

# **SPOKANE PARK BOARD**

July 11, 2013 Regular Monthly Meeting

1:30 P.M., City Council Chambers

## **Minutes**

### 1. **Roll Call:**

Park Board members present: Randy Cameron, President; Leroy Eadie, Secretary; Jim Santorsola; Ross Kelley; Chris Wright; Susan Traver; Ken Van Voorhis; Andy Dunau (1:34 p.m.); Sam Selinger; Councilman Mike Allen

Staff Present: Sam Song, Juliet Sinisterra, Al Vorderbrueggen, Jeff Bailey, Garrett Jones, Jerry Unruh, Carl Strong, Tony Madunich, Angel Spell, Nancy Goodspeed, Jacki Faught

2. **Motion No. 1:** Susan Traver motioned to approve the June 13, 2013 Regular Park Board Meeting Minutes, June 13, 2013 Special Joint Park Board/Spokane Parks Foundation Meeting Minutes and June 13, 2013 Joint Study Session with Council Notes.  
Sam Selinger seconded.  
Motion carried.

3. **Additions or Deletions to the Agenda:** None

### 4. **Monthly Highlights:** *Randy Cameron, President*

- A. The Olmsted Report was officially presented the Spokane Board of Park Commissioners in 1903, 110 years ago; copies are available at Park and Recreation in City Hall for \$15.
- B. Comstock Park 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Rededication Event begins today at 5:00 p.m. and will include the ceremony, music and free open swim. Improvements for the event included the refurbishing of the flagpole, installation of a new flag, a new planting area at the northern entrance of the park, and the Boys and Girls Club of Spokane removed weeds and distributed mulch at the Aquatics Center.
- C. Based on the Healthy Concession Initiative healthy food choices are now available at the Manito Park Bench Café, the Riverfront Fountain Café, and the Pavilion Vending Machines.
- D. Riverfront Park is operating on summer hours. It is offering an \$18 premium ticket, \$1 Pavilion rides 5-8 pm on Friday nights, PEMCO Outdoor Movies on Wednesday nights, Great White Shark and Rocky Mountain Express at the IMAX, and a Sunset Dessert Train Tour on July 25<sup>th</sup>.
- E. Summer Youth Day Camps offer art, sports, hiking, dancing, biking and much more.
- F. Funshine Day Camp is a fun-filled camp for those with developmental and/or physical disabilities.
- G. Sports and Athletic registrations for Extreme Sports Camps, tennis (Youth & Adult) volleyball, basketball, football, flag football, cheerleading, soccer, softball and baseball are going well.
- H. Updated information regarding Splash Pads and Aquatics Centers can be found on the Aquatics Hotline at 509-625-6960.

### 5. **Special Guests:**

- A. SYSCA Update – Bonnie McDade, Executive Director, Southside Senior Community Center, reported that all 10 of the centers are growing more membership, doing more fundraising, adding programs, and increasing participants. The Washington State Senior Centers

Conference was a great success receiving glowing evaluations from the participants. Thank you was given to Susan Traver for doing the keynote address and welcome and to Jerry Unruh, Hal McGlathery and Christa Richardson for all they did. West Central has 75 youth enrolled in summer day camp, 150 teens enrolled in the weekly camp, and has a new youth Outdoor Club. County Prevention Center approached the center about the Substance Abuse Prevention Center.

Kate Greene, Director Northeast Youth Center, reported that the NEYC had a field trip to City Hall today. They toured the building with Representative Kevin Parker and Councilman Mike Fagan, went to lunch at Anthony's, toured the Courthouse, and went to SkyHigh for some jumping. Spokane County Sheriff Ozzy Kenezovich came to the Center and talked to the kids about safety when they are out in the parks and what to do if find things, if are approached by someone, and bullying. NEYC has 120 persons enrolled in their summer camps program, 11.5 hours per day, 5 days per week, for 11 weeks, amounting to 75,900 hours working with the youth. In addition to regular summer camps they are offering 7 one week long camps, 4 one day camps and 7 preschool camps. Kate outlined some of the events the kids have attended and activities they have done in the 4 weeks since the camps started. Thank you cards from the kids were presented to Board members.

Bonnie McDade presented statistics on the growing number of seniors as Baby Boomers age. Spokane has been named the 9<sup>th</sup> best place to retire by USA Today magazine. Bonnie had forwarded the statistics requested at the last Park Board meeting to the incorrect email address and provided the information at today's meeting. First quarter 2013 parks dollars were spent at a rate of about \$0.46 per participant, second quarter at about \$0.40 per participant. This number should go down as program participation in the centers increases.

6. **Motion No. 2:** Andy Dunau motioned to approve Claims for the month of June 2013 in the amount of \$1,513,050.12.  
Susan Traver seconded.  
Motion carried.

**Agenda item added:** Vice Presidential Nomination

**Motion No. 3:** Andy Dunau brought forward the nomination of Dr. Sam Selinger for Vice President.  
Susan Traver seconded.  
Motion carried with Dr. Selinger abstaining.

7. **Financial Report & Budget Update:** No Report
8. **Riverfront Park Master Plan Update:** *Juliet Sinisterra, Phase II Project Manager*  
Juliet Sinisterra outlined the progress on the Master Plan. The next two RFP Master Planning Committee meetings will deal with the central area of the park and how to revitalize it. They are exploring the different uses and how to better access the river. Some potential development strategies were explored at the last meeting. The next meeting will focus on the IMAX and turning it into a National Geographic Theater, removing it altogether, or using it for things not theater related. Staff is moving forward with an as built AutoCAD drawing of the entire park. Juliet is working on egress studies on the Clocktower and ways that we might bring the public into the tower for viewing. She met with Integrus Architects regarding its structural integrity. Once egress is figured out she will approach Integrus about costs. Juliet is researching the structural capacity of the pavilion to carry a snow load if the structure were to

be re-sheathed. We are moving forward with public participation in the planning process that will include a webpage, social media, and a series QR Codes around the park.

9. **Foundation Report:** *Susan Traver, Park Board Liaison*

The Make a Splash in a Kid's Life program has raised \$40,954.84 for swim lessons, swimsuits and pool passes. 1,300 pool passes have been purchased at a cost of \$26,000. The Foundation has one new fiscal sponsorship, Friends of Comstock. The Foundation is working to put all grant report forms online. All reports are due by December 31, 2013 or within 30 days of the end of the project, whichever comes first. The Dr. Quigley Memorial Fund has exceeded the amount needed to be raised. Staff will order the benches and they possibly may be installed by the end of summer.

10. **Executive Session:** None

11. **Special Discussion/Action Items:** None

12. **Committee Reports – Action Items:**

**Golf Committee:** June 19, 2013, *Ross Kelley*

- A. Downriver, along with Qualchan hosted a First Tee Fundraiser on June 26<sup>th</sup>.
- B. Downriver's course is in great shape, thanks to the maintenance staff. Play has been very strong.
- C. Esmeralda is promoting a new "July is for Juniors" program that allows Juniors to receive a free range bucket of equal value with a paying adult; there is a Junior Golf Lessons series every Wednesday; Junior Golf Camp is being held July 8<sup>th</sup>- 12<sup>th</sup>; and a Family Fun Pack is being offered Friday-Sunday, 3-5pm.
- D. On July 14<sup>th</sup>, Esmeralda will hold a five hole adult/child scramble called "Junior Golf Bonanza." There will be a Drive, Chip and Putting contest and afterward a pizza and prize party at the Clubhouse.
- E. On June 20<sup>th</sup>, Esmeralda's 18 Hole Ladies Club hosted a "Bring a Friend Event." This event increased the Ladies Club membership by over ten percent.
- F. Indian Canyon hosted the 4<sup>th</sup> annual Pine Ridge Alzheimer's Care Center Golf Scramble on June 21<sup>st</sup>. It was a great event and was attended by the Director of Parks and Recreation and several Park Board members.
- G. The 26<sup>th</sup> annual Rosauer's Open will be held on July 17<sup>th</sup> to the 21<sup>st</sup>. Proceeds from this event benefit the Vanessa Behan Crisis Nursery.
- H. On July 28<sup>th</sup>, Indian Canyon will host the "Hit the Green" Golf Fest & Demo Days.
- I. Last Sunday Qualchan held the local qualifying event for the USGA's National Junior's Drive, Chip, & Putt Championship.
- J. The committee discussed the Indian Canyon Communications Towers/Tree Topping, the results of the 4 Play Pass Sales, Discount Cards, Season and Multi Play Passes, the Letters of Interest for Capital Investment in Spokane City Golf Courses, and on Corporate Events/Charity Scrambles.
- K. The committee received a Financial update, a Revenue Enhancement/Advertising update, and an update on course conditions.
- L. Golf has started the process for the purchase of a new point of sale system for Golf.

**Land Committee:** July 1, 2013 – *Ken Van Voorhis*

- A. Jeff Bailey, Security Supervisor, gave a presentation followed by a brief discussion on the

changes to the Exclusion from Parks and Recreation Areas Policy. Amendments include better language that did away with verbal warnings, defined prohibited conduct as being everything that is in violation of state or federal law, brought the length of time of exclusion to be consistent with the rest of the nation, and clarified the appeal process. Additional minor changes were suggested including the word "owned" in the definition of Parks and Recreation Areas to "owned and operated by" to make the exclusion a set number of days rather than a range, 30 days for a civil infraction, 60 days for a misdemeanor, and 90 days for a gross misdemeanor and 365 days for a felony. Discussion was had with about the carrying of firearms.

**Motion No. 4:** Ken Van Voorhis motioned to approve the Exclusion from Parks and Recreation Areas Policy as amended.

Ross Kelley seconded.

Motion carried.

B. **Motion No. 5:** Ken Van Voorhis motioned Park Board support the Conservation Futures Nomination for Palisades Park Property

Andy Dunau seconded.

Speaking to the motion:

Susan Traver asked for clarification as to why the Park Board has to make recommendation to the County since it is not our land now and if they approve it the property becomes Conservation Futures Land and not necessarily Park land.

Leroy Eadie advised that if approved it would become City of Spokane Parks property. County wants to know that if they consider this land then we would be willing to accept the property if they approve it.

Ken Van Voorhis commented that it is seen as an unforeseen opportunity. It is not ranked highest within the process however Conservation Futures can reorganize the list and move forward with it. It doesn't mean that it will be approved. It does mean that if it is purchased with Conservation Futures dollars then money would come in to us to manage Conservation Futures properties.

Leroy Eadie and Tony Madunich advised the property is 10 acres and reviewed a map of the area with the Board. Discussion was had on the location and the surrounding properties.

Chris Wright confirmed that maintenance expectations for the property would be no development, the land must be left in its native state, meet requirements for noxious weed control, a small amount of maintenance funding would come with the property and there is no obligation to build trails.

Tony Madunich estimates the value at \$30K although Conservation Futures would get an actual appraisal before purchasing the land.

Susan Traver state that she still does not understand why, other than that someone is interested in selling, we are interested in the property based on its location on the edge of the existing park that is already a very large park with somewhere in the neighborhood of 400 acres. It has the strange anomaly of existing outside the City of Spokane.

Leroy Eadie stated that some of the trail system goes off onto private property. The entire park is not fenced. He believes that is the case on this parcel and, most likely, residents have been trespassing on this property for quite some time. It is nice to take advantage when we can to expand the opportunities to use the existing trail system throughout Palisades. The other advantage is that this helps control encroachment from the surrounding development onto the park. If you are out there and walk the trails you really feel like you are out in the middle of nowhere and have the benefit of not being approached. In this area we recently had a house that was moved right up adjacent to the

park property. They have all the rights of a private property owner and a right to do tree removal. This piece allows us to grow the park a little bit and enhance the experience users have in this natural area. It's a low maintenance piece for us. We have done a lot of work through our Urban Forestry program to manage our conservation lands from a fire protection standpoint. We have been able to receive grants to do the work. Palisades hasn't traditionally been a maintenance challenge for us, if anything, the challenge is handling the trailhead portion of it and that challenge already exists today.

Councilman Allen inquired if it is a place for a natural trailhead or is it going to be land we are acquiring because a citizen wants us to buy the property. He has some of the same concerns as Susan. It doesn't actually fit into the grade of the park. We have plenty of land out there already. He doesn't know if it makes any sense to take more land off the tax rolls and struggles with this.

Leroy Eadie stated that it does not make for a natural trailhead. There isn't a strong fence line. Leroy outlined the topography of the area.

Susan Traver noted that she is not trying to be argumentative concerning this issue but she is not sure that just because citizens walk on private land adjacent to public land is a reason to purchase the property. She is sure that people walk on her land. She is less than thrilled concerning this particular action item.

Chris Wright shares Susan's concerns. It is a great area and certainly very worth obtaining in the best of times but in the end it is outside of the city limits. He can't bring himself to support it. He knows there is a minimal impact to the budget and that we take care of what we have. He is not sure he would encourage acquiring this even under the great program of Conservation Futures.

Randy Cameron noted its Conservation Futures money therefore it's native land to be remain in its present condition with the exception of noxious weeds, some people will say it's what we do, and asked why not support the motion.

Susan Traver thinks she would be more inclined if this were a 20 acre park that we were adding 10 acres on. It's already a very, very large parcel. She remembers at another meeting specifically asking if this part will ever be annexed into the City of Spokane and the answer was "no". In her opinion this will for quite some time remain this park outside of the City of Spokane similar to another park we have. It's a large park, not a small piece of property and people are already engaging in things that you can do on a large piece of property. Other parks have development around them. We are not a national parks system. We are an urban parks system. It's nice that we have this particular park in a more rural setting. Development will occur around it and that's not our say because it's a developed area that can have developments. This is why she is less than thrilled about acquiring 10 more acres adjacent to what is already a very large parcel.

Andy Dunau stated that he does not find that the park is outside the city limits a compelling policy issue. We have and Riverside state park, we have a county park system and we have a City park system. The notion that people understand that they have crossed over the city border and into the county and vice versa is mistaken. We have county people using our facilities and city people using their facilities. If we are not working as a part of the region as a whole then that is an issue. He wants to know if it's a good piece of property. The reason he finds it compelling is that the community out there puts in a lot of volunteer time into maintaining the park and have put in hundreds of hours to make that asset worthwhile. If people who are already properly maintaining our property for us desires this property and it's attainable for us then it's our responsibility do our share. He does not believe the Palisades community doesn't want this property.

Tony Madunich affirmed that this is really being brought forward by the Palisades

community who are very active in promoting and advocating for the parks system and maintaining it. We have a great relationship with them it's partly to keep that working relationship that we have worked with areas and have brought this area forward.

Andy Dunau noted that Camp Sekani is also outside the City limits.

Leroy Eadie advised that the conversation at Land Committee included concerns about city vs. county. This property does something amazing for us. It has the golf course directly adjacent to it, it adds to that golf course, the area creates the skyline as you look west from downtown, it is less than 10 minutes from downtown, and is frequented by citizens of Spokane. Leroy is out there nearly every day. Most of the people he runs into are city residents. The property is in the county, it doesn't really have development potential, but he does not see that devalues what it provides the citizens of Spokane, to be 10 minutes from the middle of downtown and in an area that hasn't been impacted by development.

Mike Allen inquired that since it doesn't seem to have imminent development waiting to happen on it why the Board wouldn't just let it follow the natural course of Conservation Future process rather than being a special opportunity.

Leroy Eadie stated that could happen. It has been brought forward to us but it could wait and go through the normal nomination cycle. There is a willing seller at this point and they may want to take advantage of that opportunity.

Ken VanVoorhis noted that there is a willing seller that was familiar with the process and brought it forward as an unforeseen opportunity in Conservation Futures.

Mike Allen asked if the person selling has adjacent to the property for sale.

Tony Madunich indicated that he does not believe so.

Susan Traver noted that somehow this has turned into a negative thing. This property is still there, the 400 acres does not go away, it's still a park with the City of Spokane and all those wonderful things that people have talked about continue to exist, with or without this additional 10 acres. If everything maintains the same she doesn't understand why status quo becomes a negative thing.

Randy Cameron stated that maintenance of Conservation Futures properties is extremely minimal, though we might build and maintain restrooms on those properties. Sometimes we have to trust the relationship we have with the County and Conservation Futures instead of having them come to us and ask "why should we". If they have the knowledge and the motivation to purchase the property and defend why they are purchasing it to all those that are questioning them, because all the minimal impacts to us he does not know that that is such a bad thing to go ahead and say yes because you've asked us to say yes.

Jim Santorsola pointed out that at one time Francis Avenue was the city limits and to look where that city limits are now. We are now annexing to the west of us. Annexation is going to continue and this could be in the middle of what is annexed in the future. You want to look down the road 20-30 years and see the city and what is annexed. You might be surprised sometime in the future as the city expands that the parcel will be within the city limits.

Sam Selinger asked to call for the question.

4 yeas, 4 nays, with Randy Cameron breaking the tie with a yes vote.

Motion failed for lack of quorum of 6 yes votes to pass.

Mike Allen asked to bring this back to the Land Committee for further discussion. If it comes back he would like to know about the property directly to the north that looks to be approximately 100 acres.

Leroy and Ken will bring that information back.

- C. The committee received an update on the Centennial Trail Development/Kendall Yards.
- D. The committee reviewed and discussed the 2014 budget overview, a list of capital projects, and the Operations Division Financial Report.
- E. The committee discussed the Southside Sports Complex and the Glover Field CSO.

**Recreation Committee:** July 10, 2013 – *Susan Traver*

- A. Carl Strong outlined the proposed 2014 Field Use Fees. 2015 fees were not discussed. The committee's recommendation to approve 2014 Field Use Fees was opened for public comment.

John Isles, 4<sup>th</sup> of July Shootout Softball Tournament, stated that they highly support the proposed 2014 Field Use Fees. He noted that they will almost for sure be back at Franklin and Merkel even if the fee increases pass.

Dan Peck, Babe Ruth Baseball, thanked the Recreation Committee and the Park Board in general. He thinks that these fees are an excellent compromise for what they need. His organization is looking at more ways that they can utilize fields. He would like to take a look after the allocations and see what was not picked by other groups so that they maybe can pick up some of the dates because the price is reasonable. He would like to add that he hopes the Park Board continues to take a look at a possible property on the north side to build some sort of baseball fields. They are needed in that area.

Andy Dunau thanked Carl, Adriano, staff and the Recreation Committee.

Susan Traver also thanked staff for getting together the information.

**Motion No. 6:** Susan Traver motioned to accept the 2014 fees as presented.

Sam Selinger seconded confirming the motion is to accept 2014 fees only.

Speaking to the motion:

Ken Van Voorhis confirmed with Carl that last month amount of cost recovery percentage was estimated in the mid 40's; this will keep us at that level. Other costs, unexpected circumstances and weather related issues could all affect the level of cost recovery.

Carl Strong reviewed all the proposed fee changes.

Randy Cameron believes that Adriano has shown us with the softball league that increased participation results in increased cost recovery.

Motion carried.

- B. The committee received an update on the Under the Freeway Skatepark, the Riverfront Park Master Plan, and the Bosch Lot.
- C. The committee discussed Youth Baseball.

**Riverfront Park Committee:** July 8, 2013 – *Chris Wright*

- A. Dave Randolph, Riverfront Park Maintenance Foreperson, gave the committee an overview of what his job entails.
- B. Craig Butz has retired after 35 years.
- C. Staff gave a presentation on June Riverfront Park Operations.
- D. Eric Sawyer, Jim Murphy and Jeff Colleton provided an update on the Sports Commission.
- E. The committee reviewed and discussed the Financial reports and the IMAX Showing Reports.
- F. The committee received an update on Huntington Park.
- G. The committee received an update on the Riverfront Park 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration.

**Finance Committee:** July 9, 2013 – *Andy Dunau*

- A. The committee reviewed the Financial reports.
- B. The committee received and discussed the 2014 Budget and 2015 General Fund presentation.
- C. Staff reviewed capital project funding.
- D. The committee received a detailed update on the Riverfront Park Master Planning process.

**Urban Forestry Tree Committee:** July 2, 2013 – *Ken Van Voorhis*

- A. The committee discussed the Spokane Food Forest Initiative
- B. The committee received updates on the Low Impact Development Seminar, the Indian Canyon Tree Topping and from the Citizen Advisory Committee.
- C. The committee reviewed the Urban Forestry Staff Report.

**By-Laws Committee:** *Ross Kelley, Did not meet.*

13. **Reports:**

**Park Board President:** *Randy Cameron*

- 1. Two new Park Board Members have been approved by City Council.
- 2. Randy thanked the Board for nominating and accepting Dr. Sam Selinger as Vice President.
- 3. He met with Stormwater and Mayor recently to talk about the collaboration with the different entities. Projects include Kendall Yards, Avista's Huntington Park, and Glover Field that will create a three mile loop.
- 4. Discussion continues with the Mayor about the General Fund and the negative effect enterprise funds have on the Parks and Recreation budget.
- 5. He advised Mayor about the new financial reporting.

**Liaison Reports:**

- 1. Conservation Futures Liaison – Ken VanVoorhis reported that information on the CSO will be brought forward to Land Committee next month. He thanked the board for taking the Palisades Park property under discussion today
- 2. Parks Foundation Liaison – Susan Traver, No report
- 3. Council Liaison – Councilman Mike Allen thanked staff for getting Comstock Park ready for its birthday party this evening.
- 4. Parks Department Revenue & Sponsorship Subcommittee – Councilman Mike Allen reported that there are some opportunities for next year. They will gather the information and take a look to see what needs to be done to submit the first partnership for 2014.
- 5. Ad Hoc Committee for RFP Facility Naming/Sponsorship – Chris Wright, No report

**Director's Report:** *Leroy Eadie*

- 1. We are moving forward with taking the ordinance creating departments and exempt positions within Parks and Recreation to City Council on August 19<sup>th</sup> for consideration.
- 2. Tony Madunich was recognized for the article in the paper about him.
- 3. Dave Randolph was recognized for the article in the paper about him.
- 4. Jerry Unruh was recognized for doing the job of Rec Supervisor II along with still being the director of the Hillyard Senior Center.
- 5. Angel Spell was recognized for compliments received from other divisions about her.
- 6. Sam Song was recognized for the great job he and his team did with the quick turnover from 4<sup>th</sup> of July Celebration to Hoopfest.
- 7. Garrett Jones and Al Vorderbrueggen were recognized for their work on getting Comstock



ready.

8. Kathleen Keck was recognized for the great work she did on the Financial Reports in Rebecca's absence.

14. **Correspondence:**

- A. Newsletters: Southside Senior Activity Center  
Corbin Senior Activity Center  
Letters: Corbin Senior Center to Susan Traver

15. **Public Comments:**

Penny Moore, Corbin Senior Center Board member, advised the Park Board that the center is scheduled for an outing at the IMAX Theater on Monday. They had a van full that went to Riverside State Park on June 24<sup>th</sup>, during which they visited the camping area, went to the 7 Mile area schoolhouse and then to the Spokane House Interpretive Center. They did a hike in Palisades Park about a month ago. Penny feels the tours the seniors take are probably helping the City. A month ago they took a tour to Sacheen Lake to see a performing arts show. Corbin had to charge \$50 in order to cover their costs adding to Corbin's budget. Sinto was able to price that same tour for \$38. Corbin cannot compete with Sinto's prices on tours. Corbin is at risk of shutting down if they cannot get more funding. The senior centers were laid out with their funding 3 years ago. She realizes that this is an old story. Corbin is asking for some parity with the other centers in hopes that the Park Board will continue with their thoughts of that in the future.

Susan Traver recognized that Penny had sent a letter directly to her and advised Penny she had sent a question to Christa and Carol at the center and is still waiting on a response.

16. **Adjournment:**

- A. Next Committee meeting dates:  
Golf Committee: July 24, 2013, 7:00 a.m., Esmeralda Golf Course  
Riverfront Park Committee: August 5, 2013, 8:05 a.m., City Hall Tribal Conference Room 1  
Land Committee: July 31, 2013, 3:30 p.m., City Hall Conference Room 5A  
Recreation Committee: August 1, 2013, 3:30 p.m. City Hall Conference Room 2B  
Finance Committee: August 6, 2013, 3:00 p.m., City Hall Conference Room 5A  
Urban Forestry Committee: July 30, 2013, 4:15 p.m., Woodland Center
- B. Next Park Board meeting date: August 8, 2013, 1:30 p.m., City Council Chambers
- C. Next Park Board Study Session: August 8, 2013, 3:00 p.m., or as soon as possible thereafter, City Hall Conference Room 5A