



**Spokane Park Board
Development & Volunteer / Citizen Advisory
Committee
12:00 p.m. Wednesday, January 8, 2025
In-person and WebEx virtual meeting
Fianna Dickson – Marketing & Communications**

Committee members:

DVCAC:

- X Lee Williams – Chair/Friends of Coeur d’Alene Park
- X Jeff Lambert (*absent*) / Trevor Finchamp – Friends of the Bluff
Cole Taylor – Friends of Riverfront Park (*absent*)
Paul Lindholdt – Friends of Palisades (*absent/excused*)

DVC:

- X Jennifer Ogden – Chair/Park Board
- X Bob Anderson – Park Board
- X Gerry Sperling – Park Board (*Arrived 12:27*)
- X Doug Kelley – Park Board
- X Lee Williams – Development & Volunteer Citizen Advisory Committee representative
- X Lindsey Shaw – Community Assembly representative (*Arrived 12:07 / left 12:53*)

Park staff

Fianna Dickson
Sarah Deatrich

Guests

Arielle Anderson – Community, Housing, & Human Services
Kelly Brown

Minutes

1. **Call to order** – The meeting was called to order at 12:04 p.m. by DVC Committee chair Jennifer Ogden. See list above for attendance.
2. **Public comment:** None
3. **DVCAC action items:**
 - A. DVCAC chair election

Kelly Brown's term as chair of the DVCAC has expired and the committee elected Lee Williams as their new chairperson.

4. **DVCAC discussion items:**

- A. City-wide homelessness initiatives update – Arielle Anderson, City of Spokane Community, Housing, and Human Services (CHHS).

Arielle has been working in homeless services for approximately 20 years. She said that one of the things they saw when Covid hit was a lot of restrictions about how emergency shelters interacted with the public as there was a drastic reduction in the number of people they could serve. One benefit, though, was the amount of ARPA funding that became available to help homeless services. The funds have run out, and the Trent Resource and Assistance Center (TRAC) has been closed. The closure of this shelter was a loss of about 250 beds and has been a shock to the system.

Towards the end of 2023, knowing bed space would be lost, CHHS began reimagining what Spokane's emergency shelter system could look like and created a navigation center (Cannon Shelter) with the idea that there would be specific scattered sites attached. Cannon Shelter is a shelter where many of the beds are filled by way of outreach teams such as Revive. Two of the scattered sites that came on were Truth Ministries and Jewel's Helping Hands, which are strictly referral-based and do mostly respite care of people exiting hospitals. Within the next 60 days, CHHS will be opening additional beds specifically for families. They are also hopeful that they will be opening some bridge housing that would accept those who need to get stabilized before going into a long-term sobering facility. More scattered shelters are slowly coming on and hopefully this will continue.

There are still walk-in shelters; however, bed availability is not guaranteed. Hope House, UGM, and House of Charity are some of those shelters.

Referrals to permanent supportive housing (PSH), otherwise known as havens, come by way of Spokane Housing Authority and require at least one year of documented homelessness *and* verifiable disability.

In response to Lee's question about what the neighbors can do if they see homeless people in the park needing help, Arielle stated it would depend upon the situation that prompted the conversation. She said they could call Jewel's, SNAP, Revive, or other such shelters, to deploy someone to make contact with the person needing assistance. CHHS is creating a resource guide that will list all the specific outreach teams and what they do. Lindsey Shaw suggested the pamphlets could be laminated and placed in the parks, kiosks, or in nearby libraries for residents and homeless to access. The Shelter Me Spokane website (or app) is also a good resource.

5. **DVCAC standing reports:**

- A. DVCAC member news – Lee Williams

1) Friends of the Bluff – Trevor Finchamp

- Two new trail signs will be added within the next couple of months, weather permitting.
- There will be a member appreciation event at the Women's Club on January 28

at 5:00 p.m. The event is open to anyone who has volunteered with or donated to the Friends of the Bluff in the last year.

- Great progress has been made on the Rocket Gulch Stairs. Fundraising and planning continue. The Friends will be partnering with Washington Trails Association on this project. Work will start in the Fall.

2) Community Assembly – Lindsey Shaw

- The Logan, Hillyard, and Bemiss neighborhoods combined councils to provide a bigger voice for District 1.
- Lindsey is reporting the DVCAC happenings to the Community Assembly tomorrow, January 9.
- The Community Assembly will be learning about CDBG funds, which they hope to secure to help fund park improvements.

3) Friends of Coeur d'Alene Park – Lee Williams

- Since volunteerism is low, the Friends approached Community Minded Enterprises, a non-profit organization, with a proposal for them to be a lead agency in receiving and managing funding for children's activities in the park. The Friends are hopeful that this engagement will deter nefarious activities which have steadily increased.
- Friends of Coeur d'Alene Park leadership are meeting with The Parks Foundation to ask about fiscal sponsorship.

4) Kelly Brown commented that the Holiday Lights at Manito were beautiful this year in Duncan Garden.

6. **DVC action items**

A. None

7. **DVC discussion items**

A. None

8. **DVC standing reports:**

A. Levy subcommittee update – Jennifer Ogden

Citizen led groups for Parks and Schools have been meeting about ways in which Parks and Schools can collaborate around programming, maintenance, and facilities upgrades to make parks into outdoor classrooms and get kids engaged outdoors, away from screens.

Fianna added that Parks and Schools are looking at making a joint announcement, at the end of February, about their findings from working together and to give clarity on what the partnership would look like.

9. **Adjournment** – The meeting was adjourned at 1:03 p.m.

The next regularly scheduled meeting is 12:00 p.m. Wednesday, March 12, 2025, in-person in the Finch Arboretum Ponderosa Room, 3404 W. Woodland Blvd., and virtually via WebEx.