

SPOKANE PARK BOARD

Regular Monthly Meeting – 1:30 P.M. – October 11, 2012 – City Council Chambers

Minutes

1. Roll Call: *Jacki Fought*

Park Board Members Present: Randy Cameron, President; Jim Quigley, Vice President; Leroy Eadie, Secretary/Parks Director; Martha Lou Wheatley-Billeter; Ross Kelley; Chris Wright, Susan Traver; Ken Van Voorhis; Andy Dunau; Sam Selinger; Councilman Mike Allen (left meeting at 3:30 p.m.)

Park Board Members Absent Excused: Jim Santorsola

Staff Present: Nancy Goodspeed, Jacki Fought, Tony Madunich, Craig Butz, Mike Aho, Garrett Jones; Carl Strong; Al Vorderbrueggen; Debby Dodson; Taylor Bressler, Angel Spell; Rebecca Madany, Steve Nittolo

2. **Motion No. 1:** Chris Wright motioned to approve the minutes of the September 13, 2012 Regular Park Board meeting and the notes from the September 13, 2012 Study Session. Mike Allen seconded.
Motion carried.

3. Additions or deletions to the agenda: None

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

- A. The Sekani Trail Run is Saturday, October 13th, 10:00 a.m.
- B. Parks and Recreation offers some unique classes & programs including a Mozzarella Cheese Making class and The Cemetery Tour of Spokane that takes place October 20th at noon.
- C. Fall cleanup has begun. Pine needles removed from Comstock Park that will be used for mulch to protect the roses on Manito Park's Rose Hill.
- D. Parks and Recreation staff has been working on the Council Ring in the West Central Neighborhood just north of the Sandifur Bridge.
- E. A new basketball court was installed in Franklin Park by Hoopfest and Garco with Park Operations providing the sod installation and project support.
- F. The Boeing Amphitheatre in Riverfront Park has been freshly graded and seeded.
- G. With funding from The Friends of Manito, two projects related to the Mirror Pond Master Plan have been completed.
- H. The next UTF re-design meeting will be in November. The project will be funded with the 2007 Bond that was designated for youth sport facilities and improvements.
- I. October is NeighborWoods Month. Events include October 13th Friends of the High Drive Bluff FireWise Community Event; October 15th Comstock Park tree planting with Wilson Elementary; October 27th Reforest Spokane Day with The Lands Council.
- J. The Comstock NeighborWoods group has been diligently working on park improvements all year.
- K. As part of city-wide Employee Volunteer Days, Parks and Recreation is conducting a Volunteer Day involving painting out graffiti at the Under the Freeway Skate Park on Saturday, October 27th, 10:00 a.m. – noon.
- L. The free Fall Leaf Festival event will take place at Finch Arboretum, October 27th, 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

- M. Due to unseasonably warm weather the Ice Palace opening will be delayed to October 26th.
- N. A variety of unique holiday Parks and Recreation gift ideas will be available in the coming weeks.
- O. Duncan Garden is at the peak of its color. This is a great time to go see this amazing garden.

5. **VISITORS**

- A. Sarah Lyman, Senior Program Associate, Empire Health Foundation gave a presentation on Obesity Prevention & Healthy Food Access highlighting a new South Dakota policy regarding offering healthy concessions options. The goal is to engage the Inland Northwest community in providing healthy options. Their primary focus is on young people however they are interested in working with seniors. EHS has been working with the City of Cheney to integrate healthy options in the senior centers and in the high school. Parks and Recreation has tried to integrate some healthier options and has not met with great success. They are interested in working with Sarah and EHS to find a more successful way of providing these choices.

6. **Motion No. 2:** Andy Dunau motioned to approve claims for the month of September 2012 in the amount of \$1,583,486.57.
Ken Van Voorhis seconded.
Motion carried.

7. Financial Report – *Rebecca Madany*

- A. Park Fund Revenue is at 94% of year to date budget. Park Fund Expenditures are at 97% of year to date budget.
- B. Golf Fund Revenue is at 110% of year to date budget. Golf Fund Expenditures are at 95% of year to date budget.

8. **SPECIAL DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS** – *Randy Cameron*
See Land Committee item B

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

- A. The Foundation has sent out first email newsletter to the approximately 386 people on their distribution list. You can sign up to be on this list on the Foundation's website.
- B. At the bottom of every page on their website there is also a scrolling option where they can list any events in the community for their partners. Any events will also be included in their newsletters.
- C. They were able to tap into some of the designated funds this month. Some have been with the Foundation for decades. They have been working closely with some of the City staff to spend some of those funds and were able to help pay for repairs at Manito for the greenhouse glass and some of the improvements at Riverfront Park.

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

FINANCE COMMITTEE – October 9, 2012 – *Andy Dunau*

- A. The Financial Report, the 2013 Capital plan, and the Fountain Building Finance options were provided to the committee and reviewed.

GOLF COMMITTEE – September 26, 2012 – *Ross Kelley*

- A. Downriver Golf Course held the Halloween Open on October 6th & 7th with 138 participants. The greens were aerified on Tuesday. Golf Professional Steve Conner commended the maintenance crew for providing a wonderful facility for the public to play.
- B. Rounds at Esmeralda Golf Course were up from September 2011. At the request of the Greater Hillyard Business Association staff cleaned up of the area exterior to the perimeter fence and adjacent to the City streets. Esmeralda is hosting the largest First Tee Class of the season during the fall session.
- C. Indian Canyon Golf Course aerified their greens at the end of September. Kathy Jensen, of KGJ Golf located at Indian Canyon won the 2012 GOLF "Teacher of the Year" for this Chapter and also "Teacher of the Year" for the Pacific Northwest Section.
- D. Creek at Qualchan Golf Course aerified the first week of September. The Men's Club Championship was held on September 29th and 30th with 50 participants and won by Ryan Camp. Golf Professional Mark Gardener qualified for the National Senior Club Professional Championship and is currently trying to qualify for the Senior PGA Championship.

LAND COMMITTEE – October 3, 2012 – *Susan Traver*

- A. The recommendation from the Committee for entering into a contract not to exceed \$230,000, inclusive of Washington State Sales Tax, with low bidder for new irrigation system at Manito was removed from the agenda as bids were over \$230,000.
- B. The Board discussed the proposed contract with Clearwater Summit Group for Base Bid plus Alternative #2 at a price of \$264,264 including tax for new irrigation system at Manito. This is the third time this project has gone out to bid. Each time the bids came in over budget even with the reduction in scope with each succeeding bid process due to the anticipated difficulty in the project. The current scope of the project was presented. Automated irrigation would provide labor and water savings and would do a better job of watering in the highly visible main entrance of Manito Park. Discussion was had on bond fund priorities and department priorities. Staff is unable to do this project due to the complexity of laying the pipe in an area with so many mature trees and the likelihood of running into basalt rock. Discussion was had on the complexity of the project. To protect the trees a company with specialized equipment and experience is needed. Suggestion was made to send this decision back to Land Committee to be more fully vetted. Discussion was also had about bringing all irrigation projects to the Board at the same time as many of the remaining projects will be as complicated as the one being proposed. It was noted that the project(s) will not become less expensive with the passing of time and costs are likely to increase.

Motion No. 3: Ross Kelley motioned to approve the contract with Clearwater Summit Group for Base Bid plus Alternative #2 at a price of \$264,264 including tax for new irrigation system at Manito.

Martha Lou Wheatley-Billeter seconded.

Speaking to the motion:

Ross Kelley stated he does not believe playing games with contractors is what the Board is all about. When you start rebidding something for the second and third and fourth time that is not good. It does not look good for the Board and contractors will not likely bid on projects we have. Basically we are playing games with them now. He thinks we got a pretty good bid on this. It is high, he does not like to spend that much money, but he definitely understands why. The tree roots and the rocks are an uncertainty for a contractor. He (the contractor) will have to make sure he doesn't lose money in this job. Ross thinks that we have gotten about as good a bid as we can get at this time and he doesn't like to sit on money and wait until maybe things will get better. Ross is an optimist

but doesn't think things are going to get better this year. Ross would like to see things move forward. This is an important irrigation project. It is the front door of one of the prettiest parks in our entire system. Ross wants to get this taken care of and doesn't like to drag things on that are particularly the front "window dressing" of our parks.

Chris Wright confirmed with staff that the bid expires 30 days from the date of the bid opening and inquired if it was at the bidders election, if they can keep it open for another week or two. He asked that if the bid does not pass, it goes back to Land Committee, and there is momentum to go ahead and proceed with this contract, considering we are going to be a week past when the bid expires at the next Park Board meeting, could we still have the arrangement with this contractor?

Tony Madunich stated that there is that chance, however we would lose a strong 30 day construction window by doing so. He said that the contractor may change his mind if we are pushing the project off till spring as spring is a busy time for contractors.

Susan Traver stated she would like to add the comment that normally this kind of thing would never even be up on the dais. It would have come in as a contract that was overbid. It would have died and would never have even come to the full Board. Susan is all for talking about things up on the dais and inquired on how many contracts don't make it to the Board because the committee voted no or the bids didn't come in on price. She believes it is important. The entrance to Manito looks fabulous and always has. What we are doing is a change in process. She thinks that the change is a good change but thinks we should look at a bigger picture for that process change and possibly by doing so we could possibly save money across the whole system. She doesn't know if that is true or not but does think that by delaying this until spring or delaying this until this time next year which staff has already said is a prime time for irrigation contractors to submit bids, that maybe it would give us more time to fully pursue looking at the whole system and whether we pursue some sort of a large loan. She is interested in that process and doesn't feel that we have to do this right now and that Manito will suffer if we don't do it.

Randy Cameron noted that, typically, in construction, at this time of year you want to get started before frost comes in on anything that is underground, as this case would be, so they can continue to work in the winter. This is very attractive to a contractor. It seems that if the project won't get completed before winter sets, the contractor really wants to secure the contract so that they can start now and launch with this project next spring. Randy would like to offer for consideration, something that is very attractive to a contractor and is good motivation to have them reduce their number, if in the rock clause, admitting there is risk, if they are able to save on materials and labor, we will give them the profit that they have in the project and we will take the savings on materials, time and labor if they can reduce their number without jeopardizing the quality of what they are providing.

Tony Madunich advised he discussed this with Purchasing already and that becomes almost like a value engineering type approach. They indicated that if any specifications were changed it would have to be re-bid. Our hands are tied with much negotiation. He acknowledged that this is the type of discussion that should be happening at committee level, unfortunately the timing in working with Purchasing was that the bid opening did not happen until Monday which is why it was brought forward with "fingers crossed" that the bid would be under budget. He also expressed total support for looking at irrigation with a larger scale approach and noted that there is nearly \$5M of irrigation to be automated. There is still a lot that we can take a look at that approach with.

Sam Selinger this is a complicated issue and he like the approach of going back to Land to sort it out and perhaps being brought forward with what we are going to strategically do over the next 3-4 years and how we are going to finance it. He noted that he has no

personal expertise and likes the idea of the Land Committee bringing it forward again. Mike Allen stated that, given the scope of the amount of automation we have left he does not see that there will be much more of a cost benefit if we hold it for a year. His conscience is telling him that if we wait until spring and ask them to hold their price they are going to be ill advised to do it. We went out for bid a number of times on this so there is a credibility issue now with the Park Board. He is in support of it and thinks we need to go ahead and get it done.

Ross Kelley noted that looking at the numbers we are \$12K over what we had set for our minimum. If it had been exactly we wouldn't be discussing this so we are betting over \$12K that things are going to be better next year. He is optimistic but is not there where it is going to get that much better next year. Especially when we have done 4 bids on the same thing and have been messing with the contractors, it is not going to happen.

Susan Traver stated that she does not think we have been messing with the contractors. Every single time the bids have come back \$250K over and right now this is \$12K. The only reason she is having this discussion is because of Andy Dunau's suggestion, which she believes is an interesting and good discussion. She thinks that, unfortunately, this is getting caught in the cross fires. These projects are going to continue. You have this strip on Manito where the intricacies of the project are not going away. Everywhere you go there is going to be the rock and the tree issues and it will continue to be a problem in Manito Park. Things have changed since the first thing happened in Land, and that is Finance Committee where another item was talked about in a bigger program and looked at things differently and Susan is interested in pursuing that.

Chris Wright advised he was not suggesting asking them hold their price until the spring but just to allow one last opportunity to consider this bid and come back to the Board next month. He was not thinking we would stretch it out till spring. He believes that Ross is right. Chris asked for clarification of the motion.

Tony Madunich asserted that if they run into more rock than was in the bid they may come back however there is some rock built into the bid. Our plan is that wherever possible we will reroute lines, change the depth of lines or do whatever we have to do whenever we have that issue.

Jim Quigley advised he knows that we have discussed this thing for quite a while and he likes Andy's program that he brought up at the Finance Committee meeting but he does not see where we can connect the two. He asked why we don't finish this program and then do the rest of the parks system.

Ken VanVoorhis stated that we are right in the crosshairs as Susan said. This is one that is right on the tip of the iceberg. He asks himself, if we have all these constraints and incur the cost of doing all of this, should we be irrigating all of this, should we be looking at this as a typical park? He realizes this is unique, being the front door of Manito. We realize Manito is built on a rock just like a number of other parks on the south hill, but then, there are a number of other places on the south hill that would never irrigate. He is asking the board for consideration of if we've hit that point of where we need to reconsider what we consider a green typical park and what the user really wants to have because they are going to be expensive from here on out. He agrees with Ross that the price probably isn't going to come down, and will probably go up as the price of everything goes up. From a fundamental standpoint we have to look at ourselves and ask what is our responsibility, and if we are going to green the whole Inland Northwest park lands. Until we have the benefit of figuring out what we really are going to do that this is the one that just gets axed because this is in the wrong spot at the wrong time.

Motion failed with 4 yes votes, 3 no votes and 2 abstentions.

Mike Allen asked for clarification on Park Board Rules on abstentions and if members have to state their reason for why they did not vote.

Andy Dunau advised he is not on Land Committee and he has not given any thought to this at all. He presented the idea of looking at the system as a whole although he came up with the idea before he knew anything about the bid situation. He is very sympathetic to Susan's idea but with analysis and the rest of it he is also sympathetic to Jim Quigley's idea of finishing what we have right now. He feels that right now he doesn't know enough and that is why we have committees. He was not prepared to have something come up on the dais. He does not like having something come out on the dais without clear strong committee support. He had other members come up to him before the meeting telling him that Land Committee support is at best split.

Sam Selinger noted that he had already indicated that he does not understand enough about this. He hears the arguments of both parties and does not fully understand what our strategy is going forward and what emphasis we are placing on getting all the pieces irrigated versus everything else we do. He prefers that this come out of committee.

Mike Allen asked if these funds were specifically dedicated to irrigation systems in parks or are they restricted funds.

Leroy Eadie advised that in this case because we pulled a majority out of the 2008 Park Bond funds they are unrestricted and will carry over. There is not a loss of funding in this case and could technically be used for something else within the parks system.

Ross Kelley confirmed with Leroy that the funds may only be used for capital items.

- C. Jim Frank of Greenstone Development gave a presentation to the committee expressing Greenstone's interest in contributing 7.5 acres of open and green spaces to the City of Spokane for public ownership and use.
- D. An update was given to the committee on the Stanek's parking lot issue. A letter has declining a lease but requesting use of the space through April 15, 2013 has been received from Stanek's.
- E. Mike Aho gave an update to the Board on the UTF Skatepark. The history was briefly reviewed. Grindline Skateparks, Inc. will do the redesign. The next community meeting is November 14, 7:00 p.m. the anticipated timeline for design completion and construction were reviewed. Challenges for this park are the transient population, lack of bathroom facilities, graffiti issues, safety issues, and garbage issues. The park is part of the Mayor's gateway project. Liability issues were briefly discussed. The unique benefits of the park were discussed. We are working on getting a "Friends of" group together based on a model out of Philadelphia. Concern in investing a large sum of money before safety issues are taken care of was expressed as was concern about the timeline. It was noted that the illicit activity is not the skating community. Highest and best use of the property was discussed. The property is owned by DOT and leased by parks and the city. Bathroom facilities are not a part of the design. Funding is undesignated "leftover money" from the 2008 Park Bond. The Board will have to vote on the project before it goes out to bid. Board members are invited to attend the community meeting. This item will be moved to Recreation Committee in the future.

RECREATION COMMITTEE – October 4, 2012 – *Chris Wright*

- A. **Motion No. 4:** Chris Wright motioned to approve the proposed 2013 Aquatics fees consisting of (1) increasing of Swim Team Fee from \$75 to \$150, (2) user group rental for

non-regular season from \$20 per lane/hour to \$20.25 per lane/hour, and (3) user group rental for regular season from \$6.50 per lane/hour to \$6.75 per lane/hour.

Susan Traver seconded.

Motion carried.

- B. The committee received a presentation on the 2013 Center Contracts.
- C. The committee received an update on the Athletic Facility Use.
- D. The Recreation Financial Report through August and the Monthly Recreation Report were distributed and reviewed.
- E. The committee had a brief discussion on Promotional Ideas.

RIVERFRONT PARK COMMITTEE – October 1, 2012 – *Susan Traver*

- A. **Motion No. 4:** Susan Traver motioned to accept the increases on all admission prices for 2013 for Riverfront Park as presented.

Jim Quigley seconded.

Motion carried.

- B. The committee received updates on the Fountain Facility, the Hoopfest sculpture, the Broadview Dairy Demolition, the Conservation area and the Blue Bridge.
- C. The committee received the end of month financial reports for July and August, reviewing the August report.

URBAN FORESTRY TREE COMMITTEE – October 2, 2012 – *Ken VanVoorhis*

- A. The committee withdrew the motion on the three London planetrees at 1818 E Liberty Avenue for Heritage tree nominations.
- B. Updates were received on WDNR Forest Health Grant and the Street Tree Inventory.
- C. Discussion was had on the Regen Program: Renewal, Restoration and Growth of our Young Urban Trees.
- D. The committee received the Citizen Advisory Committee Report and the Urban Forestry Staff Report, reviewing the Urban Forestry Staff Report.

11. **REPORTS**

- A. Park Board President – None
- B. Park Board Members –
 - 1. Conservation Futures Liaison – None
 - 2. Parks Foundation Liaison – None
 - 3. Council Liaison – None
 - 4. Parks Department Revenue & Sponsorship Subcommittee – None
 - 5. Park Board Rules Subcommittee – Ross Kelley noted the committee will be meeting at 3:30 p.m. on October 23. The draft will be brought to the November 8 full Park Board meeting.
- C. Director's Report -
 - 1. Quinn Group won the bid to provide advertising and marketing services in 2013 and 2014.
 - 2. MySpokane goes live for Parks on October 22nd. After that date there will no longer be a reception desk in Parks.
 - 3. On October 22nd there will be a Mayoral presentation to the First Tee group at Qualchan Golf Course.
 - 4. Council President Stuckart is interested in installing a similar attraction to

Providence, Rhode Island's *Waterfire* in Spokane.

5. The cable railing on the Blue Bridge in RFP has been completed.
6. Mike Aho is retiring to accept a position as the Director of Parks and Recreation In Eagle.

12. **Correspondence** – None

13. **Public Comments** – None

14. **Adjourn to Executive Session** – None

15. **Adjournment:** 4:00 p.m.

A. Next Committee meeting dates:

1. Golf Committee: October 17, 2012, 7:00 a.m., Indian Canyon Golf Course, 4304 W. West Drive
2. Riverfront Park Committee: October 29, 2012, 8:00 a.m., City Council Briefing Center
3. Land Committee: October 31, 2012, 3:30 p.m., City Hall Conference Room 5A
4. Recreation Committee: November 1, 2012, 3:30 p.m., Peaceful Valley Community Center, 214 N. Cedar
5. Finance Committee: November 6, 2012, 3:00 p.m., City Hall Conference Room 5A
6. Urban Forestry Tree Committee: October 30, 2012, 4:15 p.m., Woodland Center, Finch Arboretum

B. Next Regular Park Board meeting date: November 8, 2012, 1:30 p.m., City Council Chambers

C. Next Park Board Study Session: November 8, 2012, 3:00 p.m. or as soon as possible thereafter directly following the Regular Park Board meeting, Conference Room 5A