



**Spokane Park Board  
Development and Volunteer  
Committee meeting**  
**3:00 p.m. Wednesday, May 17, 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 (3:12)
- X Christina VerHeul – Park Board (3:41)
- X Kelly Brown – DVC Citizen Advisory Committee representative (*absent/excused*)
- X Julie Biggerstaff – Community Assembly representative
- X Rick Romero – Community at-large representative

**Park staff**

Fianna Dickson  
Sarah Deatrich  
Jerry Stacy

**Guests**

Jeff Lambert, Friends of the Bluff  
Paul Lindholdt, Friends of Palisades

**Summary**

- The committee discussed next steps and measurable goals moving forward.
- Rick Romero provided an update on EXPO+50.

The next regularly scheduled meeting is 3:00 p.m. June 21, 2023, in-person at the **Liberty Park Library, 402 S. Pittsburg St.**, and virtually via WebEx.

## Minutes

1. **Call to order** – The meeting was called to order at 3:03 p.m. by committee chair Jennifer Ogden. See list above for attendance.
2. **Public comment** – Jennifer Ogden
  - A. Jeff Lambert – President, Friends of the Bluff
    - 1) Jeff introduced himself and invited the committee to join the FoB for Brush on the Bluff, an art event at Polly Judd Park on Saturday, June 20<sup>th</sup>, from 11:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. There will be 23 plain art artists and free activities for children.
3. **Action items**
  - A. None
4. **Discussion items**
  - A. Next steps
    - 1) Jennifer asked Julie Biggerstaff, as Community Assembly Representative, to brainstorm her ideas about next steps & measurable goals for the DVC, considering the Master Plan and the upcoming EXPO+ 50 celebration. Julie stated the Community Assembly is focused on the need to invest in neighborhood parks. She believes EXPO+ 50 is not most neighborhoods' priority in terms of their parks. She feels the consensus of the Community Assembly is that neighborhood additional safety measures are priority, including functioning & secure restrooms to thwart illicit activity. Lee Williams, a DVCAC committee member, has approached Legislature with a request for funding to purchase Portland Loos for this purpose. Park cleanup is also needed. Julie feels obtaining volunteers who are coordinated with Friends groups for assistance during events/activities, would enable more engagement between neighborhoods and Friends groups. Jennifer is in hopes volunteer coordination will occur by a sharing of contact information. Fianna stated the Galaxy software (City-licensed volunteer software) used to secure volunteers enables us to create links to special events where the public can find information and sign up. Julie feels pushing the information out to Friends groups' leadership is a way to be proactive with the groups as opposed to passively waiting for people to sign up to volunteer. Fianna stated that part of the purpose of the handbook and toolkit, which are in progress in DVCAC, is coordinating efforts between the Friends groups. Bob questioned whether there is a system generated email that could go out to the groups' leaders for sharing information regarding upcoming events. Fianna will investigate.
    - 2) Jennifer mentioned safety, cleanup, maintenance, and restrooms are all highlighted in the Master Plan, and securing funding for neighborhood parks for these reasons has been a topic of discussion in recent meetings.
5. **Standing reports**
  - A. EXPO+50 update – Rick Romero
    - 1) Jennifer invited Rick to speak about the EXPO+ 50 initiative moving forward. She feels EXPO+ 50 could be a launching point to bring awareness to the structures in place for engaging with parks and their needs, and for creating additional structures with this purpose.
    - 2) Rick conveyed that our program manager, Matt Santangelo, is on board full-time and Kelly Brown is a part-time program coordinator. He mentioned that the idea of EXPO+ 50 is not to duplicate EXPO '74, but to honor it and talk about moving forward from today. At the

Spokane River Forum, Rick participated in a panel discussion about the river and the Clean Water Act. They discussed the opportunity EXPO+ 50 provides to start thinking about managing the river long term, and the resources that need to be addressed. Rick feels it could be used to inspire conversations about what Spokane can accomplish to better take care of the river as an asset. He spoke about the five pillar themes of EXPO+ 50 and that within each theme there is an opportunity to discuss how Parks will move forward.

- 3) Jennifer spoke with Mayor Woodward about seeking to create a policy that would encourage park vendors not to use plastics, particularly single-use plastics, especially during EXPO+ 50. Moving forward, Jennifer hopes this policy would become a legacy of the EXPO+ 50 celebration.

B. Shifting back to tangible/measurable next steps, Jennifer went around the room.

- 1) Jeff Lambert, Friends of the Bluff president, feels bathrooms are the #1 priority. Since Parks does not have a dedicated volunteer coordinator, Jeff suggested volunteer coordination also be considered a priority and feels a standard volunteer program is important to the timely maintenance of parks. Volunteer coordination would provide a contact for the groups, to ensure the volunteer work is safe and directed. Jennifer suggested educating the public about the types of weeds and non-toxic methods of reducing them would be a fitting EXPO+ 50 activity and agreed a volunteer steward would be helpful since our Galaxy software is permission-based and requires citizens to seek out opportunities.
- 2) Paul Lindholdt, Friends of Palisades, referred to safety as a priority and mentioned it will be the subject of discussion at his Friends meeting later in the evening. Palisades is seeing an increase in homeless encampments and illegal dumping, as is the adjacent West Hills area, which the neighborhoods feel is due to the Catholic Charities shelter on Sunset Blvd. He mentions Finch Arboretum is also under pressure since the shelter is directly adjacent to the Arboretum. Jennifer referred to a citizen who provided public comment at the May 11 Park Board meeting, regarding ecological damage in that area. She addressed safety, referring to the Good Neighbor Agreement, which outlines a procedure to follow if encroachments happen, and who is responsible for the steps within the procedure. Since Park Rangers no longer hold limited commission certifications, they are no longer a law enforcement agency. She stated we are trying to find ways to work with SPD toward a solution, so our parks remain open and safe.
- 3) Fianna Dickson referred to the [Mission/Vision/Values](#) created when the DVC started. Park Board approved initial steps for the DVC as a new organization and Fianna suggested we revisit those steps at the June meeting. Gerry asked if it referenced volunteering. Fianna said it mentions ways to support Park Friends groups and help their growth.
- 4) Jennifer asked Jeff to send information regarding his group's volunteer stewards program to the staff, to be shared with the committee.
- 5) Interviews are underway for the full-time Volunteer Coordinator project employee position. The job will entail volunteer fostering as well as marketing volunteer opportunities. Jennifer stressed the importance of knowing the boundaries of the position with respect to Fianna's job duties, and Gerry would like to see a job description for a definite outline of the duties of the Volunteer Coordinator position.
- 6) Rick circled back to 'clean & safe' and inquired whether the DVC could bring together a plan to address the concerns around safety and cleanliness at neighborhood parks and provided Block Watch as an example. He feels that a funding package presented to the public should recognize 'clean & safe' as a priority.
- 7) As the Friends of Coeur d'Alene park and Browne's Addition neighborhood have gone to lengths in their attempt to remove illicit activity from their park, Jennifer asked Julie for

feedback regarding what they did that was successful. Julie spoke about variances in the volunteer population in different neighborhoods, which is perhaps related to the number of rentals in an area. The high turnover of neighborhood residents presents a challenge with engaging volunteers. She spoke of safety and feels that a Parks Department employee needs to be physically present in parks during daylight hours to deter crime. She feels the Parks Department would have authority and mentioned the liability to the City, should a volunteer be harmed. The Browne's Addition created "Browne's Watch", which is a small group of volunteers who pick up trash in the neighborhood and Cd'A Park. Funding for the necessary supplies comes from the C.O.P.S. and the MAC.

- 8) Christina agreed with all the previously stated goals and added they have been discussed at various public meetings and survey processes.
- 9) Jennifer mentioned she also spoke with Mayor Woodward about a possible partnership with Spokane Police Academy to include time in parks in the curriculum and training.
- 10) Spokane Park Rangers are primarily at Riverfront Park with some patrolling in outlying park target zones. Rick feels that stationing rangers in parks other than RFP would multiply our resources by enabling patrons to summon a person of authority if needed, thereby encouraging citizens to act against illicit/illegal activity without directly engaging in situations which may become confrontational. Reinstating limited commission certifications to our rangers would require state, city, and bargaining unit review. Jennifer suggested researching other cities' methods of addressing these issues.

- B. DVCAC monthly update – Kelly Brown (*absent*)
  - a. No update

6. **Adjournment** – The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

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## Development & Volunteer Committee (DVC) Overview

A special committee of the Spokane Park Board

*Updated: March 31, 2021*

### Purpose/Mission

The purpose of the Development and Volunteer Committee is to help guide fundraising priorities (capital and programmatic), and to enhance the growth and coordination of the “Friends of” volunteer groups who work to fulfill those fundraising priorities.

### Goals

- Guide and support Parks & Recreation’s capital and programming fundraising priorities
- Serve as an umbrella over “Friends of” groups
- Foster the creation and growth of new “Friends of” groups

### Objectives to obtain those goals

Goal: Guide and support Parks & Rec’s capital and programming fundraising priorities

- a. Develop an annual priority fundraising list for capital and programming projects, in concert with Parks & Recreation leadership and the full Park Board
- b. Develop a fundraising master plan
- c. Create toolkits/presentations/videos as needed
- d. Utilize Park Board members’ connections to solicit potential donors
- e. Develop procedures for accepting and recognizing funds

Goal: Serve as an umbrella over “Friends of” groups:

- f. Centralize MOU agreements for consistency
- g. Create a Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) comprised of reps from all Friends groups, and Community Assembly/neighborhood councils as appropriate
- h. Increase coordination between Friends groups for shared resources, ideas, concerns/issues, marketing, and support
- i. Support Friends’ fundraising efforts, guided towards the determined fundraising priorities
- j. Support communication with their staff liaison and additional appropriate Park Board committees (i.e. Land, Riverfront Park)

Goal: Foster the creation and growth of new “Friends of” groups

- a. Create a Friends of Riverfront Park

### Composition & Representation

The DVC is a “special” committee of the Park Board, similar to the Joint Arts Committee. All actions will come through a “regular” committee of the Park Board (i.e. Land, Riverfront). Please see Park Board Organizational Chart for reference.

It will be comprised of 50% Park Board and 50% non-Park Board community members. There will be four Park Board members, one representative from the CAC, and three business/community members.