



Monthly Executive Summary June 2009

City of Spokane
Barry Russell
Director of Parks and Recreation
July 2, 2009

Department highlights for the month include:

Much of June was spent finalizing a number of projects. Getting last minute issues resolved to insure the opening of Shadle and A.M. Cannon Pools was tense. Although all of the Splash Pads were up and ready to go, last minute part replacements created havoc at a number of locations. City Council came through and approved a number of resolutions that moved the final resolution of any remaining issues of the YMCA forward into the City's domain. Hoopfest was a great success and the first major event without the full use of the smaller of the Howard Street Bridges came through with flying colors.

Staff worked closely with GreenPlay Red, our Master Plan consultants, to finalize the first phase of the plan which is setting up community workshops for the second week in July. The final touches on the design and production of the Tobacco-Free Policy signage was completed and the policy is now ready for adoption and implementation.

The Fish Lake Trail bids came in and were approved by City Council and the WhiteWater Park Comment period ended and they are in review.

Golf/Administration:

- The Golf Division is seeing great numbers after an unusually slow start due to the extreme winter. It appears that our citizens are staying closer to home as our courses are very busy.
- Indian Canyon will host the 22nd Rosauers' Open July 15th – 19th. The course is in excellent condition.
- Esmeralda has recovered nicely from the winter damage and is beginning to get positive comments from our golf public as well as staff.
- Both Qualchan and Downriver hosted Inland Empire PGA Pro-Am events this month. The reviews we received from the public were outstanding. The two new greens at Qualchan were a bid hit and continue to receive extremely positive reviews. The club house renovations at Downriver also received a great deal of very positive reviews. Both courses got accolades on the conditions, a direct compliment to the excellent maintenance staffs.

Finance:

- Completed training and set up for new Point of Sale and Membership systems for Aquatic Centers. This includes software and related hardware that will enable the printing of receipts and passes, pass scanning and cash drawer operations. Point of Sale was set up to handle concession items.
- Met deadline for submitting Dec/Jan Snow Emergency costs for FEMA.
- Prepared for and furnished needed supplies for cash operations at the new Aquatics Centers.
- Continued sign-ups for temporary/seasonal employees for the Aquatics Centers and ongoing needs at Riverfront Park.
- Accounts Payable was able to keep current on payments despite the increased work load due to construction payments, summer operations and staff vacation time.
- Purchase Orders/Accounts Payable Stats – May: \$4,937,651.06 in payments processed; 266 invoices paid; 73 purchase orders issued
- Payroll Stats – May: 94 temp/seasonal hired; 13 temp/seasonal terminated; Payroll – 88 permanent, 489 temp/seasonal; 9 pay changes; 80 Pending Personnel Action Authorizations; 6 OTJ injuries.
- Cash Receipts Stats – May: 95 deposits made; \$53,343.15 on-line registration; \$9,088.00 front desk registration; \$348,174.95 RFP deposits; \$11,018.49 NEYC deposits; \$7,950.00 Park Operations deposits; \$479,576.13 Golf deposits; \$90.00 Albi deposits; \$67,094.02 Misc. deposits.
- 18 Budget Transfers
- 25 Contracts Processed
- Avista Billings \$51,152.00
- City Utilities \$63,992.00
- Accounts Receivable Invoices 11
- NSF Check Processing 4

Marketing/Communications:

- Eighteen news releases including: Bridge Walk 2009 Reminder; Friday Specials in Riverfront Park – Classical Guitarist at Bistro; Be a Lifesaver – Foundation Save the Dates; Whitewater Park Shoreline Conditional Use Permit; Friday Specials – Riverfront – Trailer Park Girls June 12; Fencing to Go Up at Merkel Sports Complex; DAR Monument in Manito Unveiled; Shadle & A.M. Cannon Pools to Open July 6th; Carrousel Ranked 8 in Nation by National Geographic; Friday Specials – Riverfront – Just Plain Darin June 12; Park Bench Café Now Open Daily; Reserve seats – Fireworks in RFP; Transformers FILM LAB PROBLEM; Foundation Swimsuit Appeal; Sponsor a Kid’s Swim for \$15; Foundation Suits & \$\$ Appeal; Splash Pads are being Turned On; Transformers Revenge of the Fallen IMAX – TOP TRUMP
- Meeting with Magner Sanborn – tentatively set for July 16 to discuss structure of relationship & partnership booklet.
- We produced Programs #1-3 of the TV show “*Walk in the Park with Barry Russell*”. Program #1 (April) Loeff Carrousel; Greenhouses at Manito; Program #2 (May) Fish Lake Trail; Japanese Garden. Program #3 (June) Beacon Hill – Camp Sekani; Fountain at Riverfront Park. In production: Program #4 (July) Urban Forestry; 100th Anniversary – Carrousel. Other planned segments include: Program #5 (August) Therapeutic Recreation; Manito Gardens. Program #6 (September) Whitewater Park; Dog Park. Program #7 (October) Therapeutic Recreation; Friends of the Centennial Trail. Program #8 (November) TBD. Program #9 (December) TBD; Program #10 (January) TBD.
- Website Redesign: Met with BHW1 to review the overall site structure. Met with each program manager discuss content. Follow up meetings have taken place in some areas, others are being scheduled.
- Committee work: Department Co-promotions/Marketing strategy with Magner Sanborn; Riverfront Park Marketing Committee; Recreation Marketing Committee.

Park Operations:

- Comstock Park irrigation project is progressing well. The mainline installation is complete and work has begun installing lateral lines. It has taken some creativity to dodge trees and other park features and yet get water coverage to all areas. We should be at a point where we can soon begin watering some parts of the construction area. We will probably be into the first part of August before the system is complete and fully operational, however. This represents a tremendous improvement for the park and demonstrates the ability to work through the obstacles presented in an older park with many mature trees.
- Minnehaha Park is 100 years old this year! The neighborhood is planning a birthday celebration for later this summer.
- Park Operations staff has done a wonderful job keeping our parks safe, usable, and appealing this year. Playground surfacing is getting replenished and renovated. Ball diamond bleachers went through a total renovation and relocation on top of concrete pads. Several park restroom buildings have been completely repainted. These added touches are in addition to the ongoing efforts to water, mow, clean, control weeds, deep equipment working, accommodate all variety of events, and work on the long list of repairs needed.
- There has been a great deal of vandalism in parks over the past month. Unfortunately, this seems to be typical for this time of year. We have dealt with a large amount of graffiti, had thefts and buildings broken into, seen restroom plumbing destroyed, and had irrigation systems damaged among other things.
- This is also a demanding time of year for noxious weed control. We have crews out full time cutting down weeds and also utilize a private contractor for spraying.
- Watercraft access to the Spokane River has become an increasingly hot topic. There needs to be a way to provide appropriate recreational access and yet protect this valuable resource. This will likely require some significant funding and effort to get through the design and permitting process. Logically, this effort should look at all park land along the river corridor from Boulder Beach to Downriver Conservation Area.

- Manito Park staff is working on renovating some native areas within the park along Tekoa Street. A new fiber optic connection to Manito has been just recently completed. Surveillance cameras will be installed soon to protect some of the public parking areas. Additional funding is being sought to complete a retaining wall in Duncan Garden and plans are moving forward for hiring a consultant to work out details for renovating Mirror Pond.
- Urban Forestry staff has been processing a large number of permit requests which is typical for this time of year. Tree planting is wrapping up until fall. About 40-50 new trees have been planted on various public spaces this year so far.
- The number one topic in communications from the public over the past few weeks is splash pads. They are extremely popular and everyone wants to know when new ones will be working and when the bugs will be worked out of the ones built last year. Most of this year's splash pads are now working as intended.
- Installation of irrigation control signal repeaters at Manito and Franklin are nearly complete. This will allow us to communicate with and monitor irrigation systems across the City from a centrally located computer station. The radio signal communication system means we do not have to hard wire connectivity or cell phone equipment at each and every park.

Planning/Project Management:

- The Eagle Scout projects have been completed. The Exercise Course at Polly Judd Park and the weeding and renovations of the volley ball court are signed off. Both Eagle Scout candidates worked their projects and the results are excellent. Taylor will bring the Scouts to the August Park Board meeting for award recognition.
- The public comment period for the Whitewater Park has ended and the required affidavits for mailing, sign notification and sign removal have been turned in. The Planning Department received approximately 30 letters or contacts and will be reviewing the comments. A summation will be available in a couple of weeks and reviewed against the latest submitted for SEPA.
- The bid for the A.M. Cannon Shelter came in higher than expected. The Neighborhood voted to add funding to the project. Construction will start in two weeks.
- Avista is preparing projects proposals for the addition of a power pole at Harmon Park and the placement of area lighting in Corbin Park. The power projects will require engineering designs for line location and the installation of a power box in Harmon Park.
- A punch list for the 2009 Splash Pads is being prepared covering the actual pad, equipment and controls. Landscape recovery has been completed but the work is not acceptable. There will be lots of things re-done before the final acceptance of the landscape. The contractor will continue to be responsible for each of the new splash pads so that it provides faultless operation for the rest of the 2009 Park season. Final acceptance by the Park Department will occur next year after system start up for the 2010 season.

Recreation/Entertainment Services:

- Corbin Art Center's Corbin Kids Fine Arts and Crafts Summer Camp program began Monday, June 8, 2009.
- Transformers 2 began at the IMAX Theatre.
- An article on the Moore-Turner heritage Gardens is currently appearing in Alaska Airline Magazine.
- Summer Operations at Riverfront Park began June 11th.
- NEYC received "Non-Profit Trustee Leadership Award" from Leadership Spokane Class of 2009 on June 5.
- The First Annual Spokane Bridge Walk was held on June 6th with 287 participants.
- Kicked off the 10th Annual Senior Summer Croquet League. 10 teams from Hillyard, Sinto and Corbin Senior Centers make up this year's league. The league is played at Clarke Park on Tuesday mornings for the months of June, July and August.
- Stephanie Watson, CHOICE Program Supervisor recently was awarded the New Professional Award that is offered by the Washington State Association of Senior Centers.