



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

**Committee members:**

**DVCAC:**

- X Elizabeth Goldsmith – Chair / Comstock Neighborhood Council
- X Laura Ackerman / ~~Jeff Lambert (Alternate)~~ – Friends of the Bluff
- Cole Taylor – Friends of Riverfront Park (absent/excused)
- X Paul Lindholdt – Friends of Palisades
- X Kathryn Kolquist – Friends of Manito Park
- X Sandy Wicht – Community Assembly

**DVC:**

- X Jennifer Ogden – Chair/Park Board
- X Bob Anderson – Park Board
- X Gerry Sperling – Park Board (left 12:35)
- X Lindsey Shaw – Park Board (arrived 12:17)
- X Lee Williams – Park Board
- X Elizabeth Goldsmith – DVCAC representative

**Park staff**

Fianna Dickson  
Sarah Deatrich  
Nick Hamad

**Guests**

Mary Lou Sproul – Friends of Coeur d’Alene Park  
Delaney Carr – Friends of Coeur d’Alene Park

**Minutes**

1. **Call to order** – The meeting was called to order at 12:01 p.m. by DVC Committee chair Jennifer Ogden. See list above for attendance.
2. **Public comment:** None

3. **DVCAC action items:**

- A. Election of chair – Jennifer Ogden

Elizabeth Goldsmith volunteered to Chair the CAC with no objections.

**Motion No. 1:** Jennifer Ogden moved to elect Elizabeth Goldsmith, who is representing the Comstock Neighborhood Council, as the head of the CAC.

Kathren Kolquist seconded.

Motion passed with unanimous consent (4-0)

4. **DVCAC discussion items:**

- A. Park Levy Next Steps – Nick Hamad, Parks Planning Manager

Over a 20-year period, the levy will provide an average of \$12 million annually, specific to Parks, with about \$9.5 million projected for year one. The funds are received in two yearly payments, one after April property taxes are paid, and the other after October property taxes are paid. Most of the money will fund capital projects; however, operational staffing capacity will increase by about \$1.2 million in 2026. Staff will be hired over a two-to-three-year period and will include increased Park Ranger staff.

Over the last couple years, planning staff have been evaluating the physical condition of assets within every park. Additionally, they have been evaluating previous investments and equity, needs (what should we build), and opportunities for donations/partnerships/grants. Project priority will be determined using the results of these evaluations. Another prioritization is spreading work out so that each district receives a representative amount of work every year.

In December 2025, project framework and a 2026 project list will be presented to the Park Board for adoption. January through April 2026 Parks will put construction-ready projects out to bid, begin design for additional projects, and begin hiring recruitment. Implementation will begin once funding arrives in May.

Nick said the DVCAC would be a helpful partner in evaluating projects.

Lindsey Shaw asked that opportunities for community input be accessible for those who work. Jennifer Ogden responded that citizens could write letters to the chair of the DVC for presentation at the meeting and the Park Board. She also stated that the CAC members could meet with concerned citizens and bring input back to the meeting. Fianna added that there will be a lot of community check points and previously unavailable tools on the Together Spokane website will be made accessible.

Paul Lindholt talked about the illegal camping and crime issues in the West Hills area and asked about the funding for the extra Park Rangers. Nick said about \$500,000 is for Rangers next year to double the staff. Additional rangers will be funded by Spokane Public Schools. The Rangers hope to develop a precinct model to better serve each area of the city.

Elizabeth Goldsmith asked how the project list would reach the communities. Since there are very few 'Friends' groups, she mentioned presenting to the Community Assembly (CA)

which she estimates has about a 95% participation rate from every city neighborhood. The information would then filter down to Neighborhood Councils and spread down from there. Nick said the planners will always touch with neighborhoods and the CA, but the Park Board is the authorizing agent first. Fianna mentioned site signs as an outreach tool.

B. Potential future agenda items

- 1) Nick return in January with an update
- 2) Friends toolkit review

5. **DVCAC standing reports:**

A. DVCAC member news – Elizabeth Goldsmith

Friends of Palisades – Paul Lindholdt reported that the Friends are in the process of applying for a grant through Parks and Recreation to make trails more evident through brush pruning, trail naming, and mapping (hard-copy and online). Paul asked for suggestions about integrating the Spokane Tribe of Indians (STOI) in the trail naming. Their vision is for STOI to come up with names in Salish for the Friends to approximate in English. Jennifer suggested drafting a proposal of the names to bring to Land Committee. Bob mentioned Friends of the Bluff as a good reference. Fianna said that Angel Spell, who is the Friends of Palisades' staff liaison, can assist in the process.

Friends of Manito Park – Kathryn Kolquist gave kudos to the Parks staff handling social media during the Together Spokane campaign.

Friends of Manito will not be putting on the Holiday Lights display this year due to lack of funding and city staff volunteers. Many light displays have been saved and the Friends are considering setting some up, possibly along Grand Ave. Jennifer suggested finding sponsors to help with funding.

Friends of the Bluff – Laura Ackerman reported that the Rocket Gulch stairs are fully open.

The Friends are starting to do biological surveys with two gulches already done.

Trail markers are coming next year.

Fuel mitigation is going well.

District 1 – Lindsey Shaw reported there are changes in District 1 leadership. Also, a block party at Mission Park was successful and Gonzaga has requested that more neighbors get involved.

Comstock Neighborhood – Elizabeth Goldsmith reported that they had initially planned to form a group, though not an official Friends group, to be a sub-committee of the Neighborhood Council. Eight people attended the initial meeting and discussed how they might organize, special events such as a summer concert series, and park enhancements such as revitalizing the lawn games area. Understanding the park improvement schedule relative to these projects will be important. The next meeting will cover topics such as bylaws, the MOU, and a more specific potential project list. An official Friends group may be organizing soon. Jennifer stressed not to lose connection with the Neighborhood Council because they may be able to provide insurance when the group starts fundraising events.

Elizabeth also thanked the group for inviting Jake Vandenberg to speak at the last meeting in response to her request to have more information shared regarding the levy.

Lee Williams informed the committee that guest, Mary Lou, is Brown's Addition Neighborhood historian and presented the history of Coeur d'Alene Park at the last neighborhood meeting.

Lindsey mentioned that not all Neighborhood Councils have insurance or 501c3 status and wondered how Park Board could work with neighborhoods to ensure they have access or help find a pathway. Lee informed everyone that the Parks Foundation can supply insurance and be fiscal sponsor. Laura said that door-to-door is a very successful method of outreach.

Elizabeth added that she would like to see juniors involved in the committee.

6. **DVC action items**

A. None

7. **DVC discussion items**

A. None

8. **DVC standing reports:**

A. None

9. **Adjournment** – The meeting was adjourned at 1:01 p.m.

The next regularly scheduled meeting is 12:00 p.m. Wednesday, January 7, 2026, in-person in the Finch Arboretum Ponderosa Room, and virtually via Webex.