



Spokane County

PARKS, RECREATION AND GOLF
Doug Chase, Director

MEETING MINUTES

SPOKANE COUNTY PARKS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (PAC)

Wednesday, June 12, 2019 at 3:00 PM

404 N. Havana, Spokane WA, 99202

Present: Eric Johnson – Chair, Doug Kelley, Tom MacKenzie, David Schaub
Absent: Eric Sawyer – Vice-Chair
Staff: Doug Chase, Paul Knowles, Kris Krohn, Sarah Fitzgerald (present for introduction only), Melissa Parker

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

- A. Additions to the Agenda
 - Director Chase has an update regarding the Park Advisory Committee member vacancy.
- B. Welcome / Introduce Sarah Fitzgerald - Spokane County's new Aquatics Recreation Program Manager.
- C. Review and consider PAC Minutes from the Wednesday, April 10th regular meeting.
 - Minutes were accepted.

II) Member Reports (Chair, Eric Johnson):

- A. Park Advisory Committee Members are encouraged to provide a brief report
 - Mr. Kelley advised the PAC about a Centennial Trail alternate route proposal. Avista is proposing to vacate a portion of Upriver Drive from Mission Avenue to the end of the Avista campus to create a new green space with a dedicated, fully separated trail. In addition, Avista is proposing to build a tunnel for the trail under Mission Avenue for safety reasons.
 - Mr. Schaub added he has been using the Glenrose Unit of Dishman Hills Conservation Area daily. Good job to everyone involved with how well this area has turned out.

III) Action Item (Chair, Eric Johnson): Select Special Location for August PAC Meeting.

- Dishman Hills Conservation Area – Glenrose Unit Trailhead

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

- A. Parks Planning and Capital Program Update (*Paul Knowles*)
Spokane County Parks is currently in the process of updating the regional trail and park plan. They both expire February 2020. These updates to the regional trail and park plan will allow Spokane County Parks to remain eligible for a

host of grants facilitated by the Recreation and Conservation Office. Mr. Johnson asked about regional trail plan? Mr. Knowles stated that it is updated every six years and will include an updated inventory (trails) and proposed connections and improvements. Mr. Knowles is trying to get three open houses put together. The purpose of the open house events is to reach out to each jurisdiction and their communities about what they would like to see in the updated plans.

1. Bidwell Park (***Kris Krohn***)

Bid openings for Bidwell were open on May 9, 2019. The Phase 2 bid came in at \$1.9 million over budget. A strategy was put together to cancel the Southside Aquatics Facility project and to take that \$800,000 and move it to the Bidwell project (cancelling the Southside project) and then request that any additional budget shortfall for the Bidwell project be funded through REET. The Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) verbally agreed. Shortly thereafter, the Budget Office contacted Mr. Chase and said there was a possibility there would be enough REET funds for both the Northside / Bidwell and Southside projects. The Bidwell Park project was then awarded to T Lariviere Equipment & Excavation. Construction on the park will tentatively start at beginning of July. The aquatics facility portion will start when the facility closes for the season and is slated to be completed before the 2020 aquatics season starts.

2. Prairie View Park SS Aquatics: Water slide/deck expansion project (***Kris Krohn***)

Bid opening for two new water slides, an expansion deck along with some repairs opened on May 9, 2019. This was the second-time Spokane County Parks went out to bid on the project. The bids came in \$30,000 higher than the original bids. The project was awarded to Wesslen Construction for \$830,000 and will begin when the facility closes. It is scheduled to be completed before the next aquatics season.

3. Plante's Ferry (***Doug Chase***)

i. Partnership Proposal w/City of Spokane Valley

Director Chase approached the City of Spokane Valley Council in regards to a partnership proposal for Plante's Ferry. The BoCC and the City of Spokane Valley seemed very open to the proposal. Plante's Ferry is one of three projects Spokane Valley is looking into for recreational enhancement / economic development opportunities. City staff is working with their consultant on analyzing the three projects and will present their recommendations to their City Council.

ii. Water Rate Increase - Trentwood Irrigation Board Meeting

There has been a lot of research done regarding the irrigation of Plante's Ferry (Sports Complex). A solution recommended for improvement of water use was to change out the two-inch water meter with a four-inch water meter. This would quadruple the water

output and would take the irrigation cycle down from approximately 23 hours a day to eight-nine hours, reducing water use. Water costs in 2017 were approximately \$35,000 jumping to approximately \$97,000 in 2018 due to water rate overage charge increases approved by the Trentwood Irrigation Board. Right now, the Spokane Valley Junior Soccer Association pays two-thirds of the water costs and won't be able to sustain this increase in cost without changes to the irrigation system and how annual bill is divvied up. Spokane County Parks will be requesting funds from the BoCC to change out the meter and add rain sensors. Mr. Kelley asked where Spokane County Parks was in the process of the purchase for the larger meter. He stated depending on the "load," Avista may be able to help with some funding based on improved efficiency and reduced electric consumption.

4. Spokane County Raceway Operator Agreement "10-year review" (*Doug Chase*)

The current operator agreement expires April 2020 with a potential five-year renewal at end. The current operator has asked for the renewal, but would sell its LLC to another individual to operate the facility. As part of that renewal process, Spokane County Parks is conducting a review of the operator agreement, including County expenditures on the facility, rent received and admissions tax paid to the City of Airway Heights since Spokane County assume ownership of the facility. These numbers are being compared to estimates provided in the initial feasibility study for the Raceway to help guide future decisions on the Raceway, including potential adjustments to the operators agreement. Mr. Johnson asked if the PAC needed to make a recommendation to the BoCC. Director Chase asked if the PAC was comfortable reviewing further information regarding this electronically versus calling a special meeting. The PAC members agreed. They will call a special meeting if needed.

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

1. Acquisition Projects

i. Antoine Peak - Etter Ranch

Spokane County Parks has closed on this 230-acre property, which is now a part of Antoine Peak Conservation Area. It is not accessible from Flora and Wesley yet (no trailhead in place), but the public can visit the site by parking at the two existing trailheads and hiking in from above. Next year, Spokane County Parks is planning to pursue a public planning process and develop / finalize conceptual design plans for the future "Flora Trailhead" that is tentatively scheduled for construction in 2021.

ii. 2019-2021 Potential Acquisition Projects

The #1-ranked Paras property - 19.7 acres (Beacon Hill 04-16) is adjacent to Camp Sekani. This property contains the upper portion

of downhill mountain bike course. Staff is currently scheduling appraisals to begin in September.

The #2-ranked Pilcher property - 47 acres (Latah Creek 17-16). Spokane County Parks is not considering doing anything regarding appraisals on this property until after September when the Paras property appraisals come back. The City of Spokane also has an option to purchase the property that expires at end of the year and it sounds like they will be initiating an appraisal on this property in the near future. The City is aware that the County is not certain of the funds available for the purchase of this property until the Paras property appraisal comes back and we have a willing seller at appraised value.

Mr. Kelley asked about the Conservation Futures maintenance and operations (m&o) legislative change that allowed Spokane County to utilize up to 25% of the annual property tax collected for m&o expenses and how that is affecting things? Is the new change fully funding m&o? Mr. Chase stated that the additional funding is being utilized with a new 100% dedicated full-time Operations employee to the Conservation Futures Program. Mr. Knowles added that the additional funding generated by the change is being used at 100% capacity for projects related to forest management to public access improvements. Spokane County Parks feel good about what they are accomplishing with this additional budget, which has been supported by positive public input.

2. M&O Projects

- i. Dishman Hills Conservation Area – Glenrose Unit Trailhead
Driveway paving completed. There are some storm water drainage issues which are being addressed through a small change order.
- ii. Phillips Creek Trailhead
Conceptual site plan and budget for developing a bid package was approved by the BoCC. Staff is moving forward with SPVV Landscape Architects to get the project ready to bid out (pending construction budget approved by the BoCC) by the end of 2019.
- iii. Hauser (Selkirk Conifer Farm) Trailhead
Conceptual site plan was finalized. Construction is slated to start in-house October/November 2019 and be done by the end of the year. Spokane County Parks will be submitting for permits within this month. A couple of neighbors have given a little push back regarding current road conditions and the road impact of the project. County Engineers will be placing counters right away to get a before “picture.” The trailhead will include lighting and a webcam. Mr. Kelley asked about specifications on the lighting. He requested that

staff submit those specs to Avista where there may be some additional rebates for utilizing more efficient LED lighting.

iv. Mica Peak Trail Development

Washington Trails Association (WTA) has been working hard on this project and is making good progress. They have a few work parties scheduled for this month to continue the trail downslope. Evergreen East is also making progress on their section having just completed a “switchbacks” section on Department of Natural Resources (DNR) land. The flow trail [downhill mountain bike trail] (phase 1) is complete with phase 2 starting soon. Staff is also pursuing permitting for stream crossings on Phases 3 & 4 of the trail.

v. Forest Management Project

a. Haynes Conservation Area – fuels reduction on 24 acres - DNR is covering 50% cost. Project should be complete this week.

b. McLellan Conservation area – fuels reduction on 61 acres - phase 1 complete. Phase 2 - 240 acres – will be a commercial thinning project. Some of the trees have commercial value so Spokane County Parks is waiting for the timber market to improve to improve cost-recovery. This in turn will help fund future forest enhancement projects on the property.

vi. Webcams

Another light and webcam has been installed at Antoine Peak’s West Trailhead. The other two existing cameras are located at Steven Creek Trailhead and Glenrose Trailhead in Dishman Hills. Mr. Schaub stated that City Parks had advised him about liability issues. He asked to meet with Mr. Knowles separately regarding the issue.

V) Additional Agenda Item

- The BoCC has received 3-4 applications for a vacancy on the PAC. Mr. Chase was just advised by staff in the BoCC office that they are looking to appoint someone next week.

VI) Adjourn Meeting (Chair, Eric Johnson – 4:26 p.m.)

Next Regular Meeting: Wednesday, August 14th, 2019. 3:00 p.m.

Location: Meeting at Special Location: Dishman Hills Conservation Area – Glenrose Unit Trailhead

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.”