



## **City of Spokane Park Board Recreation Committee Meeting**

5:15 p.m. April 06, 2022  
WebEx teleconference meeting  
Jennifer Papich – Recreation Director

### **Committee members**

X Sally Lodato – Chair  
X Greta Gilman  
X Nick Sumner  
X Bob Anderson

### **Parks staff**

Jennifer Papich  
Ryan Griffith  
Carissa Ware  
Kris Behr

## **SUMMARY**

- The committee approved to recommend the Park Board accept the following:
  - None
- The proposed sports fields improvement fee (SFIF) and Dwight Merkel synthetic turf replacement was discussed
- Jennifer Papich presented the monthly recreation and marketing reports.

The next regularly scheduled Recreation Committee meeting is set for 5:15 p.m. Wednesday, May 4, 2022, via WebEx.

# MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 5:16 p.m. by committee chair Sally Lodato.

**Public Comments:** None

## Action item

1. None

## Discussion

1. **Sports fields improvement fee (SFIF) and Dwight Merkel synthetic turf replacement** – Jennifer Papich/Carissa Ware
  - A. The synthetic turf fields at Dwight Merkel are at their lifespan of 12 years. They are heavily used fields as they're only two synthetic fields in the area.
  - B. A sports field improvement fee is being discussed, similar to what golf is using. This fee will aid in establishing a funding mechanism to all user groups for maintenance & improvements. The three sports fields (Dwight Merkel, Franklin and Southeast Sports Complex) will incur a \$5 per booking fee. The tier 2 and tier 3 fields will incur a \$1 increase per hour and there will be a \$10 increase for youth on the winter synthetic turf fields. Based on past bookings, this should add approximately \$45,000 to the SFIF fund beginning in 2023.
  - C. Upon Park Board approval, the fields will close for an estimated 4 months for replacement in either summer or fall. A letter has been sent to past participants and schools with a follow-up email with a Q&A and feedback opportunity. Park Ops is working to create a temporary soccer field at a northside park for displaced teams. Carissa Ware stated the major users are being very receptive so far.

## Standing reports

1. **Recreation report** – Jennifer Papich
  - A. **The quarter 1 Preliminary Report** was presented. Outdoor Recreation was up by 8 programs and 151 participants; Wellness was up 6 programs and 62 registrations; Corbin Arts Center was up 44 programs and 261 registrations; TRS was up 2 programs and 146 registration; winter volleyball, which was not offered in 2021, had 100 teams and 604 participants; and winter adult flag football was up 1 team and 38 participants in comparison to quarter 1 of 2021.
  - B. **Therapeutic Recreation:** A St. Paddy's day Friday night jam was held, the first since January; a Powerhounds Cup with \$2,000 donated for participant gear; Blue Waxers participation in the Langlauf Nordic race; the return of powerlifting at North Central High School; cornhole was at capacity in March.
  - C. **Outdoor Recreation:** In anticipation of taking their own clients to the mountains for recreation therapy, 30 CHAS employees enjoys snowshoeing; in addition, 31 cross-country ski lessons and 70 snowshoe tours provided; enjoyed partnerships with Spokane Nordic Ski Association, Fitness Fanatics, 49 Degrees North and Friend of Mt. Spokane; Shout out to all winter outdoor staff and guides.
  - D. **Athletics:** The highest spring registration of volleyball in history, with over 100 teams at the Podium; spring softball is sold out with 113 teams; NFL flag football has 110 registrants, with an expectation of 300 total; cornhole has 25 registration and closes Apr. 8.
  - E. **Corbin Arts Center** – After 32+ years, Scott Niemeier retired Apr. 1 as Recreation Supervisor with a remarkable first quarter; Winter no-school camp had over 30 participants; Spring break camps are at capacity; 4 new art instructors were hired; new sewing camps were added for

summer with Sew Uniquely You; 5 weeks of summer camp at Manito are being incorporated into the Corbin Art Center camps.

- F. [Wellness & Enrichment](#): Winter participation increased 230% over 2021; compared to pre-pandemic 2019, 75% of winter programs are new to the community; a large donation of fitness equipment has been received for the Summer Communities Project; through a grant awarded by the National Recreation and Park Association, a new fitness program is being developed to target citizens suffering memory loss.
- G. [Summer Camps](#): Registration opens March 28 with some exciting opportunities
- H. [SEEK Scholarship](#): \$12,213 has already been awarded to 31 children who may not have had the opportunity to participate otherwise. Among the various mediums being used, the SEEK Scholarship is being advertised on social media as well as the Spokane website and both Spring and Summer Activity Guides.

2. Marketing update: Jennifer Papich

Since going live on Mar. 11, the online [Spring Activity Guide](#) has been viewed over 10,000 times with nearly 1000 registrations and over \$100,000 gross revenue. Inserts were placed in utility bills as well as post cards to past participants and emails to Spokane Schools families which include a 10% off promo code, used to track marketing efforts.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 5:46 p.m.

The next regularly scheduled Recreation Committee meeting is set for 5:15 p.m. Wednesday, May 4, 2022, via WebEx.

# Sports Fields Improvement Fee & Dwight Merkel Synthetic Turf Replacement

Recreation Committee: Discussion Item  
Jennifer Papich & Carissa Ware



Spokane Parks & Recreation sports fields are special use areas with a high level of maintenance. The proposed creation of a Sports Fields Improvement Fee (SFIF) in 2023 is to establish a funding mechanism that distributes a small fee across all user groups to allow us to provide that high level maintenance and perform improvements to our sports fields to keep them in quality condition for all who enjoy them.



# Sports Fields Improvement Fee proposal

Facility	SFIF	Notes
Sports Complex (Merkel, Franklin, & Southeast)	\$5 per booking fee	Equates to .25 cents per person, based on a 20 person booking average <i>Based on previous sport complex booking data</i>
Tier 2 Park Fields (Liberty, Thornton Murphy, Chief Garry, BA Clark, & Underhill)	\$1 per hour increase	Youth rate would increase from \$2 to \$3 per hour. Adult rate would increase from \$3 to \$4 per hour.
Tier 3 Park Fields (all other remaining parks)	\$1 per hour increase	Youth and adult rates would increase from 50 cents to \$1.50 per hour.
Winter Synthetic Turf Universal Rate	\$10 per hour increase for youth	Rate would remain \$57 per hour for adults. Youth rate would increase from \$47 to \$57 per hour for youth.

- Based on past bookings and reservation data, we estimate an annual contribution of \$45,000 to the SFIF fund.
- These fees would begin in 2023, to allow user groups time to prepare (with the exception of the Winter Synthetic Turf rate, which would begin in November 2022)

# Synthetic Turf Replacement Project

- Despite great maintenance efforts, the fields have reached the end of their useful life and are becoming unsafe for play. If they are not replaced in 2022, we may need to close them.
- These turf fields are currently the only turf in town and have see a significant amount of use.
- With an approved funding package, the work could occur this summer or fall, closing the fields for about 4 months.

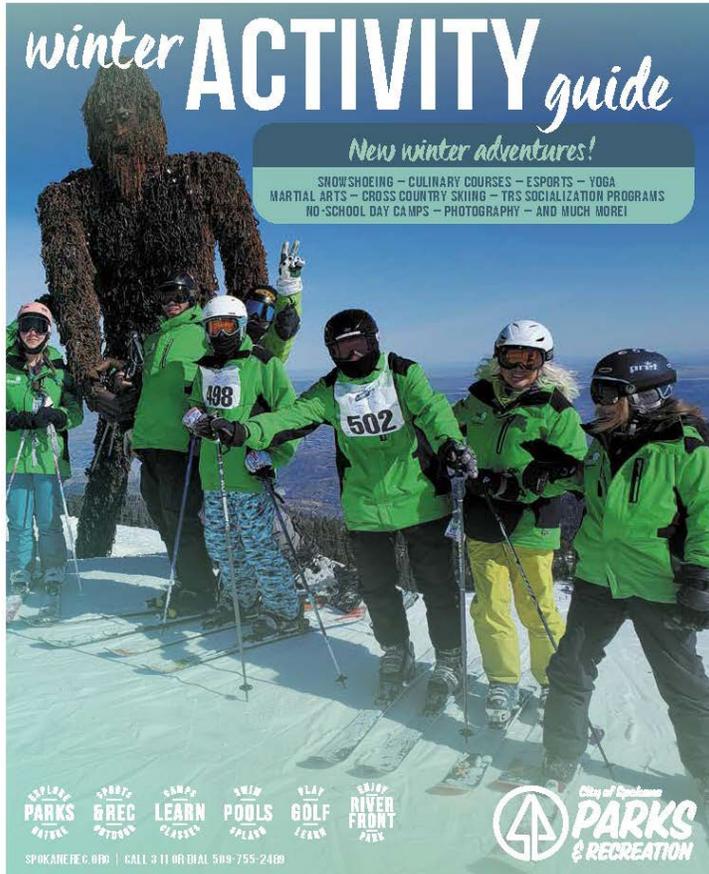


# Outreach to impacted user groups

- **March 10, 2022:**
  - A letter was emailed out to all past Spokane Parks and Recreation field users detailing the proposed fee increases.
- **March 14, 2022:**
  - Information on the potential closure of the Turf Fields was also emailed to Spokane Public Schools as they are a major user in the late summer/fall.
  - The highest field users were sent individual emails soliciting feedback and offering to meet to go over any concerns or questions with the proposed fee increases
- **March 29, 2022:**
  - A follow up email was sent out to all user groups to again offer to answer questions, provide clarification or to meet if there are any concerns
- Working with Park Operations to create a temporary full sized soccer field at a northside park location to help with some of the displaced use - closing of the Turf Fields will create.

Questions?

# Quarter 1 Preliminary Report



- Outdoor Recreation offered **71 programs with 371 registrations**, compared to 2021 63 programs with 212 registrations
- Wellness & Enrichment- offered **42 programs with 89 registrations**, compared to 2021 - 36 programs with 27 registrations
- Corbin Art Center - offered **69 programs with 329 registrations**, compared to 2021 - 25 programs with 68 registrations
- TRS - Offered **67 programs with 466 registration**, 2021 - 65 programs and 320 registrations
- Winter Volleyball had **100 teams with 604 participants**, compared to 2021 - NO winter volleyball due to Covid restrictions.
- Winter Adult Flag Football had **27 teams with 350 participants**, compared to 2021 - 26 teams with 312 participants

# Recreation Report



- Electronic only went Live Friday 3/11
- The downloadable PDF version has seen 6,257 views, and the interactive flipbook version has seen 4,121 views with an average read time of 6 minutes.
- Already 999 registrations & \$106,135 Gross Revenue.
- 83,000 Utility Bill Post Inserts going out in April
- Direct Mail postcard went out to past participants last week.
- Emailed to SPS families through Peachjar
- Utilizing PROMO codes to track marketing efforts

# Therapeutic Recreation

- First Friday Night Jam (St. Paddy's Day theme) since January!
- Successful Powderhounds Cup – sponsors donated \$2,000 which enabled participants to receive long sleeve performance shirts & fun socks.
- Blue Waxers participated in the community Nordic race Langlauf.
- Powerlifting is back after nearly 2 years. We are grateful for the use of the weight room at North Central High School.
- TRS Cornhole is FULL for the March session



# Outdoor Recreation

- Outdoor Recreation hosted 30 CHAS staff on a snowshoe tour at Mount Spokane, with the hopes of the staff getting comfortable to take clients to the mountain for outdoor recreation therapy.
- Provided 31 cross country ski lessons and tours and 70 snowshoe tours.
- Partnered with Spokane Nordic Ski Association, Fitness Fanatics, 49 Degrees North and Friends of Mt Spokane throughout the winter.
- Winter Outdoor staff and guides were amazing!



# Athletics

Athletics

## Podium!

Spring Volleyball @ the Podium –  
100 teams registered an increase of 39 teams over 2021  
Highest spring league registration numbers to date

Athletics

## Softball

Spring softball sold out 113 teams total

Athletics

## Youth NFL

NFL flag currently sitting at 110 kiddos registered, expected to be around 300 by registrations end

Athletics

## Cornhole

Cornhole has 25 currently registration ends Friday, April 8

# Corbin Art Center

- Winter No-School Camps, (MLK & President's Day) saw over 30 participants
- Spring Break Camps, (April 4<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup>) are ALL FULL
- Hired 4 new Art Instructors to teach a variety of new Art Classes
- Adding New Sewing Camps for the Summer Camp Guide.
  - Contracting with Sew Uniquely You a business in North Spokane.
- Incorporating 5 weeks of Summer Camp at Manito in addition to Corbin Art Center Camps.
- Scott Niemeier, Recreation Supervisor at Corbin Art Center retired Friday, April 1, 2022 after 32+ years of service.



# Wellness & Enrichment

- Winter 2022 participation has increased by 230% over winter 2021.
- 75% of all winter 2022 W&E programs offered are new to the community as compared to 2019 (pre pandemic).
- W&E received a large donation of fitness equipment for the new Summer Communities Project in partnership with *NEWESD 101's Youth Gang Prevention Project, and Skyhawks R.I.S.E.*
- W&E was awarded a grant by the NRPA's Supporting Healthy Aging Through Parks and Recreation. A new fitness program is being developed targeting our citizens suffering with memory loss (Alzheimer's and Dementia), in partnership with *Dementia Friendly Communities USA, Spokane chapter.*

# Summer Highlights



**DISC GOLF STUDENT LEAGUE**  
A fun-filled camp for those with physical disabilities. Campers will interact and socialize with their music, science experiments, books, activities, swimming and more. Days to a variety of exciting locations. Centers around a different theme. End of summer with our annual



### Useful Information to Know

- Parks and Recreation will continue to follow the most current Washington Department of Health Guidelines relating to COVID-19.
- Summer Camp registration opens March 28
- Witter Pool opens for pre-season lap swim May 9
- Splash Pads are set to open May 27

City of Spokane **PARKS & RECREATION** 2022

over 200 camps!

## KIDS Summer CAMPS

Look inside ... then get outside!

Funshine Summer Camp • Corbin Art Center  
Outdoor Adventure Camps • Day Camps at Merkel

15 NEW CAMPS!

### CORBIN KIDS Summer ART CAMPS

JUNE 6 - AUG 19

### YOUTH SUMMER ADVENTURE CAMPS

SEEK Scholarships available!  
spokane.parks.org/scholarships

**HIKING**  
ROCK CLIMBING  
KAYAKING  
WHITewater  
RAFTING  
DISC GOLF  
PADDLEBOARDING  
& MORE

REGISTRATION STARTS MARCH 28!  
→ SpokaneRec.org ←

### LITTLE SPOKANE RIVER KAYAK RENTALS

\* Pre-Reservation Required - No On-site Payment \*

### THE LITTLE SPOKANE RIVER SHUTTLE IS BACK!

Saturdays and Sundays  
10am - 4pm | July 2 - September 4

REGISTER ONLINE AT  
SPOKANEREC.ORG

**AQUATIC CENTERS OPEN JUNE 20<sup>TH</sup> FOR FREE OPEN SWIM!!**

# SEEK Scholarship Report

- Since Summer Camp Registration opened, March 28<sup>th</sup>.
  - \$12,213 in scholarships awarded
  - 31 kids for multiple camps during the summer that they would never have been able to do otherwise.