



## CITY COUNCIL/SPOKANE PARK BOARD JOINT STUDY SESSION

3:30 p.m. Dec. 8, 2016  
City Council Briefing Center

### NOTES

A. **Introductions/Roll Call:** *Leroy Eadie*

**City Council:** Amber Waldref, Mike Fagan, Candace Mumm, Karen Stratton and Lori Kinnear

**Park Board:** Chris Wright, president; Susan Traver, vice president; Leroy Eadie, secretary; Ross Kelley; Lauren Pendergraft; Nick Sumner; Ted McGregor; Greta Gilman; Rick Chase; and Candace Mumm, council liaison

**Parks Staff and Guests:** Jason Conley, Al Vorderbrueggen, Fianna Dickson, Jon Moog, Mark Buening and Carl Strong

B. **Review of Agenda** – *Amber Waldref* reviewed the study session agenda which included updates from the Park Board president and reports from each of the Park Board committees.

C. **President's Report** – *Chris Wright*

1. Vacant Park Board position – The Park Board submitted a nomination which is scheduled to come before City Council next month and one other Park Board vacancy remains. There are 10 applications to be reviewed for the remaining vacancy. Recommendations will be submitted to the mayor for consideration.
2. Introduction of new Park Board members – Greta Gilman and Rick Chase were introduced and welcomed to the board.
3. Legislative ask – Mr. Wright thanked the council for making the Riverfront Park redevelopment project a priority in the recent legislative ask. The approximately \$4.7 million ask involves a capital request to repair/replace five bridges in the park. Leroy Eadie explained about 82% of the funding for the \$24.5 million bridge renovation project comes from local sources, including Parks and Utilities. The state is being asked for the remaining 18%.

D. **Golf Committee** – *Nick Sumner*

1. 2016 golf revenue – Nick Sumner provided an overview of this year's Golf Fund revenue. While rounds of golf were slightly down from last year, due to inclement weather, the overall revenue from play increased approximately \$30,000. Year-to-date, total revenues are up \$70,000 above 2015.
2. 2017 green fees – The Park Board recently approved a slight increase in green fees for 2017 which is projected to bring approximately \$300,000 in revenue to the Golf Fund. The additional revenue is earmarked for capital projects, marketing, maintenance supplies and computer replacements.
3. New Esmeralda Golf Course golf professional – Today, the Park Board approved a five-year contract, including a five-year, re-up option, with Rob Sanders as the new Esmeralda Golf Course golf pro. Rex Schultz will be retiring from Esmeralda after 30 years of service.
4. Golf strategic plan – The next step in developing the strategic plan is reviewing comparative courses with our golf courses. This data will provide direction and foundation for the plan. One of the primary goals is to increase funds for capital improvements through golfers' support.

E. **Land Committee – Ross Kelley**

1. 2016 capital projects – More than 40 projects have been completed this year, including lighting and playground improvements, and irrigation upgrades. The sidewalk improvement projects are moving forward and are designed to provide saver routes within the parks.
2. Sisters of the Holy Names property acquisition – This property, located along the Spokane River, will be purchased by Parks with funds from RCO grants and Conservation Futures.
3. Parks Planning highlights – Improvement plans have been developed for the following city parks: Sky Prairie, Gloverfield, Dutch Jakes, Rochester Heights and Edwidge Woldson.

F. **Recreation Committee – Lauren Pendergraft**

1. 2016 highlights – Program revenue is up 6% in comparison to last year.
2. Southside Sports Complex agreement – The Park Board approved the ground lease and easement agreement with QueenB Radio/KXLY for the Southside Athletics Complex located at Regal Street and Old Palouse Highway. The agreement states the city will enter into a 20-year lease with KXLY. As part of the terms, Parks plans to construct public vehicle and pedestrian access, sidewalks, hardscape and landscape features, new concession and storage buildings, and reconstruct existing restrooms.
3. Aquatics attendance – Attendance is up 8,000 in comparison to 2015 and Aquatic programs are at 80% class capacity. Ms. Pendergraft extended her appreciation for the Parks staff for offering a wide variety of activities to citizens.

G. **Finance Committee – Susan Traver**

1. YTD financials – November financials are looking good and any anomalies in the 2016 Park Fund budget are with Riverfront Park due to the redevelopment project. While revenues are not quite as high as projected for Riverfront Park, expenses have been kept down. All other cost centers within the Park Fund are doing well. While all revenue and expenses are not in for the year, all indicators show the Park Fund will be favorable and within budget for 2016.
2. Minimum wage impact – Since Riverfront Park (RFP) will be closed for 2017, the minimum wage increase will not impact the park. Approximately 60% of the division's temp/seasonal employees work at RFP. There is an 11% increase projected for 2017 due to the minimum wage increase. When these temp seasonal employees return to payroll in 2018, this will dramatically impact the budget.

H. **Urban Forestry Tree Committee – Lauren Pendergraft**

1. Heritage Tree program – This program is designed to recognize historic and significant trees in the community. Currently, there are 23 trees designated as heritage trees.
2. Public tree appeals – There has been an increase in appeals this year. This is likely tied to the November 2015 windstorm. In efforts to avoid unnecessary removals, Urban Forestry has re-examined the appeal process and intends to expand public education efforts.


I. **Riverfront Park Committee – Ted McGregor**

1. Riverfront Park redevelopment update – The following redevelopment project updates were reported: 1) the Howard Street Bridge South is being taken apart and should be completed after Labor Day of 2017; 2) Recreational Rink construction is scheduled to begin next month; 3) Loeff Carrousel bids will open next month and construction is set to begin early 2017; 4) plans for the North Bank playground are underway; 5) the Pavilion will close in January followed by the request for proposal through early March; and 6) Meejin Yoon of Boston was selected as the Lead Artist and will be visiting Spokane in January.
2. Project Review Committee approval – The Project Review Committee application was approved Dec. 1 which means Parks may proceed with a progressive design-build strategy for the Pavilion.
3. Communication/public relations – Fianna Dickson will provide City Council members with project updates. Approximately 75% of the bond dollars are going directly into construction which is consistent with nationwide industry standards. In addition to bond dollars, Parks is working on developing other sources of funding through sponsorships, naming rights, memorials and

dedications. A recent feasibility study by Collins Group showed approximately \$3 million to \$5 million potentially could be raised through these fundraising efforts.

J. **Adjournment** – The study session was adjourned at 4:35 p.m.

Notes approved by:

  
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Leroy Eadie, Director of Parks and Recreation