



PARK BOARD STUDY SESSION

3:30 p.m. May 30, 2019

City Council Briefing Center, lower level City Hall
808 W. Spokane Falls Blvd., Spokane, WA 99201

City Council

- X Ben Stuckart – President
- Kate Burke(Absent/excused)
- X Mike Fagan
- X Breean Beggs
- X Lori Kinnear
- Candace Mumm (Absent/excused)
- Karen Stratton (Absent/excused)

Park staff:

- Jason Conley
- Garrett Jones
- Megan Qureshi
- Mark Buening
- Fianna Dickson
- Carl Strong

Park Board Members:

- Nick Sumner – President (Absent/excused)
- X Jennifer Ogden – Vice President/Meeting Chair
- X Garrett Jones – Secretary
- X Ted McGregor
- X Rick Chase
- X Greta Gilman
- X Sally Lodato
- X Gerry Sperling
- X Jamie SiJohn
- X Bob Anderson
- Barb Richey (Absent/excused)
- X Mike Fagan – Council Liaison

MINUTES

- A. **Introductions/Roll Call** – *Garrett Jones*
 See above
- B. **Review of Agenda** – *Ben Stuckart*
- C. **Park Board President's Report** – *Jennifer Ogden*, on behalf of President Nick Sumner
 - 1. Opening comments – Ms. Ogden thanked staff and City Council on behalf of Mr. Sumner and the entire Park Board. She explained Parks will be looking to City Council for leadership and advice as the divisionw seeks additional funding mechanisms to keep the city's parks maintained at a level the community and visitors deserve, while keeping up with the increase in minimum wage rates. She also emphasized the Park Board wants to continue to provide affordable and free programs.
- D. **Park Board Committee Reports**
 - 1. Golf Committee – *Gerry Sperling*
 - a. 2018/2019 Golf – Ms. Sperling explained the Golf presale effort resulted in

more than \$130,000 in sales which is a 30-year high. Mark Poirier recently came on board as the new Golf Manager. He comes to Parks from the Highland Golf Course in Post Falls where he was general manager.

- b. Golf SIP loan/rate increases – Ms. Sperling provided an update on the \$7.5 million SIP loan which the council approved last year to upgrade the four City's golf course irrigations systems, and other on-course and off-course improvements over the next four years. Indian Canyon improvements are scheduled to wrap up early June and the new irrigation system at Esmeralda Golf Course is scheduled to begin this fall. In 2018, a dedicated facility improvement fee was assessed to cover the loan payback. From June 2018 through April 2019, more than \$229,000 in improvement fees were collected and placed in a facility reserve fund to cover the loan installment. The first of two installments for 2019 will be made in June. A total of \$225,000 is due for 2019.
- c. Golf project updates – Ms. Sperling reported the golf rates have been simplified to a two-tier pricing structure at all four courses. Once the irrigation improvement projects are complete, it is expected there will be a 25% savings in annual water consumption at the courses. At Esmeralda alone, an estimated 7.5 million gallons of water will be saved each year.

2. Land Committee – *Greta Gilman*

- a. 2018 capital projects – Ms. Gilman reported 17 capital projects were completed last year; six of which were made possible through grant funding totaling more than \$1 million. Projects included: 1) Mission Park ability ballfield – phase II; 2) Redband Park boat access and parking lot replacement; 3) Coeur d'Alene Park entrances; and 4) the Finch Arboretum Master Plan. The Dutch Jakes Park renovation project is currently underway with completion set for Labor Day. The Southeast Sports Complex has been designed, bid and construction is underway. Completion is expected by Aug. 1.
- b. Surplus park property – Ms. Gilman reported the Land Committee is continuing to work on the surplus park property issue which involves how to define and what the options are for Parks-owned property, not identified as a "park," and whether this property may be surplus. Ben Stuckart questioned if selling any Park land should require a public majority vote. Mr. Stuckart explained he does not believe this was the intent of the city charter. He went on to say just as the 8% of the General Fund is designated specifically to Parks and may not be touched, park-property may not be "sliced off," segregated or treated differently. Ms. Gilman explained the committee is looking at defining what is a park and what is not. One example of a non-park parcel was a vehicle-width parcel of land between two private driveways. The group agreed a clear definition of "a park" will benefit the process on how to proceed with this issue.
- c. School/Library/Parks update – The joint use agreements involving Parks, the School District, the Public Library and the City are near final approval. Partnership projects include: 1) City provides the Mullan Road site for a south middle school; 2) City provides the Foothills site for northeast middle school; 3) the School District provides the site for library/schools training center; 4) School District provides the right-of-way to the City at Albi site for future possible development; and 5) Parks provides sites for Liberty and Shadle Park libraries.

3. Recreation Committee – *Sally Lodato*

- a. Winter classes/programs – Ms. Lodato explained a number of community partnerships have made a wide variety of successful classes and programs possible. In the first quarter compared to last year, there has been an increase of 9% in participation with more than 3,200 individuals involved in recreation programs.

next week featuring a variety of outdoor food vendors serving their specialties every Tuesday; 2) traveling carnival will be at the park as part of the Fourth of July festivities; 3) pre-historic tours are underway; and 4) movies in the park are scheduled for the summer.

E. Adjournment

1. The study session was adjourned at 4:19 p.m.

Minutes approved by:



Garrett Jones, Interim Director of Parks and Recreation