



Spokane County

PARKS, RECREATION AND GOLF
Doug Chase, Director

MEETING MINUTES

SPOKANE COUNTY PARKS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (PAC)

Wednesday, August 14, 2019 at 3:00 PM

Glenrose Trailhead: 3701 S. Thierman Road

Present: Eric Johnson – Chair, Tom MacKenzie, Dave Shaub, Eric Sawyer, Melissa Fowler

Not Present: Doug Kelley

Staff: Doug Chase – Director, Kris Krohn, Paul Knowles, Melissa Parker

I) Call Meeting to Order (Chair, Eric Johnson): 3:10pm

- A. Introduction of new Park Advisory Committee member, Melissa Fowler
- B. Additions to the Agenda
None
- C. Review and consider PAC Minutes from the Wednesday, June 12th regular meeting.
Minutes were accepted

II) Member Reports (Chair, Eric Johnson):

- A. Park Advisory Committee Members are encouraged to provide a brief report
 - Mr. Sawyer stated he was on Slavin and praised how well the trails look. He also mentioned that there were a surprising amount of ticks.

III) Director's Report (Doug Chase, Paul Knowles, Kris Krohn):

- A. Parks Planning and Capital Program Update
 - 1. Bidwell Park (*Kris Krohn*)
 - July 16 - Pre-construction meeting with LaRiviere Construction
 - July 22 - Contractor mobilized, installed silt fencing and preparations for demo began
 - July 31 - Washington State Recreation and Conservation office (RCO) gave notice to proceed
 - Aug 19 - Contractor will have full control of the site with the aquatic facility closed.
 - December through February - No work planed due to winter shutdown.
 - 2. Department of Ecology THA Grant
 - i. Hangman Valley Golf Course Riparian Plantings
In February 2019, the Department of Ecology (DOE) approached and encouraged Spokane County Parks to apply for 100% funding (no match required) for educational signage and plantings that will help reduce sediment into Hangman Valley Creek. In March,

Spokane County Parks was notified of approval of said funding (still pending – not accepted yet). Spokane County Parks will meet with the Golf Advisory Committee on August 16, 2019 to discuss proposals for the Hangman Valley Golf Course in regards to impact of play during the planting process. There should be very minimal impact on the course.

3. Spokane County Raceway Operator Agreement “10-year review” (**Doug Chase**)

Mr. Chase is scheduled to visit with the Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) in September to receive their final decision on the raceway operators request to extend the lease another five years. If the BoCC chooses not to extend the lease, Spokane County would issue a 30-day notice to the Operator to vacate. Mr. Chase should have an update by the next PAC meeting on the decision from the BoCC regarding the raceway.

4. Park Plan 2020 Update (**Paul Knowles**)

Every 6 years a new park plan needs to be adopted to maintain eligibility for RCO grants, etc. Spokane County Parks just wrapped up the public input process with stakeholder meetings, public open houses and a survey. The general concern, as addressed in the written comments, were regarding growth and parks in general not being able to keep up with the growth in our area. Top enhancement requests were: 1) restrooms and 2) natural play features. Survey results also showed that 95% of those participants want to see a masterplan developed and implemented for regional parks similar to Liberty Lake Regional Park. Survey participants also want to see improved and enhance trail plans and improved water access. There was also overwhelming approval to continue purchasing open space land with Conservation Futures.

Mr. Sawyer asked how will these results get out publicly? Mr. Knowles stated he will put all the results on the Spokane County Parks website sometime next week. Mr. Sawyer asked Mr. Chase if the results of this survey would be going to the BoCC. Mr. Chase stated the updated park plan will be brought to BoCC, which will include the results of the stakeholder meetings, open houses and survey.

B. Conservation Futures Program Update (Paul Knowles, Kris Krohn**)**

1. Haynes House Renovation (**Kris Krohn**)

In 2001, Spokane County Parks purchased the Haynes Estates Conservation area near the Little Spokane River. Part of purchase included two homes (one demolished due to poor condition). The other home was in decent shape and rented to a long-term tenant who left approximately two years ago. It has been vacant since. The original land owners left \$250,000 in a trust to be used on the property as needed for restoration and maintenance. Spokane County Parks is considering investing those funds into renovating the current home to get that revenue stream back from the residence. The plan is to execute a three-phase process: A) evaluation of the home, B) preliminary design and C) bid documents. The budget for design and

renovations is no more than \$200,000. Mr. Chase stated this could possibly add opportunity for greater revenue due to the beautiful location and updated renovations. Mr. Schaub asked if Spokane County Parks could sell the property. Mr. Chase stated there could be no sale since Conservation Futures funds were used to purchase the property. Mr. Chase also stated the home serves as eyes and ears to property and is a benefit to that property.

2. Mica Peak proposed Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) “Limited Hunt” pilot project. (*Paul Knowles*)
 - i. The Parks Director is requesting advice from the Parks Advisory Committee on the “Limited Hunt” pilot project proposed for Mica Peak, in the form of a recommendation

As a responsible land owner, Spokane County Parks believes providing a “Limited Hunt” program would be beneficial on a variety of levels. The main benefit and goal of this program would be to manage populations of white-tailed deer and wild turkey to match the carrying capacity of Mica Peak Conservation Area. An additional benefit would be adding more eyes and ears on the property during the lowest used time of year which is between mid-October – mid-December. This proposal will tie into WDFW’s applicable hunting seasons for the two target species. Results from the 2019 Conservation Futures M&O Advisory Survey several months back showed people were in favor per a management plan, limited number of hunters per day and WDFW recommendations. WDFW’s Hunting by Reservation Program can provide maximum control for Spokane County Parks, allowing the Department to limit how many people can go and when.

Mr. Sawyer asked what is the risk for Spokane County? Mr. Knowles stated other entities, such as the US Forest Service and DNR, have less restrictions on their lands than what Spokane County Parks is proposing. Those lands tend to also have high recreational use and limited conflicts. Mr. Chase shared that this is one of the only trailheads where you routinely see hunters (heading up to hunt on DNR property). Spokane County Parks is working closely with Risk Management to implement this project. Mr. Knowles stated two models are being considered. The first proposal would be closing the property to everyone, with exception of the hunters, during the “Limited Hunt” season. The other proposal is leaving the property open to all legal recreational use with significant signage notifying people that hunting in progress. A portion of this trail system runs through DNR property already and staff believe that hunters are accidentally hunt on MPCA believing they are on DNR land.

Mr. Sawyer stated he liked the pilot idea and believes the property should remain open to all recreational use during the Limited Hunt season. Non-hunters would be recommended to wear bright clothing. Mr. Schaub and Mr. Sawyer thought there would be less push back to have the property completely open during the proposed hunting season then to close it for hunters.

Action Item: Shall the PAC make a recommendation on the proposed Mica Peak “Limited Hunt” pilot project?

Mr. Sawyer moved to recommend approval of the Mica Peak “Limited Hunt” pilot on the condition that Mica Peak Conservation Area remain open for all legal public recreational use on the days hunting is allowed.

Mr. MacKenzie seconded.
Unanimously approved.

3. M&O Projects (*Paul Knowles*)

i. Trailhead projects

Hauser Trailhead:

Mr. Krohn will visit the site for a pre-contactor meeting next week. Upon closing, the Seller (Mr. Groesbeck) was leased back a portion of the property to clear out his tree farm business. Mr. Krohn is coordinating with Mr. Groesbeck as this project becomes active. Construction should start this fall.

Glenrose Trailhead:

Trailhead construction has been completed. The contractor will continue watering the plantings until this fall. Overall, the neighbors in the area are happy with trailhead. Mr. Mackenzie asked about the washout issues on the driveway. Mr. Knowles stated the contractor made necessary changes to divert water away from the driveway and add rock.

Phillips Creek Trailhead:

Spokane County Parks has been working on a stream reclassification for this project. It originally was classified as fish bearing. It has been reclassified as non-fish bearing. This should reduce the requirements for culvert size and mitigation. Overall, the trailhead design is moving ahead and is on track to be bid out this fall (should funding be made available).

ii. Phillips Creek Additional Trail Plan

Mr. Chase is requesting advice from the Parks Advisory Committee on the Trail Plan proposed for the Phillips Creek Trailhead area in the form of a recommendation. Mr. Knowles shared that the first draft of this trail plan was presented at the Phillips Creek Trailhead Open House event back in February with minimal comments. Field visits were then conducted with Dishman Hills Conservancy to vet and adjust the plan. This is a conceptual plan that lays out connects and general routes. The final alignments will be laid out prior to trail

construction and may vary from what's shown on the plan to address unforeseen issues and improve final outcomes.

Mr. Schaub suggested more loops via switchbacks on the steep terrain versus out and backs. Mr. Knowles stated the east side will have loop options similar to a figure 8 with single track and wider operational trails. There will be single track trails which will connect to the Cliffs Trail.

Action Item: Shall the PAC recommend approval and implementation of the Phillips Creek Addition Trail Plan?

Mr. Sawyer moved to recommend approval and implementation of the Phillips Creek Addition Trail Plan.

Mr. MacKenzie seconded.
Unanimously approved.

Meeting adjourned at 4:23 p.m.

Next Regular Meeting: Wednesday, October 9, 2019. 3:00 p.m.; **Location:** 404 N Havana Street (adjourned 4:23)

***Purpose:** The purpose of the Parks Advisory Committee, (PAC) referred to, as the "Park Board" is to make recommendations to and advise the Parks and Recreation Director on matters concerning the operation and maintenance of the Spokane County park system.*

Spokane County Parks and Recreation Mission Statement

"The mission of the Parks, Recreation and Golf Department is to enhance the general quality of life for the residents of Spokane County by providing the highest quality and quantity of parks, recreation, open space, and related cultural opportunities given the available resources."