



Equity Subcommittee

Tuesday, May, 2nd 2023

9:30-11am

City Hall Lobby, RM Tribal Room

[Meeting Link](#)

+1 323-618-1887

Phone Conference ID: 994 148 536#

TIMES GIVEN ARE AN ESTIMATE AND ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Land Acknowledgment & Welcome

9:30 Land Acknowledgement, attendance

9:35 Approve April Minutes

9:40 Share successes in life, work, or advancing equity

9:50 Council Liaison Update

Subcommittee Briefing Session:

10:00 Getting Items on Committee – Briefing Paper

Alex Gibilisco

10:05 Amending Section 12.06A.040 of the Spokane Municipal Code concerning park rules and regulations, specifically hours of operation. Establishing a misdemeanor for violation of park hours

CM Karen Stratton, Cpt Hendren, Park Director Jones

10:40 Working Groups

Sarah Dixit - All

Standing Update(s):

Equity Training
Recruitment

11:00 **Adjournment**

1) Next Equity Subcommittee Meeting, June 6th, at 9:30am, City Hall, Tribal Room (1st floor)

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT (ADA) INFORMATION: The City of Spokane is committed to providing equal access to its facilities, programs and services for persons with disabilities. The Council Briefing Center in the lower level of Spokane City Hall, 808 W. Spokane Falls Blvd., is wheelchair accessible and also is equipped with an infrared assistive listening system for persons with hearing loss. Headsets may be checked out (upon presentation of picture I.D.) through the meeting organizer. Individuals requesting reasonable accommodations or further information may call, write, or email Human Resources at 509.625.6363, 808 W. Spokane Falls Blvd, Spokane, WA, 99201; or msteinolfson@spokanecity.org. Persons who are deaf or hard of hearing may contact Human Resources through the Washington Relay Service at 7-1-1. Please contact us forty-eight (48) hours before the meeting date.



Equity Subcommittee Meeting Minutes

April 4, 2023

Attendance: Sarah Dixit (Chair), Stephanie Beans Courtney (Vice Chair), Council Member Betsy Wilkerson (Council Liaison), Salanyaporn (Vivian) Chalardsoontornvatee, Kiana McKenna, Jesus Torrez, John Alder

Lara Estaris; Angela Webster

Staff: Alex Gibilisco,

Land Acknowledgment

Approving March Minutes

Jesus Torres moved; John Alder seconded. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Share Successes

John Alder mentioned affordable housing.

Stephanie Courtney mentioned that Black Maternal Health Week is next week. She invited the committee to all the events.

John Alder mentioned funding for the Native American Community Center.

Kiana mentioned proposed legislation in Olympia. Making August Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islander Heritage Month.

Sarah Dixit also mentioned proposed legislation relating to access to healthcare.

Stephanie Courtney started a conversation about promoting cultural graduations and awareness months, including getting groups to request proclamations.

Lara Estaris mentioned their Equity for All event

Council Liaison Update: Councilwoman Betsy Wilkerson

Councilwoman Wilkerson gave a report of the NLC Congress conference. She mentioned that many of the politicians were younger (40s), culturally diverse and women.

The Councilwoman mentioned that there are federal funds and grants for various initiatives that the subcommittee is interested in. She proposed that a grants writer from Council should look at those dollars.

Impact fees legislation that Council passed. Councilwoman Wilkerson was not in support because it was not fair to the everyday citizen.

The trouble restarting conversations between Public Safety Officers and Communities of Color. Jesus mentioned that MiA works with officers.



Budget for the City. Contracts and homeless shelter costs, specifically running the TRAC Shelter. As Finance Chair, she proposed a 10% cut in department budgets.

The City has not hired a Director of the Office of Civil Rights.

Finally mentioned that we finally hired an HR Director, David Moss from Atlanta. He mentions that there is no investment in employees for employee investment. He also mentioned that we don't have targeted outreach to hire for City positions. In Atlanta, they advertise in grocery stores and newspapers.

Equity & Inclusion Initiatives Report

Alex gave a presentation on the work that he does as the Manager for Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Initiatives. He also mentioned his work with the Government Alliance on Race and Equity Framework (GARE). Alex has applied GARE techniques of bridging disparities and creating more equitable outcomes in governmental policy and services.

Among the programs and initiatives that Alex has implemented since joining Council are Council and staff Equity 101 Training workshops, adding an equity component to briefing papers, establishing an Internal Council Workgroup, City of Spokane Land Acknowledgement and inviting non-profits to report at Council meetings.

Economic Contributions by Immigrants, Include equity goals in the CEDs, community outreach regarding the American Rescue Plan Act, establishing the Equity Subcommittee and workgroups, 1590 Ordinance, language access, Whistalks Way celebration of Women Warriors and D.E.I. work with our Planning Department.

On Alex's 2023 Workplan:

- Support Equity Subcommittee
- Non-profits share at City Council meetings
- Recognizing individuals advancing and who have advanced equity in the community.
- Equitable Procurement Policy
- With the Equity SC there is an opportunity to reevaluate
- Identify needs and opportunities to advance equity in the City of Spokane.

Equity & Inclusion Initiatives Report

Offering training opportunities for subcommittee members and Council staff.

Majority of Council Members and staff have attended training. (New staff and Council Members have come on board since the last training. Alex envisions more frequent trainings (at least quarterly).

Vice Chair Courtney said that it should be part of onboarding for Council and required by HR. Early Childhood workers have to do 10 hours a year and pay out of pocket.

Committee Agenda Sheet

Select Committee Name

Submitting Department	
Contact Name	
Contact Email & Phone	
Council Sponsor(s)	
Select Agenda Item Type	<input type="checkbox"/> Consent <input type="checkbox"/> Discussion Time Requested:
Agenda Item Name	
Summary (Background)	
<p>*use the Fiscal Impact box below for relevant financial information</p>	
Proposed Council Action	
<p>Fiscal Impact Total Cost: Click or tap here to enter text. Approved in current year budget? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A Funding Source <input type="checkbox"/> One-time <input type="checkbox"/> Recurring Specify funding source: Click or tap here to enter text. Expense Occurrence <input type="checkbox"/> One-time <input type="checkbox"/> Recurring Other budget impacts: (revenue generating, match requirements, etc.)</p>	
Operations Impacts (If N/A, please give a brief description as to why)	
What impacts would the proposal have on historically excluded communities?	
How will data be collected, analyzed, and reported concerning the effect of the program/policy by racial, ethnic, gender identity, national origin, income level, disability, sexual orientation, or other existing disparities?	
How will data be collected regarding the effectiveness of this program, policy or product to ensure it is the right solution?	
Describe how this proposal aligns with current City Policies, including the Comprehensive Plan, Sustainability Action Plan, Capital Improvement Program, Neighborhood Master Plans, Council Resolutions, and others?	



Jesus suggested that the subcommittee should invite Council Member Bingle to the training since he had reservations about the subcommittee and invite Council Member Zappone since he was elected after the last training.

Alex said that the training is 9 hours. Committee Members debated whether to break the training into two or three sessions or make it a whole-day training with lunch provided. Saturday or Friday was suggested with two months notice. A doodle poll will be sent out to subcommittee members.

Next meeting will be May 2nd at 9:30 via Teams and in the Tribal Conference Room at City Hall

DRAFT

Committee Agenda Sheet

Public Safety & Community Health Committee

Submitting Department	Police Department
Contact Name	Captain Thomas Hendren
Contact Email & Phone	509-625-4049 thendren@spokanepolice.org
Council Sponsor(s)	CM Stratton, CM Bingle, CM Cathcart
Select Agenda Item Type	<input type="checkbox"/> Consent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Discussion Time Requested: TBD
Agenda Item Name	Amending Section 12.06A.040 of the Spokane Municipal Code concerning park rules and regulations, specifically hours of operation.
Summary (Background) *use the Fiscal Impact box below for relevant financial information	<p>The police department has observed a significant number of incidents, to include numerous violent crimes, occurring in Spokane City Parks, in the overnight hours, when parks are closed to the public. From January 1st of 2021 through March 31st of 2023 the police department data reveals the following statistics regarding incidents at the parks during hours of closure: 692 CAD incidents, 79 CAD incidents with a crime involving violence (assault, rape, shootings, etc.), and 29 incidents classified as shootings. The 29 shootings occurred in 22 different city parks. Included in that number, were three shootings involving victims struck by gunfire in 2022. In total, there were 9 victims struck by gunfire, with one fatality. The majority of these incidents occur as a result of gatherings of large groups of people, in the parks after hours, to socialize. Drug and alcohol use is common in these gatherings. These gatherings can and often do escalate to physical fights, felony assaults, and shootings.</p> <p>The current sanction for violation of the park hours is a non-traffic civil infraction. State law does not permit officers to compel a detention for non-traffic civil infractions. Additionally, issuance of an infraction does not remove persons who are unwilling to move on their own, from the parks. Increasing the sanction to a misdemeanor offense allows officers to investigate and, if necessary, compel detentions for this violation, in compliance with current state law. This sanction also allows for custodial arrest, if necessary, to gain compliance with subjects refusing to exit parks during hours of closure.</p> <p>This change is similar to private property owners posting no trespassing signs during specific times to prevent subjects from gathering on said property. That action creates a misdemeanor offense for subjects failing to comply with the postings. Law enforcement is able to use the trespassing offense as a reason for contact and enforcement. SPD has used this process numerous times in the past, at problem locations, to gain compliance from the community and greatly reduce or eliminate the gatherings of people during hours of closure.</p>
Proposed Council Action	Amend the current city code, increasing the sanction to a misdemeanor offense.

Fiscal Impact

Total Cost: NA

Approved in current year budget? Yes No N/A

Funding Source One-time Recurring

Specify funding source: NA

Expense Occurrence One-time Recurring

Other budget impacts: (revenue generating, match requirements, etc.)

Operations Impacts (If N/A, please give a brief description as to why)

What impacts would the proposal have on historically excluded communities?

This ordinance applies to all members of the public. The current law prohibits subjects from gathering at parks after hours. The sanction, however, is ineffective to act as a deterrent to that behavior and does not give law enforcement the authority necessary to enforce this park rule.

How will data be collected, analyzed, and reported concerning the effect of the program/policy by racial, ethnic, gender identity, national origin, income level, disability, sexual orientation, or other existing disparities?

The police department already tracks race, gender and age demographics on any arrest. Additionally, the police department already tracks this information on any officer-initiated contact, regardless of any arrest occurring. Additionally, there are numerous avenues for members of the public to register a complaint regarding a law enforcement response. There are significant means available to monitor officer conduct, the most notable is the use of body worn cameras.

How will data be collected regarding the effectiveness of this program, policy or product to ensure it is the right solution?

The police department is continually reviewing crime data and call for service data. SPD Crime Analysis has built a Power BI to track data related to the parks, specifically incidents occurring during hours of closure. The department will judge success based upon the impact to the number and types of incidents occurring in parks during the hours of closure.

Describe how this proposal aligns with current City Policies, including the Comprehensive Plan, Sustainability Action Plan, Capital Improvement Program, Neighborhood Master Plans, Council Resolutions, and others?

The goal of the police department in achieving this change in the ordinance is to provide law enforcement with the necessary tool to maintain order in city parks and prevent any further loss of life on city owned property.

RACIAL EQUITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

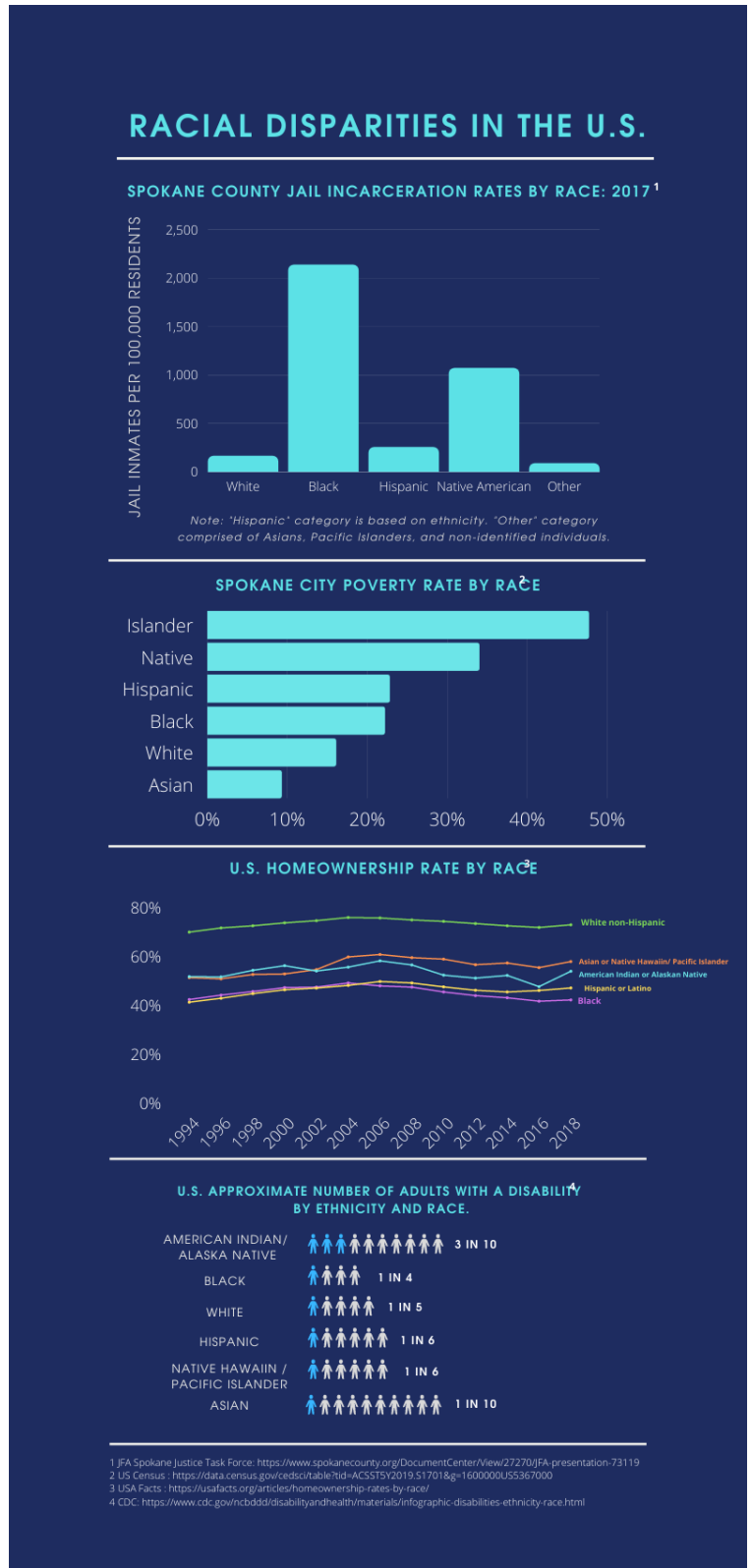
The Racial Equity Impact Assessment assists staff and policymakers working to account for racial equity at the earliest stages of planning a new Project or Policy. Racial disparities manifest both nationally and regionally across all sectors: health and behavioral health, jobs and income, education, and most relevantly here – the criminal justice system.

When studying disparities, it is important to understand the unique experiences Black and Indigenous communities have had since our country's founding (slavery and settler colonialism, respectively). Historical precedents and more recent policies have often resulted in disparate outcomes. While all racial identities have suffered under discriminatory policies and practices, Black and Indigenous populations remain most negatively impacted.

Still, discriminatory policies negatively affect all of us, regardless of race.¹ In 2020, for instance, [economists estimated that racial discrimination has cost the United States \\$16 trillion in lost GDP over the past two decades](#)²

Although this tool focuses on Racial Equity specifically, it contemplates disparities across other identities including immigration status, economic status, gender, and disability. Because disparities across other identities are typically compounded by race, a focus on racial equity at the outset allows policymakers to consider and address a myriad of potential adverse or unintended consequences resulting from new projects or policies.

This tool is not intended or designed to rectify all inequities, but it does provide a necessary first step in tackling local disparities and ensuring a safe, healthy, and vibrant Spokane for all residents.



¹ See, e.g., McGhee, Heather. [The Sum of Us: What Racism Costs Everyone and How We Can Prosper Together](#) (2021).

² Hallett, Stephanie. [Racism Has Cost the US Economy \\$16 Trillion in The Last 2 Years – And Will Keep Costing the Country Money if Things Don't Change](#) (Oct. 12, 2020), <https://www.businessinsider.com/personal-finance/racism-cost-us-economy-16-trillion-last-20-years-2020-10>.

Racial Equity Impact Assessment Spokane, Washington

A Racial Equity Impact Assessment can help criminal justice departments, agencies, and other entities apply an equity analysis to current operations, practices, priorities, and decision making — including funding, program development and program design. More specifically, the assessment helps staff and policymakers set equity goals, and identify and correct harmful, unintended consequences before a Project or Policy takes effect.

For example, a policy like New York’s “[Stop-and-Frisk](#)” may be designed to enhance public safety, but once implemented, inadvertently contributed to disparate rates of arrests, jail admissions, and distrust in law enforcement. By prioritizing time to engage in an iterative, goal-oriented and data-driven process, criminal justice leaders can help create a sustainable, fair, efficient, and equitable legal system.

We recommend that a project team or similar working group — composed of system actors and community representatives — address the questions below collaboratively throughout the development, implementation and review stages of the Policy or Project. If you would like additional support, please contact the Office of Law & Justice.

1. Name of Proposed Policy or Project [Establishing a misdemeanor for violation of park hours](#).
(Ex. *Establishing DUI therapeutic court*)

2. a. What is the goal of the Policy or Project and/or the challenge you are attempting to address?
(Ex: *Increase diversion opportunities for drug related charges*)

During the summer of 2022, The Spokane Police Department responded to three different shooting incidents with victims, that occurred in Spokane City Parks, during hours when the parks are closed. These three shootings resulted in a total of nine gunshot victims and one fatality. In total, since January of 2021, at least 29 shooting incidents after park hours have been reported to SPD.

b. What current racial and other inequities might this Policy or Project address?

The majority of shooting victims struck by gunfire from the 2022 incidents, were from racial minority groups. Four victims, including the one fatality, were Pacific Islander. In two of the shootings, a black male was the victim (same victim in two different shootings). The remaining victims were one black female and two white females.

3. Based on the data you have gathered and reviewed how might the Policy or Project impact racial disparities (improve or worsen)? Please review Appendix A for suggested Data metrics.
All data should be disaggregated by race/ethnicity, gender, and age.

The purpose of the change in law is to provide law enforcement a means to prevent gatherings of people in the parks, after hours. These past incidents have included a wide variety of racial groups. Ages are typically teenage to late 20's. Violent incidents have included racial minorities as both suspects and victims.

If you do not have access to any relevant metrics, what is your plan to obtain relevant data (this can include data gathered by peer-reviewed sources from community organizations, news and/or academic sources, city departments, and other national, state, or county agencies)?

Regarding future enforcement of this ordinance, both self-initiated contact information and any arrest information under this ordinance will be retained and can be reviewed at any time post contact/arrest. That information will include data related to age, gender and race. There is already a mechanism in place to collect this data.

4. Please identify who may be impacted by the proposed Policy or Project? Please identify direct and indirect impacts.

a. System Actors/Entities

	Direct	Indirect	N/A
Law Enforcement Agencies	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pre-Trial Services	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Detention Services	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Municipal Court	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
District Court	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Superior Court	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
City Prosecutor	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
County Prosecutor	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
City Probation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
County Probation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
City Public Defender	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
County Public Defender	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Department of Corrections	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Juvenile Court	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

b. Community Members (direct and indirect impacts)

	Direct	Indirect	NA
Age			<input type="checkbox"/>
Gender Identity			<input type="checkbox"/>
Racial Identity			<input type="checkbox"/>
Ethnic Identity			<input type="checkbox"/>
Neighborhoods/Zip Codes			<input type="checkbox"/>
Income			<input type="checkbox"/>
Disability			<input type="checkbox"/>
Other			<input type="checkbox"/>

- c. Service providers and/or community organizations led by and/or supporting impacted communities, especially in areas related to this Policy or Project.

Provider Name or Type	Resources/Services Provided and Potential Impact
NA	

5. Are you collaborating with individuals and communities most impacted — particularly Black, Indigenous People of Color — in the Policy or Project planning process? If not, what is your plan to include community members to ensure meaningful input from planning through implementation and performance monitoring? Please use the table below as a helpful guide.

	Community Collaboration Addressed <i>Please describe efforts for each phase.</i>	Community Collaboration Plan <i>Please describe plan and timeline for each phase if efforts have not already been completed.</i>
Planning/Outreach <i>Suggested items to consider: dates of meetings/forums, names of participant and/or organizations, accommodations made for physical access & language access, and how input/participation was included in decisions and next steps, whether participants received compensation.</i>		Our plan is to use media, social media, community contacts and outreach, and individual contacts to educate the public of the change in law to attempt to gain compliance and rely on enforcement as a last resort.
Implementation <i>Suggested items to consider: community experts serving on project team, whether community participants receive compensation, meeting location and time, other community-based partnerships.</i>		See above. Most situations will be resolved through education and warnings. Enforcement will only be utilized for chronic violators or non compliant individuals.
Evaluation <i>Suggested items to consider: Community experts serving on the evaluation committee, whether community experts receive compensation, recurring community meetings or forums to share updates and information, other data transparency measures.</i>		The department will monitor enforcement and can provide data as requested. Further evaluation can be conducted by council, the police ombudsman or any other entity identified by city leadership.

6. What factors outside of the criminal justice system might uniquely impact individuals or communities of color and complicate the equity goals (consider root causes and/or intersecting identities)? Does the proposal address any of these factors? Please check all that apply and brainstorm additional relevant factors:

Factors	Yes	No	Mitigated or Exacerbated by Project/ Policy (describe)
Economic Distress	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Housing Instability	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Behavioral Health Needs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Education	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Healthcare Access	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Food Access	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Transportation Access	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Language Access	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Access to Technology	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Access to Child Care	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Disability	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Adverse Childhood Experiences / Trauma Histories	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
History of Discrimination	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Lack of Trust	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Cultural Considerations	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Immigration Status	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Other:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

7. What legal limitations might complicate this Policy or Project and what is the plan to address them?

NA. There is already language in municipal code that makes it a violation of the ordinance to be in parks after hours. The request to change the park rules to a misdemeanor is due to the inability of officers to enforce civil infractions with non compliant violators. The RCW does not provide a sanction/crime for officers to charge when subjects refuse to comply with officers when attempting to issue a non traffic civil infraction. The groups that gather in the parks after hours are often involved in other criminal activity. Consumption of alcohol and drugs is also common during such gatherings. Participants are often violent and uncooperative with law enforcement. Law enforcement is requesting authority to enforce park hours to prevent gatherings which have led to numerous violent incidents.

8. Based on the answers above, what specific changes need to be made to achieve your racial equity goal and avoid the continuation of racial and other disparities (*Ex. Partnering with and/or investing in groups representing communities most impacted by the proposed initiative.*)

NA

9. What performance measures will you use to evaluate the Policy or Project' s impact following implementation, including the impact on racial and ethnic disparities? Qualitative and quantitative measures are encouraged.

Monitor incidents occurring in the parks after hours. Monitor officer contacts related to this ordinance. Monitor officer enforcement to include demographics of suspects/ arrestees.

10. What is your timeline for review and ongoing adjustments?

The police department is constantly reviewing data related to crime and officer activity. This activity is also a public record and available internally and externally.

Appendix A

The data below is a suggested starting point for discussion related to Section V and may not be relevant to your project. You are encouraged to identify and collect additional data points. **All data should be disaggregated by race/ethnicity, gender, and age.** Consider breaking out identities within broad racial categories, if possible. For example, “Asian” can encompass multiple identities, including but not limited to Chinese, Filipino, Vietnamese, Korean, Japanese, Cambodian, etc. Combining these groups can mask disparities across them. It might also be helpful to reach out to community partners as a data source.

- a. Eligible Participants
- b. Exclusion Criteria
- c. Law Enforcement
 - i. Contact Rate
 - ii. Citation Rate
 - iii. Arrest Rate
 - iv. Use of Force Rate
- d. Prosecution
 - i. Charging decision by type
 - ii. Diversion decision by type
 - iii. Therapeutic court referral by type
 - iv. Length of Sentence
- e. Jail data
 - i. Population
 - ii. Length of stay in jail
 - iii. Bail amount by race
 - iv. Charges
 - v. Admissions
 - vi. Release type
- f. Public Defense
 - i. Public defender eligibility
- g. Court Data
 - i. Conviction rate
 - ii. Time to adjudication
 - iii. Sentencing outcomes by type
- h. Probation
 - i. Probation ordered
 - ii. Length of monitoring
 - iii. Violations by type



SPOKANE POLICE DIVISION

CHIEF OF POLICE

CRAIG N. MEIDL

- MEMORANDUM -

TO: Spokane City Council and the Equity Subcommittee
FROM: Captain Thomas Hendren
DATE: 4/20/2023
RE: Proposed change to park rules

The Spokane Police Department is respectfully requesting for the Spokane City Council to amend the current Spokane Municipal Code, regarding park rules, to change the sanction for violating the park hours from a civil infraction to a misdemeanor offense. In years past, the sanction for this violation was a misdemeanor. I am unsure of the exact year, but this was changed by city council to a civil infraction. Since that change, it has become much more difficult for officers to maintain order in city parks, after hours.

This request comes after a year of unprecedented violence within Spokane City Parks. During the summer of 2022 there were three different shooting incidents involving victims struck by gunfire, in Spokane City parks. In total there were nine victims struck in the three incidents to include one fatality. All of these incidents occurred when parks were closed to the public under current city code.

The reason SPD requests the change in the sanction for violating park hours is that the current civil infraction is not a sufficient deterrent to prevent groups from gathering at city parks when they are closed. Under RCW 7.80.060 the legislature has outlined the authority of law enforcement related to non-traffic civil infractions. This statute requires for an offender to provide their name, address and date of birth. There, however, is no specific sanction or crime established for any subject who refuses to comply. Rather, the statute states "A person who is unable or unwilling to reasonably identify himself or herself to an enforcement officer may be detained for a period of time not longer than is reasonably necessary to identify the person for the purposes of issuing a civil infraction."

It has been the experience of SPD that many of the subjects engaging in activities at city parks, after hours, are violent and often uncooperative with law enforcement. The data below supports that statement. As such, officers have no authority to address non-compliance when attempting to issue a non-traffic civil infraction. The current state law under RCW 10.120.020 prohibits officers from being able to physically compel a detention to issue a non-traffic civil infraction. Additionally, even if an offender is cooperative and allows for an officer to issue the civil infraction, there is no additional authority to make violators physically leave the location. Violators may receive the infraction but remain in the park, and refuse to leave. Elevating the sanction to a misdemeanor gives law enforcement authority to contact violators and, if necessary, compel a detention. Furthermore, refusal to leave the location can be addressed through a custodial arrest. I will address tactics later on in this document to address members' concerns related to arrests and potential uses of force.





SPOKANE POLICE DIVISION

CHIEF OF POLICE

CRAIG N. MEIDL

- MEMORANDUM -

I have done a preliminary review of data related to Spokane City Parks. This data was compiled by our crime analysis unit by extracting incidents from our CAD and records system that are listed to have occurred at addresses identified as city parks. This data, however, is incomplete and does not reflect the exact number of incidents that have occurred at city parks. This is due to the manner in which calls can be reported. Often these complaints come in as an intersection location versus a park name or specific park address. Therefore, the data I am going to cover is likely an underrepresentation of the actual number of incidents occurring in Spokane City Parks.

From January 1st of 2021 through March 31st of 2023, there have been a total of 692 incidents in city parks, after hours, found in our CAD and records system. Of those, 79 incidents recorded in city parks, after park hours, fall under an incident classification that would be considered a crime involving violence. This would include assault, rape, stabbings, shootings, etc. Of those incidents, 29 were specifically classified as "shooting" incidents. Shooting incidents were reported in 22 different city parks over that time frame. These, of course, include the incidents I have mentioned above. The parks with the most shooting incidents were Dwight Merkel and Mission Parks with three shootings each. The following parks each have two shootings reported at their locations in that time frame: Audubon, Dutch Jake, Comstock and Cliff Park. Further there are shootings reported in parks that are located in most of Spokane's neighborhoods.

The incidents from 2022 that resulted in victims being struck and the fatality stemmed from gatherings of individuals at the parks, after hours, to socialize. Similar to the gatherings that led to the shootings, many gatherings often involve alcohol and drugs. The demographics of those attending can be wide ranging. Some of these gatherings include known gang members and gang associates. Other gatherings involve subjects that have no gang affiliation or criminal records.

A review of the demographics of the shooting victims that were actually struck by gunfire from 2022 reveals the following:

1. Franklin Park incident on 08/27/2022, incident number 2022-20150748:
 - a. Pacific Islander male 22 years of age, deceased.
 - b. Pacific Islander male 19 years of age, struck by gunfire.
 - c. Pacific Islander male 19 years of age, struck by gunfire.
 - d. Pacific Islander male 18 years of age, struck by gunfire.
2. Dwight Merkel incident on 6/29/2022, incident number 2022-20110525:
 - a. Black male 16 years of age, struck by gunfire.
3. Dutch Jake incident on 8/25/2022, incident number 2022-20149268:
 - a. Black male 16 years of age, struck by gunfire.
 - b. Black female 19 years of age, struck by gunfire.
 - c. White female 19 years of age, struck by gunfire.
 - d. White female 40 years of age, struck by gunfire.

(Note: The 16-year-old black male shot at both Dwight Merkel and Dutch Jake Park was the same person).





SPOKANE POLICE DIVISION

CHIEF OF POLICE

CRAIG N. MEIDL

- MEMORANDUM -

I have been asked to submit my request for this change in law to the Equity Subcommittee. I have also been requested to complete a "Racial Equity Impact Assessment." Any estimate of future demographics of those contacted for violating the new ordinance would be a guess at best as we do not have any recent data related to enforcement of park hours by SPD. That being said, the data is clear regarding the observed demographics of the victims of the recent shootings in Spokane City Parks. Future enforcement, however, will be easy to track as our system already has the mechanism to record such data on officer-initiated contacts and arrests made as part of a call for service.

Numerous times in the past, SPD has observed similar gatherings in the late-night hours on private property. In several of those past situations, we observed gatherings result in numerous calls for service and incidents that escalated to violence. To address such locations where the problem persisted, the most common community oriented policing tactic used was to work with the property owner to establish control over the property during the days and times in question. A common approach is to post the location with clear "No Trespassing" and "No Loitering" signage that established the time when the property was not open to the public. Once that was done, SPD would engage in education first to attempt to gain compliance. This often was enough to prevent most people from gathering due to fear of being charged with a misdemeanor. For those individuals that were more defiant, some enforcement would be needed to establish credibility for the "No Trespassing" signage. This tactic has been successful, time and time again, in stopping gatherings at such locations. This is essentially what we are asking to achieve from the city council.

To attempt to minimize potential physical arrests and uses of force associated with enforcement of this ordinance, we plan to do the following. First, we will work with the Parks Department to put out the information on the change in law through media, social media, fliers, etc. Next, we will conduct special emphasis patrols, staffed with multiple officers to attempt to avoid violent confrontations, during the hours in question. The initial patrols will be focused on educating violators on the change in law, informing them of the potential consequences, and then attempting to gain compliance without actual enforcement. In a perfect world, this would be enough to end the gatherings. Our experience has been that a smaller group of people will continue to violate the law until we actually conduct enforcement. The lowest level, and most common method of enforcement will be to issue criminal citations to subjects that refuse to comply with the law. Unfortunately, there may be a smaller number of violators that will remain non-compliant and require us to make a custodial arrest to remove them from the park.

It has been our experience, in similar situations with private property, once the problem individuals are convinced that we will enforce the law and make arrests, they typically do not continue to gather at those locations. If we do start to see gatherings resume, we can often address those situations with less resources and quickly regain compliance.

There was language proposed to allow for this to be a misdemeanor offense only after officers have made contact with the violator and advised them to leave first. If the violator refused to comply, at that time, the violator would be committing a misdemeanor.





SPOKANE POLICE DIVISION

CHIEF OF POLICE

CRAIG N. MEIDL

- MEMORANDUM -

The problem with that approach is that our problem offenders will know the law as well as any of our officers. They will know that it requires an officer to contact them and order them to leave before they face any potential consequences. As such, many such offenders will continue to gather and only leave once contacted by law enforcement. This will require constant patrol emphasis on the problem locations. It will also require a significant number of officers to safely enforce this ordinance as the groups that gather can be very large and as already mentioned, armed and dangerous. Our current staffing would not allow for us to be effective in controlling the parks under that proposed language. In order to be effective, the language originally proposed is what is necessary to establish order in the parks after hours.

Captain Hendren #482



Proposed amendment to Park Rules

Changes the park rule violation of being in the park after hours from a minor violation (punishable as a civil infraction) to a criminal trespass punishable as a misdemeanor.

What is this change necessary?

Public parks have become venues for after-hours shootings and other violent crimes. Three parks in Northwest Spokane (Franklin, Shadle and Dwight Merkel) are in the top ten locations for calls for service over the past 6 months for all locations in Northwest Spokane.

- **Dwight Merkel - 00:30 a.m. Shooting on June 29, 2022 - 1 victim, no fatalities**
SPD case no. 2022-20110525
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- **Dutch Jake Park 2:53 a.m. Shooting on August 25, 2022 - 4 victims, no fatalities**
SPD case no. 2022-20149268

Gangs exploit venues they know are secluded and unpatrolled by park security. Closed parks have consequently become a haven for these groups, subjecting the parks to uninterrupted drug activity and gun fights. The threat to public safety cannot be managed under the current regulatory framework.

How does elevating this to a misdemeanor make a difference?

Violent crime is not deterred by the threat of a fine, but this is not about the penalty. It is about the classification of the offense. The authority to investigate a crime gives law enforcement authority they do not have with an offense that is merely a civil infraction. A misdemeanor is a criminal offense, and that sets in motion the legal tools needed by our law enforcement officers to effectively investigate individuals who pose a threat to public safety. For criminal activity, officers may conduct an investigatory detention when they have a reasonable suspicion that criminal activity is occurring or about to occur. Police need this tool to proactively address suspicious situations and disperse groups involved with gang activity. This could help to prevent shootings and other violent activity from occurring.

Can't police contact these people now and make them leave?

No. Civil, non-traffic infractions do not give police the authority to detain a person for investigation or to effect a seizure of their person. If a person refuses to leave the park, the police could issue a ticket, but nothing more. If the person refuses to give their name, police could not take further measures to identify that person. They could not check for warrants or determine whether that person is in possession of dangerous weapons. The presence of police to issue that civil infraction would do nothing whatsoever to prevent a shooting from occurring minutes later.

Okay, but should this really be a crime?

Many types of premises (both public buildings such as City Hall and private business such as stores) have hours of operation and, when they close, it is a criminal trespass to remain or return. Parks close for the safety of the community. For many years, it was a misdemeanor to be in a City park after hours, but for reasons not altogether clear, that penalty was reduced to a fine. This change has not served the community well. Consequently, violent crime has had an opportunity to thrive in Spokane's parks during the hours they are supposed to be closed. Reinstating the misdemeanor not only would put public parks on par with other types of premises. It could potentially save lives.

Wouldn't this criminalize members of the community for harmlessly walking their dogs or jogging late at night?

No. First, police generally don't receive calls about the person walking their dog or jogging, but they do get calls about suspicious activity and groups that become aggressive. But regardless of what might bring the police to the situation, officers are trained to address low-level misdemeanors at the lowest level of enforcement. This means that they take the opportunity to educate the person and to give that individual the courtesy of a warning before they issue a criminal citation.

ORDINANCE NO. C _____

An ordinance relating to Parks; amending Section 12.06A.040 of the Spokane Municipal Code concerning park rules and regulations.

NOW, THEREFORE, the City of Spokane does ordain:

Section 1. That Section 12.06A.040 SMC is amended to read as follows:

Section 12.06A.040 Rules and Regulations

The Park Board has established rules governing behavior on park property, and such rules may be enforced consistent with this ordinance.

Except when done in places designated and in the manner prescribed by rule, regulation or special permission of the park board or department:

A. Park Grounds and Maintenance

1. No person may cut, trim, tag or in any way tamper with the trees or landscaping, or dig, stake, pierce or penetrate the ground of any park.

B. Vehicles and Watercraft

1. No person may ride or drive any motor vehicle in Riverfront Park without express permission from the director of the parks department or his or her designee. Nothing in this section shall be construed as prohibiting the use of electric scooters, electric bicycles or other personal electric mobility devices in Riverfront Park.
2. No person may drive or ride any vehicle or animal on the grass or in any areas of the park other than designated drives, ways, boulevards or paths. Nothing in this section shall be construed as prohibiting a person from riding a mountain bike on established paths and trails in natural/conservation/undeveloped areas.
3. No person may park outside designated parking areas. Cars parked in turf areas, parked overnight or left for multiple days in parking lots may be deemed unauthorized pursuant to SMC 16A.07.060 and impounded by a registered tow truck operator at the direction of a law enforcement officer or other public official with jurisdiction.

4. No person may operate or drive any vehicle, including bicycles, skateboards and roller skates, in a manner which is likely to endanger persons and/or property.
5. No person may intentionally enter, swim, dive or float, with or without a boat, raft, craft or other flotation device, in or upon any pond in a park or the Spokane River at any point between the west line of the Division Street Bridge and the west line of the Monroe Street Bridge.

C. Speed

1. No person may ride or drive a vehicle at a speed in excess of five miles per hour in Riverfront Park.
2. At all parks other than Riverfront Park, no person may ride or drive a vehicle at a speed in excess of fifteen miles per hour unless otherwise posted.

D. Games and Athletics

1. No person may engage in, conduct, or hold any trials or competitions for speed, endurance, or hill climbing involving any vehicle, boat, aircraft, or animal in any park, except by permission of the director of the parks department or his or her designee.
2. No person may play or practice any game that involves the running or the throwing or hitting of a ball or other projectile such as golf, archery, hockey, tennis or baseball, when and where such activity is likely to be dangerous.
3. No person may operate remote controlled vehicles, unmanned air systems or other hobby craft in a manner that is dangerous to persons or property.
4. Swimming pools, wading pools, golf courses, softball diamonds and basketball courts may be used only during hours designated by the director of the parks department or his or her designee.

E. Animals

1. No person may allow any animal to run at large in any park or enter any pond, pool, fountain or stream thereof except within a designated off-leash area. A violation of this section is a class 4 civil infraction.
2. All persons bringing pets to a park must provide for the disposal of animal waste from their pets. Failure to do so is a class 4 infraction.

3. No person may tease, annoy, disturb, attack, catch, injure, or kill, throw stones or any object at, or strike with any stick or weapon, any animal, bird, fowl or other wildlife in any park.
4. Fishing shall be allowed in rivers and creeks adjacent to parks, but shall not be allowed in the ponds of any park.
5. No person may feed any wildlife in any park. A violation of this section is a class 4 civil infraction.

F. Drugs and Alcohol

1. Except as specifically authorized by the director of the parks department or his or her designee, no person shall open the package containing liquor or consume liquor in a public park. A violation of this section is a class 3 civil infraction.
2. As provided in RCW 69.50.445, it is unlawful to open a package containing marijuana, useable marijuana, marijuana-infused products, or marijuana concentrates, or consume marijuana, useable marijuana, marijuana-infused products, or marijuana concentrates, in any park. A violation of this section is a class 3 civil infraction.
3. For the safety and protection of all park users, the use and distribution of drug paraphernalia is prohibited in city parks. In addition to penalties provided in state or local law, violators shall be subject to exclusion from one or more city parks for one year.

G. Weapons and Projectiles

No person may shoot, fire, throw or explode any fireworks, explosive, bow and arrow, slingshot or other weapon, toy or real, which discharges a pellet or other object with harmful force.

H. Food

1. Except as provided in SMC 10.51.040(A), no person may sell food inside or adjacent to a park without first obtaining the following:
 - a. Written authorization from the director of the parks department, or his or her designee, to vend at a particular location or locations, as required by SMC 10.51.070 and SMC 17C.390.030; and
 - b. A valid a mobile food vendor's permit as required by SMC 10.51.010.

I. Events

1. Special events held in a city park require a park reservation and must also be authorized by a special event permit issued by the director of the parks department under the procedures and requirements for special events as provided in Chapter 10.39 SMC.
2. Regardless of whether an event requires a special event permit, park reservations are required to reserve park space and to serve or distribute food for groups of over fifteen people. There is no cost to submit reservation application for events that do not include the use of a shelter, but the application requires the submission of a clean-up plan and may be subject to cost recovery for the actual costs of clean-up by park employees.

J. Other Uses of Park Property and Facilities

1. No person may use or occupy park property to sleep, store property or for any other purpose when done in a manner that obstructs or prevents others from its use and enjoyment.
2. No person may build a fire in a park during official burn bans or where fire restrictions are otherwise imposed. All fires must be contained to designated fireplaces and park-supplied barbecue pits.
3. Where the park board has provided for the collection of fees, rents or charges for the use of park facilities, including municipal golf courses, no person may enter upon or use such park facilities without paying such required fees, rents or charges.
4. No person may be in a City park during the hours of closure without the express permission of the director of the parks department or his or her designee. All City parks shall be closed from ten p.m. to six a.m., except Riverfront Park, which shall be closed from midnight to six a.m. throughout the year. A violation of this section is an unlawful trespass on City park property and shall be punishable as a misdemeanor.
5. No person may sell or barter any goods or services without prior permission of the director of the parks department or his or her designee.

- K. No person may violate such rules and regulations as may from time to time be promulgated by the park board or the director of parks and recreation pursuant to and in supplementation of the City Charter and this code.

PASSED by the City Council on _____.

Council President

Attest:

Approved as to form:

City Clerk

Assistant City Attorney

Mayor

Date

Effective Date

Spokane Park Board

Briefing Paper



Committee	Land		
Committee meeting date	October 5, 2022		
Requester	Jason Conley	Phone number: 625-6211	
Type of agenda item	<input type="radio"/> Consent	<input type="radio"/> Discussion	<input type="radio"/> Information <input checked="" type="radio"/> Action
Type of contract/agreement	<input type="radio"/> New	<input type="radio"/> Renewal/ext.	<input type="radio"/> Lease <input type="radio"/> Amendment/change order <input checked="" type="radio"/> Other
City Clerks file (OPR or policy #)			
Item title: (Use exact language noted on the agenda)	Resolution declaring an endorsement by the City of Spokane Park Board to amend Spokane Municipal Code (SMC) 12.06A.040		
Begin/end dates	Begins: 10/13/2022	Ends:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Open ended
Background/history:	<p>Being in a city park after the hours of closure used to be charged as a misdemeanor. With prior changes to the Park Code, this penalty was unwittingly changed to a civil infraction. The City would be in a much better position to regulate violent crime in the city parks if trespass in the parks were once again chargeable as a misdemeanor. This is a tool needed by law enforcement to give them authority to approach people in the park for the purpose of conducting an investigative detention into the trespass. This proposed ordinance would change the penalty back to a misdemeanor if approved by City Council. This request originates with the Spokane Police Department.</p>		
Motion wording:	Move to approve a Resolution endorsing the amendment of the Spokane Municipal Code (12.06A.040) to a misdemeanor.		
Approvals/signatures outside Parks:	<input type="radio"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="radio"/> No	
If so, who/what department, agency or company:			
Name:	Email address:	Phone:	
Distribution:	Parks – Accounting Parks – Sarah Deatrich Requester: Jason Conley Grant Management Department/Name:		
Fiscal impact:	<input type="radio"/> Expenditure	<input type="radio"/> Revenue	
Amount:	Budget code:		
Vendor:	<input type="radio"/> Existing vendor	<input type="radio"/> New vendor	
Supporting documents:			
<input type="checkbox"/>	Quotes/solicitation (RFP, RFQ, RFB)	<input type="checkbox"/>	W-9 (for new contractors/consultants/vendors)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Contractor is on the City's A&E Roster - City of Spokane	<input type="checkbox"/>	ACH Forms (for new contractors/consultants/vendors)
<input type="checkbox"/>	UBI: Business license expiration date:	<input type="checkbox"/>	Insurance Certificate (min. \$1 million in General Liability)

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- K. No person may violate such rules and regulations as may from time to time be promulgated by the park board or the director of parks and recreation pursuant to and in supplementation of the City Charter and this code.

PASSED by the City Council on _____.

Council President

Attest:

Approved as to form:

City Clerk

Assistant City Attorney

Mayor

Date

Effective Date

CITY OF SPOKANE PARK BOARD

RESOLUTION

A resolution declaring an endorsement by the City of Spokane Park Board for the adoption of a revised Spokane Municipal Code (SMC) 12.06A.040.

WHEREAS, SMC 12.06A.040 was last updated July 26, 2021 was found to be incomplete and requiring updating to reflect current park user needs; and,

WHEREAS, SMC 12.06A.040 does not adequately address current challenges and efforts by both Spokane Police Department (SPD) and Parks Recreation Division Park Rangers; and,

WHEREAS, the Park Board is desirous of improving safety and availability park facilities for everyone in the community; and,

WHEREAS, a prior version of the park rules included a misdemeanor penalty for being in a city park after the hours of closure; and

WHEREAS, current park rules have the penalty defined as an infraction which prevents police from conducting an investigative detention; and,

WHEREAS, violent crime increased in city parks in 2022 including multiple shooting during the hours of park closures; and,

WHEREAS, language to SMC 12.06A.040 will be revised, to make a violation of park hours an unlawful trespass on city park property and punishable as a misdemeanor.

-- Now Therefore, BE IT RESOLVED that the Park Board endorses the revisions to SMC 12.06A.040, provided that revisions to 12.06A.040 are adopted by City Council.

ADOPTED BY THE SPOKANE PARK BOARD: October 13, 2022.

Park Board President



Spokane Park Board

3:30 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 13, 2022
In-person in Council Chambers, City Hall, and
virtually via WebEx

Park Board members

X Jennifer Ogden – President
X Bob Anderson – Vice President
X Jason Conley – Acting Secretary
 Nick Sumner
X Greta Gilman
X Sally Lodato
X Gerry Sperling
X Barb Richey
X Hannah Kitz (3:57)
X Kevin Brownlee
X Christina VerHeul
X Jonathan Bingle – City Council liaison (exits,
 4:48)

Parks staff

Jason Conley
Fianna Dickson
Nick Hamad
Al Vorderbrueggen
Jennifer Papich
Mark Poirier
Jonathan Moog
Berry Ellison
Karin Cook
Kris Behr
Sarah Deatrich
Katie Kosanke
Jeff Perry
Lars Erpenbach
Steve Nittolo

Guests

Mary Gilmore
Sam Chase
Michelle Welch
Kelly Brown

MINUTES

(Click [HERE](#) to view a video recording of the meeting.)

1. **Roll Call:** Jennifer Ogden
See above
2. **Additions or deletions to the agenda**
 - A. Remove consent agenda item #6 – Western States CAT / 2023 Caterpillar 303.5 Track Excavator purchase (\$77,932.74) – for discrepancy between cost presented to the committee and final invoice
3. **Public comment**
 - A. Sam Mace (East Central neighborhood, next to Underhill Park): Sam Mace requested to withhold endorsing dog park guidelines. Sam stated parking issues, public safety issues, and impacts on neighbors need to be addressed.
 - B. Michelle Welch: Michelle put out a petition asking the public how they felt the dog park process has been followed according to the guidelines. She has received 133 signatures of people who feel the guidelines have not been met. Jennifer Ogden asked of specific concerns and feedback and asked Michelle to email concerns and feedback to her directly.
 - C. Kelly Brown, speaking on behalf 100+ member female running group Spokane Swifts: Kelly states that the group strongly supports amending Spokane Municipal Code (SMC) 12.06A.040 to reinstate misdemeanor charges for use City parks after hours. They feel safety is a concern and the amendment will enhance safety in the parks.
4. **Consent agenda**
 - A. Administrative and committee-level items
 - 1) [Sept. 8, 2022, regular Park Board meeting minutes](#)

- 2) Claims – September 2022
- 3) Fisher Construction Group, Inc. Construction Change Order #2 / Downriver Golf Course Roof Renovation (\$47,131.37+tax) – Nick Hamad
- 4) Liberty Library ADA book drop location – Berry Ellison
- 5) Garco change order #2 / Don Kardong Bridge construction for \$31,639.00 – Berry Ellison
(Formerly #6 – deleted from agenda)–~~Western States CAT / 2023 Caterpillar 303.5 Track Excavator purchase (\$77,932.74) – Nick Hamad~~
- 6) Spokane Arts Consulting /Riverfront Park Signature Art Piece Amendment #3 (\$2,757.70 tax inclusive) AND Contract Extension – Berry Ellison
- 7) SBO to appropriate \$300,000 to the Golf Fund from unencumbered fund balance for 1). Construction cost increases in the capital program; 2). Inflationary increases in operating accounts particularly fuel, fertilizers and other petroleum based products; and 3). Repairs and maintenance. – Jason Conley

Motion No. 1: Jennifer Ogden moved to approve consent agenda items #1 - #7 as presented
Bob Anderson seconded
Motion passed with unanimous consent (9-0)

5. **Special guests**

- A. **Daughters of the American Revolution Conservation Award** – Mary Gilmore, past regent
- 1) Mary Gilmore, past regent of the Daughters of the American Revolution presented the national DAR conservation award to Spokane’s Urban Forestry division for conservation efforts over past 24 years.

(Hannah Kitz arrives at 3:57)

6. **Financial report and budget update** – Jason Conley presented the September financial report and budget update in Mark Buening’s absence. The September operating expenditures for the Park Fund are approximately \$4.4 million more than the historic budget average. Year-to-date revenues are almost \$2.6 million above the budget average. Revenues are exceeding expenditures almost \$239,000. The September operating expenditures for the Golf Fund are almost \$405,000 more than the budget average. Year-to-date revenues are exceeding the budget average about \$190,000. Revenues are exceeding expenditures about \$1.8 million year-to-date. There is approximately \$29,000 remaining of the \$68.4 million Riverfront Park redevelopment budget.

7. **Special discussion/action items**

- A. **Q3 2022 Communication & Marketing update:** No presentation, update included in agenda packet.

8. **Committee reports:**

Urban Forestry Tree Committee: October 4, 2022, Kevin Brownlee

A. Action items: None – Canceled

B. The next regularly scheduled meeting is 4:15 p.m. Nov. 1, 2022, Tribal conference room, first floor lobby of City Hall, and virtually via WebEx

Golf Committee: October 11, 2022, Gerry Sperling

A. One of two action items was presented on the consent agenda.

B. **2023 Golf fee increases** – Mark Poirier

- 1) Mark Poirier presented the proposed golf rate increases. A \$1.00 fee increase is recommended across all daily greens fee options. There will be no increase in sunset

rate, daily private cart rate, annual private cart rate, 10 play pass, or the junior rate. There will also be no change for the Players and Loyalty passes, however, the Unlimited Pass will increase by \$100 for 2023. This fee increase is needed to combat unforeseen inflation costs to the golf fund.

Motion No. 2: Gerry Sperling moved to approve the 2023 golf fee increase as stated and presented by Mark Poirier

Councilman Bingle seconded

Motion passed with unanimous consent. (10-0)

- C. Gerry Sperling states golf courses are in excellent condition. She extends thanks to Urban Forestry for continual assistance with removing and trimming trees. Downriver sprinkler system completed. Qualchan is in excellent condition with the parking lot re-sealed, and the clubhouse repainted.
- D. The next scheduled meeting is 8 a.m. Nov. 8, 2022, Tribal conference room, first floor lobby of City Hall, and virtually via WebEx

Land Committee: October 5, 2022, Greta Gilman

- A. Three of five action items were presented on the consent agenda.
- B. [Resolution adopting Citywide dog park site selection, design, and operations guidelines study \(no cost\)](#) – Nick Hamad
 - 1) Nick presented the draft dog park guidelines resulting from the efforts of a technical consultant and the project advisory committee (PAC) formed in March 2022. Dog parks is one of the fastest growing amenities nationwide, which is not being served in this community, as identified in the recent Parks Master Plan. In summary, Spokane provides one dog park per 115,000 people. The PAC recommends Spokane provide 1 dog park per every 25,000 people, resulting in a total three to nine facilities each consisting of one to seven-plus acres, or at least one regional (7+ acre) dog park facility per city council district Citywide. In addition to recommending dog park levels of service, this document establishes site selection guidelines, design guidelines and operations & maintenance guidelines for future public dog parks. The document also applies the site selection guidelines to evaluate all city owned lands (including parks division and non-parks division land) for suitability to develop future dog parks.
 - 2) By adopting this plan, Parks is meeting a priority from the citywide park master plan and fulfilling a portion of City's responsibilities outlined in the the Spokane Public Schools memorandum of understanding (OPR2022-0137) which requires a citywide dog park study be completed prior to end of October 2022. However, this study does not determine the exact location of an official South Hill dog park. The site selection of the official South Hill dog park will be a separate action, possibly as soon as the October 24 special Park Board meeting.
 - 3) In response to Greta Gilman's concern Nick explained that the development of an official South Hill dog park is being funded by Spokane Public Schools, which is why dog parks in District 2 are being studied for the first development of a dog park after completion of the citywide study. The loss of an unofficial south hill dog park and the need to select a site for an official South Hill dog park, along with Citywide Park master plan recommendations for adding dog parks is what sparked the study. Despite the funding for an official South Hill dog park, the results of this citywide study were deliberately shown for every district, as the Park Master Plan has already determined the need for dog parks is Citywide, not just in District 2. Two public meetings have already been held regarding the potential sites for an officiation south hill dog park, and

two additional public open house meetings will be held to solicit additional public feedback to assist the Park Board in determining the location for an official South Hill dog park location. Should it be determined that additional feedback is needed, this action item may be pushed to the regular November 10 Park Board meeting.

Motion No. 3: Greta Gilman moved to approve the resolution adopting Citywide site selection, design, and operations guidelines, keeping in mind that this is not the final site selection, and that the guidelines require additional public input per site selection.

Councilman Bingle seconded

Motion passed with unanimous consent. (10-0)

(Councilman Bingle exits at 4:48)

C. [Resolution declaring an endorsement by the City of Spokane Park Board to amend Spokane Municipal Code \(SMC\) 12.06A.040 – Jason Conley](#)

- 1) Jason explained that in response to the numerous violent crimes in park settings recently, the Spokane Police Department asks that the Park Board endorse their recommended amendment to the current Park rules. Under section J.4, language would be added allowing police more authority to detain and remove suspicious individuals, rendering trespassing as unlawful and punishable as a misdemeanor. This section had previously resulted in a misdemeanor but had been downgraded to an infraction, or ticketed offense. Although the police will not be able to patrol every park 24/7, they are able to focus on the known hot spots throughout the Parks system. They will also be able to close gates to the Parks after hours when Parks staff is unavailable.
- 2) Gerry Sperling, Bob Anderson, and Jennifer Ogden support the resolution, citing the need to address violence in our parks and the safety of the public.
- 3) Christina VerHeul expressed concern over the significant legal difference between an infraction and a misdemeanor and the possible legal implications which may affect someone's ability to gain employment. Hannah Kitz relayed that misdemeanors are often expunged in court before the charge is made against someone and goes on the record.

Motion No. 4: Greta Gilman moved to approve the resolution declaring an endorsement by the City of Spokane Park Board to amend Spokane Municipal Code (SMC) 12.06A.040.

Gerry Sperling seconded

Motion passed. (8-1)

D. The next scheduled meeting is 3:30 p.m. Nov. 2, 2022, Sister City conference room, first floor lobby of City Hall, and virtually via WebEx

Recreation Committee: October 5, 2022, Sally Lodato

A. Action items: None - Canceled

B. The next scheduled meeting is 5:15 p.m. Nov. 2, 2022, Sister City conference room, first floor lobby of City Hall, and virtually via WebEx

Riverfront Park Committee: October 10, 2022, Nick Sumner

- A. One of two action items was presented on the consent agenda.
- B. **2023 Riverfront Spokane fees and charges** – Jonathan Moog
 - 1) Mr. Moog reported the cost of labor and materials has increased significantly due to inflation, negotiated bargaining unit contracts, and a competitive labor market. The overall wages as compared between the 2023 proposed budget to the 2022 adopted budget has increased by 17.5% amounting to \$391,773. The proposed pricing adjustment for attractions would recover approximately \$215,000. Event venues pricing changes occurred in three categories 1) recover the direct cost of maintenance and sales; 2) services changes; 3) changing rental areas into different park zones. Mr. Moog highlighted specific pricing changes and noted the goal is to maintain affordability while ensuring attractions recover their costs. A 15% discount for private, non-profit events will be implemented.

Motion No. 5: Jennifer Ogden moved to approve the 2023 Riverfront Spokane fees and changes as presented.

Gerry Sperling seconded

Motion passed with unanimous consent. (9-0)

- C. Berry Ellison gave a presentation outlining the progress and installation of the Seeking Place sculpture by artist Sarah Thompson-Moore. He noted the contractor (Terra Bella) has completed work and has left the site. Ribbon cutting is schedule for October 18 at 5:30 p.m.
- D. The next scheduled meeting is 4 p.m. Nov. 7, 2022, Pavilion conference room, Riverfront Park, and virtually via WebEx

Finance Committee: October 11, 2022, Bob Anderson

- A. Action items: The action item was presented on the consent agenda.
 - 1) Bob Anderson recapped Garrett Jones' 2023 budget update which was highlighted by change in the Risk Fund deficit payback. Garrett and City staff were able to switch from a single transfer in 2023 to a 5-year plan which helps reduce the plan 2023 budget deficit from over \$800,000 to about \$165,000.
- B. The next regularly scheduled meeting is 3 p.m. Nov. 8, 2022, Tribal conference room, first floor lobby of City Hall, and virtually via WebEx

Development & Volunteer Committee: Sept. 21, 2022 – Bob Anderson

- A. Action items: None
 - 1) Bob Anderson recapped Garrett Jones' and Rick Romero's EXPO+50 update. Garrett recapped a meeting of the marketing team, which was hosted by Greater Spokane, Inc., and Visit Spokane. The next meeting will focus on themes and event beginning and ending timeframe.
 - 2) Former Expo '74 planners have provided input for the 2024 celebration and stressed the need for a full-time employee to coordinate the event activities.
 - 3) Gonzaga students from the business and environmental sciences programs will assist with plans for activating the Spokane River.
- B. The October 19 meeting is canceled. The next regularly scheduled meeting is 3 p.m. Nov. 16, 2022, Lilac conference room, first floor lobby of City Hall, and virtually via WebEx.

9. **Reports**

- A. President: Jennifer Ogden – Jennifer gave a reminder of the October 24 special Park Board meeting

B. Liaisons

1. Conservation Futures – Nick Sumner – no report given
2. Parks Foundation – Barb Richey – The Park Foundation did not meet, and the fund balance is in your packet.
3. City Council – Jonathan Bingle – no report given

C. Acting Director – Jason Conley

- 1) Merkel turf repair project is ahead of schedule.
- 2) Fall recreation programs are having amazing attendance

10. **Executive session**

A. None

11. **Correspondence:**

A. Letters/email: None

12. **Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 5:33 p.m.

13. **Meeting dates**

A. Committee meeting dates:

Urban Forestry Tree Committee: 4:15 p.m. November 1, 2022, Tribal conference room, first floor lobby of City Hall, and virtually via WebEx

Land Committee: 3:30 p.m. November 2, 2022, Sister City conference room, first floor lobby of City Hall, and virtually via WebEx

Recreation Committee: 5:15 p.m. November 2, 2022, Sister City conference room, first floor lobby of City Hall, and virtually via WebEx

Riverfront Park Committee: 4 p.m. November 7, 2022, Pavilion conference room, Riverfront Park, and virtually via WebEx

Golf Committee: 8 a.m. November 8, Tribal conference room, first floor lobby of City Hall, and virtually via WebEx

Finance Committee: 3 p.m. November 8, 2022, Tribal conference room, first floor lobby of City Hall, and virtually via WebEx

Development & Volunteer Committee: 3 p.m. November 16, 2022, Lilac conference room, first floor lobby of City Hall, and virtually via WebEx

B. Park Board: 10:00 a.m. October 24, 2022, Council Chambers, lower-level City Hall, and virtually via WebEx

C. Park Board Study Session: No session scheduled at this time.

Minutes approved by: *Jason Conley*
Jason Conley, Acting Director of Parks and Recreation