

**Park Board/City Council
Joint Study Session
June 13, 3:30-4:25
Briefing Center – Lower Level City Hall**

Agenda

Council Members: Meeting Chair Jon Snyder, Mike Allen, Nancy McLaughlin, Amber Waldref, Mike Fagan

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

- I. Introductions: Leroy Eadie introduced Park Board Committee Chairpersons.
- II. Review of Agenda: Councilman Snyder
- III. Riverfront Park Master Plan Phase II (Chris Wright)
 - The Riverfront Park Citizens Advisory Committee was set up with Mayor's help. Ted McGregor is the chair of the committee. Council President Stuckart, Councilman Mike Allen, and Park Board members Chris Wright and Sam Selinger both serve on the committee. The group meets once a month. The objective is to study ways to improve Riverfront Park and to come up with a plan that would eventually come up with a plan that would manifest itself as a bond proposal or other kind of financing package in November 2014 to upgrade the park. The committee has met a couple of times. They have had some education about Riverfront Park and are now looking at options for the Pavilion.
 - Schedule: The committee hopes to have a Master Plan recommendation by January 2014. Then from there to move into a financing analysis to see what would be the best way to finance those improvements with the idea that by May the effort will be handed off to an independent committee to

promote a bond or whatever financing package they end up coming up with.

- IV. Creation of Departments in the Parks Division (Randy Cameron)
- Increased Exempt Positions & Amended SMC 3.01: A Park Board resolution regarding the creation of Departments within the Parks and Recreation Division and increasing the number of exempt positions will be forwarded to City Council. The intent is to brief the City Council Finance Committee next Wednesday, submit for Council Agenda with first reading on July 8 and second reading on July 15. This is a similar process that Council did with Fire and Police. The resolution talks about three current departments but allows for additional departments. There is a really good chance Leroy will create another department later on next year separating Recreation and Riverfront bringing the number of exempt positions to four. There is an opportunity for an exempt assistant in each of the departments. There is a potential for up to 8 exempt positions. Council members expressed concern about creating the additional department later, after the budget process, as City Charter mandates this be done during the budget process. Discussion was had on the process and timing. Discussion was had on the current structure and the planned structure changes.
- V. Budget & Finance (Andy Dunau)
- Last year we faced a \$500K plus shortfall. The department has done some cost savings measure and restructuring. Over \$1M has been eliminated from the budget. We are 1/3 of the way through 2013 and are right on with our projections.
 - Parks is looking at improved financial reporting to give us a better look into the system. We will have better communication between the Committees, the Board and staff enabling us to react faster.
 - 2013 Year to Date, 2014 Budget Preview (admissions tax capture), 2015 and Beyond: Park Board adopted the 2014 Budget Guidelines today. Aside from what has already been discussed today there are no fundamental changes anticipated. We anticipate a \$500K decrease in our 8% allocation from General Fund allocation with at least \$200K of it being directly accredited to the moving of expenditures out of the General

Fund. The affect has been that the 8% has shrunk over time. Without a fix we will run through reserves by year end 2016. Park Board would like to proactively engage with City Council in coming up with a solution. Initial ideas include the admissions tax being captured at our facilities comes back to Parks & Recreation. Council members expressed concern that when the last Parks bond was passed a maintenance levy was not passed at the same time and asked that there be some conversation about that. Discussion was had on the sustainability of parks including, impact of the admission tax, community partnership options, Golf course management options, the shrinking of the General Fund due to creation of enterprise funds, the possible selling of surplus Park land, the park in Kendall Yards, Centennial Trail through Kendall Yards, and ongoing maintenance of donated items.

VI. Park Department Project Highlights

- Youth Softball and Baseball: The Board bumped the issue of fees to the committee level at today's Board meeting. Discussion was had on the actual increase per player at the proposed new rates, the unknown profits of the baseball and softball organizations, the Board's request to Leroy to continue to pursue conversation regarding construction of a disabled field, the 9 renovated youth baseball fields, the wish for youth baseball to claim Franklin Park as their own that was presented to Council, how to attract national tournaments, and the new City Softball League.
- UTF Skate Park: In early May involved parties met at the park to discuss the ongoing problems at the park and possible solutions. It was recognized that there are long term chronic problems that cannot be fixed immediately. Susan Traver is working on a plan that addresses some of the issues that can be addressed on more of a short term. The funding that was set aside for the park is still in the reserve fund.
- Coeur d'Alene Park Gazebo: The Gazebo had some structural and building code issues. The Browne's Addition Neighborhood, Community Development and Parks and Recreation are all contributing funds. The improvements returning it to a structurally sound structure are anticipated to done mid-July.

- Glover Field & the Integrated Stormwater Plan: Park Board and staff are interested in collaborating with Stormwater and using park property wherever we can and not taking properties off the tax roll. We are working with Rick Romero. The Board is supportive of the Huntington Park improvements and having the three mile trail loop. It was reported that the Peaceful Valley Neighborhood expressed their support of a new building to replace the community center that would be demolished should the CSO go forward. Discussion was had on the future of the relationship with Stormwater.

Adjourned: 4:25 pm