

SPOKANE PARK BOARD

Regular Monthly Meeting – 1:30 P.M. – September 13, 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 (1:35 p.m.); Ross Kelley; Susan Traver; Ken Van Voorhis; Andy Dunau; Sam Selinger; Councilman Mike Allen

Park Board Members absent excused: Chris Wright

Staff present: Scott Niemeier, Tony Madunich, Rebecca Madany, Angel Spell, Garrett Jones, Mike Aho, Adriano Eva, Aaron Champagne, Carl Strong, Craig Butz, Nancy Goodspeed, Jacki Faught

2. Mayor David Condon congratulated and recognized the Board on their budget process for the 2013 budget.

3. **Motion No. 1:** Ross Kelley motioned to approve the minutes of the August 9, 2012 Regular Park Board meeting, the notes from the August 9, 2012 Study Session and the minutes from the September 11, 2012 Special Joint Meeting with Spokane County Parks Advisory Board. Martha Lou Wheatley-Billeter seconded.
Motion carried.

4. Additions or deletions to the agenda: None

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

- A. The Fall Activity Guide is now available online.
- B. The Wyakin Trailhead Event & Dedication will be held September 22, 2012 at noon with family friendly festivities including the first "Trail Mixer" event for youth preceding the dedication beginning at 9:00 a.m.
- C. The Friends of Manito are offering a 2013 picture calendar for \$15 available at the Friends office in Manito Park.
- D. The Mirror Pond in Manito Park will be drawn down approximately 1 ½ feet to allow workers access to complete a variety of shoreline improvements.
- E. The IMAX, Skyride, Carrousel and Tour Train remain open in Manito Park.
- F. Urban Forestry was awarded at \$120,000 state grant to conduct forest health projects at High Drive Park, Palisades Park, and Camp Sekani.
- G. Urban Forestry Staff are pruning trees in Audubon Park that will improve their structure and condition, and to preserve their value and function.
- H. The Friends of the Moore-Turner Heritage Gardens are holding their "Put the Gardens to Bed Event" September 27th, 5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. at Edwidge-Woldson Park and the Corbin Art Center.

6. **VISITORS**

- A. Bonnie Zahara, former Park Board President and member of the Friends of Wyakin Park, gave a presentation highlighting the work that was completed recently at Wyakin Park. Over the past year collaboration between several City departments and area volunteers made improvements to the natural areas surrounding the park. Funding came in part from

a \$1,700 grant from the Parks Foundation. Bonnie encouraged the Park Board, staff and the public to attend the trailhead dedication September 22nd.

- B. On behalf of the Spokane Youth and Senior Centers Association Kate Green, Executive Director of the Northeast Youth Center gave an update highlighting current and recent activities at the youth and senior centers. Bonnie McDade, Executive Director of the Southside Senior Activity Center advised that to date in 2012 the 9 centers have collectively applied for 61 grants, had 85 fundraisers, operated 4,832 plus programs and have served in excess of 149,000 individuals. This is the last monthly report on behalf of SYSCA for 2012. It was suggested that SYSCA make quarterly reports.

- 7. **Motion No. 2:** Andy Dunau motioned to approve claims for the month of August 2012 in the amount of \$1,699,086.10.

Martha Lou Wheatley-Billeter seconded.

Motion carried.

- 8. Financial Report – *Rebecca Madany*

A. Park Fund Revenue is at 94% of year to date budget. Expenditures are at 97%.

B. Golf Fund Revenue is at 110% of year to date budget. Expenditures are at 94%.

- 9. **SPECIAL DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS** – None

- 10. **FOUNDATION REPORT** – *Heather Beebe-Stevens, Executive Director*

A. Heather Beebe-Stevens, new Executive Director, reported the Foundation has a new website that is able to take donations online. She noted that she will send a letter to Board members about the "Selinger" challenge. Sam and Rosemary Selinger, through Dr. Selinger's mother's charitable foundation donated \$25,000 towards the endowment. Five thousand of these dollars were made possible by a personal donation by the Selingers. In 2012 the Foundation gave to citizens in the City 2,125 passes through Make A Splash, 2,000 plus swimsuits, and 375 swim lessons. All grantees should now have received their grant checks. The Foundation is reviewing their grant process.

- 11. **COMMITTEE REPORTS** – Park Board Action Items

FINANCE COMMITTEE – September 11, 2012 – *Andy Dunau*

A. Leroy Eadie gave an overview of the budget and the budget process for 2012.

Motion No. 3: Andy Dunau motioned to approve the 2013 Parks and Recreation Budget as presented for all funds under control of the Park Board. The total appropriation as listed is \$23,354,100 and is appropriated per the functions listed.

Ross Kelley seconded.

Speaking to the motion:

Ross Kelley expressed appreciation on the hard work of the staff and Board as it was not an easy task. 2013 will be a tough year and 2014 will likely be tough as well. With this budget Parks is not set up for failure but for future success.

Ken Van Voorhis Agrees with Ross. Initially he was pretty critical of the budget. He thanked staff, Leroy and the Board for their patience. He noted that in the presentation yesterday in Finance Committee the number was between \$17.4M - \$17.5M and now it is \$17.6M and inquired why that was.

Leroy Eadie advised that today's presentation was Park Fund and Urban Forestry Fund combined and the Finance Committee presentation was Park Fund only.

Sam Selinger noted that he would like to echo all previous comments. He thanked staff. Noted there will be hard times continuing. The process was a good process that looked at principles looking into the future.

Randy Cameron also echoed thank you and appreciation to the Board and staff. The budget is a reset and for future sustainability. It sets the foundation for reviewing and making decisions in budgets for years to come. For the record he thanked, Leroy Eadie for making difficult decisions and cuts, Rebecca Madany, Golf Pros, Golf Superintendents, and Parks Senior staff including Mike Aho, Craig Butz, Nancy Goodspeed, Rebecca Madany, Tony Madunich, Carl Strong, and Angel Spell.

Jim Santorsola stated he was impressed that we got to where we didn't touch reserves but added to them.

Randy Cameron called for the vote.

Motion carried.

- B. Leroy Eadie gave a brief history regarding the debt.

Motion No. 4: Andy Dunau motioned to commit to forgiving the third payment of Northeast Youth Center debt of \$26, 800 for budget overages.

Martha Lou Wheatley Billeter seconded.

Speaking to the motion:

Ken Van Voorhis noted that the Committee had a briefing on the issued. He asks that the NEYC consider in exchange for providing the forgiveness of the debt to consider in developing their programs around the Parks system and educating the youth about how important parks are. He challenges the NEYC to tailor programs to get out and take care of parks as well.

Leroy Eadie responded that he believes NEYC already does this very well and that this is a nice challenge however what he sees today is that they do a great job of this.

Randy Cameron called for the vote.

Motion carried.

GOLF COMMITTEE – August 15, 2012 – *Ross Kelley*

- A. The Committee received a brief introduction about Esmeralda Golf Course.
- B. The Committee was given the Golf Strategic Plan, the Financial, revenue enhancements, and course conditions updates.
- C. The Committee had discussion on coordination with the Spokane County Courses, Season and Unlimited play passes, and Holiday Sales.
- D. Golf Highlights included Twilight play at the Sunset Rate at Downriver continues to be steady and in great shape; Esmeralda assistant Kathy Brown successfully coordinated a Patriot Golf day event that was part of a national program and held in conjunction with 12 other local courses raising \$9,000 for the Fold of Honor Foundation; Indian Canyon is hosting the third round of the Spokane Women's Golf Association Championship today; and The Creek at Qualchan finished aerification last week and the course is doing great.
- E. It was noted that at the Committee the next meeting date had been rescheduled to September 20th, due to scheduling conflicts this date has again been rescheduled to September 26th, 7:00 a.m. at Downriver Golf Course.

LAND COMMITTEE – September 5, 2012 – *Jim Santorsola*

- A. **Motion No. 5:** Susan Traver motioned to approve the Lease with Evergreen Archery Club, Inc. of portion of Palisades Park through August 31, 2022 for a recreational archery range. Ross Kelley seconded.
Motion carried.

- B. Staff reported to the Committee that a camera system has been installed at the Merkel Sports Complex Skatepark to provide vandalism deterrence. Noticeable results have already been realized.
- C. The Committee discussed safety concerns at Liberty Park.
- D. Leroy Eadie updated the Board on the Stanek's Nursery issue. He advised that a letter from Mr. Stanek was just received saying that Mr. Stanek plans to close the business by January 13, 2013 and would like access through April 15, 2013 for liquidation. Leroy stated that he would be concerned about this arrangement if we were to have nothing in writing. We have not yet responded to this letter.

RECREATION COMMITTEE – September 6, 2012 – *Sam Selinger*

- A. Adriano Eva and Leroy Eadie outlined the pro forma for the proposal to form a new adult co-ed adult and senior softball league and how the creation of the league benefits the department and the community.

Motion No. 6: Sam Selinger motioned to accept the business plan and approve the start of the new softball league.

Ross Kelley seconded.

Speaking to the motion:

Ross Kelley noted that as a retired softball player this league fills a big hole. The impact of Fuzzy Buckenberger no longer running SASA Leagues in Spokane impacts thousands of people. This will help to continue to fill our fields and bring a financial benefit to the department. He appreciates all the hard work that has been done on this.

Adriano Eva advised that although Mr. Buckenberger no longer desires to run the leagues he still would continue to run the ASA tournaments. Eventually as Fuzzy moves towards full retirement we would be looking at taking over those tournaments and bringing them to Spokane.

Leroy Eadie noted Fuzzy has great connections nationwide and that he works closely with the Regional Sports Commission to bring the tournaments to Spokane. Fuzzy running the business of tournaments is a plus for us.

Randy Cameron pointed out that the fees we would be charging would be less than the fees these teams are currently paying with SASA because a layer of management costs has been removed.

Susan Traver thanked Adriano, Carl and Leroy for their work on this and the information provided that helped the Board make an educated decision.

Motion carried.

- B. Discussion was had on the Aquatics Fee Schedule increases. The increases will be presented at the next Committee meeting. Swim team costs will double next year although the increases still do not give us 100% cost recovery. Overall cost recovery for Aquatics was 18% in 2008 and had grown to 40% last year. One Board member expressed he would like to see increases in steps rather than doubling in one year. Another Board member indicated the proposed fees are in line with where they should be. Scholarships provided by Parks Foundation are for swim lessons for those who want to swim or learn to swim and do not cover swim team costs. The swim team costs cover an entire summer of recreation. Swim team revenue was approximately \$5,250 this year.
- C. The Committee moved approval of the 2013 Recreation Budget item on their agenda to Finance Committee.

RIVERFRONT PARK COMMITTEE – September 10, 2012 – *Susan Traver*

- A. **Motion No. 7:** Susan Traver motioned to approve the Sister Cities Association Art and

Garden Policy.

Martha Lou Wheatley-Billeter seconded.

Speaking to the motion:

Ken Van Voorhis inquired if this policy is consistent with any other art in garden policies. Leroy Eadie does not believe so. We do not have major art installations in any other gardens and this is what is driving the policy. This is not policy on top of policy. This also has to do with a non-park agency doing a lot of work in Riverfront Park. Much about the work is covered in the MOU.

Motion carried.

- B. The Committee moved the 2013 RFP Budget to the Finance Committee.
- C. The Committee received an update on the Rotary Fountain Facility and established a subcommittee.
- D. The Committee received updates on the Hoopfest sculpture, the Broadview Dairy Demolition, the conservation area, and the blue bridge project.
- E. The July and August end of month reports were provided to the Committee.
- F. Committee members were asked to submit names for possible participants in a Phase II Master Plan stakeholders group.

URBAN FORESTRY TREE COMMITTEE – July 31, 2012 – *Ken VanVoorhis*

- A. The Committee withdrew the motion for the three London planetrees at 1818 E. Liberty Ave for Heritage Tree Nomination.
- B. The Committee received updates on the WDNR Forest Health Grant and the Street Tree Inventory.
- C. The Committee discussed the Regen program.
- D. The Citizen Advisory Report was received.
- E. The Urban Forestry Staff Report was reviewed.

12. **REPORTS**

A. Park Board President –

B. Park Board Members –

- 1. Conservation Futures Liaison – *Ken Van Voorhis*
The committee will meet next week.
- 2. Parks Foundation Liaison – *Susan Traver*
Susan is glad to have Heather on board. It's a big move to have an experienced executive director on board. Her addition is good for both the county and city's parks systems.
- 3. Council Liaison – *Councilman Mike Allen*,
The council is currently working on the budget.
- 4. Parks Department Revenue & Sponsorship Subcommittee – *Councilman Mike Allen*
Two key things were discussed at the meeting. The first is getting the RFP for the beverage contract with Parks out with the goal of leveraging the new Riverfront Park Fountain Facility to possibly generate additional revenue to support the department. The committee got a legal opinion on how we can go forward on naming rights and sponsorships.
- 5. Park Board Rules Subcommittee – *Ross Kelley*
The first meeting was held and several issues were discussed. There are a couple of minor points they are working on. The goal is to have the presentation at the October Park Board for first reading and final at the November meeting.

C. Director's Report -

1. Thank you to the Riverfront Park Staff under the leadership of Craig Butz and Debby Dodson for an amazing summer. This year's major events included Bloomsday, Hoopfest, 4th of July, Powwow, Pig Out, Spokefest, and the upcoming Oktoberfest with many smaller events in between these. Special praise was given to Kacey Burke for keeping the park looking great and Sam Song for providing catering services for the joint meeting with the County.
2. Work continues on the Whitewater Park with an MOU with the Friends of the Falls for cost sharing for the EIS should we decide to go through the full process. At this point we have agreed to do the scoping portion of the EIS and are jointly funding a small contract with Studio Cascade for this work.
3. The Riverfront Fountain Facility Subcommittee is meeting tomorrow at 11:30 a.m. in Conference Room 2B.

13. **Correspondence** – None

14. **Public Comments** – None

15. Adjourn to Executive Session – None

16. **Adjournment:** 3:22 p.m.

A. Next Committee meeting dates:

1. Golf Committee: September 26, 2012, 7:00 a.m., Downriver Golf Course, 3225 N. Columbia Circle
2. Riverfront Park Committee: October 1, 2012, 8:00 a.m., City Council Briefing Center
3. Land Committee: October 3, 2012, 3:30 p.m., City Hall Conference Room 5A
4. Recreation Committee: October 4, 2012, 3:30 p.m., West Central Community Center, 1603 N. Belt
5. Finance Committee: October 9, 2012, 3:00 p.m., City Hall Conference Room 5A
6. Urban Forestry Tree Committee: October 2, 2012, 2011, 4:15 p.m., Woodland Center, Finch Arboretum

B. Next Regular Park Board meeting date: October 11, 2012, 1:30 p.m., City Council Chambers

C. Next Park Board Study Session: October 11, 2012, 3:00 p.m. or as soon as possible thereafter directly following the Regular Park Board meeting, Conference Room 5A