

# SPOKANE PARK BOARD

Regular Monthly Meeting – 1:30 P.M. – August 9, 2012 – City Council Chambers

## Minutes

1. Roll Call: *Jacki Faught*

Park Board Members Present: Randy Cameron, President; Jim Quigley, Vice President; Leroy Eadie, Secretary; Martha Lou Wheatley-Billeter; Jim Santorsola; Ross Kelley; Chris Wright; Susan Traver; Ken Van Voorhis; Andy Dunau (1:35 p.m.); Sam Selinger

Park Board Members Absent Excused: Councilman Mike Allen

Staff Present: Mike Aho, Nancy Goodspeed; Jacki Faught; Leesa VanZandt; Jeff Bailey; Tony Madunich; Angel Spell; Garrett Jones; Carl Strong; Al Vorderbrueggen; Taylor Bressler; Craig Butz; Rebecca Madany; Jack Busch

2. **Motion No. 1:** Jim Quigley motioned to approve the minutes of the July 12, 2012 Regular Park Board meeting, the July 13 Special Park Board meeting, and notes from the July, 12, 2012 Study Session.  
Ross Kelley seconded.  
Motion carried.

3. Additions or deletions to the agenda:

4. **Monthly Highlights** – *Randy Cameron, President*

- A. Tony Hawk and the Birdhouse Skateboard team held an event at Hillyard Park in Harmon-Shipley Park in Spokane July 24 as part of their annual Birdhouse summer tour. The skate park was selected by Tony Hawk as one of the finest on the west coast.
- B. Friday, July 27 volunteers from Tigard, OR and the local disc golf association began work on a new 27 hole disc golf course at Sekani funded by a \$10,000 grant.
- C. July 14<sup>th</sup> volunteers began work on a trail reroute at Sekani to make way for the new Disc Golf Course.
- D. The Urban Forestry Crew along with volunteers cleared out dozens of young small pine trees near the Downriver Disc Golf Course as part of forest heal improvements for fire prevention.
- E. Davey Resource Group has begun work on the City's street tree inventory and plan to complete the project that will help City staff identify stormwater management opportunities and inform Urban Forestry planning management in November.
- F. Use of the Under-the-Freeway Skate Courts (UTF) has picked up with the "Cherry Bomb Brawlers" utilizing the space for roller derby practice.
- G. UTF redesign contract with Gridline is out for signatures. Public input is being sought on Parks Facebook page and design meetings with public input should begin early this fall.
- H. Pathways through the middle and along the river edge of the new Conservation area in Riverfront Park are now open to the public. Temporary fencing still closes off the more fragile areas.
- I. The Dwight Dash showcasing the Dwight Merkel Sports Complex takes place August 25.
- J. City Aquatic Centers close August 25<sup>th</sup>.
- K. Riverfront Park staff has undertaken considerable site and safety improvements this summer at the North IMAX entrance, hillside stabilization, rebuilding retaining walls,

lighting improvements and new planters in the Pavilion.

- L. Proposals to provide advertising services are due September 10. Additional information may be found on the Purchasing page of the City's website.

5. **VISITORS**

- A. Mary Franklin, former City of Spokane employee who recently spent time in Alaska, made a presentation to Leesa VanZandt, Parks and Recreation Clerk III, from Mrs. Franklin's friend and well known Alaskan Native Inupiat artist Roger Walluk, a piece of scrimshawed baleen. Baleen is a portion of the whale's mouth. Mr. Walluk is Mrs. VanZandt's uncle. Mrs. Franklin also presented Parks and Recreation with a large piece of baleen from a humpback whale caught last year. This piece is given as a gift from the City of Barrow, Alaska who would be honored if Parks would share this gift with the children of Spokane.
- B. Kate Green, Executive Director, Northeast Youth Center gave the Spokane Youth and Senior Centers Association update highlighting activities at each center and sharing pictures.
- C. Carol Christensen, REI Outreach Specialist, awarded Parks and Recreation with a Recreation Trail Work Grant in the amount of \$4,464.00 for July 2012 – July 2013.

6. **Motion No. 2:** Andy Dunau motioned to approved claims for the month of July 2012 in the amount of \$1,599,298.12.  
Jim Quigley seconded.  
Motion carried.

7. Financial Report – *Rebecca Madany*

- A. Park Revenue is at 86% of year to date, expenditures are at 99% of year to date.
- B. Golf Fund Revenue is at 110% of year to date, expenditures are at 83% of year to date.

8. **SPECIAL DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS** – *Randy Cameron*

- A. **Motion No. 3:** Ken Van Voorhis motioned to adopt the resolution dedicating the Mission Park Picnic Shelter in the name of Otto Zehm.  
Sam Selinger seconded.  
Ross Kelley requested Ken amend the motion to include that Parks contact the family.  
Ken Van Voorhis amended his motion to adopt the resolution dedicating the Mission Park Picnic Shelter in the name of Otto Zehm for installation after Parks staff presents the plans to the Zehm family.  
Sam Selinger seconded.  
Motion carried.

9. **FOUNDATION REPORT** – No report

10. **COMMITTEE REPORTS** – Park Board Action Items

**FINANCE COMMITTEE** – August 7, 2012 – *Andy Dunau*

- A. **Motion No. 4:** Andy Dunau motioned to approve the contract with NAC Architecture to complete phase two of the facility planning and design of Rotary Fountain Services Facility in an amount not to exceed \$68,757.  
Ross Kelley seconded.  
Speaking to the motion:  
Leroy Eadie presented the drawings.

Ken Van Voorhis asked if staff recommends that this go forward at this time or if there are other priorities in the park.

Leroy Eadie indicated that staff supports the project 100%. It is a small building with great impact.

Jim Santorsola confirmed the storage benefits for fountain maintenance.

Sam Selinger stated he supports the necessary parts of it however his concern is that the vote is for the entire project and he has concerns on spending this amount of money, the costs per square foot and how it will be funded. He is concerned that a portion of the funding will not be paid back.

Ross Kelley indicated that part of the issue in the overall cost is that it is not just the square footage of the building, but includes the costs of considerable site work as well. If the square footage costs of the entire site were figured then the square foot costs are much less. He does not want to go another season with a temporary bathroom, is concerned about staff safety with the employees performing fountain maintenance, he would like to see the bistro out as it is not a gorgeous building, and if we build now we will avoid building code issues next year and this is a great time to take advantage of prices and provide local employment. We need to do this correctly as the entrance to Riverfront Park. The plan is very appropriate.

Martha Lou Wheatley-Billeter questioned what would not be paid back.

Leroy Eadie advised that financing options include the total cost of the project of \$663,145. The Board has already set aside \$387,000 of the one time funds. The Finance Committee was presented with 5 options for the balance of \$276,145. The option the Board felt most comfortable with was to draw those funds from the designated fund balance. It has been dedicated for Riverfront Park. It is not a part of the undesignated fund balance and will not affect the percentages set aside by the Board for reserves. Looking at the business plan there may be opportunity to pay the money back although the majority of Finance Committee did not necessarily think the funds should be paid back.

Martha Lou Wheatley-Billeter thinks that it is a good idea that if there is an opportunity to replenish these Riverfront Park reserves it should be done. She supports the project but would like to see the emergency funds paid back.

Sam Selinger emphasized the need to demonstrate fiscal discipline in these hard economic times and not just use up money.

Chris Wright supports the motion. Sam's concerns are legitimate with regards to costs and funding. Chris was opposed two or three years ago. His mind was changed with the development of the building plans and the location of the site. The building design fits in well with Riverfront Park and there is no need to wait for the Master Plan to put it in place. Discussion on the funding issues can continue as we move forward.

Ross Kelley indicated that the Committee did have some debate regarding details of what kind of reserves the Board should have in each reserve.

Jim Santorsola supports the motion so long as funding as long as it is repaid out of concession revenue.

Leroy Eadie noted that the motion made at Finance Committee is not being brought forward at this time. It was a motion to give the Director direction. At that point the majority of the Committee felt that the money did not need to be paid back. Funding for today's motion comes from the \$387,000. There is still time to look at funding options. He asks that if repayment is chosen the Board not dip into the existing revenue from the bistro.

Sam Selinger would like the record to reflect that this was brought forward not from a vote at committee but by a Special Board meeting. It is important that what happened in the

Committee is brought forward.

Ken Van Voorhis inquired on how building a partial building, separating the chemical storage and restaurant from the plans.

Randy Cameron indicated his understanding is that a separation will satisfy the Heath Department code.

Susan Traver commented she feels that at Finance Committee there was a blending of issues that were happening. Approving the NAC contract and funding issues regarding payback. This caused confusion that is continuing on the dais today. The Board can talk rationally and move out how they will pay.

Randy Cameron called for a vote.

Jim Quigley noted that Susan spoke very eloquently. The vote is only on the contract. Until we get the NAC project finished there is no final design and no final cost for the Board to figure out how to pay for it. He is in support on the motion on the table.

Randy Cameron suggested that the Board and stakeholders discuss the drawings and partner with the design to avoid changes at a later date.

Randy Cameron called again for a vote.

Motion passed with 6 in favor, 3 opposed and one abstention.

- B. The Committee reviewed the Financial Report, the 2012 Budget Savings Report, an explanation of Fund Balances, the updated 2013 Budget Report and an update of Centralized Accounting/Risk/MIS 2013 estimate.
- C. The Sponsorship/Naming Rights Policy was reviewed, noting that a Request for Proposal for sponsorship of Indian Canyon Golf Course is being considered, with the consensus that the proposed RFP is consistent with the policy.

#### **GOLF COMMITTEE** – July 18, 2012 – *Ross Kelley*

- A. The Committee had a question and answer session regarding the State of Municipal Golf given by PGA Career Consultant Jeff Beaudry.
- B. The Committee discussed the future of City of Spokane Jr. Golf Tournaments.
- C. Updates on the Golf Strategic Plan, Financials, revenue enhancements, and course conditions were received.
- D. The Committee reviewed and discussed the 2013 Golf budget.

#### **LAND COMMITTEE** – August 1, 2012 – *Jim Santorsola*

- A. Staff reviewed for the Committee Park Operation responsibilities and the Division's proposed 2013 budget.
- B. Staff reviewed for the Committee the in house automated irrigation project at Shadle Pak, which concluded May 23, 2012, at a cost of \$37,000 for supplies, with labor provided by employees during regular work hours.
- C. Staff reviewed for the Committee the Cliff Park Stairway Project.
- D. Staff is awaiting a response from Mr. Stanek regarding the property lease.
- E. The committee discussed the Zehm Memorial request.

#### **RECREATION COMMITTEE** – August 2, 2012 – *Sam Selinger*

- A. Public Comment:

Dan Peck, President, Spokane Babe Ruth, expressed his frustration on the proposed price raise at Merkel of \$3.00 per hour, Franklin of \$2.00 per hour, and the new fee of \$0.25 per hour for other fields. Groups like his take players regardless of their ability to pay and gives them the opportunity to play on the fields. Any increase requires him to have to raise his prices. He asked if they have to pay the money so that the Department can try to break

even. He suggested a two tier system where the adults pick up the majority of the increases and leave the kids rates alone for a couple of years. Other leagues, for example select, have a greater ability to pay.

Chris Wright reviewed the proposed fees. He noted that the Board is sensitive to the impact of increases to user groups. They had talked specifically about the disabled and to revisit this over the winter and see if there is some way to make the fees less of a burden on that particular community.

- B. **Motion No. 5:** Motioned to approve the 2013 Athletic Field Use Fees as presented.

Martha Lou Wheatley-Billeter seconded.

Speaking to the motion:

Leroy Eadie advised that these facilities do not pay for themselves as was the goal of the Board when they built the Dwight Merkel Sports Complex. We would like to get there with Dwight Merkel, Franklin and the Southside sports complexes and get closer each year. Staff originally brought higher fees to the Board. The Board took testimony and decided to lower the fees. Staff was really honest in telling the Board that in order to get to where these complexes to pay for themselves, if the fees were lowered then staff would be back before the Board the following year with an increase. Staff has looked at every option to cut their expenses and cannot make progress towards the facilities paying for themselves without this increase. Expected revenues for 2013 if this is passed is 60% cost recovery, his goal was 70% cost recovery.

Carl Strong noted that these fees were originally proposed in January along with a recommendation for 2014. Public testimony was taken at that time. These fees have also been discussed at several Recreation Committees as well. The fees presented in January were across the Board and not specific to one sport. We are moving to a straight per hour fee for all the fields.

Ken Van Voorhis stated we are in a deficit. We are 24% down on the ball fields. The fields are being subsidized. We are back to where we were last January and bringing the fees up. It's the reality of today's economy. Back in January cutbacks were made with maintenance of the fields and inquired if the user groups felt that they were in better condition now.

Leroy Eadie noted used to get a lot of complaints about field conditions and since the opening of the new fields all he has heard is compliments and is not getting phone calls about complaints. Staff has done a tremendous job with limited resources.

Randy Cameron confirmed that the \$3.00 per hour is for the rental of the field regardless of how many teams are on the field. He proceeded to calculate the approximate increase in cost per player would be about \$0.15 per hour.

Sam Selinger requested Carl Strong share how the proposed increases will affect several groups assuming same usage.

Randy Cameron called for the vote.

Motion carried, unanimously, excepting Ross Kelley who was temporarily absent from the meeting.

- C. The Committee discussed the pros and cons of the Adult Softball League Business Proposal for 2013.
- D. The Committee discussed the 2013 Recreation Budget, the 2013 NEYC relief on budget-overage payment, and promotional ideas.

#### **RIVERFRONT PARK COMMITTEE** – July 30, 2012 – *Susan Traver*

- A. **Motion No. 6:** Susan Traver motioned to approve the contract with Talisman Construction for demolition and restoration of Park's portion of the Broadview Dairy Building for \$297,092, including Washington State Sales Tax.

Ross Kelley seconded.

Ken Van Voorhis expressed concern that only two bids were received on this project with a large spread between the two prices. He inquired if Parks had looked into Talisman's credentials.

Leroy Eadie assured that staff has done background work on Talisman and feel comfortable that they are a legitimate demolition company. There are not many demolition companies around so it was not hard to find some recommendations on them although we have not done work with them before.

Ross Kelley commented that we have not torn a lot of buildings down. This is a busy season for demolition contractors, affirmed by two other contractors who were too busy to bid this project. He is in favor of the motion.

Chris Wright inquired what repercussions would there be to table the motion today and try to rebid.

Leroy Eadie noted he had spoken with the City's Purchasing Department and we cannot go out and rebid. Our low bidder would be very unhappy if we did. If conditions or project scope changed then we might have some grounds. He believes we go out for a rebid we would be in violation of our own purchasing policy, although he would need to confirm that.

Randy Cameron advised his experience in construction is that such a large spread can indicate either the low bidder missed something or the high bidder doubled in some area. It's always dangerous when there are only two bids and we may not be getting an accurate value for the scope of work.

Chris Wright noted that putting this off and rebid would put this out 60-90 days.

Leroy Eadie assured that Chris is correct. He also noted that we have a small construction window we are working with.

Ross Kelley advised it is really dangerous to rebid something that you don't have a reason for rebidding. If we have gone to a contractor and asked that they will do the work for the number they gave us then it is a viable contract and they will have to do the work for that price. We cannot ethically go out and shop bids as a public agency.

Chris Wright defers the expertise of Ross & others. He does not believe that because he has quoted someone a price he has to do it, he can always walk away and choose not to do it. He does not believe that the Board has to accept this bid because there may be consequences associated with it. He has heard other Park Board members have concerns only 2 bids were received, concerns about the scope, and noted there were difficulties setting up the RFP. However given the timing issues he will support the motion.

Motion carried, 9 yes, 1 opposed.

- B. The committee deferred the NAC Architect for the Fountain Building Design – Phase 2 to Finance Committee.
- C. Discussion was had on the Sister Cities Garden and Courtyard. The policy for criteria for the artwork to be placed in the garden will be presented at the September Riverfront Park Committee.
- D. The Hoopfest Board is deciding which of two sculpture proposals to advance for Park Board consideration and approval.
- E. The Hispanic Festival in Riverfront Park was canceled for lack of funding.

#### **URBAN FORESTRY TREE COMMITTEE** – July 31, 2012 – *Chris Wright*

- A. The committee tabled the motion to approve the three London planetrees at 2315 W. 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue for Heritage Tree Nominations due to lack of quorum.
- B. The committee discussed the three London planetrees at 1818 E. Liberty Avenue.

- C. The committee received an update on the Street Tree Inventory and reviewed the Urban Forestry Staff Report.

11. **REPORTS**

- A. Park Board President – None
- B. Park Board Members –
1. Conservation Futures Liaison –  
Ken Van Voorhis reported Conservation Futures is in the process of land evaluation and in the process of naming some of the properties.
  2. Parks Foundation Liaison –  
Susan Traver reported the Foundation is pursuing hiring of an Executive Director.
  3. Council Liaison – None
  4. Parks Department Revenue & Sponsorship Subcommittee – None
  5. Park Board Rules Subcommittee – None
- C. Director's Report -
1. The Friends of the Centennial Trail met with Mayor and staff to give an update on their projects. Plans for the trail through the Kendall Yards project are being reviewed. The Mission Street crossing is moving forward. The portion west of Kendall Yards to Boone has been designed.
  2. Mayor, Council, Commissioner French, Mayor of Cheney are all interested in finishing off the gap in the Fish Lake Trail. Two crossings over railroads are some of the challenges.

12. **Correspondence** – None

13. **Public Comments**

14. Adjourn to Executive Session – None

15. **Adjournment:** 2:22 p.m.

- A. Next Committee meeting dates:
1. Golf Committee: August 15, 2012, 7:00 a.m., Esmeralda Golf Course, 3933 E. Courtland
  2. Riverfront Park Committee: September 10, 2012, 8:00 a.m., City Council Briefing Center
  3. Land Committee: September 5, 2012, 3:30 p.m., City Hall Conference Room 5A
  4. Recreation Committee: September 6, 2012, 3:00 p.m., City Hall Tribal Conference Room 1
  5. Finance Committee: September 13, 2012, 3:00 p.m., City Hall Conference Room 5A
  6. Urban Forestry Tree Committee: September 4, 2012, 2011, 4:15 p.m., Woodland Center, Finch Arboretum
- B. Next Regular Park Board meeting date: September 13, 2012, 1:30 p.m., City Council Chambers
- C. Next Park Board Study Session: Joint Study Session with City Council, September 13, 2012, 3:00 p.m. or as soon as possible thereafter directly following the Regular Park Board meeting, City Council Briefing Center