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REMOVAL OF FORMER YMCA BUILDING & RESTORATION OF RIVERFRONT PARK SITE RIGHT ON SCHEDULE

The former YMCA building, which was built in 1965, is located on a nearly 40,000-square-foot site with 227 feet of frontage along the south bank of the Spokane River.

What is the current status of the project?

Considerable work has been underway the past few months to secure the necessary permits, review proposals and award the contract to allow demolition of the building.

Specifically, when will demolition begin?

At a Special Meeting held January 31, 2011, the Spokane Park Board approved a demolition contract with Rob's Demolition Incorporated for \$574,700 plus tax.

What happens next?

Here is the timeframe: The State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) comment period ends February 2, 2011. It is anticipated the demolition permit will be in hand by Friday February 4th. At this point we are looking at a Notice to Proceed for Rob's Demolition on Thursday, February 10th.

How long will it take to bring the building to the ground?

By contract, Rob's has 75 days to complete the demolition.

What happens after that?

Work is currently underway on the restoration design and that project will be bid in the near future. The hope is to have restoration begin immediately after demolition ends and to have that completed by the end of the summer/early fall.

Was there a grant that the Department was going to pursue regarding the demolition and what was the final outcome there?

Parks and Recreation applied for an Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account (ALEA) grant and had received word that the Department's proposal ranked 2nd and would be funded in 2011 with an award of \$1 million for acquisition of the former YMCA. Unfortunately that entire funding source was pulled from the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) and put into the State's general fund by the Governor because of state budget woes.

About Spokane Parks and Recreation

City of Spokane Parks and Recreation is responsible for the professional management and prudent caretaking of more than 4,100 acres of developed parks and conservation land. The Golf Division maintains and operates four championship municipal golf courses, including Indian Canyon, Downriver, Esmeralda and the Creek at Qualchan. Park Operations has responsibility for the maintenance of all park land and park facilities in the City of Spokane including Riverfront Park, Manito Park, Gaiser Conservatory, the many city-wide gardens, and Finch Arboretum. Urban Forestry staff manages 50,000 street trees and another 28,000 trees on developed park land within the City of Spokane. The Recreation/Entertainment Division offers classes, special events, athletic leagues and activities for youth, teens, adults, seniors and persons with physical and mental disabilities. It also operates Riverfront Park attractions, activities and events, and provides support for community centers, senior centers, the Northeast Youth Center, Corbin Art Center and outdoor swimming pools. For more information please visit www.spokaneparks.org

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