



**Spokane Park Board
Development and Volunteer
Committee meeting**
3:00 p.m. Wednesday, April 19, 2023
In-person and WebEx virtual meeting
Fianna Dickson – Marketing & Communications

Committee members

- X Jennifer Ogden – Committee chair/Park Board
- X Bob Anderson – Park Board
- X Gerry Sperling – Park Board
- Christina VerHeul – Park Board (*absent/excused*)
- Kelly Brown – DVC Citizen Advisory Committee representative (*absent/excused*)
- Julie Biggerstaff – Community Assembly representative (*absent*)
- Rick Romero – Community at-large representative (*absent*)

Park staff

Fianna Dickson
Garrett Jones
Sarah Deatrich

Guests

Lee Williams
Paul Kropp
Paul Lindholdt

Summary

- Lee Williams shared a [Friends of Coeur d'Alene \(CdA\) Park "The Park is the Heart" presentation](#)
- Garrett Jones provided an update on EXPO+50.

The next regularly scheduled meeting is 3:00 p.m. May 17, 2023, in-person at the **South Hill Library, 3324 S. Perry St**, and virtually via WebEx.

Minutes

1. **Call to order** – The meeting was called to order at 3:02 p.m. by committee chair Jennifer Ogden. See list above for attendance.
2. **Public comment** – Jennifer Ogden
 - A. None
3. **Action items**
 - A. None
4. **Discussion items**
 - A. Friends of Coeur d’Alene Park “The Park is the Heart” presentation – Lee Williams
 1. Lee shared the historic CdA Park is showing its age. The Friends group and Browne’s Addition Neighborhood Council is working together to restore this park. A comprehensive master plan was formed and approved by Park Board in 2015 and is a working document.
 2. A few accomplishments of this group include: a 125th birthday celebration; the offering of 8 concerts per year in the park; established a fiscal sponsorship with the Innovia Foundation; established an endowment fund with a current balance of \$30,000; launched a fundraising plan and hired a grant consultant and writer; substantially increased the Friends of membership.
 3. CdA park is Spokane’s first park, platted in 1883 and gifted to the City by JJ Browne and AM Cannon in 1891. It was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2018. Although historic, it has endured disrepair and vandalism over the years.
 4. The neighborhood consists of a higher-than-average amount of renter households with a lower-than-average median household income. There are 11.2% of the 1,977 households with children. The fact that a high number of residents do not have yards to play in, or income to support expensive recreational programs for themselves or their children is more reason to provide this no-cost opportunity for recreation, socialization, and health.
 5. The formation of the master plan included input from both neighborhood children and adults contributing ideas and features for “their” park. Master Plan concepts include:
 - a. Extending and enhancing the community’s sense of place and self-image.
 - b. An inviting gathering place.
 - c. Greater access to movement in the park through better lighting, better defined entryways, safer paved walkways.
 - d. More definition of recreational, architectural, and natural areas.
 - e. Enhancement as both a peaceful destination and safe pass through.
 - f. Strengthening the Olmstead’s original goal.
 - g. Expanding the integration into and beyond the neighborhood.
 - h. Strengthening portions of the environment, supporting socially entertaining and personally introspective areas.
 - i. Meet or exceed Americans with Disabilities Act requirements.
 6. The Master Plan was originally a 12-phase approach, with the first phase complete: primary entryways at the north and south ends of the park. It has since been updated and grouped into four phases.
 7. Phase 1 includes playground equipment, adult exercise equipment, paved trails on the perimeter and from each entryway, and the installation of a Portland Loo model restroom. 2015 estimate: \$401,000; Current 2023 cost \$957,900.

- a. The existing playground is an aging wooden structure with bark ground cover, restricting disability access. Using the existing footprint will decrease the cost. Four out of five City of Spokane raters assessed the condition of the 2- to 5-year-old play area with 4 or 5. A 5 is the poorest rating.
 - b. The existing restroom was built in the 1940's, are in poor working condition, and do not meet ADA requirements. They are often locked to prevent nefarious activity, and the deep eaves are inviting for the homeless population.
 - c. The trails are worn and difficult to traverse, with surface roots in numerous areas.
 - d. The CdA Master Plan is in alignment with the Spokane Parks Master Plan, identifying playgrounds, restrooms and soft trails and trailheads as a top priority.
8. A safe, inclusive play area for children 2-5, as well as an area for children 5-12 is proposed. The children involved in the survey overwhelming liked a zip-line and spinning toys. The plan also includes an adult exercise equipment area, already in Mission and Rochester Heights Park, safe trails and walkways, and a unique restroom solution.
- a. The Portland Loo is all metal, discouraging graffiti, with no shelter access or overhangs, is designed to prevent overnight use or multiple occupants, blue lights to discourage drug use, and is ADA accessible.
9. Estimated funding sources for the \$957,900 phase 1 project include \$475,000 from Parks, \$450,000 from public/private fundraising, and \$32,900 from fundraising events.
- a. Playground equipment for both age groups: \$300,000; adult exercise equipment: \$30,000; Portland Loo \$297,000; pathways (1,450' x 6') \$265,000 and (1,450' x 8') \$356,000.
10. Phase 2 involves thinning the Ponderosa Pines, hardscape the gazebo, including an electrical upgrade, adding park furniture, including benches, tables, and garbage/recycling bins, and planning deciduous trees. The 2015 cost was \$401,000. The 2023 has not been determined.
- a. There are many volunteer pines, which have shallow root systems, prone to toppling in windstorms, and have cause excessive damage over the years.
 - b. The pines that are removed will be replaced by deciduous trees, which meet water conservation element of the Spokane Parks Master Plan.
 - c. The existing, crumbling gazebo will be replaced with a new structure with two sections, a performance area, and a patio for relaxing.
 - d. The park furniture is worn, with chipping wood and paint.
11. Phase 3 includes a picnic area and picnic shelter, completion of the east and west entrance upgrades, and an upgrade and relocation of the tennis courts, adding both pickleball and basketball courts. The 2015 cost estimate was \$239,000. The 2023 estimate has not been determined.
12. Phase 4 includes the trail completion to Latah Creek, plantings to prevent further trail erosion, discouraging bike use, and an allée of deciduous trees on Third Blvd. leading to Overlook Park. The cost estimate in 2015 was \$75,000 and has not been updated for 2023 yet.
13. The Phase 1 timeline, provided funding is received from the state legislature, needs to be completed within the fiscal year. If the project can begin fall of 2023, the anticipated completion would be July of 2024. If this is too quick or unfeasible, the Friends of CdA and Browne's Addition would like to see a plan with the Park Board as to when certain phases could be done to assist with fundraising efforts.
14. In summary, the proposal aligns with the Spokane Parks Master Plan; provides investment in the health of children and adults in a high-need neighborhood; preserves Spokane's first historic park; assists in recruiting and supporting local business.
15. In closing, their request is full collaboration with Spokane Parks and the Spokane

community to realize the vision of a high quality, safe park for the neighborhood and community; join in the vision for a park aligning with the Parks Master Plan; funding to realize the vision-planned timelines for completion.

16. Following Lee's presentation, Bob explained that there is currently no money available for a large renovation project as such, but that there is an Executive Charter Committee being formed for the purpose of developing a plan to raise funds. Committee members will include City Council members, Park Board members and staff. Once a plan is created, it will be taken to City Council for approval. Bob relayed that the work the Park Friends groups have done has brought these issues to the attention of the people who make funding decisions. He would like to see two separate Parks budgets, one for new parks and the other for park enhancements and clarified this is only his idea, not a plan of anyone else. Bob feels presentations from Park Friends groups brings awareness of the condition of the parks and what they need; however, moving forward is reliant upon funding. Friends of CdA Park intends to acquire as much public private funding as possible, and they have been in contact with the state legislature.
17. Jennifer explained the difficulty in creating a timeline since we lack funding, adding that this presentation and the Friends' accomplishments thus far are assisting the group to move forward with their goal. She encouraged Lee to develop fundraising materials as a next step.
18. Gerry added that once the group has the fundraising materials, they will have access to approach local businesses.
19. Lee informed the committee that though the Friends will have no difficulty obtaining support, they need to find volunteers to assist.
20. Garrett stressed the importance of Parks and Friends groups working together and advocating for each another.

5. Standing reports

- A. EXPO+50 update – Garrett Jones
 - a. Garrett informed the group that future updates will be provided by Matt Santangelo and/or Kelly Brown.
 - b. The nine-week schedule has been defined from May 4, 2024 through July 7, 2024. Within these nine weeks, five pillar events will occur with the intent of spreading them equally across the Expo celebration and to spotlight at least one theme per week during that time. The five pillars will be Arts & Culture; Environmental Stewardship; Recreation & Sports; Tribal Culture; and Expo Legacy. Committees have been formed and Chairs identified to represent each pillar which gives the community the ability to contribute to the decisions of how we celebrate the Expo legacy.
 - c. Fianna and the Marketing & Communications team have begun development a of kit of parts and a marketing plan.
 - d. The activation team has established a master calendar of events.
 - e. Sponsorship packages are being formed. The current funding budget is approximately \$690,000 with a goal of \$1.2 million.
 - f. The formal announcement will coincide with Visit Spokane's National Travel & Tourism Week of May 10, 2023.
 - g. Matt Santangelo is setting up committee meetings which will involve each Chair of each pillar committee and provide regular informational check-ins. He is also in communication with coinciding legacy events (Bloomsday, Hoopfest, Pig Out in the Park, etc.) to combine efforts to move forward efficiently. He is also creating a newsletter of updates with intent to keep boards and committees informed.

B. DVCAC monthly update – Kelly Brown (*absent*)

- a. In Kelly's absence, Jennifer informed the group that the Friends' toolkit is in progress and will be discussed at the DVCAC meeting next week.
- b. Kelly will be sharing a Friends of Manito Park presentation at the April 27 DVCAC.

6. **Adjournment** – The meeting was adjourned at 4:05 p.m.

The next regularly scheduled meeting is 3:00 p.m. May 17, 2023, in-person at the **South Hill Library**, and virtually via WebEx.