



Spokane County

PARKS, RECREATION AND GOLF
Doug Chase, Director

Draft MEETING MINUTES

SPOKANE COUNTY PARKS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (PAC)

Wednesday, April 11th, 2018 at 3:00 PM

404 N. Havana, Spokane WA, 99202

Present: Eric Johnson - Chair, Tom MacKenzie, Doug Kelley (dismissed at 4:10pm), Dave Schaub, Bob Ordner

Staff: Doug Chase - Director, John Bottelli - Assistant Director, Paul Knowles, Haiden Harlan, Bekah Bennett, Kris Krohn, Joel Blockman, Melissa Parker

Absent: Jason Williams, Eric Sawyer

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

- A. Additions to the Agenda
 - None
- B. Review and consider PAC Minutes from the February 7th regular meeting.
 - Minutes were approved unanimously
- C. Welcome and Introduction of new Spokane County Parks Department Employees:
 - 1. Kris Krohn, Park Planner / Landscape Architect
 - 2. Haiden Harlan, Recreation Coordinator, Aquatics

II) Liberty Lake Regional Park Master Plan (Steele Fitzloff, Bernardo Wills Architects, Paul Knowles)

Most the master plan is focused on the developed portion of the park (i.e. entry, parking lot, beach and campground). Bernardo Wills Architects with Studio Cascade investigated what users wanted the plan to focus on. A couple of different ways they did that was through pop-up polls, interviews with stakeholders and public open house / workshop meetings. After the initial research, they developed three alternative development scenarios: Active Families and Aspirations, Tourism and Visitation and Ecosystem and Conservation. Initial public input on those three scenarios clearly leaned towards a combination of the Active Families and Ecosystem scenarios -- the preferred alternative scenario, called Urban Retreat, Natural Showcase, which attempts to make park enhancements while also preserving what people love about the park – it's natural beauty. This scenario proposes to enhance the park entrance, the main parking lot, beach area, boardwalk, campground and renovation of existing facilities including the picnic shelter. After these concepts were developed there was a public roll-out at Liberty Lake's City Hall, which allowed the public to comment

on these concepts. Overall, the feedback was very positive, which confirmed the preferred alternative and its proposed enhancements.

- Mr. Kelley asked about the neighbors and stated how the closer people live to a park the more concerned they are about its impacts. How do we balance the public's needs versus the neighbors' concerns? Mr. Knowles replied that the consultants handled the public process great, they lined up several stakeholder interviews on the front end and got a more regional view from them. The pop-up interviews provided a more local point of view from park users. The open house events typically involved more neighbors, which provided that point of view. When it came around to the second public workshop it seemed that neighbors were pleased with the final product and that most of their concerns had been addressed.
- Mr. Ordner asked about the condition of the road leading to the park whether there was the potential to widen that? Mr. Knowles replied that Zephyr Road is identified for improvements as part of Phase 1, but funding has yet to be identified. Neyland and Liberty Lake would likely be a future County Public Works project funded by the road fund and / or grants.
- Mr. Schaub asked about the future swimability of Liberty Lake due to algae? Mr. Knowles stated it seems to only happen in in drought-like conditions and closures have been minimal. Mr. Schaub stated that the campground seems to get parched and hammered with dust. Mr. Knowles replied that the consultants investigated the water supply with the Liberty Lake Sewer and Water District, but it's likely existing supplies will be able to accommodate the park's water needs due to efficiencies gained through renovation and replacement of existing infrastructure such as the irrigation system. Mr. Chase added that due to the campground usually being very busy, the water gets shut off as to not get the camp patrons wet. This typically happens in the hottest parts of the summer. The plan will take that into consideration. Mr. Fitzloff added that the new plan calls for asphalt roads which will also reduce the amount of dust.
- Mr. Chase wanted to highlight that there is a recommendation in the plan to convert the ORV park to another use, such as a downhill mountain bike park. Through public input received during this process and comments received prior, ORV use may not be compatible with adjacent land uses, so the plan looks to phase the ORV park out or relocate it to Airway Heights. Motorcyclists accidentally wander outside the boundaries of the ORV park and inside the traditional park and there have been some close calls with hikers.
- Mr. Schaub asked to confirm that the project would cost approximately \$12,800,000 for the four phases. Mr. Knowles confirmed and added that there are opportunities for grant funding as well as real estate excise tax (REET) funds.

A. Action Item: (Chair, Eric Johnson):

Shall the Spokane County Parks Advisory Committee provide a recommendation to the Board of County Commissioners to approve / adopt the Liberty Lake Regional Park Master Plan?

- Mr. MacKenzie asked what the next step was? Mr. Chase stated the next steps would be to schedule a time to take the plan to the commissioners to seek their support and adoption of plan. Then upon their approval, we will have a document that will allow us to be competitive in attaining grant funds and other funding over time. Mr. Chase stated there is a new effort at the county for capital planning and will see long term planning improve at the county as we move forward.
- Mr. Schaub asked whether there was any rush to approve the plan today and whether this action could be deferred to the next PAC meeting to allow time for PAC members to review the draft plan? Mr. Knowles replied that there is no rush on this item. Mr. Chase added that the PAC should defer the action should it feel that it needs more time to review the plan.
- Mr. Kelley shared that he trusted the process, but since they have not had a chance to read the master plan, he agreed that deferring the action until the next meeting would be his preference. Mr. Schaub asked if the plan's proposed improvements were a "done deal"? Mr. Knowles stated that this plan was conceptual and each component could change during the planning process as dictated by engineering, permitting requirements or other factors, but that this document would serve as the "guiding document" moving forward.
- *Motion was tabled until next meeting.*

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

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

- Mr. MacKenzie: Golf started, courses open. MeadowWood still getting irrigation upgrades for another month or so. Liberty Lake is reaping the benefits of that. Promotions for golf still being worked on.
- Mr. Ordner: Big Rock/Stevens Creek utilization is off the charts.
- Mr. Schaub: Shout out to the department for great work. Mentioned article in paper:

<http://www.spokesman.com/stories/2018/apr/05/state-money-pours-into-spokane-area-recreation-pro/#/0>

- Mr. Kelley: Is the County's website ADA compliant? Mr. Bottelli replied that Civic Plus (Spokane County's website developer) did address accessibility and it does meet ADA standards.

IV) Sponsorship Committee Report: (Joel Blockman-Recreation Program Manager and Doug Kelley):

- A. Sponsorship Program background, policy and goals for 2018:
Mr. Blockman stated that at the last sponsorship committee meeting they gave an update on the goals for 2018 and a background on sponsorships for its new committee members. At the meeting, they discussed goals and wanted to look at ways to make sponsorships more attractive to the business community.
- B. County Sponsors to Date (handout)
- C. “One-Sheet” Sponsorship Proposal. General handout for possible sponsors.

Mr. Schaub mentioned it may be a good idea to let possible sponsors know how many sponsorships are available at each site.

V) Director’s Report:

A. Golf Trail Fee Waiver Request – (Doug Chase)

- A gentleman, Mr. Tom Ogen, approached Spokane County regarding the implementation of a golf trail fee waiver for persons with disabilities. Trail fees include charging a fee for private carts on the courses. Trail fees represented approximately \$78,000.00 in revenue between the three courses in 2017. The first time the county received a proposal for the waiver, it was presented as a legal requirement. However, the County’s legal department reviewed and determined it was not. The second proposal asked that Spokane County reconsider and develop a new policy that could accommodate a more restrictive waiver. In response, the Spokane County Golf Advisory Committee is seeking guidance/recommendations for developing “eligibility criteria” for persons with disabilities and other general suggestions for the program. After utilizing input from the Spokane County Accessible Communities Advisory Committee (ACAC), the Department will develop a formal proposal for consideration of the Spokane County Golf Advisory Committee and then present to the County Commissioners. Finally, if approved, the Department may consider pursuing grant funding from the Spokane Parks Foundation and/or solicit sponsorships from other sources to fund the program for the 2019 golf season.

Mr. Johnson asked about first tee? Mr. MacKenzie stated it was for youth. Mr. Chase stated that this is a similar approach to the Make-a-Splash program. It might be a punch card, but it will not be unlimited. There needs to be some controls. A privately funded program might be the best way to go. Individuals will need to meet certain criteria to get this assistance. We’ve appreciated Mr. Ogen’s input and he’s been invited to the ACAC meeting. The big question is: How do we design this program so it won’t be abused similar to the City of Spokane’s previous policy?

B. Presentation: Park Capital Projects Funding Request (Doug Chase)

- Bidwell Park

- Additional Phase 2 funds (\$250,000) have been approved as the County’s match through REET and grant funding of \$500,000 has been secured. Phase 2 enhanced has also been approved and includes a water slide, splash pad and expanded deck. The Department is looking to go to bid before end of calendar year.
- Phase 3 funds (\$850,000) have been approved as the County’s match through REET and grant funds (\$750,000) will be pursued. Grant deadline is May 1, 2018.
- Prairie View funds (\$575,000) have been approved by the County through REET to add slides to the tower among other improvements.
- Requested \$10,800,000 for the renovation of Plante’s Ferry. The Commissioners are wanting to set a meeting specifically for this request. The Department is working on an in-depth plan to take back to Commissioners at that time.

Mr. Schaub asked about the overlap between this list and levy lid lift list? Mr. Chase explained it was essentially the same list but County Parks is trying to use REET to implement the projects versus adding something to the ballot.

Mr. MacKenzie asked how much was in REET? Mr. Chase recalled that there may have been a REET2 balance of around \$7,000,000 in 2017 with around \$2.8 million coming in annually. Mr. MacKenzie asked who else can use REET? Mr. Chase replied that REET2 was restricted to parks and roads.

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

- Acquisition Update
 - Flying L Ranch (180 acres) has closed however, it is not open to public access yet. The Department will be going through a planning process and working with the neighborhood to come up with a conceptual design for the trailhead.
- M&O Update
 - Received Glenrose Trailhead Funding – We are looking at having an official groundbreaking ceremony. During the trailhead construction, the Glenrose public access point will be closed. Mr. Chase and Mr. Knowles will be attending the Glenrose neighborhood association meeting tonight to brief the neighborhood on the project.
 - The Department should begin construction on the Mica Peak trail system sometime in May. We will be bidding out the spine trail portion of the project which will include trail reroutes, restoration work and tearing up old connections to logging roads slated for closure.
 - Stevens Creek – Working on getting the ditch filled in and installing a gate. Mr. Krohn will be getting bids for the gate and hoping to have the project completed by June 15, 2018.

VI) 2018 Spokane County Aquatics Season – Park Foundation Free Swim events – “Estimated Impacts”, City of Spokane Free Swim (*Bekah Bennett*)

- With the City of Spokane going to free open swim, the Department considered several scenarios to determine budget impacts. We looked at various scenarios such as reducing fees to free admissions. We then took this information to the Commissioners. At this time, the Department will not be making any changes and will re-evaluate this approach at end of this season. The Commissioners are supportive of staying the course with regards to the pending aquatic facility improvements and programming.
- The Department is excited to share another sponsorship from the Spokane Park Foundation. They will be granting us \$21,000 this year. Of that \$21,000, \$16,000 will be provide a free evening swim every Saturday which will also tie into our family movie nights. The Department is also receiving another \$5,000 for Make-A-Splash swim scholarships.

VII) Adjourn Meeting. (Chair, Eric Johnson)

Adjourned at 5pm

Next Regular Meeting: Wednesday, June 13th, 2018. 3:00 p.m.; Location: Special Location (TBD)

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.”