group put together three swag bags which included tickets to various Friends group events such as Spook Walk and a gift certificate to The Elk, among other things. There was also merchandise and mocktails for sale. The event raised \$3,942.73, which is the largest amount an event has raised. Total fundraising for the year netted \$6,325.36.
- Patty Simpson-Ward donated a matted and framed print for the park gazebo.
- The Friends have an application in to Avista, to run electricity from the street to the gazebo.
- The Friends have been meeting monthly with Park Ops director, Al Vorderbrueggen, to

discuss park operations.

Jeff Lambert provided a Friends of the Bluff update.

- The group has \$63,000 in the bank with no debt.
- The group has coordinated with the Women's Club for storage needs.
- There will be a thank you note/ envelope stuffing gathering, and dinner will be provided. Gatherings such as these have proven to be a good way to get people involved and build community.
- Two new board members were welcomed.
- The group is awaiting approval for the Rocket Gulch stairs which is one of their top asks.
- Many volunteer opportunities are coming up this fall, including trail work, and trail signage.
- The group is hopeful the levy will create funds for Creekside access improvements, fire risk reduction, week management, and land acquisitions. They are working with Nick Jeffries from SFD to identify strategies for fire risk reduction.
- The Friends of the Bluff may bring a proposal to the Park Board to change the name of High Drive Bluff to a name agreed upon by the Spokane and CDA tribes. The new name is to be determined. Name proposals will be brought to Land Committee and will need Park Board approval.

#### B. EXPO+50 update – Jennifer Ogden

Next year's Leadership Spokane class has selected the EXPO+50 celebration as one of their projects, which will be valuable in terms of marketing, organization, and involving neighborhood parks.

#### 5. **DVC action items**

A. None

#### 6. **DVC discussion items**

A. None

#### 7. **DVC standing reports**

A. None

Jennifer, Bob, and Kelly have been meeting with Stephen Williams from a new proposed group, Friends of Disc Golf. Stephen would like to bring disc golf to all Spokane parks and is considering a traveling mobile unit for sharing information regarding disc golf and activating parks with positive activity. Stephen is interested in sitting on the DVCAC and will submit a letter of interest to the Parks Director.

Paul Kropp will be assisting in finding a Community Assembly representative, to replace Julie Biggerstaff at the end of her term.

Park Board's newest member, Doug Kelley, has joined the DVC. He will be present for October's meeting.

Meeting time will be amended to 4:00 p.m. to accommodate Steven Williams' schedule.

#### 8. **Adjournment** – The meeting was adjourned at 5:08 p.m.

The next regularly scheduled meeting is 4:00 p.m. Wednesday, October 18, 2023, in-person in City Hall Conference Room 5A, and virtually via WebEx.