

SPOKANE PARK BOARD

Regular Monthly Meeting - 1:30 P.M. – May 12, 2011 – City Council Chambers

Minutes

1. Roll Call: *Jacki Faught*

Park Board Members present: Ross Kelley, Martha Lou Wheatley-Billeter, Randy Cameron, Gary Lawton, Jim Quigley, Jim Santorsola, Susan Traver, Ken Van Voorhis, Chris Wright, Bob Apple

Staff present: Leroy Eadie, Steve Nittolo, Rebecca Madany, Nancy Goodspeed, Mike Aho, Tony Madunich, Taylor Bressler, Craig Butz, Al Vorderbrueggen, Garret Jones, Carl Strong, Angel Spell

2. **Motion No. 1:** Gary Lawton motioned to approve the Minutes of the April 14, 2011 Regular Park Board meeting, April 14, 2011 Study Session Notes and May 2, 2011 Special Park Board Meeting.
Jim Quigley seconded.
Motion carried.

3. Additions or deletions to the agenda: None

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

- A. The Edwidge Woldson Park dedication will be held Friday, May 13, 2011, 2:00 p.m. in at the Corbin Art Center. Mayor Verner will be in attendance.
- B. The Carson Park dedication will be held on Saturday, May 21, 2011, 11:00 p.m. at the park located in the Dwight Merkel Sports Complex.
- C. Park Operations is busy getting the parks in shape for the summer season.
- D. The Riverfront Park Fountain is now open.
- E. Splash Pads will open the weekend of May 28 – 30.
- F. Aquatics Centers will open June 20.
- G. The current advertising campaign birthday parties rentals at the Aquatics Centers and Riverfront Park; Summer Day Passes at Riverfront Park; Riverfront Park Friday Fun Night; IMAX features; and tennis camps beginning on June 20.
- H. The Washington Parks and Recreation Association Spotlight Award for Best Sports Complex was awarded to the Dwight Merkel Sports Complex.
- I. The first BMX race was held at the Dwight Merkel Sports Complex on May 8th. The BMX track will open for public use on June 1st.

5. **VISITORS:**

- A. **Friends of Manito Update:** Steve Nittolo, Horticulture Supervisor and Lee McLeron, The Friends of Manito Fundraising Chair for the Mirror Pond Renovation Fundraising Campaign provided a brief history and update on the campaign. In 2007 The Friends of Manito donated \$50,000 for the creation of a renovation plan for the Mirror Pond. David Evans and Associates was hired. A four phase plan was drafted. The current fundraising focus is for Phase I of the plan with costs at \$308,000. Phase I is "to make a muddy pond a thing of beauty" by improving water quality, water conservation and beautification of the pond. Other aspects of the overall plan includes ADA compliant

paths, shoreline improvements ~ rock held back by wire baskets, additional plant life in the water, an underground vault for equipment that will add oxygen to the water and control chlorine content, and waterfalls on both the north and south sides of the pond. Recognition will be given to donors of more than \$100 will be given on either a monument located near the pond or on a plaque in the Manito Meeting Room dependent upon the size of the donation. Volunteer hours and donations will be used as matching funds for major grants. A speaker's bureau is being formed. Leroy Eadie said he is very excited about this project and volunteered to be on the speaker's bureau.

6. **Motion No. 2:** Randy Cameron motioned to approve claims for the month of April 2011 in the amount of \$1,290,451.62.

7. Financial Report – *Rebecca Madany*

- A. Park Fund revenue is at 80% and expenditures are at 113%. Revenue has recovered slightly although it was still impacted by the weather. Expenditures are high due to the \$1.3M from the park Cumulative Reserve that was transferred for the YMCA demolition. Without this transfer expenditures would be at 93%.
- B. Golf Fund revenue is at 75% and expenditures are at 118%. Expenditures are high as golf got a early start on capital equipment purchases. Weather has affected revenues.

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

A.

9. **FOUNDATION REPORT** – *Toni Nersesian, Executive Director*

- A. The Foundation Board has approved grant and scholarship applications for 2011.
- B. Over 2,000 swimsuits have been collected.
- C. The Foundation is in need of donations for swim lessons.
- D. The Salvation Army will be qualifying all Make a Splash passes for the Foundation.
- E. The second orientation for the Dog Park etiquette will be Saturday, May 21st at the Dog Park.

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

FINANCE COMMITTEE – May 10, 2011, *Randy Cameron*

- A. **Motion No. 3:** Randy Cameron motioned to approve Change Order #3 with Rob's Demolition, Inc.'s original contract for the demolition of the former YMCA Building to include additional asbestos work in the amount of \$21,769.21 plus sales tax with a new contract amount of \$616,619.21 plus sales tax.
Martha Lou Wheatley-Billeter seconded.
Motion carried.
- B. **Motion No. 4:** Randy Cameron motioned to approve Change Order #4 with Schimmels Construction Company for the Spokane Youth Baseball Fields project to provide grading and lawn between the field and pool and correct drainage at Liberty Park; relocate the fence along the west property line at Merkel; and install gates, provided by Parks, at Merkel in the amount of \$53,955.00 plus sales tax with a new contract amount of \$1,813,701.00 plus sales tax and new completion date of June 1, 2011.
Jim Quigley seconded.

- Motion carried.
- C. **Motion No. 5:** Randy Cameron motioned to approve Emergency Budget Ordinance for DNR grant for Riverwalk Park in Peaceful Valley in the amount of \$20,000.00.
Bob Apple seconded.
Motion carried.
- D. **Motion No. 6:** Randy Cameron motioned to approve the Emergency Budget Ordinance for FEMA Additional Project at Qualchan Golf Course in the amount of \$357,000.00.
Martha Lou Wheatley-Billeter seconded.
Motion carried.
Bob Apple noted that the City Council has already approved this EBO.
- E. **Motion No. 7:** Randy Cameron motioned to approve the adoption of 2012 Budget Guidelines.
Susan Traver seconded.
Speaking to the motion:
Bob Apple expressed his concerns that the Urban Forestry bullet point should be vetted with the public as this has been a change within the City structure.
Randy Cameron advised that it was discussed at the Finance Committee meeting that there are challenges, there is a need for input from the public, Public Works, City Council and the Mayor.
Ross Kelley advised that there are other items that will need public input.
Chris Wright proposed to amend the last item as he is concerned that we need to get this adopted before summer and we need to know where the Board's sentiments lie.
Motion No. 8: Chris Wright motioned to amend the last item in the Budget Guidelines to read "Increase funding of Urban Forestry to a sustainable level as stated in the Roadmap to the Future".
Susan Traver seconded.
Speaking to Motion No. 8:
Bob Apple expressed concern that Urban Forestry is one time money.
Chris Wright stated that he respectfully disagrees with Mr. Apple. He agrees that we do need to find money for Urban Forestry. Park of the mission for staff is to identify sources for funding Urban Forestry over the summer. The Board needs to leave it to staff and see what they come up with over the summer when they come back to the Board in the fall. If they can't find funding then they can't find it, however they ought to know where the Board sits on if they want to increase it or maintain the status quo.
Randy Cameron commented on bullets #2, "Balance budget without dipping into reserves", & #3, "Use one-time revenues only for one-time expenses", as they relate to the final bullet point. The spirit of the final bullet is not asking staff to work within the original budget as it breaks out into the different departments. We have a certain amount of revenue and expenditures but see where this fits in the 2012 budget and where money can be allotted to Urban Forestry. Urban Forestry belongs at the table as a full member of Parks and Recreation and not as an additional item that we will try to fund if we have extra money.
Bob Apple stated the specific increase requested for Urban Forestry might bump it in priority above some other things that he sees as more important bothers him. He sees this bullet point mandating an increase.
Susan Traver advised that guidelines are not mandates. Guidelines are for the staff to understand the Park Board's emphasis and directions where Park Board wants staff to pursue.

Jim Quigley stated he thinks the original wording is well written. He agrees with Mr. Apple and does not see that we have any money, however, if we find money then fine, if we don't then we shouldn't include it.

Susan Traver stated that we don't "find" money but that the inclusion of Urban Forestry is a deliberative process and it is a part of the mission of Park Board.

Martha Lou Wheatley-Billeter stated she supports Susan's comment and is ready to vote.

Jim Santorsola stated that what bothers him about the whole thing is us not knowing what we are not doing with the current Urban Forestry program. Not all the information is on the table.

Ken Van Voorhis advised he disagrees with Jim Santorsola. Urban Forestry is mandated under the charter whether the definition of Urban Forestry is there. It is not a simple. It is not a one time component. It is changing and evolving function and an important part of the Parks Department.

Randy Cameron, stated that with all due respect to Mr. Santorsola, Chris Wright and Susan Traver have educated him along with last month's workshop that highlighted the history of Urban Forestry. He came away with more knowledge and more questions and with a feeling that we have a responsibility to our Urban Forest that has been neglected for decades.

Motion No. 8 carried with Bob Apple and Jim Santorsola voting no.

Motion No 7 carried unanimously.

- F. The committee also received and reviewed the Park Cumulative Reserve Fund Balance Report, Monthly Financial Report, and Interfund and utility Financial Report.

GOLF COMMITTEE – April 19, 2011 – *Martha Lou Wheatley-Billeter*

- A. The Long Term Golf Capital and Maintenance Projects were discussed.
- B. There was an update regarding Indian Canyon Golf Course's Driving Range.
- C. The Golf Financials for End 2010 and Period Ending March 31, 2011 were reviewed.
- D. An update was given on Indian Canyon hooking up to the City's water system.
- E. Several Park Board members suggested the Indian Canyon Driving Range become a standing item on the Committee's Agenda.

LAND COMMITTEE – May 4, 2011 – *Jim Santorsola*

- A. **Motion No. 9:** Gary Lawton motioned to approve the tribute to Jerry Talley in Peaceful Valley Park.
Susan Traver seconded.
Motion carried.
- B. **Motion No. 10:** Jim Quigley motioned to approve the request for HBPA beer garden for the Hispanic Heritage Festival in Harmon Sharpley Park contingent upon meeting all requirements and a \$100 alcohol use fee be charged.
Bob Apple seconded.
Speaking to the motion:
Randy Cameron asked to clarify the procedure. After the initial event then any additional events will come through Land Committee to the Board.
Leroy Eadie stated that it is a Park Board Policy to approve the first Neighborhood run event with alcohol will following events approved at Park Board in order to give an opportunity for public input.
Randy Cameron hopes that there are more events in our parks.

Bob Apple noted that both events were held last year in Harmon Park.

Motion carried.

- C. **Motion No. 11:** Chris Wright motioned to approve the two Fairmont Cemetery/Dwight Merkel Easements.
Susan Traver seconded.
Motion carried.

RECREATION COMMITTEE – May 5, 2011 – *Chris Wright*

- A. **Motion No. 12:** Chris Wright motioned to approve the purchase of equipment from Western Equipment & Irrigation in the amount of \$116,183.73 including Washington State Sales Tax.
Susan Traver seconded.
Jim Santorsola asked if this is being bought for Merkel is it being bought with bond money.
Leroy Eadie advised we are using bond funds for the purchase.
Ross Kelley stated that the equipment can be used at baseball fields.
Jim Santorsola asked if the equipment can only be used on bond project fields.
Leroy Eadie said that we are not restricted to where we use the equipment provided the primary use is for Merkel we can use it at other facilities. He has confirmed with this Legal.
Motion carried.
- B. **Motion No. 13:** Chris Wright motioned to approve the food/beverage concessions contract with Centerplate for Albi Stadium.
Randy Cameron seconded.
Speaking to the motion:
Chris Wright reminded that although Parks is in charge of the operations of Albi for the City any revenue from this contract would go to the City and not to Parks and Recreation.
Bob Apple explained how the operation of Albi was tasked to Parks & Recreation.
Randy Cameron inquired if the money goes to the General Fund and Parks & Recreation gets 8% of the 42% and if that would cover our costs.
Leroy Eadie advised that we get reimbursed for our costs at Albi from the Albi budget. He noted that Carl Strong in a lot of effort with staff and the school district to jointly take care of the facility. There is no minimum dollar volume required by the contract.
Motion carried.
- C. The committee received an update on aquatics/athletics fields, 2010 Recreation Cost Recovery and Recreation Programs as of April 2011, Recreation Roadmap to the Future plan, Community and Senior centers, and viewed a promotional video.

RIVERFRONT PARK COMMITTEE – May 2, 2011 – *Jim Quigley*

- A. **Motion No. 14:** Jim Quigley motioned to approve the Value Blanket with Concessions Supply.
Bob Apple seconded.
Motion carried.
- B. The committee received updates on the Riverfront Park Master Plan Process, Roadmap to the Future Action Items, monthly revenue and expense report, Merkel Concessions, Hoopfest/Parking Lot, and the Bosch Lot.

URBAN FORESTRY TREE COMMITTEE – May 3, 2011 - *Ken Van Voorhis*

- A. The Spokane Municipal Code pertaining to the establishment, duties and functions of the Urban Forestry Tree Committee were presented and discussed.
- B. The Urban Forestry Work Plan & Budget Options were presented and discussed.
- C. The Tree City USA Award presentation has been rescheduled to May 11, 2011, 2:30 p.m. in the Woodland Center, Finch Arboretum.
- D. The NeighborWoods Launch Party is May 7, 2011, 5:00 pm. At the New Public Market located at Second and Browne.
- E. The education grant is being finalized.
- F. Partnerships with Avista, the Conservation District and Geiger Corrections are in review with the Legal Department.
- G. The next big street bond project is Post Street.

11. **REPORTS**

- A. Park Board President – 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 – Councilman Apple advised that the Council office has received a lot of good comments from the Neighborhoods about how nice the parks are looking. No comments have been received regarding the Grant Avenue tree removals.
- C. Director's Report -
 - 1. The YMCA has been substantially demolished. The comment period for the Shoreline Substantial Development Permit is open until June 1. We go back to design review on May 25 with the modified plan. We will be making a presentation to the County Commissioners on May 24 on the restoration design.
 - 2. The Riverwalk and Grant Park are proceeding. Taylor Bressler and Garrett Jones have done a great job in working with both groups on challenges that have arisen.
 - 3. The Spokane Tribe is moving forward on the Chief Garry Park Monument and it should go in this summer.
 - 4. SYSA and Spokane Amateur Softball Association have spoken to us about creating a Field Allocation Advisory Committee to help facilitate the annual field allocation process. Parks and Recreation will retain the ultimate authority for allocating the fields but it will be great to work in a team effort.
 - 5. We are working with the School District on Joe Albi Stadium. The School District will fund a study to determine what improvements will be made to the facility. Spokane and Mead School Districts have indicated interest in using the facility as longterm for high school football and soccer.
 - 6. Craig Butz has been working with the Shock Football organization on the football game scheduled for July 9th at Albi. It will be one of the largest events Albi has seen in quite some time.
 - 7. Staff will pursue an appeal on the cancellation of the RCO Grant for the Whitewater Park at the Park Board President's direction. The appeal will be heard by the RCO funding board in June.

8. Leroy will attend the City Council study session after the Park Board meeting to present the Board's concerns with the proposed charter amendments.
 9. Dave Randolph has been nominated for the Heart of the House Award as part of the annual Inland Northwest Tourism Awards being given out by the Spokane Regional Convention and Visitors Bureau. Leroy is also trying to attend the award presentation which following today's Park Board meeting.
 10. The Management Team is having a Staff Appreciation BBQ on Friday, May 20. Last year it was sponsored by some of our concessionaires and partially funded by Management Team. This year it is sponsored by Bouten Construction, Schimmels, Bob Droll along with additional funding from the Management Team.
12. **Correspondence:**
- A. Letters Received – None
13. **Public Comments:**
- A. Travis Nichols, Friends of the Falls board member, gave a brief history of the Whitewater Park project. He requested to make a presentation to the Land Committee at their regular meeting on June 1st. Ross Kelley asked that the presentation be added to that agenda.
14. Adjourn to Executive Session – None
15. Randy Cameron asked that the Park Board hold a study session each month similar to last months Urban Forestry Study Session after the Park Board meeting. He also asked that an all day "Annual Strategic Planning Session" and "Riverfront Park Design Update & Input Session" be scheduled.
Ross Kelley advised that in lieu of full day retreats, he, Leroy and Jacki have already talked about having a 2 – 2½ hour study session/workshop after each regular meeting. These will begin in the month of June.
16. **Adjournment**
- A. Next Committee meeting dates:
Golf Committee: May 18, 2011, 7:00 a.m., Manito Park Meeting Room.
Riverfront Park Committee: June 6, 2011, 8:00 a.m., City Council Briefing Center
Land Committee: June 1, 2011, 3:30 p.m., City Hall Conference Room 5A
Recreation Committee: June 2, 2011, City Hall Conference Room 2B
Finance Committee: June 7, 2011, 3:30 p.m., City Hall Conference Room 5A
Urban Forestry Committee: May 31, 2011, 3:30 p.m., Manito Park Meeting Room
 - B. Next Park Board meeting date: June 9, 2011, 1:30 p.m., City Council Chambers