



# Monthly Executive Summary October 2009

City of Spokane  
Leroy Eadie  
Acting Director of Parks and Recreation  
November 6, 2009

### **Department highlights for the month include:**

The **Parks and Recreation Budget** was presented to the Park Board Finance Committee and expected to be adopted by the Park Board at their November 12<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**Park Bond Projects** continue to move forward on schedule although some of the work at the Albi/Merkel Complex has been affected by rainy weather (namely parking lot paving).

Parks staff and the contractor have been preparing the **pools** for winterization.

Changes have been made at the Albi/Merkel Complex design to better accommodate the neighborhood requested **pedestrian trail**. The neighborhood and designer Bob Droll were great to work with in coming up with cost affective solutions.

The Parks Director has been working with the Fairmount Cemetery to secure two **trail easements**, one on the original trail alignment down to Riverside State Park and the other along the original 14 acres.

The **Park Bond Citizen Advisory Committee** met twice in the month of October to focus on the Albi/Merkel complex and to receive an update on Park Bond expenditures.

The amendments to the **Heritage Tree Ordinance** were passed by a 7-0 vote of the City Council.

The Park Director had an excellent meeting with **Spokane Parks Foundation Executive Director Toni Nersesian** to clarify roles of the two agencies. The Parks Foundation will continue to be the primary agency to receive park and park programs donations.

### **Recreation/Entertainment Services:**

- Ice Palace opened October 21<sup>st</sup>.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> annual "Haunted House" was held in October. Riverfront Park partnered with Ignite Community Theatre to produce the "Haunted House" in the old Spokane Story building.
- 1,030 spring bulbs were planted in the Moore-Turner Heritage Gardens, included 200 camassia, leucojum and narcissus spring bulbs that were donated by Richard Hartlage.
- Outdoor Recreation held another successful Houseboat and Kayak Trip on Lake Roosevelt with rave reviews.
- Pool construction is near completion.
- Flu shot clinics are being held at various Senior Activity and Community Centers.
- Sheena Birdtail, (NEYC Logistics) received National Certification as a Child Passenger Safety Technician. Currently, there are only a few active technicians in Spokane. Sheena assisted with Van Training Classes and is acting as a liaison with other organizations/centers. Currently, assisting Peaceful Valley with proper seating needs to insure compliance.
- The "Sekani Trial Run" had 150 participants with on-line only registration. We did not spend any money on advertising and all registration happened through Active website. The event rose just over \$2,500 and introduced new users to the Beacon Hill area.
- Therapeutic Recreation services held the annual kick off celebration for the Powderhounds ski and snowboard program, with 62 people in attendance at Corbin Community Center.

### **Golf/Administration:**

- With the cold and rainy October golf numbers have suffered compared to the same period last year. October of 2008 had extremely warmer conditions that coupled with Liberty Lake and Hangman Golf courses being closed for renovations elevated our numbers. Our courses continue to be in excellent condition.
- Staff met with City Permitting, Department of Ecology, Core of Engineers and Washington department of Fish and Wildlife on the bank stabilization project at Qulachan. We are working on the permitting process and should be ready to begin work by spring.
- Mark Gardner competed in the 61<sup>st</sup> Hudson Cup Matches (18<sup>th</sup> Senior Hudson Cup Matches). Mark won all of his matches and bestowed the Bob McKendrick Award. The award, which recognizes the outstanding senior professional in the matches, is named in honor of McKendrick who had served as head professional at Oswego Lake CC for 40 years and who played on 19 Hudson Cup teams.
- Mark also qualified and competed in the Senior Professional National Championships in Port St. Lucie, Florida.
- We have tentatively set closing dates. For Indian Canyon the last day will be November 8<sup>th</sup>, Downriver November 22<sup>nd</sup>, Esmeralda and Qualchan November 29<sup>th</sup>. All dates are weather dependant and may be moved forward or back.

### **Finance:**

- Resolved several outstanding invoice and contract issues.
- Finished the recapping of the bond contracts and expenditures.
- Continued to work on resolving several issues regarding pool and splash pad utility usage and permit refunds.
- Provided requested documentation for State Auditors.
- Answered questions from Environmental Programs regarding utility usage.
- Provided information requested by GP RED consultants.
- Debriefed with MIS department regarding the new aquatics centers and began addressing issues to be resolved before the start of the 2010 season.
- Began preparing detailed financial procedure manuals for the Aquatic Center systems.
- Submitted the 2010 Budget to the Park Board and City Budget department.
- Purchase Orders/Accounts Payable Stats – September: \$3,303,681.43 in payments processed; 251 warrants issued; 51 purchase orders issued
- Payroll Stats – September: 18 temp/seasonal hired; 182 temp/seasonal terminated; Payroll – 88 permanent, 437 temp/seasonal; 61 pay changes; 25 Pending Personnel Action Authorizations; 5 OTJ injuries.
- Cash Receipts Stats – September: Deposits made; \$71,633.83 on-line registration; \$33,461.80 front desk registration; \$336,064.33 RFP deposits; \$10,040.37 NEYC deposits; \$2,440.00 Park Operations deposits; \$341,220.94 Golf deposits; \$1,250.00 Albi deposits; \$10,989.93 Misc. deposits.
- Budget Transfers – 14
- Contracts Processed – 30
- City Utilities Payment \$222,282.42

### **Marketing/Communications:**

- Seven news releases including: Award-winning Breadmaking Class; Manito's Mirror Pond Water Quality; New Sekani Trail Run; Fall Leaf Festival in Arboretum; Ice Palace Opens in the 21<sup>st</sup>; Ice Palace Opens Today; Pioneer Park Fall Clean Up 2009.
- The various divisions continue to work on content and Jack Busch has made significant progress with our vendor BHW1, in placing text and images. We are still set for a late November launch.
- Continuing monthly "Walk in the Park" programs on City Cable Channel 5. The format has been revised slightly with Acting Director, Leroy Eadie to tape the opening and close for the show along with introducing the interview subject for the month. Each program will feature a single subject with managers interviewing staff responsible for the subject of the program. We will feature Therapeutic Recreation in November and the Friends of the Centennial Trail in December.
- Magner Sanborn is working on a department-wide promotional campaign to feature all divisions within the department in the coming two months. This is part of our overall advertising strategy to cross-promote all divisions.
- We are undertaking a year-long project to place electronic advertising at various strategic locations in Spokane International Airport keyed to the holiday travel months of November and December, and the national figure skating championships in January.

### **Park Operations:**

- Urban Forestry has had a very busy month providing consultation on various public construction projects to help prevent damage to or loss of trees. Staff with assistance from the Citizen Advisory Committee took amendments to the Heritage Tree Ordinance to the City Council for adoption. Planting dozens of new trees is also part of the Urban Forestry program's fall activities.
- The Annual Fall Leaf Festival at Finch Arboretum was held on October 17. The event was well attended in spite of less than ideal weather and a fall season that seemed somewhat delayed in arriving this year. The fall colors were not nearly as spectacular as they usually are at the arboretum in mid October and there was no giant leaf pile for children to frolic in. The leaf pile has always been one of the hit attractions at the Festival and staff cannot remember another year when we simply didn't have enough leaves on the ground.
- Many thanks to Hoopfest for their help with basketball courts in our City parks. A new concrete court was put in A M Cannon Park. The West Central Neighborhood also came ready to help and babysat the fresh concrete until it hardened. They made a party out of it and barbecued hot dogs for those there to help. This project probably would not have happened without the interest and

- help of neighborhood residents. Hoopfest also put down a new layer of asphalt on the existing basketball court under Maple Street Bridge in Peaceful Valley.
- Park Operations staff is busy preparing for winter. After a slow start, lots of leaves have now fallen and crews are busy raking and hauling off huge loads of leaves. We hope the weather will cooperate and allow us to make better progress on this activity and leave less to clean up in the spring. Most park water systems have been drained and prepared for freezing weather. Other crews have been busy collecting and storing portable picnic tables and benches and tennis court nets for the winter months.
  - Discussions on Cannon Hill pond have continued. The pond loses a considerable volume of water which is contrary to water conservation efforts and costs a significant amount of money. Parks and Engineering Services staff are working together to find an effective way of sealing the pond bottom and minimize the amount of water escaping. There is also design work being done that will bring passively purified storm water into the pond to help maintain the water level and accommodate stormwater from Lincoln Street.

### **Planning/Project Management:**

- A.M. Cannon Park: The shelter will be finished this week. There were long delays in both the completion of the concrete work and the reestablishment of the park restroom's electrical hookup that was disrupted during the demolition of the old pool and equipment building. The structure fits well into the park's design and the Neighborhood has indicated they are happy with the shelter. The Hoopfest Basketball Court is completed and the boards will be placed soon.
- Mission Park: The ADA playground addition to the existing play structure located in the center of the park has been installed with new 42" fencing.
- Harmon Park: The Harmon Utility drop installation is underway. The new drop has extra power for future installation of park area lighting.
- Corbin Park: We are moving toward installing three lights in addition to the four existing park area lights. The Neighborhood desires to have historically relevant light poles and fixtures.
- Whittier Park: Tables and benches have been installed as part of a matching funds grant given to the Neighborhood by the Spokane Parks Foundation.
- Polly Judd Park: The Neighborhood wants to install a shelter to augment their Pancakes in the Park activity as well as provide needed shade for the wide open park. Community Development has offered \$17,000 to the project, with the other third of the funding being sought by the Neighborhood from the Parks Foundation.
- Fairview Park: Logan Neighborhood have requested an Avista light pole to help keep late night users away and to close the pass way gate to the east to eliminate a shortcut from behind the adjacent houses on the Park's perimeter.
- Garry Park: The fence along Mission has been extended to the northwest corner of the park to keep kids from running into the street after balls.
- Bond Projects: Working on finishing up remaining projects. Supplying information and ground work for Little League ball field development. Organizing and arranging for the purchase of play equipment at the Merkel Complex as well as the purchase of the artificial field material for the site.
- Fish Lake Trail: The project is moving along and this phase is almost completed. Adjacent neighbors had expressed concern about entry onto their property from trail users and the location of the benches provided by the project. The benches have been relocated to the neighborhood's satisfaction. The addition of fencing or rock barricades will be addressed after the trail has had some use and we can determine the desired paths both to the trail and away from the trail.
- Rim Rock Drive: We have received an estimate for \$8,500 plus permits, well closure and asbestos inspection for the removal of a residence inherited by the Department on Rim Rock Drive. Funding is being sought for the removal.