



Spokane Park Board Development & Volunteer and Citizen Advisory Committees

12:00 p.m. Wednesday, May 13, 2026

In-person and Webex virtual meeting

Fianna Dickson – Marketing and Communications Manager

Committee Members:

DVCAC:

- X Elizabeth Goldsmith – Chair / Comstock Neighborhood Council
- X Laura Ackerman / ~~Jeff Lambert (Alternate)~~ – Friends of the Bluff
- X ~~Jennifer Ogden~~ / Cole Taylor (Alternate) – Friends of Riverfront Park (*left 1:00*)
- X Paul Lindholdt – Friends of Palisades
- X Kathryn Kolquist – Friends of Manito Park
- Delaney Carr – Friends of Coeur d’Alene Park (*absent/excused*)
- X Sandy Wicht – Community Assembly

DVC:

- X Lee Williams – Chair / Park Board (*left 1:00*)
- Bob Anderson – Park Board (*absent/excused*)
- X Lindsey Shaw – Park Board
- X Elizabeth Goldsmith – DVCAC Representative

Add'l Park Board members

Doug Kelley

Park staff

Fianna Dickson
Sarah Deatrich
Briana Ruffing

Guests

Minutes

1. **Call to order** – The meeting was called to order at 12:01 p.m. by DVC chair, Lee Williams. See list above for attendance.

2. **DVCAC standing reports:**

A. DVCAC Comments from the Chair – Elizabeth Goldsmith

Elizabeth has spent the last several months attending Park Board meetings and meetings with committee members to learn about what this committee can do to add value to the group and the meeting, Friends groups and future Friends groups. She came to realize that every park has its own unique needs.

Two common threads emerged: public safety (dumping, encampments, congregating, etc.) and volunteerism (determining how to activate and grow databases and manage volunteers when they need help). Members shared their perspectives about these aspects and gave examples. The committee members all agreed on these two priorities.

B. DVCAC Member News and Discussion – Elizabeth Goldsmith/Group

a. Can member reports be shared ahead of time in the agenda packet?

Elizabeth asked the group if they would be interested in sharing verbal updates or send an email that would become part of the agenda packet in the interest of efficient time use. Some thought verbal updates would be best; some thought emailing was a good idea. It was decided that whoever may be interested in sending written updates would do so, and those interested in giving a verbal update would be limited to three minutes. The group will adopt this hybrid method of sharing updates and revisit at an upcoming meeting.

b. Other reports/comments – Kathryn Kolquist provided a written Manito Park update ([attached](#)).

3. **DVCAC discussion items:** - Elizabeth Goldsmith/Group

A. Logistics – meeting time, date, duration, location, frequency, separate meeting from DVC

Many have mentioned meeting logistics, feeling that if the day and time changed, there may be more people in attendance. Some feel meeting more often would allow the group to address more topics. Elizabeth mentioned the public disclosure piece of these meetings, addressing there are limited places the group could meet that have technology for virtual attendance/recording. Lee Williams said the meeting time has been changed in the past and if there is a better time for everyone, it can be changed. Some people work and can only attend the meeting on their lunch break; others were indifferent. Elizabeth suggested the time stay the same for now and the subject can be revisited if needed in the future.

Concerning increasing frequency and duration of the meeting, Paul Lindholdt said he favors lengthening the meeting over increased frequency. Members agreed. Members prefer to meet in conjunction with the DVC.

- B. Agenda – reorganization, placeholders for volunteerism, goals, public safety, group reports, etc.

Elizabeth suggested that this new agenda formatting continue. Members agreed.

- C. Goals – safety subcommittee, centralized volunteerism, events postings, meeting postings, strategic activation/partnerships, National Night Out events/planning, fundraising for CAC

Elizabeth suggested asking the Park Board to form a safety subcommittee. She asked Doug Kelley to comment as a Park Board member. Doug commented that with the new rangers coming onboard, he suggested that the information shared in this meeting be relayed to them since they are the ‘boots on the ground’ and it would be valuable for them to know the concerns. Lee agreed with Doug, adding that 311 is also a good resource for reporting issues. Elizabeth noted that there are no safety updates at the Park Board meetings and, unless it’s requested, no safety updates at this meeting. Lee suggested that this group form a safety subcommittee that meets park rangers or code enforcement or 311 on a regular basis vs. having them present at this meeting. Laura feels that to have a safety subcommittee, “public safety” would need to be defined. Elizabeth and Sandy will brainstorm to come up with a framework and email it to committee members ahead of the July meeting. Lindsey also agreed with Doug and Lee, and she thinks having the Park Ranger supervisor at Park Board meetings may be helpful.

Elizabeth noted that there aren’t a lot of staff or resources related to volunteerism on either the Parks side or the City side. She questioned how can this group centralize things like marketing events, managing email lists, and getting people activated. After some digging, she found two or three websites that may be helpful: Volunteer Spokane, JustServe, and SignUp.com. Laura believes the problem with any volunteer program or website is who would manage it. The Friends of the Bluff use SignUp.com, but they also have email lists, newsletters, and social media pages. Elizabeth asked Fianna if everyone were to agree to choose one site to post events/volunteer opportunities, what would she suggest? Fianna mentioned spokaneparks.org/volunteer, where Parks posts opportunities. Parks has control to post anything that anyone is doing around their parks and they would just need to supply a link.

Elizabeth talked about partnering with libraries or having a citywide or individual parks hosting a “National Night Out”, which she feels touches on both public safety and volunteerism. She then posed two ideas for fundraising: garden flags and lens cleaners. Participants can contact Elizabeth for more information.

- D. Friends/MOUs/Agreements – timing and process
- E. Trail Maintenance Responsibility

Elizabeth went on to explain that there needs to be framework around when people report their needs to her because the needs of one park are not the same as needs of another park. She has received questions about trail maintenance and questions about MOU/Agreement process. She will reach out for more information, contact Parks staff for guidance, and relay the information

4. **DVCAC action items:** None

5. **DVC standing reports:**

A. Recap: April 9th Park Board meeting – Lee Williams

Lee recapped the April 9 Park Board meeting. Click [HERE](#) to view the April 9, 2026, Park Board meeting minutes.

Elizabeth asked who she would approach if the Friends or Adopt a Park groups have ideas for fundraising. Fianna said every Friends and Adopt a Park group has a Parks staff liaison and they would start with them for information.

Fianna reminded the group that Park Board minutes and agendas are distributed to this group so perhaps questions about the meetings instead of updates would be more appropriate. Minutes are also available online at [Spokane Park Board - City of Spokane, Washington](#).

City Council approved budget for nine new positions in Parks and Elizabeth asked what those positions are for. Briana responded that they are three park rangers, a project manager, facilities maintenance foreperson, two park caretakers, an irrigation specialist, and an equity and inclusion specialist. All but the equity and inclusion specialist are funded by the levy.

(Lee Williams leaves – 1:01)

(Cole Taylor leaves – 1:04)

B. Recap: May 8th Special Session – Doug Kelley

Doug recapped the May 8 special Park Board meeting. Click [HERE](#) to view the May 8, 2026, special Park Board meeting minutes

C. Upcoming May 14th Park Board Meeting Agenda Topics – Doug Kelley

Click [HERE](#) to view the May 14, 2026, Park Board agenda

6. **DVC discussion items:**

A. **2025 volunteer report** & role of Park Liaison to DVC/DVCAC – Fianna Dickson

Including community center volunteers, there were approximately 18,637 volunteers with more than 82,000 hours. This amounts to a value of about \$2,882,000.

Elizabeth asked whether some of the levy money could be used to establish a centralized position or positions to support volunteerism and Fianna said she would ask Garrett and get back to the group.

The Park Liaison role was not discussed.

B. Insurance Requirements Summary – Fianna Dickson

Fianna confirmed, from a recent meeting with City Risk, that insurance requirements for Adopt a Park and Park Friends groups are unchanged this year. Adopt a Park groups do not need outside insurance, and Park Friends groups need \$2M of general liability insurance. Friends groups generally have the City's auto and workers' compensation insurance requirements waived, but still must submit an exemption form for review and approval.

C. Public Meeting/Disclosure Rules Summary – Fianna Dickson

Fianna confirmed with City Legal, upon request, that the DVCAC meeting must comply with public meeting and disclosure rules.

D. [Together Spokane Communications Plan](#) – Fianna Dickson

Fianna expanded upon communications information shared at the March DVC/CAC meeting, sharing examples of recent communication efforts for the [Parks Levy](#) and [Together Spokane](#) projects.

Elizabeth mentioned the renovations at Comstock. One of the things the future Friends of Comstock have been talking about is revitalizing the lawn games at the park. Using this as an example, she asked how they could find out whether this (or other projects) would conflict with a future Parks project. For example, they wouldn't want to revamp the lawn game area if irrigation will be replaced in a few years. Fianna responded that the MOUs require Parks and Friends groups to work in concert for that reason. Friends' projects would always be pre-approved by Park Planning and Operations.

7. **Public Comments:** - Doug Kelley – None

Doug commented about the national parks conference and mentioned that he is going to pursue whether there is a thread for park board members or park volunteers to attend.

8. **Adjournment** – Doug Kelley adjourned the meeting at 1:21 p.m.

The next regularly scheduled meeting is 12:00 p.m. Wednesday, July 8, 2026, in-person in the Gesa Pavilion conference room, and virtually via Webex.

Deatrich, Sarah

Subject: FW: TFM update

From: KA Kolquist [REDACTED]

Sent: Wednesday, May 13, 2026 11:35 AM

To: Elizabeth Goldsmith [REDACTED]

Subject: TFM update

Spring plant sale June 6 8-3

Art Festival w/ 33 Artists June 13 10-6

Installation of the boilers in the conservatory should finish this week.

ADA ramp in Duncan garden - survey work and design documents are complete; we are waiting for permits and final cost estimates

Cobble repair in the Japanese garden - in contracting process

Manito meeting room restroom renovation - waiting for architectural design work

Bike racks - possible Giving Tuesday project

**Volunteer Report
2025**



By the Numbers

Group	Total Hours	# of Volunteers
TRS (Therapeutic Recreation Services)	3049.5	71
Manito	568.5	20
Finch	60	31
Urban Forestry	668	272
Friends of the Bluff	897.75	39
Friends of Manito	4,405	251
Ops	393	87
Athletics	520	26
Evergreen East Mountain Bike Alliance	913	53
Community Centers	66,286	17,448
Friends of Coeur d'Alene Park	503	55
Friends of Palisades Park	95	28
Spokane Iris Society	20.5	1
Spokane Disc Golf Club	38	5
Riverfront Park	240	80
Park Board estimated	2,400	4
Estimated uncaptured	1,800	120
Total	82,857.25	18,631

Examples of projects

- Therapeutic Recreation Services volunteers spent over 1,500 hours on Mt. Spokane with participants in the Powderhounds and Blue Waxers program.
- Evergreen Mountain Bike Alliance put in over 900 hours of maintenance at Camp Sekani and greater Beacon Hill.
- Browne's Addition residents Dawn, Kim, and Joan met up every Thursday morning to pick up litter at Coeur d' Alene Park.

Points of Light, a global volunteer mobilizing network, places an hourly value of volunteer time at \$34.79. Using that figure, our 2025 volunteer value was about \$2,882,000.

Comms approach

Goals

- Well-informed public
 - What projects are happening now/later?
 - How can I provide input?
 - ROI for their tax dollars
- Accuracy communicating a large-scale, mixed set of projects with varied timelines
- Internal audiences know where to find answers

Strategies

- Leveraging all tools to reach audiences multiple ways
 - Tiered -- from major investments to smaller projects
- Quick responses to misinformation
- Themed storytelling

Key timing opportunities

- Design phase
- Construction phase
- Openings



Communications tools & tactics

- Websites @ TogetherSpokane.org and SpokaneParks.org/levy
- Earned media
- Social media
- Videos/drone work/photos
- Presentations & webinars
- One-sheets/flyers
- E-newsletters and targeted emails
- Activity Guide and School Talk
- Postcards
- Site signs & reader boards
- Booths at events or pop-ups



Spokane Public Schools, Parks and Rec give update on "Together Spokane" priority projects

On Tuesday, officials from both groups announced the first round of priority projects.



COMING 2027: Meadowglen Park

Meadowglen was designed through community feedback, and will include a playground, restroom, sport court, sand volleyball courts, picnic area, trail access, walking paths, and a bus stop. Approximately 14 acres will be developed into a park, and 16 acres will remain natural land.

Pre-construction, including fuels reduction and forest health work: spring 2026

Construction begins: summer 2026
Construction ends: summer 2027

togetherspokane.org/meadowglen-park
Click "Follow" to receive project updates!

SCAN ME!

City of Spokane
PARKS & RECREATION
parke@spokane.org
311 or (509) 755-2489
www.TogetherSpokane.org

City of Spokane
Parks & Recreation Marketing Coordinator Josh Morrissy · 5 days ago

As part of the voter-approved Park Levy, City of Spokane Parks & Recreation is planning updates to the playground in Lincoln Park. Please take our brief survey to choose your preferred playground style and play features. We encourage you to take this survey with your children or grandchildren!

<https://www.togetherspokane.org/lincoln-park/lincoln-park-playground-survey>

Lincoln Park Playground Survey | Lincoln Park
togetherspokane.org