

SPOKANE PARK BOARD

Regular Monthly Study Session – 4:07 P.M. – October 11, 2012 – City Hall Conference Room 5A

Notes

1. **Roll Call:** *Jacki Faught*

Park Board Members present: Randy Cameron, President; Jim Quigley, Vice President (left 4:45 p.m.); Leroy Eadie, Secretary; Andy Dunau; Ross Kelley; Sam Selinger (left 4:45 p.m.); Susan Traver, Ken Van Voorhis; Chris Wright

Park Board Members absent excused: Jim Santorsola; Martha Lou Wheatley-Billeter, Councilman Mike Allen

Staff Present: Tony Madunich; Craig Butz; Garrett Jones; Mike Aho; Debby Dodson; Al Vorderbrueggen; Jacki Faught

2. **Discussion Items:**

A. Graffiti and Vandalism

Tony Madunich gave a presentation on Graffiti and Vandalism highlighting some of the types of vandalism that plague our parks and recreation facilities: graffiti (one of our biggest problems, joint City/County *Paint Over Graffiti* program used to help paint over this quite a bit however the focus seems to have changed to helping out lower income victims); dumping of trash, sometimes large amounts in remote areas; vehicles driving through parks & fences in those parks; illegal camping; illegal fire pits; destruction of rock masonry; loosening bolts on Fish Lake Trail fence rails over I-90; broken Bloomsday runner sculptures in Riverfront Park; throwing rocks or tin cans down sewer pipes; digging in banks of the river; sprinkler heads kicked off (\$15K-\$18K per year is spent on replacement heads); breaking all kinds of stuff; chopping on trees, benches, light poles; fires (conservation areas, Shadle Park play equipment); and up for debate, this year's table stacking. During the nice weather months Parks employs one 40 hour per week person supplemented by 3-4 other people dedicated solely to graffiti removal. Brick buildings are a challenge for removal. This does not take into consideration of instances where general operations staff finds small graffiti in their work areas and automatically takes care of it right away. Parks does not do a good job of tracking costs, costs tracked in 2011 were \$55,779.56 and so far in 2012 are \$30,520.47. Actual figures are probably 2-3 times higher. Parks has been working on discouraging graffiti through preventative measures in its choices in paint colors, building materials, and fixtures. Discussion was had on better cost tracking, more video surveillance, paid security.

B. 2013 Capital Budget Plan –

The 2013 Major Project and Replacement Plan that was presented at Finance Committee was reviewed and discussed. Overall irrigation needs are anticipated at about \$5M. Parks without automatic irrigation are Audubon, Cannon Hill, Coeur d'Alene, High Bridge, and parts of Comstock, Finch Arboretum, Franklin, and Manito. Discussion was had on loan options for all irrigation needs. Options included a loan from the City's SIP or bonding. Benefits of bundling all irrigation at once, including golf needs, were discussed. Policies on priorities of what areas of parks should be irrigated and water

conservation was discussed.

Discussion was had on if it is possible to use 2008 Bond money for safety issues on the capital list. The last meeting of the Park Bond Citizen Advisory Committee which monitored the entire expenditure of the bond, gave direction to set aside money so that the department is able to make repairs, replacement or parts or meet of major needs at the new facilities. Parks has made this their first priority. Next priority was pools, \$300K was saved for Aquatics Centers needs. These facilities are turning out to be more fragile than anticipated. UTF was the third priority. Staff is considering the remaining funds as a resource when we are doing capital projects keeping within the intent of the bond and within the direction of the PBCAC. Board members indicated they were not aware there was a citizen advisory committee or that the PBCAC gave direction for the remaining funds. The PBCAC focus for the remaining funds was directed mostly from a youth recreation standpoint.

The overall capital list each year is developed through negotiation at Management Team meetings and the 6 year plan.

Park Board briefly talked about various projects, how committees can do a better job while respecting staff's professional expertise and not focusing on board member's individual pet projects, and which committee should be reviewing the capital plan.

3. **Adjournment:** 5:18 p.m.

- A. 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, City Hall Conference Room 5A.