



City of Spokane Park Board Recreation Committee Meeting

2:15 p.m. Wednesday, Apr. 02, 2025
Hybrid in-person and WebEx teleconference meeting
Jennifer Papich – Recreation Director

Committee members

X Sally Lodato – Chair
X Greta Gilman (arrived 2:52)
X Bob Anderson
X Doug Kelley

Parks staff

Jennifer Papich
Ryan Griffith
Carissa Ware
Fianna Dickson
Kris Behr

SUMMARY

- The committee passed the following action items which will be presented to the Park Board for consideration and approval:
 - None
- Carissa Ware presented the Dwight Merkel Softball Concessions request for proposal.
- The Community Center Contract & Funding Process Review was discussed.
- Jennifer Papich and Fianna Dickson presented the Recreation Quarter 1 Report.

The next regularly scheduled Recreation Committee meeting is set for 2:15 p.m. Wed. **June 4, 2025.**

MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 2:15 p.m. by committee chair Sally Lodato.

Public Comments: None

Action items: None

Discussion Items:

1. Dwight Merkel Softball Concessions RFP – Carissa Ware

A request for proposal went out in January for sole concessionaire for Dwight Merkel Sports Complex (DMSC) with two respondents. The winning bid was awarded to All Star Concessions. They are a sports family and are familiar with the amount of activity at DMSC. They also won a bid for Riverfront Park's Skate Ribbon. This will be a good arrangement so that policies and procedures can be similar across Parks. Included in the DMSC contract is a clause stating that during busier events, DMSC will be allowed to bring in extra food trucks to alleviate the burden on just one vendor. They will be open for adult softball leagues for the first time in about 3 years. Jennifer pointed out that having a regular vendor in the complex will provide valuable insight into customer feedback based on their observations and interactions. Additionally, their consistent presence will help oversee the space and enhance overall awareness.

2. Community Center Contract & Funding Process Review – Jennifer Papich

Spokane Parks and Recreation partners currently with nine nonprofit Youth and Senior Centers through the Spokane Youth and Senior Center Association, each addressing unique community needs. A review of the funding model, last updated in 2013, is necessary for transparent and fair resource allocation. A working group comprised of City Staff, Park Board members, and other individuals will develop the Center Recreation Services Program Funding Application to gather comparable data on programs, community impact, and budget needs. The goals of this review are to enhance transparency, link funding to programming, and allow centers to adapt services. This structured approach will help ensure that we are making data-driven, equitable funding decisions while continuing to support the incredible work these centers do for Spokane residents. The Small group hopes to meet within the next month and hopes to have a first draft of an application to bring back to the Recreation Committee to review by no later than August 2025. If there are any funding modifications that are made after the review, these changes would not go into effect until the 2027 SYSCA Community Center Contract Cycle.

Standing Reports:

1. [Recreation Quarter 1 Report](#) – Jennifer Papich & Fianna Dickson

- a. Spokane Parks and Recreation supervisors are diligently working to adjust programming offerings to best suit the needs of the public. It's exciting to see the number of participants and teams continue to grow. ([Please see the specific breakdown by program](#)). Field allocations had a significant drop due to a combination of a milder winter season, opening of other synthetic turf fields in the area and some sporting programs starting than in 2024.
- b. [Marketing](#) - Josh and Adriano Eva also with camp staffers provided some great interviews on KXLY this week for Aquatics and the Dwight Merkel summer camp. They are already planning post summer promotions to get that into people's minds early. There will be an AED event at Dwight Merkel on April 19th.
- c. Recreation is looking forward to exciting summer events starting soon!

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 3:01 p.m.

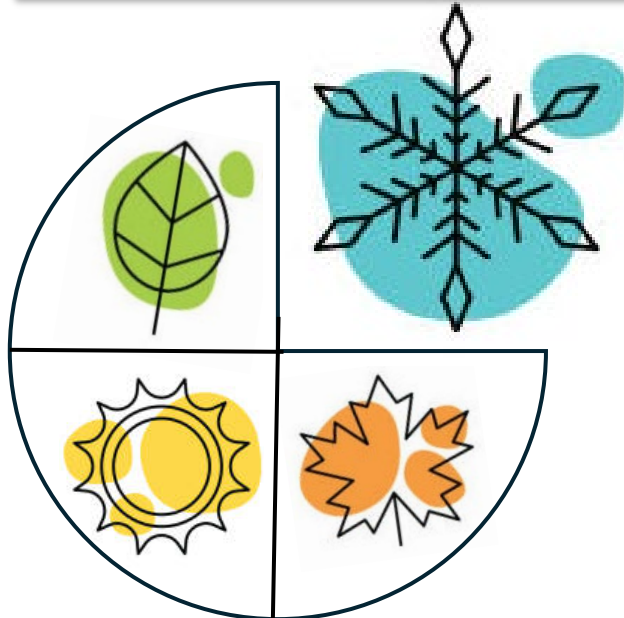
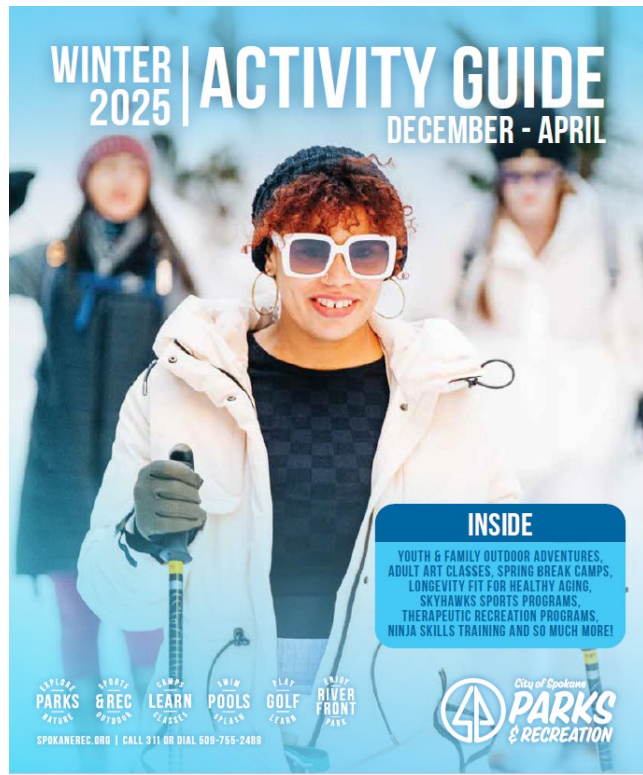
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Q1 Recreation Report 2025

TOTALS	2024	2025	+/-
Total # of Sessions Offered	279	277	-2
Total # of Teams	171	205	+34
★ Total # of Participants ★	3,618	4,142	+524
Total # of New Sessions	43	46	+3
Total # of Cancelled Sessions	50	48	-2
Total # of Active Sessions	229	229	0

Key Takeaways

- Participation & Team numbers continue to increase year over year.
- Recreation Supervisors are continuously working to adjust programming offerings in order to reduce the number of canceled classes.





Q1 Recreation Report by Category

THERAPEUTIC RECREATION

Quarter 1	2024	2025	+/-
Total # of Sessions Offered	58	62	+4
Total # of Participants	872	1,061	+182
Total # of New Sessions	0	4	+4
Total # of Cancelled Sessions	1	0	-1
Total # of Active Sessions	57	62	+5

FIELD ALLOCATIONS

Quarter 1	2024	2025	+/-
Total bookings	223	119	-104
Hours booked	766	353	-423
Total SPFIF	\$5,986	\$ 2,965	-\$3,021



OUTDOOR

Quarter 1	2024	2025	+/-
Total # of Sessions Offered	46	44	-2
Total # of Participants	237	357	+120
Total # of New Sessions	1	0	-1
total # of Cancelled Sessions	18	8	-10
Total # of Active Sessions	28	36	+10

All Outdoor in-house trips typically have a capacity of 12. We averaged 11 registrants per class in Q1 of 2025!!

There was a notable decrease in field usage during Q1.

- SPS programs started later in March compared to 2024
- **Nicer weather led some user groups to move to grass fields at alternate locations earlier in March.**
- The opening of the HUB all-weather fields has also resulted in some clubs relocating to that space, which is a better fit for them geographically.



Q1 Recreation Report by Category

CORBIN ART CENTER

Quarter 1	2024	2025	+/-
Total # of Sessions Offered	83	88	+5
Total # of Participants	751	743	-8
Total # of New Sessions	34	32	-2
Total # of Cancelled Sessions	12	17	+5
Total # of Active Sessions	71	71	0
Corbin Art Center Rentals	2	0	-2

Corbin experienced a 17% increase in revenue in Q1 of 2025 by adjusting programming according to demand and implementing minimal price increases.



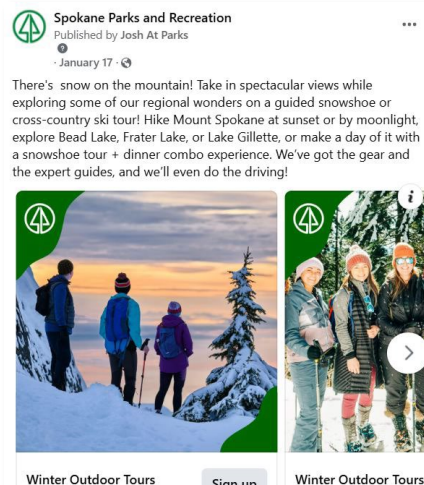
ATHLETICS

Quarter 1	2024	2025	+/-
Total # of Teams	171	205	+34
Total # of Participants	1,149	1,532	+383
Total # of Leagues Offered	16	17	+1



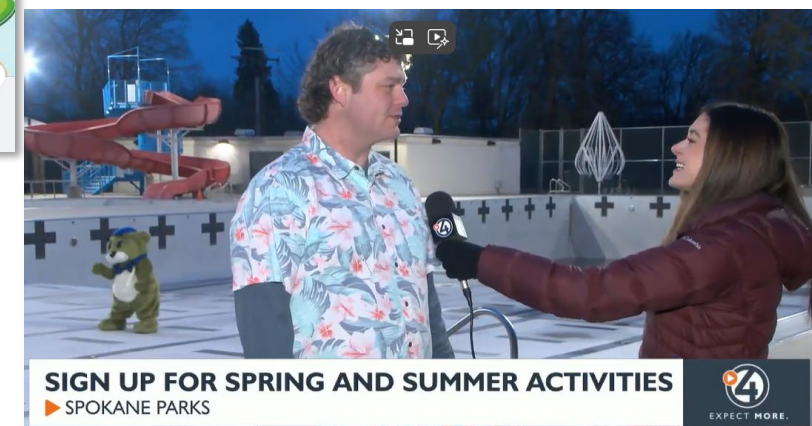
WELLNESS

Quarter 1	2024	2025	+/-
Total # of Sessions Offered	92	83	-9
Total # of Participants	609	449	-160
Total # of New Sessions	8	10	+2
total # of Cancelled Sessions	19	23	+4
Total # of Active Sessions	58	63	+5



Q1 MarCom

- Thank you to **Josh Oakes, Adriano Eva**, and camp staff **Derek and Ruby** for early morning TV! KXLY promoted our Summer Day Camp at Merkel and Pre-Season Swim Lessons
- Additional media mentions of our Spring/Summer guide release
- Lots of great ads in the S/S activity guide
- Ongoing:
 - *Google key word search*
 - *Streaming commercials*
 - *Social media promotions (paid and organic)*
 - *E-newsletter*
 - *Inlander guide placement at grocery/convenience stores*
- DH planning meeting for post-summer promotions
- Planning an AED event at Merkel on April 19, details to follow





COMING SOON...

- Corbin Spring Break Youth Camps
- Activity Guide RFP
- Summer Staff Hiring & Training
- 100 Project Ribbon Cutting ~ April 19
- Witter Pre-Season ~ May 6