



**Spokane Park Board
Development & Volunteer / Citizen Advisory
Committee**
12:00 p.m. Wednesday, May 7, 2025
In-person and WebEx virtual meeting
Fianna Dickson – Marketing & Communications

Committee members:

DVCAC:

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

DVC:

- X Jennifer Ogden – Chair/Park Board
- X Bob Anderson – Park Board
- X Gerry Sperling – Park Board
- X Lee Williams – DVCAC representative

Park staff

Fianna Dickson
Sarah Deatrich

Guests

Elizabeth Goldsmith, Comstock Neighborhood Council
Sandy Wicht, Comstock Neighborhood Council
Kathryn Kolquist, Friends of Manito Park

Minutes

1. **Call to order** – The meeting was called to order at 12:00 p.m. by DVC Committee chair Jennifer Ogden. See list above for attendance.
2. **Public comment:** None
3. **DVCAC discussion items:**
 - A. None

With three guests in attendance, introductions were made around the room.

4. DVCAC standing reports:

A. DVCAC member news – Lee Williams

1) Friends of Palisades – Craig Volosing

- Friends of Palisades, along with Parks & Recreation, will be holding a ribbon-cutting /commemoration event to recognize the years of assistance from the many organizations and individuals who have helped expand the park. The Rimrock to Riverside expansion is approximately 130 acres and takes the park north as far as the Burlington Northern Railway. A 50-acre expansion to the west is planned and projected to be complete in 2-3 years.
- Volunteer weed mitigation and park cleanups continue. During the Friends' spring cleanup event, volunteers filled a large dump truck with garbage from illegal dumping, primarily around Greenwood Road and Indian Canyon Drive. Friends of Palisades is in hopes that Indian Canyon Drive can be closed to vehicles in the near future, which will prevent much of the dumping from happening.

2) Friends Riverfront Park – Cole Taylor

- Cole is working to schedule a meeting in order to renew membership recruiting efforts. One goal is to re-imagine the group, given the unique traits of Riverfront Park. Another goal is to be able to restart discussions regarding the King Cole commemoration.

3) Friends of Manito Park – guest Kathryn Kolquist

- Changes on the Board this year have brought the Friends' focus back to their original mission of fundraising for the park.
- Projects include repairing the fountain in Duncan Garden, an ADA pathway from the Conservatory into Duncan Garden, a new boiler in the Conservatory, and updating the kiosks parking lots and around the park.
- The Friends' plant sale will be held on June 7th.
- There has been a record number of volunteers this year. Volunteer opportunities are now available on Saturdays. Kathryn asked about having signs around the park which would contain contact information for Parks volunteer opportunities and possibly increase volunteerism by making the process easier to navigate. Jennifer suggested holding volunteer orientation meetings for an in-person option. Gerry suggested approaching schools or Eagle Scouts and Jennifer added that some schools have volunteer requirements.
- Planting in Duncan Garden has begun.
- Kathryn was encouraged to send her letter of intent to Garrett to make her position as Friends of Manito's representative official.

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

- Summer concerts are starting on June 19th and will run every Thursday for eight weeks. Concerts are free; however, donations are accepted. They start at 6:00 p.m., and end by 8:00 p.m.
- The Spokane Farmer's Market will be starting on May 17th in the NE corner of the park this year.
- A lot more younger people have moved into the neighborhood which has brought new perspective to the group.
- Lee is working with a non-profit and individuals to bring an early learning activity program to the park. The program would be play and learn, which would include joint activities for parents with their children aged infant to pre-K. Gerry named Joya as a possible resource.
- Lee sent emails to all District 1 neighborhoods and Comstock in District 2 about DVCAC and the role the committee plays in information sharing between the

- neighborhoods. She hopes it will spark more involvement in Friends groups.
- The group offered ideas to boost neighborhood involvement, such as hosting a block party, anniversary party for the park, and a voluntary award ceremony.
- 5) Fianna Dickinson reported that the Friends of Moore-Turner Heritage Gardens group is folding and will transfer their assets to the Spokane Parks Foundation to hold in a reserved account for the gardens that Parks can pull from when certain criteria are met.

5. DVC action items

A. None

6. DVC discussion items

A. None

7. DVC standing reports:

A. Levy subcommittee update – Jennifer Ogden

- 1) City Council voted on the Parks levy, and it will be on the November 4th ballot. Jennifer mentioned the [Together Spokane](#) website where one can go to find information about what will be accomplished if the levy passes and the 30 additional projects that can be completed if the Spokane Public Schools bond also passes.

B. [Q1 volunteer report](#) – Fianna Dickson

- 1) Fianna passed out the Q1 volunteer report and explained that without a dedicated employee to manage volunteers, some numbers are missing from the report. She reported that we do know that there were about 4,000 volunteers contributed about 18,400 hours, which is a value of about \$642,000.

Guest Elizabeth Goldsmith talked about happenings at Comstock Park. Two significant events are held in the park: Summer Parkways and Symphony in the Park. The organizers of neither event had previously engaged with the Comstock Neighborhood Council about how the council might participate. The council's strategy has always been that rather than create their own neighborhood council events, they would like to partner with organizations holding larger events in the neighborhood. Their intention would be to table at the events, passing out Comstock gear and information about the council. They also have an idea to sponsor an event or concert at the Rocket Market. Also, as part of the National Night Out event in August, the council's host meeting location, Manito United Methodist Church, would like to sponsor a Comstock Neighborhood Night Out where the council will have a presence.

Elizabeth spoke about the public safety issues such as violence and drugs, and that several community members have approached her with the same concerns. Comstock neighborhood resource officer did an environmental design study and now the neighborhood is increasing the park lighting and raising the tree canopy in hopes of deterring nefarious activity. She noted, however, that if there are no posted park hours, citations are often dismissed. Fianna informed her that there should be signs posted in several locations at all parks, and that if there aren't any there, it can be easily remedied. Elizabeth then mentioned fire being an additional public safety concern at city parks, with overly large fires being lit in park fireplaces and barbecues. She feels that fire safety is becoming increasingly important at parks and mentioned that spark arrester was installed in

the Comstock fireplace. Fianna will check with Carl Strong about spark arresters in other parks.

Elizabeth questioned whether we could invite one of the police chiefs to speak at the committee meeting. Lee thought a neighborhood resource officer would be an alternative. Fianna mentioned that if we invite someone from police, perhaps there should also be a park ranger present since they work so closely together. She will reach out about that collaboration.

Having Friends groups report to the full Park Board at the Fall Retreat was suggested.

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

The next regularly scheduled meeting is 12:00 p.m. Wednesday, July 9, 2025, in-person in the **Riverfront Pavilion conference room**, and virtually via Webex.

Volunteer Report Q1 2025



By the Numbers

Group	Total Hours	# of Volunteers
TRS (Therapeutic Recreation Services)		
Manito	15	2
Finch		
Urban Forestry		
Friends of the Bluff	22	1
Friends of Manito	431	7
Ops	40	20
Evergreen East Mountain Bike Alliance	370	19
Community Centers	16,489	3,977
Friends of Coeur d'Alene Park	45	4
Park Board estimated	600	10
Estimated uncaptured	450	30
Total	18,462	4,070

Examples of projects

- Evergreen Mountain Bike Alliance put in over 350 hours of maintenance at Camp Sekani and greater Beacon Hill
- Browne's Addition residents Dawn, Kim, and Joan meet up every Thursday morning to pick up litter at Coeur d' Alene Park.
- Friends of the Bluff member Dorthy Tibbets spent over 20 hours working on the Rocket Gulch Trail Access Project.

Points of Light, a global volunteer mobilizing network, places an hourly value of volunteer time at \$34.79. Using that figure, our Q1 volunteer value was about \$642,000.