



Spokane County

PARKS, RECREATION AND GOLF
Doug Chase, Director

MEETING MINUTES - DRAFT
SPOKANE COUNTY PARKS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (PAC)
Wednesday, February 7th, 2018 at 3:00 PM
404 N. Havana, Spokane WA, 99202

Present: Eric Johnson – Chair, Bob Ordner – Vice Chair (conference call), Tom MacKenzie, Steve Salvatori, Dave Schaub, Jason Williams, Doug Kelley

Staff: Doug Chase – Director, John Bottelli – Assistant Director, Paul Knowles, Melissa Parker

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

- A. Additions to the Agenda
 - None
- B. Review and consider PAC Minutes from the December 13th regular meeting.
 - Minutes were approved unanimously.
- C. Welcome and Introduction of newly appointed Park Advisory Committee Member Eric Sawyer.
 - Mr. Sawyer is presently the President / CEO of the Spokane Sports Commission. He heard about the open position on the Parks Advisory Committee and knew he would be interested in it. Mr. Sawyer shared that there will be a green light for the Sports Plex on the North Bank. May see ground breaking by next spring.

II) Member Reports: (Chair, Eric Johnson):

- A. Park Advisory Committee Members are encouraged to provide a brief report
 - Being the new Spokane Parks Foundation liaison, Mr. Salvatori stated he had reached out to them. The Parks Foundation would be interested in attending a PAC meeting in the interest of getting to know each other. Mr. Salvatori asked how he could best do his job as the Spokane Parks Foundation liaison? Mr. Kelley stated an example could be to ask for assistance to cover maintenance and operations cost for operating hours to restore hours at the aquatics facilities.
 - Mr. Schaub stated he had been up to the McLellan Conservation Area. He stated he appreciates how effective a tool the Conservation Futures Program has been for preserving land in Spokane County and how well Spokane County Parks has used it.

- Mr. Ordner stated there had been some trail work at Saltese Uplands last weekend.

III) Committee Assignment (Chair, Eric Johnson):

A. Action Item: Park Advisory Committee Assignment

- i. Land Evaluation Committee “1-year rotating position”
Eric Sawyer stated he would be interested in the position
Motion made to appoint Eric Sawyer by Tom MacKenzie
Motion seconded by Steve Salvatori
Motion approved unanimously

IV) Director’s Report:

A. 2018 Legislative Update (Doug Chase):

a. State Capital Budget Adoption – Grant Project Funding Approval

- A \$1,250,000 project (\$500,000 from WWRP-Local Parks Grant) for Bidwell Park. This project will develop approximately 10 acres of the 20-acre park. This amount will allow us to complete Phase 2 with a supplemental capital request to complete all of Phase 2 parking. Meeting with CFO to work on obtaining a commitment of match for a RCO grant application for Phase 3. This could include ballfields with safety fencing, pickleball and sand volleyball courts. May look at Youth Athletic Facility Program grant for Bidwell as well. The Department is hoping to time the project so that both phases can be bid out together.
- A \$180,000 project (\$106,000 from NOVA-Non-Motorized) to implement the Mica Peak Trail Plan and develop a 14-mile four season trail system. The matching funding mostly comes from volunteer labor with a small amount of cash match from the Conservation Futures M&O.
- A \$1,000,000 grant (WWRP-Water Access) for the Sisters of the Holy Names (Three Islands) property acquisition was allocated for in the recent State Capital Budget. Mr. Johnson asked about the status of the other grant application? Mr. Chase stated we were looking into some things at the Recreation and Conservation Office and considering re-applying for another grant in 2018 should the additional \$1,000,000 from ALEA not materialize. Spokane County initially took a one-year note from the Treasurer’s office to finance this property, but recently extended it to a 5-year note with the delay in the capital budget adoption. When the Department receives the \$1,000,000 grant (or \$2,000,000 total), the plan is to add that to the fund balance and keep making annual payments on the note.
- Mr. Kelley asked about the Avista grant application for Plante’s Ferry? Mr. Blockman stated he was advised the program was on hold until the merger was complete with Avista and the Canadian

company – Hydro One. Spokane County is in the exploratory phase of this potential grant program. Spokane County Parks' Community Priorities Survey (2015) resulted in Plante's Ferry being #2 county-wide project, so that could be a huge factor with Avista and the project's odds of receiving a grant.

b. Car Rental Tax

- Mr. Sawyer and Mr. Chase will be heading to Olympia regarding the car rental tax legislation to meet with legislators.

B. Centennial Trail Cooperative Agreement – Amendment No. 1(*Doug Chase*):

- Making great progress in having the City of Liberty Lake join the Coordinating Council. The City would take on caring for a portion of the trail adjacent to their city limits. Each entity contributes \$20,000 to the Joint-Fund Balance, which is utilized by the Council to fund improvements (primarily maintenance). Their membership would give an addition amount towards the care and maintenance of the trail and take on a portion of the trail that Spokane County Parks currently maintains.

C. Conservation Futures Program Acquisition/Project Updates (*Paul Knowles / John Bottelli*)

Acquisitions

- Mica Peak North (900 acres) – Purchase and Sale Agreement was executed in December. Project is currently on hold, waiting for the snow to melt so the survey and Phase 1 ESA can move forward.
- Flying L Ranch - Dishman Hills (179 acres) – Closing is scheduled for March 30th and staff believes the project is ahead of schedule. The surveyor was able to get up to the property in December before all of the snow hit.
- Selkirk Conifer Farm – Hauser Lake Conservation Area Addition (21 acres) – the Purchase and Leaseback Agreement is ready to go. The Seller and their lawyer are reviewing the agreement.

Development

- Mica Peak Trail System Development – Staff met with Washington Trails Association and Evergreen East to plan out the work for this year. All of the permitting has been secured. Just waiting for the snow to melt to get started along with a grant agreement with RCO.
- Glenrose Trailhead - construction plans are being prepared and when funding is secured the Department will be ready to bid that project out. Mr. Schaub asked about whether the Department had heard from the

neighbors recently. Mr. Knowles has been keeping the neighborhood in the loop and stated there should be no surprises.

- Steven's Creek Limited Access / Gate Installation – The Department was successful in having the Board of County Commissioners designate the northern portion of Stevens Creek Road (passed the ditch) as limited access road which allows the Department to fill in ditch, grade the road behind it, and install a grate. Improvements need to be done before June 30, 2018. As a side note, the popularity of the site has caught the attention of the neighbors and commissioners regarding security. Mr. Bottelli stated Spokane County would be taking advantage of the maintenance and operations (M&O) increase and will be installing a security camera, light and pole at the trailhead. Right now, we are considering having access to the web came for the public to see what's going on there and it would also allow the park ranger to have high resolution access. The hopes are to have it installed this spring. This set-up will allow the Sheriff to access footage for criminal activity.

D. Other...

- Mr. Chase announced that the State of the County address was coming up on March 16, 2018 at 1:00 pm. Commissioner Kerns will be presenting.
- Mr. Bottelli stated Prairie View Park should be completed by April 1, 2018.
- Mr. Bottelli stated that the two new cabins at Liberty Lake Regional Park were almost complete.
- Mr. Bottelli stated that the Department was still working with WDFW and WSDOT for possible WDFW use of Gateway Park (the former visitor center) for an aquatic invasive species program checkpoint.
- Mr. Salvatori added that he was using the Spokane County mobile app (Civic mobile app) and it seems to work very well.
- Mr. Sawyer mentioned that our region has a very unique trail system (hard and soft). From a marketing and event perspective, how do we tie all these trails together for user groups? Can we put everything (information) in one place? The Sports Commission is developing a marketing plan and working with other groups to formalize and scope out this project. Mr. Knowles stated that this is a great idea, but also needs to be considered along with trail infrastructure improvements. Many of the region's trail systems lack adequate parking, restrooms, signage and other features that large events depend on. Facility investment and marketing efforts should go hand-in-hand.

V) **Adjourn Meeting.** (*Chair, Eric Johnson*) – 4:17p.m.

Next Regular Meeting: Wednesday, April, 11th, 2018. 3:00 p.m.; **Location:** 404 N. Havana, Spokane WA 99202

NOTE: Sponsorship Committee Meeting Scheduled for February 8th, 2018. 9:00am. **Location:** 404 N. Havana, Spokane WA 99202

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.”