



# Monthly Executive Summary January 2010

City of Spokane  
Leroy Eadie  
Acting Director of Parks and Recreation  
February 5, 2010

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

- Two Letters of Interest (Spokane Tribe & Urban Workshop) were received for the Bosch Lot. The Spokane Tribe has shown interest in developing a Living History Center and the Urban Workshop has proposed affordable residential townhouse type development. The next step is Parks Board approval of an Request for Proposals at their March meeting.
- Riverfront Park experienced a record holiday break due to unseasonably nice weather and a \$10 package offered including skate admission and rental, IMAX's 35 minute feature "The Light Before Christmas", minigolf and a Carrousel ride. Revenue unofficially was \$187,000 compared to \$109,067 in 2007. Devastating weather was reflected in the \$86,441 in 2008.
- The Spokesman-Review featured an article on the Heritage Tree Register and the three Pioneer Park trees (apricot, elm and horse chestnut) approved as the first listings on the register.
- The Adaptive Snow Sports Chalet on Mount Spokane was completed in 2001 by Boy Scout Bryceson Tenold for his Eagle Scout Project. Now, Capt. Bryceson Tenold USMC returned to Spokane to formally dedicate the facility on January 2, 2010. City of Spokane Park Board member Larry Stanley was present at the ceremony to receive the key. Special thanks to Councilman Corker for being the Masters of Ceremony for the event and retired Parks employee Hal McGlathery for his efforts in helping organize the event.
- We have taken delivery of 176,000 brand new, redesigned City parks maps. Initial distribution has been to Library branches, the Convention and Visitors Bureau, GSI, City Hall racks and department events.
- The moonlight snowshoe and cross country ski dinners have been incredibly popular amongst the locals filling at 100% of capacity.
- Parks and Recreation Staff Standout. Carl Strong, Recreation Supervisor II, Aquatics, Sports & Facilities, has done a commendable job developing a new field allocation and policy process for the Dwight Merkel Complex, the Southside Soccer Complex and the Franklin Park Softball Complex. This has included lively meetings with user groups, a presentation to the Park Board, and thorough research.

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

- First Night Celebration was well attended and positively affected revenue for Ice Palace, Carrousel and food service.
- Riverfront Park experienced a record holiday break due to unseasonably nice weather and a \$10 package offered including skate admission and rental, IMAX's 35 minute feature "The Light Before Christmas", minigolf and a Carrousel ride. Over 1500 of these packages were sold. Hockey rentals also kept everyone busy. Revenue unofficially was \$187,000 compared to \$109,067 in 2007. Devastating weather was reflected in the \$86,441 in 2008.
- Corbin Art Center's winter quarter began Monday, January 18 including four new Corbin Kids "No School Today Camps" for ages 6-11 with a total of 57 registrations on January 18 & 19.
- The Spokesman-Review featured an article on the Heritage Tree Register and the three Pioneer Park trees (apricot, elm and horse chestnut) approved as the first listings on the register.
- The new Progressive Cross Country Ski Program has filled at 100% of attendance. The participants will work on skills sets and techniques in this 4 part class on Saturdays at Mr. Spokane Selkirk Nordic Area.
- The moonlight snowshoe and cross country ski dinners have been incredibly popular amongst the locals filling at 100% of capacity. Although, who wouldn't want to go on a moonlight snowshoe hike through the woods at Mt. Spokane followed up by a great Italian dinner.
- East Central Community Centers speaker Sr. Stephen Setter, a geriatric pharmacist and diabetes educator, spoke about "Medication Do's and Don'ts" on January 28.
- The Adaptive Snow Sports Chalet on Mount Spokane was completed in 2001 by Boy Scout Bryceson Tenold for his Eagle Scout Project. Now, Capt. Bryceson Tenold USMC returned to Spokane to formally dedicate the facility on January 2, 2010. City of Spokane Park Board member Larry Stanley was present at the ceremony to receive the key.

### **Golf/Administration:**

- Report not available.

### **Finance:**

- Report not available.

### **Marketing/Communications:**

- Ten releases including: Bosch Lot Deadline for Letters of Interest; Carrousel Closure for Maintenance; Sign up for River Run; Group Health Cooperative Sponsors Free Skate Rental; Heritage Tree Ordinance Approved; Pioneer Park has First Three Designated Heritage Trees; Prescription Do's and Don'ts – East Central Community Center Program for Seniors; Zumba Classes – Ditch the Workout and Join the Party; Recruiting for Aquatics Positions; Carrousel Closed until March 2 for Routine Maintenance.
- The department maintains four web sites which are all involved in the redesign project. Parks and Recreation, live December 1, 2009, [www.spokaneparks.org](http://www.spokaneparks.org); Riverfront Park, planned to go live February 19, [www.spokaneriverfrontpark.com](http://www.spokaneriverfrontpark.com); Golf, planned to go live February 19, [www.spokanegolf.org](http://www.spokanegolf.org); Urban Forestry, live as of November 18 2009, [www.spokaneurbanforestry.com](http://www.spokaneurbanforestry.com). Users seeing Riverfront Park information and Golf information are still directed to the original sites while we complete the redesign and implementation. We continue to work diligently to get the remaining redesigned website live.
- We are developing a new production schedule for the year and a featured program listing for the “Walk in the Park” program which airs monthly on City Cable Channel 5. The first program of the new year will feature the Centennial Trail upgrade projects.
- We have taken delivery of 176,000 brand new, redesigned City parks maps. Initial distribution has been to Library branches, the Convention and Visitors Bureau, GSI, City Hall racks and department events.
- Magner Sanborn is working on the design for our Annual Report to be delivered to Park Board members at the regular February 11<sup>th</sup> meeting.
- Magner Sanborn has successfully placed our Urban Forestry PSA's on local cable TV channels and radio stations. The PSA's are also running on City Cable Channel 5.
- In addition to the year long digital advertising at various strategic locations in Spokane International Airport we have purchased a half dozen 23 inch “digital frames” and will be using them seasonally at a variety of locations including aquatic centers, trade shows, public presentations and reception desks in City Hall and Park Operation to promote the various programs and services provided by Parks and Recreation.
- A request for letters of interest in the Bosch Lot was issued with a news release on November 16, 2009, a paid ad in the Journal of Business December 10, 2009 and January 6, 2010 issues, and a request to Greater Spokane Incorporated and Downtown Partnership to provide information of a call of Letters of Interest to their memberships. The news release was emailed to various government agencies, businesses and members of the Upper Columbia United Tribes including: the Coeur d'Alene Tribe, the Colville Confederated Tribes, the Kalispel Tribe, the Kootenai Tribe and the Spokane Tribe.

### **Park Operations:**

- Staff started taking reservations at the first of the year for events held in parks. There always seems to be an initial onslaught of those wanting a particular date and location. Our parks continue to be a popular venue for a large variety of private and public events.
- Discussions on Cannon Hill Park pond have continued along with design work and geotechnical exploration. Engineering Services is developing a way to bring purified stormwater into the pond and Parks is looking at alternatives for stopping the leakage from the pond. The goals are water conservations and the elimination of some stormwater from the wastewater treatment system.
- The South Perry Street farmer's market is looking for a new home. There have been several discussions about use of Grant Park and adjacent parking areas. The preferred location at this point is commercial property along Perry Street, which has better visibility from traffic on the arterial.
- Staff has had discussions with the Downtown Spokane Partnership and City Council staff about use of some leftover LID money that had been earmarked for street tree care in the central business district. The needs are far greater than the funding available but the money should be used to some advantage for the trees in this area. There will be additional meetings to determine an appropriate use of the money.

- Urban Forestry staff has presented some suggested ordinance changes to Park Board and City Council for their approval. The changes offer a workable solution to the licensing of individuals who perform work on trees located in the street right of way.
- Staff met with a consulting firm who surveyed various Park Department buildings for possible energy conservation improvements. The focus was on lighting, heating and air conditioning issues.
- The company who has provided security system and fire alarm monitoring at numerous Park facilities had a recent change of ownership. Staff has been working on getting the existing contract for services reassigned.
- There has been recent effort to close out contracts for last year's splash pad construction. The contractor will still be responsible for starting up the splash pads at the beginning of the season and warranty coverage will still be in effect.
- January is a busy month for getting staff scheduled and registered for training seminars and conferences. In most cases, there are continuing education requirements for renewing various job related licenses and certifications.
- Paperwork has been completed for filling a vacant Equipment Operator position. The position is open due to a retirement last November and will be desperately needed by the time spring arrives.

**Planning/Project Management:**

- Parks needs to demolish structures on property inherited from Mr. Baker along Rim Rock Road north to Houston Road. Structures on the property include a residence with attached garage, extensive concrete paving, two well houses, an unfinished storage barn and piles of construction materials.
- Original estimates for demolition were \$9,000. To offset that cost we are working with Fire Chief Nick Scarff to destroy the structures during a fire suppression exercise when conditions are right leaving as little mess as possible. An estimate is being obtained for cleanup of any remaining mess.
- Once the site is stripped Parks will import light soil and plant it with native grass to prevent erosion damage. Trees and native cover will be protected during this process and restored if any long term damage occurs.