



**City of Spokane Park Board  
Development and Volunteer Committee Meeting**

3:00 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 21, 2022  
Hybrid in-person and WebEx virtual meeting  
Fianna Dickson – Marketing and Communications

**Committee members**

X Bob Anderson, Committee Chair/Park Board  
Jennifer Ogden, Park Board (absent/excused)  
X Gerry Sperling, Park Board  
X Kelly Brown, DVCAC representative  
X Christina VerHeul, Park Board  
X Julie Biggerstaff, Community Assembly representative  
X Rick Romero, Community at-large representative

**Parks Staff**

Fianna Dickson  
Garrett Jones  
Jon Moog  
Sarah Deatrich

**SUMMARY**

- Fianna Dickson walked through the Volunteer-Adopt-Friends matrix which guides one through successfully creating a Park Friends group.
- Garrett Jones and Rick Romero presented a progress update on the EXPO+50 initiative
- An update from the “Friends” groups meeting was presented by Kelly Brown.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Development and Volunteer Committee is 3:00 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 19, 2022.

# MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 3:02 p.m. by committee chair Bob Anderson.

**Public comments:** None

**Action items:** None

**Discussion items:**

1. [Park Friends Policy and Memorandum of Understanding, toolkit update](#) – Fianna Dickson
  - a. Fianna presented a walk-through of the Volunteer-Adopt-Friends matrix which guides one through successfully creating a Park Friends group. This is a three-phase process: Volunteer, Adopt-a-Park, and Form a Park Friends group.
  - b. Bob Anderson agreed the three-phase process is better after witnessing unsuccessful past attempts, failing for lack of tools and experience. Julie Biggerstaff suggested groups work with Neighborhood Councils first before approaching Park Board. Fianna agreed, mentioning this is part of the toolkit. Christina VerHeul mentioned many of the current “Friends” groups may not be acting in accordance with these definitions. She asked if there is a provision for a group to take a step back to which Fianna stated there is a 5-year limit on each MOU, which can be reviewed or renewed.

**Standing reports**

1. EXPO+50 update – Garrett Jones/Rick Romero
  - a. Garrett gave details of the EXPO+50 marketing team which Greater Spokane Inc. and Visit Spokane graciously hosted. The meeting focused on a timeline, the message to be relayed, and how marketing will fit in with the events. A follow-up meeting will focus on establishing event themes and planning the beginning and end timeframes of the EXPO+50 commemoration.
  - b. Garrett and Rick met with David Evans, an engineer from the original Expo '74, and Mike Kobluk, former Director of Performing and Visual Arts for Expo '74, who gave feedback on a possible timeline for EXPO+50, and stressed the need for a full-time employee, focusing on funding, sponsorship, and grant opportunities.
  - c. Chuck Murphy, Vice President of Strategic Initiatives for Gonzaga, and students from the Environmental Science and Business programs will attend the next Infrastructure meeting to discuss a business plan for activating the Spokane River.
  - d. Garrett relayed that notification has been received that the South Suspension Bridge repair is one of the top five ranked projects in the state for a Recreation and Conservation Office 50% funding match. City Council and Avista may also assist with funding. Suggestions were made to involve the Historic Preservation Office, Northwest Museum of Arts and Culture, and Gonzaga history students for help with story-building the historical aspect of Expo.
2. “Friends” groups presentations update – Kelly Brown  
Kelly mentioned that the “Friends’ toolkit was discussed at the previous DVCAC meeting but not much feedback was received. Trevor Finchamp gave a presentation, which will be shared with the DVC once finalized.

**Adjournment** – The meeting was adjourned at 3:51 p.m.

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# Volunteer with Spokane Parks & Recreation!

## Volunteer with us!

- Pick up at the Park (litter removal, graffiti clean up)
- Pull weeds, tend to flower beds, plant flowers
- Plant or water new trees
- Assist with a Recreation program or Riverfront Park special event
- Engage once, infrequently, or routinely!
- See a variety of opportunities at [SpokaneParks.org/volunteer](http://SpokaneParks.org/volunteer). Don't see something of interest? Email us and we'd love to create something together!

## Adopt a Park

- Love volunteering at your neighborhood park? Consider forming a group to Adopt the Park!
- Adopting a Park means your group is committed to routine volunteer efforts to help care for your neighborhood park for at least one year
- It could be hosting monthly/ quarterly clean ups, tending to flowers and trees, trail maintenance, locking/unlocking gates, or similar
- Your group can be large or small; we ask that most members have some volunteer parks experience, and sign a basic group agreement annually

## Form a Park Friends group

- Has your Adopt a Park group grown in interest, and you'd like to do more? Maybe you'd like to form a Park Friends group!
- Park Friends groups fundraise for park improvements, host events to activate the park, help set the vision for the park's future, and continue with their routine caretaking help
- We ask that Park Friends groups have at least one year of Adopt a Park experience, and work with us to form an agreement outlining the ways we'll work together to enhance your neighborhood park

[www.SpokaneParks.org/volunteer](http://www.SpokaneParks.org/volunteer)

Call 311 or (509) 755-2489

