

SPOKANE PARK BOARD

Regular Monthly Meeting – 1:30 P.M. – July 14, 2011 – City Council Chambers

Minutes

1. Roll Call: *Jacki Faught*

Present: Ross Kelley, Martha Lou Wheatley Billeter, Jim Quigley, Jim Santorsola, Susan Traver, Chris Wright, Ken Van Voorhis, Councilman Bob Apple

Absent Excused: Gary Lawton, Randy Cameron

Staff Present: Leroy Eadie, Jacki Faught, Garrett Jones, Tony Madunich, Larry Moss, Craig Butz, Mike Aho, Debby Dodson, Rebecca Madany, Angel Spell, Nancy Goodspeed, Taylor Bressler, Al Vorderbrueggen, Scott Niemeier

2. **Motion No. 1:** Jim Santorsola motioned to approve the minutes of the June 9, 2011 Regular Park Board meeting, notes of the June 9, 2011 Study Session, and notes of the June 30, 2011 Park Board Float Trip Special Meeting.

Chris Wright seconded.

Motion carried.

3. Additions or deletions to the agenda: None

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

- A. The next summer parkways event is scheduled for Sunday, July 24th, from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. in the North Hill Neighborhood.
- B. A volunteer support group is being formed for the John A. Finch Arboretum and is in need of additional founding members. The next meeting is July 19, 4:30 p.m. at the Arboretum.
- C. Riverfront Park and KSPS Public Television are proud to present a free summer series of five different locally produced KSPS documentaries that highlight our region's unique and interesting history.
- D. The 24th Annual Rosauers Open Invitational is underway at Indian Canyon Golf Course running July 13-17. Over \$1.96 million has been donated to the Vanessa Behan Crisis Nursery since the tournament's inception.
- E. The Spokane City Championship takes place August 26-28 at Esmeralda, Downriver and Qualchan respectively. A dinner, including a band for entertainment, will be held on the deck at Downriver after Saturday's round.
- F. The "Win Big" promotion featuring all divisions in the department and utilizing Facebook postings will launch on August 8th.
- G. Detailed information on lessons, open swim, facilities rental and more for the six new aquatics centers can be found on the Parks website.
- H. 17 splash pads are available city-wide from 10:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m. seven days a week.

5. **VISITORS:**

A. Friends of Manito Update: Eberhard Schmidt, TFM President and Lee McLeron, TFM Fundraising Chair gave a brief update. The June 11, 2011 plant sale grossed about \$57,000 bringing the plant sale total for this year to around \$60,000. 2011 expenses are at \$30,000 so far. The next plant sale will be at the end of August. TFM has allocated \$50,000 to build the

south picnic shelter and the gate at the Japanese Gardens. They have donated about \$80,000 this year overall. Fundraising for the Mirror Pond has been quiet this month. The plaque in the shape of the pond has been finished as well as the copper turtles. There are 17 names to be engraved and there are 3 major donors that will get their names on the basalt columns. July 23 – 24 Ichibon International will hold a two day benefit exhibit demonstration at the Manito Meeting Room. The \$2 admission fee will be donated to benefit the Mirror Pond. TFM is working on fall donations and grants.

6. **Motion No. 2:** Susan Traver motioned to approve claims for the month of June 2011 in the amount of \$1,833,956.20.
Martha Lou Wheatley-Billeter seconded.
Motion carried.
7. Financial Report – *Rebecca Madany*
 - A. Park Fund revenue is at 85% of the year to date budget. Expenditures are at 93%.
 - B. Golf Fund revenue is at 73% of the year to date budget. Expenditures are at 84%.
 - C. Although expenditures have some savings we still need to work on expenditures to offset revenue shortfalls for both funds.
8. **SPECIAL DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS:**
 - A. None.
9. **FOUNDATION REPORT** – *Toni Nersesian, Executive Director*
 - A. Summer concerts in the parks are beginning in Coeur d’Alene, Audubon and Manito Parks.
 - B. The Dog Park is looking for docent. Contact SpokAnimal for information.
 - C. Over 2,800 swimsuits were given out this year. \$2,000 has been received for next year. The Foundation has partnered with the General Store to buy heavily discounted swimsuits.
 - D. Make a Splash is making their third donation for children’s swim passes.
 - E. 77 children have received swim lessons through the Make a Splash swim lesson pilot project. Aquatics staff has been phenomenal with many compliments received for the instructors. There is a possibility for more funding for lessons this year.
10. **COMMITTEE REPORTS** – Park Board Action Items
 - FINANCE COMMITTEE** – July 12, 2011, *Randy Cameron*
 - A. The Committee discussed Contract and Contract Change Approval processing procedures.
 - B. An Interfund charges worksheet was presented and discussed.
 - C. The Committee received an update on Fleet and Equipment.
 - D. An Indirect Cost Allocation and Cost Recovery PowerPoint presentation was given and discussion was had.
 - E. The Monthly Financial Report was provided and reviewed.
 - F. Interfund and Utility Financial reports were provided.
 - G. Finance Committee will now be held at 3:00 p.m. on its regular dates.
 - GOLF COMMITTEE** – June 15, 2011 – *Martha Lou Wheatley-Billeter*
 - A. The Committee received updates on the Indian Canyon Driving Range; the Rosauer’s

- Open Tournament which benefits the Vanessa Behan Crisis Nursery; and the City Championship Tournament which will be held August 26 – 28.
- B. Golf Financials for period ending May 31, 2011 were reviewed.

LAND COMMITTEE – July 6, 2011 – *Jim Santorsola*

- A. **Motion No. 3:** Susan Traver motioned to accept low bid of \$62,547.57 from Spokane Rock Products for repaving west parking lot at Franklin Park.
Martha Lou Wheatley-Billeter seconded.
Motion carried.
- B. **Motion No. 4:** Martha Lou Wheatley-Billeter motioned to accept low bid of \$63,290.58, including tax, from Adams Tractor for three (3) Kubota mowers.
Bob Apple seconded.
Motion carried with Chris Wright abstaining.
- C. **Motion No. 5:** Martha Lou Wheatley-Billeter motioned to approve naming the park at Stone & Desmet as "Stone Street Park".
Ken Van Voorhis seconded.
Motion carried.
- D. The Committee discussed the jurisdictional boundaries of the Land Committee and desire to more clearly establish their mission.

RECREATION COMMITTEE – July 7, 2011 – *Chris Wright*

- A. **Motion No. 6:** Chris Wright motioned to adopt the consolidated Sponsorship, Donations, Naming Recognition of Parks & Recreation Areas or Facilities Policy as presented.
Jim Quigley seconded.
Motion carried.
- B. **Motion No. 7:** Chris Wright motioned to rescind Memorials and Plaques in Parks and Recreation Areas Policy; Naming of Parks and Recreation Areas & Facilities Policy; and Sponsorship and partnership in Parks and Recreation Areas Policy approved by Park Board on September 10, 2009.
Jim Quigley seconded.
Motion carried.
- C. The Committee discussed the Community/Senior/Youth Center Funding and will be an item for the Study Session following the July 14th Park Board meeting.
- D. A Revenue and Expense report was received from Rebecca Madany.
- E. Mike Aho presented a survey regarding Recreational wants and needs.
- F. An update was received on Merkel Concessions.

RIVERFRONT PARK COMMITTEE – July 11, 2011 – *Jim Quigley*

- A. **Motion No. 7:** Jim Quigley motioned to approve Change Order No. 4 with Rob's Demolition, Inc.'s for the demolition of the former YMCA building to include removal of contaminated soil in the amount of \$8,509.62 including Washington State Sales Tax.
Martha Lou Wheatley-Billeter seconded.
Motion carried.
- B. There was a presentation on the Riverfront Park Master Plan process with three different plans being presented using the old plans as a baseline.
- C. Unofficially Riverfront Park revenue through June is up approximately \$40,000 over this time last year but under by about 1% to budget.
- D. Revenue for Merkel Concession is approximately \$50,000 with the proposed goal on the

Business Plan being \$110,000. There was discussion about allowing for beer sales at the youth functions at Merkel.

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

- A. **Motion No. 8:** Ken Van Voorhis motioned to approve 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. Martha Lou Wheatley-Billeter seconded.

Speaking to the motion:

Ken Van Voorhis noted that this is a piece of equipment that Urban Forestry needs to facilitate operations and fulfill its Mission Statement. We have over 78,000 trees and only have a small fleet to really manage those trees. Yet we have over 45 pieces of equipment to manage turf grass. To repeat what he said last month, this is really a maintenance issue and it's a needed component for the operation and mission of the Parks and Recreation system. He would like to encourage the Board to consider this. Chris Wright noted he would like to make an observation that this came before the Board last month and was taken back to Committee. He thinks that Angel Spell has put forth far more information to justify this expenditure than any staff has ever been requested to. He thinks she made a good case for it and he would support it. Susan Traver stated she would also like to add that staff was asked to drill down the costs of lease vs. rent vs. purchase and she is satisfied with the position of this motion.

Motion originally carried with Jim Quigley and Jim Santorsola abstaining and Bob Apple voting no. Subsequently during the meeting it was decided that the motion failed with not enough members voting yes to pass. 6 affirmative votes are needed to pass a motion.

Bob Apple stated that he has not seen anything on the numbers of trees planted and removed as requested and would like that information brought forward before this item comes before the Board again.

Jim Santorsola noted that his abstention was due to his feeling that there continue to be too many unanswered questions. He did not attend the Urban Forestry Committee meeting where the information was provided.

Susan Traver noted that all this information was included with in the attachments with both the Urban Forestry agenda and minutes that was distributed to the entire Board via email.

Angel Spell will redistribute the information.

- B. The Committee reviewed a draft MOU with the Lands Council.
C. The Urban Forestry Staff Report was provided and discussed.
D. Citizen Advisory Committee Report highlights included forming of a new subcommittee to update the Approved Street Tree List with a goal of finishing the list by January; forming of a new subcommittee to address issues regarding conservation properties within the Parks system; and incorporating the duties of a grant subcommittee into the Education and Volunteer Recruitment Subcommittee.

11. **REPORTS**

- A. Park Board President –
 - 1. None
- 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 – The 100th Annual Hillyard Festival will be held August 5-7.
- C. Director's Report -
 - 1. Leroy Eadie offered compliments to Rebecca Madany, Tony Madunich and the staff for running the department during his long vacation.
 - 2. Chief Garry Monument construction is underway.
 - 3. Staff met with Jim HARRAKAS of GeoEngineers regarding the Indian Canyon Driving Range and continue to move forward. He has also met with the County regarding the runoff from Assembly.
 - 4. The next meeting with the Spokane Tribe regarding the Bosch Lot is next Wednesday. We hope to be receiving the first draft of the ground lease.
 - 5. The Grant Park Community Garden dedication will be July 16th, 11:30 a.m.
 - 6. Mike Aho, center representatives and Leroy met regarding center funding alternatives with the point of the exercise of being open and inviting them to participate in the budget process.
 - 7. The July 4th event went very well. It's an amazing act for the Riverfront Park Staff to pull off that size of event. Special thanks to Duane Hille, Dale Larsen and the entire Riverfront Park Staff. It is also amazing how Casey Burke and her staff keep the park looking beautiful with the frequent large events during the summer.
 - 8. We continue to work with the National Guard on the YMCA project. The deadline for the restoration bid is July 25th.
 - 9. The Whitewater Park lost its funding from RCO. The current expenses will be covered by the RCO grant. We are meeting with the Friends of the Falls regarding them paying for a portion the EIS so that the project can move forward.
 - 10. Thank you to the Friends of the Falls and the Northwest Whitewater Association for the float trip on the river.
 - 11. Leroy has been working with Kendall Yards with regards to the Centennial Trail on their property. We have not yet met with them in regards to the Bosch Lot. The Spokane Tribe is interested in the Centennial Trail in the Bosch Lot area.

12. **Correspondence:**

- A. Letters Received – None

13. **Public Comments:**

- A. Bonnie McDade, Executive Director, Southside Senior Community Center, noted that a number of the members of their Board of Director's came to hear the Board's conversation on budget proposals for this year and extended an invitation to the Board to come to the Health & Wellness Fair at the Center tomorrow from 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
- B. Pam Almeida, Executive Director, Greater Spokane County Meals on Wheels, advised the Board that their organization serves meals throughout Spokane County and at all but of the Senior Centers except Mid City Concerns. She is here to advocate on behalf

of the seniors. She emphasized some of the benefits the seniors receive at the senior centers inclusive of meals, social interaction, combating social isolation, improving quality of life and health. Greater Spokane County Meals on Wheels has served over 13,000 meals to 644 people in January to June of this year.

- C. Patt Earley, Contracts and IT Manager, Area Agency on Aging & Longterm Care of Eastern Washington, the agency that receives the Federal funding that provides funding for the Greater Spokane County Meals and Wheels program. Patt provided the 2010 numbers for the five senior centers served by that program. In 2010, 1010 people were served 45,676 meals. She feels that this is an important figure for the Board to know as they contemplate budget proposals. The Centers are hubs of communities that exist and service community members regardless of their age to come together and give them an opportunity to get some of their needs met whether it be to have a nutritious meal or go to a health fair. She would like the Board to contemplate the definition of recreation and how it differs at different ages. Patt asked for a copy of the budget proposals. She asked why citizens will not have an opportunity to speak at the public Study Session following the Park Board meeting.
- D. Leroy Eadie advised there is no budget proposal at this point. We have not yet provided a staff budget to the Board for consideration for adoption in October. Staff has started internal conversations on looking at different alternatives. Division Managers were asked to begin looking at the budget. The two areas with the biggest challenges were Riverfront and Recreation. Managers were given a target number to look at initially for 2012. The alternatives the managers came back with were shared with the Centers a couple Fridays ago by Mike Aho and Leroy Eadie. We are very early in the process and are more than willing to share that information. The Park Board will have a Budget Study Session this afternoon. This is the beginning of the budget process. It will be very general, not getting into a lot of particulars with the numbers yet, however we wanted to make sure that the Centers knew of this process early. In regards to taking testimony at Study Sessions, its standard practice with all the committees and boards inside the City of Spokane that when a board, commission or Council is in Study Session that it is up to the chair if they are going to take public testimony or not. The reason why is that the Study Session is for the board, commission or Council to be able to prepare to bring items forward and the rules are written around a need for efficiency. There Board will have continued Study Session on the budget, there will be discussion at Finance Committee and once a budget proposal is developed and ready to present to the Board it will be posted on the webpage. Public testimony may be taken in September and will be taken in October. Mike Aho will provide the document from the meeting with the Centers to Patt.
- E. Hal McGlathery, 34 year retiree of the Parks and Recreation Department employee and 7 year and current board member of the Northeast Youth Center, advised that the feelings of staff is critical in the budget process and that is why there is alarm about the budget regarding senior and youth services. He expressed concern that alternatives presented by staff could be devastating to some of the centers. He is concerned that the view of the centers is that they are more social services rather than recreational activities. They do provide services other than social services. For seniors socializing is recreation. He gave an outline on history of the department's and Board's position on the centers and recreation.

15. **Adjournment:**

A. Next Committee meeting dates:

Golf Committee: July 20, 2011, 7:00 a.m., Manito Park Meeting Room.

Riverfront Park Committee: August 1, 2011, 8:00 a.m., City Council Briefing Center

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

Recreation Committee: August 4, 2011, City Hall Conference Room 2B

Finance Committee: August 9, 2011, 3:00 p.m., City Hall Conference Room 5A

Urban Forestry Committee: August 2, 2011, 3:00 p.m., Woodland Center, Finch Arboretum

B. Next Park Board meeting date: August 11, 2011, 1:30 p.m., City Council Chambers

Next Park Board Study Session: August 11, 2011, 3:00 p.m. or as soon as possible thereafter directly following the Regular Park Board meeting, City Hall Conference Room 5A