

SPOKANE PARK BOARD

Regular Monthly Meeting – 1:30 P.M. – August 11, 2011 – City Council Chambers

Minutes

1. Roll Call: *Jacki Faught*

Present: Ross Kelley, Jim Quigley, Gary Lawton, Jim Santorsola, Randy Cameron, Susan Traver, Chris Wright, Ken Van Voorhis, Bob Apple (1:53 p.m.)

Absent Excused: Martha Lou Wheatley Billeter

Staff Present: Leroy Eadie, Jacki Faught, Nancy Goodspeed, Angel Spell, Mike Aho, Johnna Woodruff, Garrett Jones, Pamela McKinzie, Craig Butz, Tony Madunich, Rebecca Madany, Taylor Bressler, Debby Dodson and Carl Strong

2. **Motion No. 1:** Gary Lawton motioned to approve the minutes of the July 14, 2011 Regular Park Board meeting, notes of the July 14, 2011 Study Session, and minutes of the August 1, 2011 Special Meeting.

Ken Van Voorhis seconded.

Motion carried.

3. Additions or deletions to the agenda: None

4. **Monthly Highlights:** *Ross Kelley, President*

- A. All four City Courses are offering \$15 greens fees for 18 holes and \$22 golf cart rental for selected tee times.
- B. The 2011 Spokane City Championship Golf Tournament will be held August 26 – 28 at Esmeralda, Downriver & The Creek at Qualchan respectively.
- C. Parks and Recreation is asking for input via a survey on the Parks and Recreation homepage in developing a Master Plan for Riverfront Park.
- D. The Johnny Depp Classic, "Pirates of the Caribbean – On Stranger Tides" is showing through Labor Day in the Riverfront Park IMAX Theatre.
- E. Produce raised in the Earth Turners Community Garden in Peaceful Valley is being sold at the Farmers' Market with proceeds going back to the Earth Turners program and a portion of the harvest being donated to the Second Harvest Food Bank.
- F. The volunteer support group for the John A. Finch Arboretum and is looking for additional members. The next meeting is August 23, 4:00 p.m. at the Arboretum.
- G. The Friends of Manito annual fall plant sale is Saturday, August 27th, 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
- H. The first annual Dwight Dash is Saturday, August 27th, at the Dwight Merkel Sports Complex.
- I. The 2011 swim season ends August 27th. Splash pads will remain open 10:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m. through September 5th.
- J. The "Win Big" campaign began August 8th. See the Parks and Recreation website or Facebook pages for details.

5. **VISITORS:**

A. Friends of Manito Update: A brief update was given by Eberhard Schmidt, TFM President; Lee McLeron, TFM Fundraising Chair. The Friends of Manito Plant Sale is on Saturday, August

27th. An informal discussion on plants to be sold is scheduled for August 20th in the Manito Meeting Room. TFM is looking forward to the completion of the south picnic shelter built with their donation of \$50K. Not many donations have been received for the Mirror Pond Renovation. The plaques are finished and up in the Manito Meeting Room. The turtle name plaques are completed. The committee is preparing for a major campaign this fall. They have prepared two PowerPoint presentations, have lined up speakers and are researching grants.

6. **Motion No. 2:** Randy Cameron motioned to approve claims for the month of July 2011 in the amount of \$2,000,238.68
Jim Quigley seconded.
Motion carried.

7. Financial Report – *Rebecca Madany*
A. The Park Fund continues to lag with revenue at 86% of year to date budget. Expenditures are at 92% of year to date budget. The Park Fund within our year to date budget due to expenditure savings.
B. The Golf Fund is at 88% of revenue targets. Expenditures are at 72% of year to date budget. Golf has been able to cover revenue shortfalls with expenditure savings.

8. **SPECIAL DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS:** None.

9. **FOUNDATION REPORT** – None

10. **COMMITTEE REPORTS** – Park Board Action Items

FINANCE COMMITTEE – August 9, 2011, *Randy Cameron*

- A. **Motion No. 3:** Randy Cameron motioned to approve the Resolution in Support of Stormwater Fee for Urban Forestry as presented.
Ken Van Voorhis seconded.
Chris Wright advised that there is plenty of evidence that a healthy urban forest is critical to a healthy storm water system.
Leroy Eadie stated that an affirmative Park Board vote would indicate that they resolve to support the fee for Urban Forestry. The ultimate decision is made by the City Council. City Legal has confirmed that this fee is legal. The proposed fee is \$0.25 per parcel. If approved the fee would bring in about \$200,000 to Urban Forestry for the 2012 budget.
Motion carried.
- B. **Motion No. 4:** Randy Cameron motioned to approve \$40,000.00, including tax, increase to Value Blanket 300168 with Sysco Food Services for Food items and concession supplies provided to Riverfront Park Food Services.
Jim Quigley seconded.
Motion carried.
- C. A 2007 Park Bond Finance Report was submitted & reviewed.
- D. A former YMCA Project Financial Report was submitted and reviewed.
- E. The Monthly Financial Report was submitted and reviewed.
- F. Concern was expressed regarding 2012 Budget funding for senior and youth centers.

GOLF COMMITTEE – July 20, 2011 – *Gary Lawton*

- A. The Committee received an update on the Indian Canyon Driving Range from Jim Harakas and Bill Peacock. Ross Kelley requested the Golf Committee minutes reflect

"The drain system recommended by GeoEngineering in their report of July 2007 was constructed by the Wastewater department in 2007."

- B. Discussion was had on Golf Division Bonding Options. Ellen Dolan, City Treasurer, advised that it would be premature for Golf to bond at this time.
- C. An update was given on the Bank Stabilization Project at The Creek at Qualchan.

LAND COMMITTEE – August 3, 2011 – *Jim Santorsola*

- A. Cannon Hill Pond was discussed with a presentation given by Len Zickler, AHBL; David Nelson, Land Expression; Marcia Davis, City of Spokane.
- B. Stormwater Management Project Proposal at Nevada Park and Harmon-Shipley Park was discussed with a presentation given by Lars Hendron & Bill Peacock, City of Spokane Stormwater Management.

RECREATION COMMITTEE – August 4, 2011 – *Chris Wright*

- A. **Motion No. 5:** Chris Wright motioned to accept the Riverfront Park Ice Resurfacer Bid of \$108,585.87.
Bob Apple seconded.
Speaking to the motion.
Jim Santorsola inquired about the amount of revenue the Ice Palace generates.
Debby Dodson advised that Ice Palace revenue for the 2010 season was over \$300,000 for an overall profit of \$100,000. In the past ten years revenue averaged between \$150,000 - \$200,000. The last resurfacer was used for 34 years.
Ken Van Voorhis asked for clarification on the difference in the ease of operation between the two we received bids for as we are asking for the more expensive Olympia over the less expensive Zamboni.
Debby Dodson advised the Olympia is a lot more automated. It has finger touch controls where the Zamboni is more manually operated where the operators have to gauge where the blade is cutting. The Olympia senses where the ice is cut. We have a tremendous number of seasonal employees at the Ice Palace with only one or two permanents. Zamboni could not get the machine to us until April, May or June of 2012 while Binmark can get the Olympia to us by the beginning of the season or Thanksgiving so we could use it for the upcoming season. The current Zamboni needs at least \$2,000 worth of work to get us through the season.
Ken Van Voorhis asked what the Arena is using.
Debby Dodson stated the Arena has an Olympia and is very satisfied with it. They let our staff operate it to see how it worked.
Susan Traver asked if there could be cooperation between us and the Arena if one of the machines breaks down.
Debby Dodson said that there was a problem in getting their larger machine onto our rink than can be fixed. We are getting a little smaller blade than what they have but there is the possibility of changing out the blade. We have a lot of support from the Arena.
Jim Santorsola asked about servicing the machine.
Debby Dodson advised that the Olympia is easier to service than the Zamboni. Zamboni is more proprietary. The Olympia has "off the shelf" parts and we don't have to go through them for parts. The Arena has theirs serviced right across the street from them and we would likely do that as well. The warranty is a two year bumper to bumper warranty.
Motion carried.

- B. **Motion No. 6:** Chris Wright motioned to approve the purchase of the Riverfront Park Ice Resurfacer
Bob Apple seconded.
Motion carried.
- C. Discussion was had regarding the Athletic Field Allocation Policy & Pricing changes. Additional information will be provided at the Park Board Study Session August 11, 2011.
- D. Bonnie McDade of the Southside Senior Activity Center gave a presentation about what the center does.
- E. A general discussion was had regarding the Community/Senior/Youth Center Funding. The committee requested staff to provide the last 10 years of funding data.

RIVERFRONT PARK COMMITTEE – August 1, 2011 – *Jim Quigley*

- A. **Motion No. 7:** Jim Quigley motioned to approve the 2012 Riverfront Park Admission Prices as presented.
Gary Lawton seconded.
Motion carried with Jim Santorsola abstaining.
- B. There was discussion regarding an increase for Sysco Foods Concessions Value blanket. The increase is due to Parks providing more food concessions at more locations than ever before
- C. Discussion was had regarding the purchase of an Ice Resurfacer.
- D. Discussion was had clarifying the timing of the demolition and restoration project for the YMCA property.

URBAN FORESTRY TREE COMMITTEE – July 5, 2011 - *Ken Van Voorhis*

- A. **Motion No. 8:** Ken Van Voorhis motioned to approve the purchase of Kubota SVL75WC Compact Track Loader or equivalent with Fleet Services negotiation of best price, product and vendor with estimated cost not to exceed \$52,000, including tax.
Gary Lawton seconded.

Speaking to the motion:

Bob Apple stated that this was rejected at the last three Park Board meetings. He advised that he had asked how many specific larger trees has Parks staff planted or removed on Parks land and the information has not yet been provided to him.

Ken Van Voorhis stated that this topic was part of the discussion items at the Urban Forestry Committee meeting. In sprint there were 48 trees planted, year to date 171 trees were removed on Parks property for a balance of 219 trees.

Bob Apple said that this was different than the long report he had received twice that he did not believe answered his question.

Susan Traver asked for clarification on if this has been turned down twice by Park Board. She believes that last time there wasn't a quorum of Park Board members voting affirmative due to abstentions by three Park Board members.

Leroy Eadie agreed. Last month the Board voted to approve. Unfortunately by the existing Park Board Rules six affirmative votes are needed to pass an item. The item received the majority of the votes however there were not six affirmative votes.

Susan Traver stated that therefore it was not "turn down", or a negative vote. The Board did not make a quorum according to the rules.

Ken Van Voorhis noted that he sees that he sees these trees being part of the Parks Department as written in the City Charter. No matter how strong the wording is, or how

you want to interpret it, the trees are a part of our department and this piece of equipment, just like any other piece of equipment, whether it be for mowing lawns or maintaining pools, is a requirement or a need that this Parks Department has. He has to respect staff when they come to the Board for a piece of equipment and they have done their diligence and looked through things and decide this is the one they need. Staff has done it more than one time and has really been wrung through the wringers and the Board has to respect that and comply with that in order to fulfill our mission. He believes that Urban Forestry is one of the missions that this department is responsible for whether it be on Park land or on city streets. He asks that when Board members are considering this request to consider it as a tool as you would provide lawn mowers. We need a piece of equipment that can handle these trees to take care of and manage our Urban Forest as we have been mandated in our charter.

Randy Cameron asked if the Urban Forestry Tree Committee if Angel had not also stated that there was an opportunity for cost recovery by perhaps using the equipment with the operator we have on staff to outsource to another department.

Ken Van Voorhis indicated that it is his understanding that there is opportunity for interdepartmental relationship where the equipment, if used properly for our Urban Forest can be used in conjunction with other departments. He acknowledges that there is concern as to if those trees are our responsibility but in essence we are still needing a piece of equipment.

Randy Cameron noted that he was looking at the opportunity to compete for contracts from other departments that contract out. He sees that as a positive. We do need it for the reasons Ken stated and for a revenue opportunity.

Bob Apple said thank you for the numbers that Ken provided to him but the reason for asking for the numbers was to see if it was financially desirable to buy the equipment or if we would be better off to lease, use similar equipment that the City might have in other departments, or to contract out this particular work like the Street Department does and he hasn't received any numbers to indicate to him that this isn't the absolute worst solution

Chris Wright stated that he thinks that those numbers regarding rental costs and the like were provided. He would like to say he also shared Mr. Apple's concern that they weren't getting any of the work available from other departments thereby possibly voiding the need for this purchase. In talking with staff about the availability of other equipment, coming to the understanding that Park Operations equipment is simply too big for this kind of job, he now realizes that Urban Forestry needs a smaller piece of equipment. Urban Forestry has investigated all the other possible avenues. Chris is satisfied the Department has done it's homework.

Jim Santorsola noted that those at the Urban Forestry meeting heard him be quite vocal. In a conversation with Ross Kelley after that meeting he realized he was mistaken in thinking the conversation was about logging trees in the woods as opposed to working in a canopy of trees that are only about 8 feet above the ground. He believes that Park Operations has never denied Urban Forestry the use of their equipment. He acknowledges that at times Park Operations equipment may be too big and asks why we don't coordinate all the jobs needing smaller equipment, rent the equipment and get all the jobs done at the same time. He feels that before we purchase the equipment Urban Forestry needs to get together with Park Operations and plan better. He does not believe it is necessary to purchase this piece of equipment.

Jim Quigley noted that he is kind of conservative when it comes to finances. He is not against Urban Forestry or any of the proponents of it. He is against expanding a

program when we are in real dire financial straights without taking on any more load. Park Board has a fiduciary responsibility to the citizens of Spokane he feels that this is not the time to do this and will vote no.

Motion carried with 6 yes votes with Board President Ross Kelley's as the deciding vote. The 3 no votes were Jim Santorsola, Jim Quigley, and Councilman Apple.

Jim Santorsola stated he believed the President may only vote in the event of a tie.

Ross Kelley advised that if the President is a member of the assembly he may vote in any issue where his vote may help decide the issue. This item needed 6 yes votes in order to pass.

- B. Staff and the Citizen Advisory Committee are working together to solicit comments on the Approved Street Tree List.
- C. Partnership with The Lands Council has been formalized with a signed MOU.
- D. The Committee is interested in organizing an Urban Forest Tree Tour for the Park Board members.

11. **REPORTS**

- A. Park Board President –
 - 1. A new Park Board member was appointed by City Council last week. Another new member will be appointed at the upcoming City Council meeting. Both new members will be sworn in at the next Park Board Meeting.
- B. Park Board Members –
 - 1. North Bank Liaison – None
 - 2. Downtown Transit Liaison – None
 - 3. Conservation Futures Liaison – None
 - 4. Parks Foundation Liaison – None
 - 5. Council Liaison – Councilman Bob Apple advised that the Hillyard Festival was held in Harmon Park last weekend. The group was dissatisfied that tables and chairs were not available as they were committed elsewhere. The community had many accolades for the pool and staff. The event went off fantastically.
- C. Director's Report
 - 1. Hopefully the Notice to Proceed on the YMCA project will be issued tomorrow. The contract is a 90 day contract however the contractor is hoping to have the work done in 60 days with the possibility of a ribbon cutting mid to late October.
 - 2. The Field Allocation Committee made up of representatives from the user groups will meet with staff August 25th at the Spokane Regional Sports Commission Offices.
 - 3. We are continuing to work with Kendall Yards and Greenstone Development on the location of the Centennial Trail. Construction west of Monroe is planned for this spring.
 - 4. We will meet with the Spokane Tribe again next week and are hoping to see a

draft ground lease.

5. Staff met with Mayor this week regarding vandalism. Mayor recognizes the issues we have had this year with vandalism. Staff does an excellent job of taking care of vandalism and graffiti which takes an enormous amount of their time.
6. The Chief Garry Monument is close to completion. Thank you to Taylor Bressler, Garrett Jones and Tony Madunich for the tremendous amount of work they have put into this project.

12. **Correspondence:** None

- A. Letters Received – None

13. **Public Comments:**

- A. Bonnie McDade, Executive Director, Southside Senior Activity Center, noted that many of their board members and staff, as well as board members and staff from several other centers, are present at today's meeting because they are interested in what the Park Board is doing with the budget. They would like to invite Park Board members to come up at any time for a tour of the building. She noted that the SSSAC mission statement is in line with Parks and Recreation mission statement. Statistics on the people the center serves as well as staff and volunteer numbers were outlined. She advised that the US Census Bureau says that by 2012 one third of the population will be over 65. Bonnie offered an overview of the value and definition of recreation as it relates to the senior population and the center's programs. The SSSAC has over 1,300 members with 10,000 plus community members that use the center each year. Bonnie will provide a copy of her presentation to Park Board.
- B. Alice Lacey, a member of the Corbin Senior Center, stated that she wants to impress on the Park Board how badly the centers need the subsidy of Parks and Recreation. They are a large segment of the population. Most are widows with grown children who have moved to other areas and friends they have had over the years who are dying off. They need social contact very badly and the centers are a wonderful way for them to have that social contact and to make new friends on their limited budgets. She lives on SSI alone, others have been able to save for retirement, most have a moderate retirement. Without the center many would have no contact with the outside world and some would not have a meal each day. The seniors need the Board's help and consideration when they are deciding the budget.
- C. David Griswold, member of the Hillyard community, stated he is sad that we are looking at the potential cutting back of senior funding. He inquired if Leroy Eadie was aware of the park benches in the east section of Park Operation on Stone. Mr. Eadie was not aware. Mr. Griswold stated he photographed them. He stated that they had the 100th anniversary of the Hillyard Festival and they were not able to get park benches. He expressed his disappointment that when they went into the east section of the complex that there were park benches sitting there. He thanked Parks and Recreation for their support of the festival. He expressed a thank you to Taylor Bressler for getting power into the park so that the event could be the success it is; thank you to Tony Madunich for getting the last minute light switch request fixed; and thanks to Leroy for the park benches. The only obstacles in resolving issues were the light switch and park benches but Hillyard will prevail, Hillyard will do the best possible job, and the 101st will be even better. They are looking for the funding from the electricians so they can do the final and third phase of the electrical going into the park. Councilman Apple requested a copy of the picture of the benches. Mr. Griswold stated that they waded through

knapweed to find the park benches at the Park Operations storage facility. Leroy Eadie stated he had spoken with Councilman Apple several months ago about the park benches. He spoke with both our Park Operations staff and Riverfront Park staff and according to staff we had no benches available. The park benches we have in Riverfront Park are for the shelters in Riverfront Park and are reserved for the events. Most of our shelters are reserved out all summer long. He shared this information with Councilman Apple that the benches were not available. The Board is well aware that we lost a lot of park benches and tables in a fire several years ago and we have not been able to replace them. He is not aware if the benches at Ops are broken or in for repair and will get that information.

14. Adjourn to Executive Session – None

15. **Adjournment:** 3:05 p.m.

A. Next Committee meeting dates:

Golf Committee: August 16, 2011, 7:00 a.m., Manito Park Meeting Room.

Riverfront Park Committee: August 29, 2011, 8:00 a.m., City Council Briefing Center

Land Committee: August 31, 2011, 3:30 p.m., City Hall Conference Room 5A

Recreation Committee: September 1, 2011, City Hall Conference Room 2B

Finance Committee: September 6, 2011, 3:00 p.m., City Hall Conference Room 5A

Urban Forestry Tree Committee: August 30, 2011, 4:15 p.m., Woodland Center, Finch Arboretum

B. Next Park Board meeting date: September 8, 2011, 1:30 p.m., City Council Chambers

Next Park Board Study Session: September 8, 2011, 3:00 p.m. or as soon as possible thereafter directly following the Regular Park Board meeting, City Hall Conference Room 5A