

**Park Board/City Council  
Joint Study Session  
March 14<sup>th</sup>, 3:30-5:00  
Briefing Center – Lower Level City Hall**

**Notes**

Meeting Chair: Council President Ben Stuckart

Park Board President: Randy Cameron

I. Introductions

City Council: Council President Ben Stuckart; Councilmember Mike Allen; Councilmember & Park Board Liaison Mike Allen; Councilmember Nancy McLaughlin

Excused: Councilmember Jon Snyder; Councilmember Steve Salvatore; Councilmember Amber Waldref

Park Board: Randy Cameron, President; Ken Van Voorhis, Chair, Land Committee and Urban Forestry Committee; Jim Santorsola; Leroy Eadie, Parks Director, Park Board Secretary; Andy Dunau, Chair, Finance Committee; Ross Kelley, Chair, Golf Committee; Chris Wright, Chair, Riverfront Park Committee; Susan Traver, Chair, Recreation Committee

II. Review of Agenda: At the request of Park Board President Randy Cameron, Council President Stuckart moved the “Field House Concept for North Bank Riverfront Park (*Eric Sawyer – Spokane Regional Sports Commission*)” presentation from section “*VI. Department Project Highlights*” to the top of the agenda.

Eric Sawyer, Spokane Regional Sports Commission, and Steve Jones, Spokane Regional Sports Commission Board Chair, gave a presentation on a proposal to build a Field House on the North Bank Property. Background on the stakeholder input process was outlined. Criteria developed included that facilities would be regional facilities, have the greatest diversity of users, meets current growth trends, realistic and probable chance of being funded, operational and show a ROI. It was determined there is a need for a regional multiuse indoor Field House concept for participants and tournaments. The three potential sites were chosen. The top two are the North Bank and Mirabeau. ALSC developed concepts which included 76,000 sq ft multi use field house and a 51,000 sq ft ice facility with an estimated cost of \$20-25M. The benefits of the proximity of the North Bank to Riverfront Park, Convention Center, Arena, and Downtown were presented. A variety of potential events the facility could attract were outlined. A financial modeling analysis is being done to see if the project can financially sustain itself and what benefit it could bring to the community.

Discussion was had on the venue's financial sustainability, if it would be competing with private business, the advantages of both sites, financing options, project costs, the potential economic benefits to the City, and the growth trend in sports related travel.

III. Presentation of 2012 Annual Report (*Leroy*)

Leroy Eadie summarized the Parks and Recreation 2012 Annual Report. Copies of the report were provided to Council members.

IV. Golf Fund (*Ross*)

- Rounds are up approximately by 3,000 – 4,000 for 2012. 2011 was the lowest in a long time. 173K is the highest in recent history. Golf is solely supported by Golf fees.
- We had an early start for 2013. Indian Canyon, the last course to open, will open a week from Friday. Courses are in good condition. It should be a great year for golf.
- The golf superintendents and the golf pros have worked together well. The holiday promotion in Riverpark Square and other promotions have been successful.
- Qualchan will be paid off this year eliminating a yearly payment of approximately \$535K
- First Tee program is very successful and is bringing new young players to the sport.

V. 2014 Park Fund Budget

- Budget Calendar: There is a 35-40% overhead cost for every dollar brought in. We do not want to take on any new things unless we have a business plan where that overhead makes sense. Examples are the Rotary Fountain, the Carrousel, and Aquatics, where we lose \$500-600K in 6-7 weeks. All are great resources for the community however O & M costs must be taken into account.
- Budget Strategy: Parks and Recreation has reduced its budget over \$1M, including 8 full time positions and services were reduced and restructured. We are moving forward and implementing innovative ideas. There is \$200K set aside for Riverfront Park Master Planning. We are looking forward to council support for the 2014 bond issue. The 2014 budget process begins in May. We are challenged by declining revenues.
- Capital Facilities Plan: Staff is working on getting Parks plan in sync with the City's plan. Several projects were highlighted. The Capital Facilities Plan will be discussed further at the next joint session.

VI. Park Department Project Highlights

- Riverfront Park Master Plan & Advisory Committee: Juliet Sinisterra, Phase II Project Manager, was introduced. A brief background on Riverfront Park, improvements needed, Phase I, public input, the Advisory Committee, and the upcoming Bond Issue goal. Ted McGregor will be chair of Advisory Committee. Staff has been and will be a large part of the process. Initially anticipated bond is

\$50M. The Sports Commission has been told informally they will not be a part of the bond. Chris Wright suggesting asking the advisory committee to temporarily set aside the North Bank with the idea that the Sports Commission is considering it for a facility, though a plan B will be needed. The Board, RFP Committee and the Advisory Committee will make a point of keeping the City Council up to date. There are Council Members sitting on the Advisory Committee. Park Board, Leroy, Ted McGregor, and Chris are working on a list for Mayor for the remainder of the committee. The list has been provided to Ben Stuckart. The first meeting of their 12 month schedule is April 18, 2013. Inclusion of the Sister Cities Garden was discussed. The Hoopfest has decided against the commemorative art piece and in exchange will participate in the Master Plan with the intention of donating towards an open space that will be used during future Hoopfest events. The Pavilion cable structure, Clocktower, Rotary Fountain, SkyRide, Red Wagon, pedestrian bridge to Canada Island, the new fountain facility and the open areas are all likely to stay where they are. There are other things that may move or disappear. The Carrousel will stay, though it needs a new facility and may need to be moved. Various examples of what could be considered were discussed. Research on what is successful in other communities will be done. We are looking at partnerships. The Board is very cognizant of the need to be sure that whatever changes are made can be maintained and operated within our budget. Council members present expressed their support for the upcoming bond issue. There will be opportunity for citizen input. The bond campaign by the Parks Foundation will kick off with the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration of Expo in 2014. Council President Stuckart asked to be included in the conversation.

- UTF Skate Park: A brief background of the issues surrounding the UTF Skate Park was given. In December Park Board decided to slow down funding until there is a better idea of what will be going on with the gateway project and public safety improvements for the area. The Board asked Leroy to set up meetings with the Chief Straub and Jan Quintrall to discuss what the vision is for gateway improvement and the persistent public safety issue, vagrancy problem and vandalism. The Board is holding the funds and gathering information so that they can make a responsible decision. The board is also looking into considering other locations within the downtown or south hill area for a covered skate park. The UTF group has testified at two Park Board meetings and has been invited to work with the Recreation Committee. Several Board members have been very active in gathering information on under freeway skate parks, including visiting ones in other cities.
- Improved Financial Reporting: The Board and staff are constantly working on better processes and have done quite a bit of work on standardizing for committees and areas of the department. Some challenges are keeping up with software and budget.

Adjournment: 5:05 pm