



**Spokane Park Board
Development and Volunteer
Committee meeting**

3 p.m. Wednesday, June 15, 2022

In-person and WebEx virtual meeting

Fianna Dickson – Marketing & Communications

Committee members

X Bob Anderson – Committee chair/Park Board

X Jennifer Ogden – Park Board

Gerry Sperling – Park Board (absent/excused)

X Kelly Brown – DVC Citizen Advisory Committee representative

X Christina VerHeul – Community representative

X Julie Biggerstaff – Community Assembly representative

X Rick Romero – Community at-large representative

Guests

Greg Connolly – Friends of Spokane Skate Parks

Staff members

Fianna Dickson

Jonathan Moog

Pamela Clarke

Summary

- Nick Hamad presented an overview of Parks Master Plan which the Park Board recently approved and recommended for City Council's adoption. This citizen-driven plan includes a detailed evaluation of the city parks system. It establishes four themes (land, water, people and legacy), outlines 13 goals and includes strategies to improve the city parks system over the next 10+ years.
- Rick Romero presented an overview and update on the EXPO+50 initiative to coordinate the celebration of the 50th anniversary of Expo '74. In addition to the 2024 celebration, the project goal is to develop long-term partnerships in the region to develop a cohesive branding and marketing plan with focus on the Spokane River and its three river districts, including The Gorge, The Falls and Upriver.

The next regularly scheduled meeting is 3 p.m. July 21, 2022, in-person in Tribal Conference Room, City Hall 1st floor lobby, 808 W. Spokane Falls Blvd., and virtually via WebEx.

Minutes

1. **Call to order** – The meeting was called to order at 3 p.m. by committee chair Bob Anderson. See list above for attendance.
2. **Public comment** – Bob Anderson
 - A. None
3. **Action items**
 - A. None
4. **Discussion items**
 - A. Parks Master Plan presentation – Nick Hamad provided an overview of the [Parks and Natural Lands Master Plan](#) which the Park Board approved last week. The plan is expected to come before City Council next month for adoption.
 - 1) Plan development – In fall 2019, Parks retained Design Workshop to update the Parks Master Plan. In spring 2020, the project was put on hold due to Covid-19. In spring 2021, the project re-started and has been ongoing since that time. The master plan was created utilizing various technical analyses and assessment, including feedback from an extensive 2021 public outreach campaign which engaged residents through more than 26 public engagement opportunities. The plan includes an evaluation of the city parks system. It establishes four themes (land, water, people and legacy), outlines 13 goals and outlines strategies to improve the city parks system over the next 10+ years. The plan also provides a framework for prioritizing city park investment decisions, and establishes high-priority capital, operational and policy action items for immediate and near-term implementation.
 - 2) Citizen-driven plan/survey findings – As part of the public outreach campaign, there were more than 5,300 responses to the master plan public survey. Nick reviewed the following survey results:
 - a. Approximately 90% of the respondents indicated parks are essential to their connection with nature, their mental and physical wellbeing, and their connection with their community.
 - b. Top-tier community desires – Based on survey responses, the following have been identified as top-tier projects: 1) restrooms; 2) playgrounds; 3) soft trails; and 4) trailheads.
 - c. Second-tier community desires – These include: 1) off-leash dog parks; 2) fishing areas; 3) disc golf courses; and 4) indoor pool.
 - d. New parks and renovation – 71% believe we should improve neighborhood access to a park by building new parks on land the city already owns, and 66% believe we should focus on renovating and enhancing existing parks and natural lands.
 - e. Enhance the community's economic vitality – 80% believe an important purpose of Parks facilities is to enhance the community's economic vitality.
 - f. Parks and programs welcoming and accessible – 66% believe the city needs to do more to make parks and programs welcoming and accessible.
 - g. New property – About half considered it essential or very important to acquire new property for parks and natural areas.
 - h. Seek additional funding – About 60% felt the city should seek additional funding to

create new offering and maintain existing ones.

5. Standing reports

A. EXPO+50 update – Rick Romero presented an overview and update on the EXPO+50 initiative. In addition to coordinating the celebration of the 50th anniversary of Expo '74 in 2024, the project also seeks to develop long-term partnerships to unify Spokane and shape the community's future. The anniversary festivities are expected to kick off May 4, 2024, and conclude mid-September with the Spokane County Interstate Fair.

1) Partners – Representatives from a variety of local agencies, private businesses and organizations have been meeting since March to develop a plan for the 50th anniversary of Expo. The EXPO+50 partnership group currently includes representatives from the following entities: City of Spokane, Spokane County, Public Facilities District, Innovia Foundation, Greater Spokane, Downtown Spokane Partnership, Spokane Sports Commission, University District, Visit Spokane, Gonzaga University, Avista and Kendall Yards.

2) **Partnership goals** – The primary goals include:

- a. Activate the river
- b. Add new amenities
- c. Re-brand the Downtown River Districts/river experience
- d. Leverage and connect our greatest community assets
- e. Get focus back to positive (offensive)
- f. Use EXPO+50 (2024 celebration) as a catalyst and deadline
- g. Create a long-term partnership to assure the objectives

B. **Project pillars** – The key components include: (1) improve infrastructure/amenities; 2) identify funding/governance structure; 3) coordinate EXPO+50 events/activities/schedule, 4) develop marketing/branding/communications, and 5) advance connectivity and mobility connecting the three river districts (The Gorge, The Falls and Upriver).

C. Next steps – A partnership agreement is currently being developed involving the key stakeholders/partners. This agreement will be presented to the various partner boards and commissions for consideration.

6. **Adjournment** – The meeting was adjourned at 3:54 p.m.

The next regular scheduled meeting is 3 p.m. Wednesday, July 21, 2022, in-person in Tribal Conference Room, City Hall 1st floor lobby, 808 W. Spokane Falls Blvd., and virtually via WebEx.

EXPO+50

Partnership Goals

- Activate the river
- Add new amenities
- Re-brand the Downtown River Districts/river experience
- Leverage and connect our greatest community assets
- Get focus back to positive (offense)
- Use EXPO+50 (2024) as a catalyst and deadline
- Create long-term partnerships/vision

