

# SPOKANE PARK BOARD

Regular Monthly Meeting – 1:30 P.M. – October 13, 2011 – City Council Chambers

## Minutes

1. Park Board Members Present: Ross Kelley, Martha Lou Wheatley-Billeter, Jim Santorsola, Randy Cameron, Chris Wright, Susan Traver, Ken Van Voorhis, Andy Dunau, Samuel Selinger, Bob Apple (1:33 p.m.)

Park Board Members Absent Excused: Jim Quigley

Staff Present: Leroy Eadie, Nancy Goodspeed, Jacki Faught, Rebecca Madany, Garrett Jones, Taylor Bressler, Al Vorderbrueggen, Pamela McKinzie, Tony Madunich, Carl Strong, Scott Neimeier, Jerry Unruh, Craig Butz, Mike Aho, Angel Spell

2. **Motion No. 1:** Susan Traver motioned to approve the minutes of the September 8, 2011 Regular Park Board meeting, and notes of the September 8, 2011 Study Session and the September 27, 2011 Budget Workshop.
3. Additions or deletions to the agenda: Friends of Manito Update cancelled. Updates will begin on a quarterly basis.
4. **Monthly Highlights:** *Ross Kelley, President*
  - A. The Arbor Day Foundation recognized Spokane as a "Tree City USA" for the 8<sup>th</sup> consecutive year.
  - B. KREM's "The Best of Spokane" awarded: Best Golf Course, First Place – Downriver Golf Course, Fourth Place – The Creek at Qualchan; Best Place to People Watch, First Place – Riverfront Park; Best Landmark, First Place – Carrousel, Second Place – Manito Park, Third Place – Garbage Eating Goat, Fourth Place – World's Largest Radio Flyer Wagon
  - C. Spokane Coeur d'Alene Living magazine awarded: Best Golf Course, Gold Award – Downriver Golf Course; Best Place for Family Fun, Gold Award – Riverfront Park; Best Place for Kids Under 12 – Bronze Award – Riverfront Park; Best Place for First Date, Gold Award – Riverfront Park
  - D. The Inlander's Best of the Inland Northwest 2011 awarded: Best Playground, First Place – Manito Park, Second Place – Riverfront Park; Best Outdoor Recreation Guide Service, Second Place – Spokane Parks and Recreation
  - E. The Dwight Merkel Sports Complex won the Washington Parks and Recreation Association Spotlight Award for "Facilities and Parks, Best Sports Complex".
  - F. Dave Randolph, Facilities Foreperson at Riverfront Park was a finalist for the Spokane Regional Convention and Visitor Bureau's "Heart of the House Award".
  - G. Olga Pasher, Guest Services Lead at Riverfront Park, was a finalist for the Spokane Regional Convention and Visitor Bureau's "Superior Service Award".
7. **Visitors:** None
8. **Motion No 2:** Martha Lou Wheatley Billeter motioned to approve claims for the month of September 2011 in the amount of \$1,596,872.10.  
Jim Santorsola seconded.

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Motion carried.

9. **Financial Report:** – *Rebecca Madany*

- A. Park Revenue is at 88% of year to date budget. Expenditures are at 104% of year to date budget.
- B. Golf Fund revenue is at 75% of year to date budget. Expenditures are at 86% of year to date budget.

10. **Special Discussion/Action Items:** None

11. **Foundation Report:** – *Toni Nersesian, Executive Director*

- A. The Foundation presented its new logo. They begin their 60<sup>th</sup> year next month.
- B. In 2007 the Foundation funded 42 swim lessons citywide. This year they funded 213 swim lessons. Grants of \$18,000 were received this year with some of the funding carrying over to next year.
- C. The doggie dip brought in over \$2,000 for SpokAnimal.
- D. Disc Golf Association received a \$10,000 grant.
- E. Make A Splash evaluation is Monday, October 17<sup>th</sup>, at the Foundation offices.
- F. The Finch Arboretum Conservators will be at the Fall Leaf Festival at the Arboretum this year.
- G. The Foundation is starting a new endowment and is accepting donations.

12. **Committee Reports** – Park Board Action Items

**Finance Committee** – October 11, 2011, *Randy Cameron*

- A. Rebecca gave a brief presentation on this year's 10 month budget timeline and process. January, figured out what the budget process was going to be & set up a timeline; February, presented the five year financial projections to put the budget in a long term context and look at financial strategies and goals; March, worked on integrating the budget with the Roadmap to the Future master plan; May, adopted budget guidelines; July, looked at indirect cost allocation and indirect costs, cost recovery, an initial resource allocation; August, reassessed the timeline to fit with the City's budget timeline; September, preliminary budget submitted, two budget workshops held with a good representation of citizens; October, Finance Committee had their final discussion with the recommendation to present Alternative #1 that brings full funding to the centers at the 2011 level to the Park Board.

Ross Kelley noted that the funding the centers receive from Parks and Recreation is only a small portion of their budget. Other City departments contribute to center funding as well outside sources. The Mayor's office is coordinating a task force to include stakeholders to look at Community and Youth centers organization and funding and what to do in 2013.

**Public Comments:**

Curt Connelly thanked the Board for involving the public in the budget process and for giving them the opportunity to testify. He feels the Board has shown a high level of integrity with their willingness and open mindedness to hear what they had to say. Chris Miller stated that they are more than willing to work on the task force but they do

expect that the City will continue to support seniors and youth in Spokane. Randy Cameron thanked the community members for participating in the budget process. The Board learned a lot about the centers. He noted that Alternative #1 restored full funding at the 2011 level and Alternative #2 funded at 95% of 2011 level. **Motion No. 3:** Randy Cameron motioned to approve. of 2012 Proposed budget with Alternative #1.

Jim Santorsola seconded.

Speaking to the motion:

Bob Apple indicated that he approves of center funding being put back in to the budget. He is concerned about the optimism of the budget. Staff has been able to reduce costs to cover shortfalls and he believes that this will become much more difficult in the coming years. Water rates will go up. Vandalism costs are a large issue. Maintenance and repair is expensive. We have a lot more regular maintenance with the new pools, splash pads and sports facilities. It would be wise to make some appropriate cuts early in the year.

Samuel Selinger advised that he had seen Sen. Brown talking the other day saying that he had never seen cuts so bad in the State. He thinks that our problems are a reflection of this. He also was involved with the Department of Health for four years and they were already making cuts four years ago even in the departments that were fully funded by fees. We should go into next year being as tight as we can.

Ken VanVoorhis agrees there are concerns with expectations on revenue, however at the same time he is not opposed to the budget. Finance should review the budget three times during the year.

Chris Wright thinks we should keep a close eye on the revenue projections. He supports the budget. He is happy that we have started a meaningful process to get our role in our funding of centers discussed and figured out this upcoming budget year. He is happy and thankful to fellow Board members in the assumption that they are going to vote for the budget and support the increase and money for Urban Forestry.

Randy Cameron echoes Chris' thoughts for the long overdue start of the sustainable measure for Urban Forestry and not to say that it is Urban Forestry vs. anything else but to be able to have as much of everything that we can. Finance Committee will take a critical look at capital expenditures on a regular basis and possibly not let so much of it go out first quarter and not have the ability to reel it in later on. We will look for additional revenue ideas this next year and start thinking outside the box. The Board will take a look at IMAX. They will look for answers for a sustainable budget next year and a good road map for the next several years.

Jim Santorsola stated he firmly approves of passing the budget as presented with the understanding that we need to take a good look at it so we don't get ourselves in a bind later in the year and so everybody will be on the same page.

Martha Lou Wheatley-Billeter thanked to audience for showing their appreciation and for understanding that these decisions are very difficult ones to make. It isn't that the Board is targeting anyone in particular. We are trying to be evenhanded. We know how important the senior and community centers are. She requested they please take seriously our appeal to you to be part of this process for the 2013 budget. We need you to come to this process as open minded and understanding that as a board we are talking more and more about "what is our mission, what are we required to do by City Charter" and that there may be some activities that do not follow under that mission.

We will need your help with that. Please start thinking of possible funding sources for those programs and activities that you enjoy that are not part of Parks and Recreation, at least not as our mission would define them. Find a way to keep them going and keep that funding going because we have so many demands on limited resources and you know how that is in your own household budgets. You know how it is to make ends meet. So please take seriously that we need you to be part of the process so that we have an ongoing dialogue and an ongoing discussion and that we are getting the information we need and that you are also coming to us with an open mind understanding that our resources are also limited. Thank you so much for being part of this process now.

Ross Kelley stated he appreciates the citizen involvement in this process and he appreciates their appreciation of the hard work the Board has to do in making these decisions. This was one of the toughest things the Board has had to go through in his short time on the Park Board. He hopes we do not have to do this again. It was much more fun when we had almost enough money to do the programs we wanted to do. He sincerely hopes that we come up with a good way of balancing our revenues with the expenditures. We will be working hard to do that.

Motion carried unanimously.

- B. The Monthly Financial Report was submitted and reviewed.
- C. A project update on the Former YMCA Project Report was given and the financial report was submitted.
- D. The third quarter Interfund and Utility Financial Reports were submitted.
- E. Third quarter budget transfers were distributed.

**Golf Committee** – September 14, 2011 – *Martha Lou Wheatley-Billeter*

- A. A presentation was given on the Qualchan Bank Erosion Assessment.
- B. An update on the Indian Canyon Driving Range was given.
- C. A discussion was had on the Budget.

**Land Committee** – October 5, 2011 – *Jim Santorsola*

- A. **Motion No 4:** Susan Traver motioned to approve the location of an Avista utility pole on the Centennial Trail corridor at Kendal Yards.  
Ken Van Voorhis seconded.  
Motion carried.
- B. **Motion No. 5:** Susan Traver motioned to accept the resolution approving the location of an Avista utility pole on the Centennial Trail corridor at Kendal Yards.  
Ken Van Voorhis seconded.  
Motion carried.
- C. **Motion No 6:** Susan Traver motioned to accept the Southgate Neighborhood Park and Open Space Plan Support Resolution.  
Ken Van Voorhis seconded.  
Motion carried.
- D. The Committee discussed construction of a storm water retention swale at 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Lindeke Street that is consistent with a MOU between Parks and Waste Water Management.
- E. A Planning and Progress report on the construction of a CSO facility in Underhill Park was presented.

**Recreation Committee** – October 6, 2011 – *Chris Wright*

- A. **Motion No 7:** Chris Wright motioned to approve the 2012 Aquatics Fees as presented. Randy Cameron seconded.  
It was noted that there is no change in these fees from 2011.
- B. A report was given on the Make-a-Splash program.
- C. A Revenue/Expense report was distributed and reviewed.
- D. A brief discussion was had on the Roadmap to the Future Action items.
- E. A brief discussion on Promotion Items was given.
- F. A brief discussion was given on the Athletic Field Operations.

**Riverfront Park Committee** – October 3, 2011 – *Chris Wright*

- A. **Motion No. 8:** Chris Wright motioned to approve the YMCA Restoration Contract change order #5 with Rob's Demolition. Martha Lou Wheatley-Billeter seconded.  
Motion carried.
- B. **Motion No. 9:** Chris Wright motioned to approve the contract addendum with DIVCO for rebuilding of compressor and installation of hot water boiler for Ice Palace. Jim Santorsola seconded.  
Motion carried.
- C. **Motion No. 10:** Chris Wright motioned to approve the film lease agreement encumbrance increase with IMAX for "Born to be Wild." Martha Lou Wheatley-Billeter seconded.  
Motion carried with Bob Apple as the only no vote.
- D. **Motion No. 11:** Chris Wright motioned to approve the IMAX Theatre Projection System Lease. Randy Cameron seconded.  
Motion carried.
- E. An update report for the Riverfront Park Master Plan was given and discussed.
- F. The Spokane Tribal Cultural Center Ground Lease was discussed. Areas of concern were identified.
- G. Brief updates were given for the Sister Cities Garden and Courtyard, and Merkel Concessions.
- H. The Monthly Revenue/Expense report was distributed and questions were answered.

**Urban Forestry Tree Committee** – August 30, 2011 - *Ken Van Voorhis*

- A. The Preliminary Findings of the Logan Neighborhood Pilot Project were distributed and reviewed.
- B. No changes have been proposed to the 2012 budget. Noted in the discussion was that the City Council approved \$250,000 from the Stormwater Surge Fund to be used specifically for the Urban Forestry Tree Inventory.
- C. A written Urban Forestry Staff Report was distributed.
- D. Highlights of the Citizen Advisory Committee Report included updates for the Conservation Area Stewardship Plan; and the recommended Street Tree List Subcommittees; and Fall Leaf Festival is October 15<sup>th</sup> 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. at the Finch Arboretum.

13. **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 – None
- C. Director's Report -
  - 1. Leroy Eadie thanked Rebecca, the Board, and Management Team for their work on the Budget.
  - 2. The first Community Centers Stakeholders meeting will be held October 26, in the evening, in Conference Room 5A.
  - 3. The celebration for the completion of the construction at the former YMCA site will be held November 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1:30 p.m.
  - 4. There is a celebration for Gary Lawton, former Board member and Park Board President, on the evening of October 20<sup>th</sup> at Downriver Golf Course.
  - 5. The topic for the November study session will be on finance.
  - 6. The December study session will be a wrap up of this year, discussion on City Charter, Park Board Rules and responsibilities.
  - 7. The Park Board retreat will focus on budget training. Staff is doing a budget training.

14. **Correspondence:**

- A. Letters Received – Numerous letters regarding center funding were received and sent to Park Board via email for their consideration prior to the meeting.

15. **Public Comments:**

16. **Adjourn to Executive Session:** – None

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

- A. Next Committee meeting dates:
  - Golf Committee: October 20, 2011, 7:00 a.m., Manito Park Meeting Room.
  - Riverfront Park Committee: October 31, 2011, 8:00 a.m., City Council Briefing Center
  - Land Committee: November 2, 2011, 3:30 p.m., City Hall Conference Room 5A
  - Recreation Committee: November 3, 2011, City Hall Conference Room 2B
  - Finance Committee: November 8, 2011, 3:00 p.m., City Hall Conference Room 5A
  - Urban Forestry Tree Committee: November 1, 2011, 4:15 p.m., Woodland Center, Finch Arboretum
- B. Next Park Board meeting date: November 10, 2011, 1:30 p.m., City Council Chambers  
Next Park Board Study Session: November 10, 2011, 3:00 p.m. or as soon as possible thereafter directly following the Regular Park Board meeting, City Hall Conference Room

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