



Spokane County

PARKS, RECREATION AND GOLF
Doug Chase, Director

MEETING MINUTES

SPOKANE COUNTY PARKS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (PAC)

Wednesday, April 10, 2019 at 3:00 PM

404 N. Havana, Spokane WA, 99202

Present: Eric Johnson - Chair, Dave Schaub, Tom MacKenzie, Doug Kelley

Not Present: Eric Sawyer

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

I) Call Meeting to Order (Chair, Eric Johnson): (3:01pm)

A. Additions to the Agenda

- None

B. Review and consider PAC Minutes from the Wednesday, February 20th regular meeting.

- Minutes were approved unanimously

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

A. Park Advisory Committee Members are encouraged to provide a brief report

1. Update on INLC's (Inland Northwest Land Conservancy) Olmsted 2.0 planning project: (*Dave Schaub*)

The Olmstead plan was created in the 1900's and has helped the City of Spokane create a robust park system. Approximately 83% of Spokane city residents live within walking distance of a park whereas 23% of Spokane Valley residents live within walking distance to a park. This shows how good planning can reap significant benefits for future residents. INLC sees more opportunities coming and has started taking action on creating Olmstead 2.0 (a park vision) for all of Spokane County. INLC is starting a year-long conversation with stakeholders to find out what they believe is valuable and what they think should be included in creating this 100-year vision. INLC has received an Innovia grant which will help with the cost of outreach for this park vision plan. INLC had their kickoff meeting with agency partners including Spokane City, Spokane County, City of Airway Heights, Avista, area Tribes (Kalispel, Spokane), Inland Empire Paper Co., City of Liberty Lake, etc. INLC's hope is that the outcome identifies more funding mechanisms to achieve these goals to relieve what some might see as an over-reliance on Conservation Futures for conservation acquisitions.

2. Mr. MacKenzie added that the minutes last February stated there were questions on the new golf fees. The increases were a result of continued minimum wage increases and the need to keep an equipment budget balance of \$100,000 for each course.

III) Action Item: Phillips Creek Trailhead Design Project: (Paul Knowles/Kris Krohn)

A. Staff briefing and project update.

Attach presentation

The Phillips Creek property (formerly called the Flying L Ranch) which was ranked #2 on the Conservation Futures (CF) acquisition list was purchased in 2018 through the Conservation Futures Program.

There were two possible locations for the trailhead but the second location was estimated to be triple the cost due extensive road improvements needed for the more remote site. The renderings show overflow parking for buses and for SCOPE Mounted Patrol to unload horses for occasional education and enforcement patrols. The plan also reserves the ability for future expansion and looks into installing lights and a webcam. The proposed trails are a mix of single-track and operational trail (6'-8' wide for maintenance purposes).

Spokane County Parks had a public meeting on March 7, 2019 which with the press release and other direct outreach methods was well attended with approximately 60-80. Attendees provided feedback and asked questions. Some of the feedback/concerns were: capacity of parking lot, parking on the street, parties, safety, speed limits, concerns about Iller Creek and the fact that nothing has been done there yet.

Project timeline: PAC review approval, then the project design will go to the Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) for a briefing / review. If “approved,” staff will work with SPVV Landscape Architects to complete design / bid package so that the project is “shovel ready” should funding be available.

Mr. Schaub asked if estimations on sizing the parking lot were based on nearby population? Because there are more houses here, might it be better to just go ahead and build out the parking lot ahead of time. Mr. Knowles answered it’s difficult to estimate what the usage will be, but because there is a larger population closer to the site, there may be a greater percentage of “walk-up” use than Glenrose.

Mr. Kelley asked about the webcams that were installed at Glenrose and Stevens Creek and if they could be accessed by the public and if this one would be as well. Mr. Chase advised yes and demonstrated where to find them on the website.

1. Shall the Spokane County Parks Advisory Committee provide a recommendation to the Spokane County Parks Director to “approve” the Phillips Creek Trailhead Conceptual Design as presented by staff and advise the Director to proceed with the preparation of plans and design/bid documents as necessary to complete the project should funding become available?

Mr. Kelley made a motion to provide a recommendation to the Spokane County Parks Director to “approve” the Phillips Creek Trailhead Conceptual Design as presented by staff and advise the Director to proceed with the preparation of plans and design/bid documents as necessary to complete the project should funding become available.

Motion was seconded by Mr. MacKenzie.

Motion approved unanimously.

IV) Director’s Report:

A. Parks Planning and Capital Program Update. (*Doug Chase, Paul Knowles, Kris Krohn*)

1. Bidwell Park Phases 2 & 3 (*Kris Krohn*)

The original bid date was delayed due to Spokane County Engineer’s review and the proximity of pathways to the Handy Road. The paths were adjusted to adhere to their requirements. The sequence of development is being adjusted and staff is working with the adjacent developer, Neil Johnson, to coordinate design on storm water treatment and grading. This project is currently out to bid with bid opening scheduled for May 9th.

Southside Aquatic Facility enhancements went back out to bid as well. Same bid opening date as Bidwell/Northside project. The construction window was extended to hopefully help with attracting lower bids.

2. Plante’s Ferry Sports Complex Renovation Research / Concept Update (*Doug Chase, Kris Krohn*)

The current partnership concept is to invite the City of Spokane Valley to annex, share ownership and equally invest in the renovation of this facility. As part of this concept, the City and County would share in the costs of operating the facility, but Spokane County would continue to program it along with Spokane Valley Junior Soccer Association. Spokane Valley staff have been looking for a suitable location to build a new sports complex and they haven’t had much luck. The City’s staff have been great to work with and have been communicating with City Council members, including briefing them the potential opportunity. So far, the comments have been favorable in regards to learning more about this proposal and Spokane County was officially invited to present an official concept for discussion. That date is tentatively scheduled for April 23 at 6pm. Spokane Valley has \$2,000,000 in lodging tax revenue “earmarked” for a sports complex.

Mr. Kelley advised that the lodging tax council may want to see the property annexed first to make sure it’s within Spokane Valley city limits. Mr. Kelley also would encourage Spokane Valley Chamber to get involved. Mr.

Chase added that they were involved. Mr. Chase will report back at the next PAC meeting regarding this update.

i. ***Irrigation water rates – meeting with SpVJSA***

Irrigation cost rose from approximately \$33,000 in 2017 to \$97,000 in 2018 and has created hardship and challenges for the Spokane Valley Junior Soccer Association (SPVJSA) and Spokane County. The gallons of water applied by the County versus by SPVJSA is almost the same due to the system that is installed. However, the SPVJSA's system is more restrictive in size so they must water more often and longer in order to get same amount of water down on the lawn. Spokane County Parks is meeting with Trentwood Irrigation District staff next week and are hoping to find a way to help offset the huge increase. Spokane County Parks has worked to identify a fix which hopefully will help reduce the watering window and ultimately the cost to SPVJSA.

B. Conservation Futures Program Update (*Paul Knowles*)

1. Acquisition Projects (Etter Ranch)

These additional 230 acres will add to the Antoine Peak Conservation Area, which is 1,066 acres in size. This property was originally #3 on the 2016 Conservation Futures Prioritized Acquisition List. Spokane County should be closing on this property on or before May 24, 2019.

2. M&O Projects;

i. Hauser Trailhead

This 21-acre property, between Newman Lake and Hauser Lake, was acquired out of need to create public and operational access to the 191-acre Hauser Conservation Area. Spokane County Parks is working with Coffman Engineers on the electrical plans and will complete the construction in-house this fall. The preliminary plans include a kiosk, public webcam, gravel lot and one paved ADA stall.

Mr. Knowles stated in lieu of a public meeting, staff contacted neighbors directly, providing them with information on the project and a request to provide comment. One neighbor expressed positive feedback and another neighbor expressed concerns about traffic and road conditions. Mr. Knowles added that this shouldn't be an issue as our "muddy trails" policy would likely coincide with the worst time of year for road conditions, therefore, the road should not be heavily trafficked at that time.

ii. C.F. Community Advisory Survey

Mr. Knowles stated that the results were mostly expected. 127 people completed the survey. A vast majority of respondents were in favor of active forest management (per recommendation of a forest management plan). A majority were in favor of keeping dogs on-leash and continuing to prohibit e-bike use. Mr. Chase stated there is still a lot to learn in regards to e-bikes.

V) Additional Comments:

Mr. Chase reminded the committee members that at the last meeting they discussed PAC committee guidelines for the total number of members. He brought the proposal to the Board of County Commissioners and they did approve the change. The new committee guidelines for members will be six adult members and one youth member (all voting). This reduced the committee from 10 to 7, which also involved adjusting the terms. Right now, the committee has one empty adult position and one empty youth position. Commissioner French has applicants that he is considering at this time.

VI) Adjourn Meeting. (Chair, Eric Johnson) (4:38pm)

Next Regular Meeting: Wednesday, June 12th, 2019. 3:00 p.m.; **Location:** 404 N. Havana St.

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.”