



Spokane County

PARKS, RECREATION AND GOLF
Doug Chase, Director

Minutes

SPOKANE COUNTY PARKS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (PAC)

Regular Meeting

Wednesday, November 9, 2022 at 8:00 AM
404 N Havana

Present: Mr. Sawyer, Mr. Mackenzie, Ms. Fowler, Mr. Kelley, Mr. Schaub

Staff Present: Mr. Chase, Mr. Knowles, Mr. Harlan, Ms. Al-Hafian, Mr. Chambers

Not Present: Mr. Johnson

I. Call Meeting to Order (Chair, Dave Schaub) 8:02am

A. Additions to the Agenda

None

B. Review and consider PAC minutes from the September 14, 2022 meeting

Motion to approve: Mr. Kelley, seconded by Mr. Mackenzie. Motion unanimously approved.

C. 2023 Draft Meeting Schedule

Mr. Schaub asked if there were any suggestions for the special location for June's PAC Meeting. He asked that everyone begin thinking about a potential location for the June 14th meeting.

Mr. Sawyer asked if the meetings would continue to be at 8:00 am. Mr. Chase responded yes, the 2023 schedule is similar to last year's scheduled.

The schedule is approved unanimously as a working draft meeting schedule.

II. Member's Report (Chair, Dave Schaub)

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

Mr. Schaub mentioned that he made it out to the Trentwood Trailhead before winter descended. He is impressed with the work that Spokane County does to create such great and secure trailheads. And the trail itself was great too. Antoine Peak is an awesome area.

Mr. Sawyer stated that the GAC met yesterday. The golf season was super strong and great. He said the County did a great job with the challenge of the parking lot over at Latah Creek. The team did a great job with the shuttle and having the entry and exit well marked.

Mr. Chase stated that Mr. Jamie Kelly worked hard to keep things running smoothly. The number of tee times were slightly reduced due to the limited parking, but a lot of thought was put into this project. Everyone is pleased and it went better than expected.

Mr. Kelley also said that he consistently hears the public opine that the county courses are in much better shape than the city courses, and cheaper too!

Mr. Mackenzie asked for the final tally of tees and what will happen to rates next year.

Mr. Chase responded that there were over 100,000 rounds played. Mr. Sawyer stated that rates maybe going up a buck.

Mr. Schaub asked how did this year compare to last year?

Mr. Chase replied that the rounds were down slightly from last year, but higher than previous years.

Mr. Sawyer also mentioned that COVID was one of the best things to ever happen to golf.

III. Aquatics & Liberty Lake Regional Park Year-End Presentation (Haiden Harlan)

[See Presentation: Aquatics](#)

[See Presentation: Liberty Lake](#)

Mr. Schaub stated that it looks like the county is profitable now that they are partnered with the Spokane Indians. Mr. Harlan replied that even though there is a drastic drop in concession revenue, with this new partnership, the county is making money rather than losing money.

Mr. Sawyer asked what the strong attendance might be attributed to? Mr. Harlan responded that last year, the county implemented two swim sessions daily instead of one daylong swim session. This allows more foot traffic and the ability to lower the max capacity.

Mr. Mackenzie asked if the staff shortages affected the seasonal staff expenses? Or were the pools fully staffed? Mr. Harlan answered that the county was fully staffed, which was very great, especially compared to other facilities.

Mr. Kelley questioned why someone might choose working at the county pools over others? Mr. Harlan responded that the county pools are in great geographical locations. There is also a great culture at both sites that invites people to work. The county pools are seeing more and more staff retention, along with the friends of current staff applying. So far, the county has been very fortunate staffing wise. Mr. Chase added that Mr. Harlan, Ms. Hansen and Ms. Fitzgerald treat the staff well and they do a good job of making our pools a great place to work. Staff recruitment starts early, as the county begins reaching out to staff in December/January.

Mr. Kelley asked if the county follows up with Canopy Credit Union after the season to give them a report on the free swim nights. Mr. Harlan replied that yes, there is a meeting to go over numbers with them. It is valuable for them to see if it is something that they want to continue to do. The county has worked with them for the last 4 years now and enjoy the partnership.

Ms. Fowler asked if the county is planning on continuing to mirror the public swim block schedule in 2023.

Mr. Harlan stated yes. Having two swim sessions allows the max capacity to be lowered at each site. This allows for a better experience for the public.

Mr. Sawyer asked at what point will the county decide it needs another pool to keep up.

Mr. Chase responded that given the operational loss, there are not currently plans for an additional pool at the county level. So far there has been no feedback stating a need for an additional pool. However, parks staff will watch for that potential need. 2022 was a phenomenal season and park staff feel optimistic and pleased that we can hold the cost. Another thing to remember is that it is free to swim at the city pools. To have this sort of attendance at the county pools is huge.

Mr. Mackenzie asked if the Spokane Indians break even doing concessions at the pools. Mr. Chase replied yes, and Parks receives 25% of their net profit.

Mr. Kelley questioned that with the large increases in minimum wage and electricity next year, does the County think that they can hold cost recovery rates.

Mr. Chase stated that it would be difficult to charge much higher than the current rate. It is possible that cost recovery will decline next year. It is also tough to compete with the free entry that the city pools offer.

IV. Active 2023 Capital Budget Request & Outside Funding Opportunities (Doug Chase & Paul Knowles)

- A.** Overview of 2023 Capital Budget funding requests, active Department grant applications & ARPA funding requests

See Presentation

Mr. Schaub asked who would patrol the meters out at the Liberty Lake parking lot?

Mr. Chase responded that Park Staff is working with HR to help figure out how to best patrol this meter.

In regards to the potential move to the Conservation District building, Mr. Schaub asked if the public entrance would be from the north? Mr. Chase responded that yes, there are plans for public parking from the north while staff would park in a gated area to the east of the building.

Mr. Schaub asked when the Department is planning to move buildings. Mr. Chase replied that pending the budget adoption, the move is anticipated to occur in 3 to 5 months.

Mr. Mackenzie asked what would become of the current Parks Admin building. Mr. Chase responded that the Spokane Indians would likely use the building, as it would assist with meeting some of the Major League Baseball required improvements for Avista Stadium.

Regarding the West Plains ARPA Funding, Mr. Mackenzie asked what type of park is being planned. Mr. Knowles responded that it would be a community park, similar to Bidwell and Prairie View.

Mr. Schaub stated that it is astonishing the amount of activity that Parks staff have underway with the ARPA funding. Mr. Chase replied that there is probably twice as many projects than normal for this time of year. However, some of these projects can happen over time. The Department has until 2026 to spend the ARPA funds allocated.

V. Director's Report (Doug Chase)

- A.** PAC Member Terms Expiring / Potential for adjustments to PAC and other Volunteer Committee Representation per 2023 expansion of Spokane County, Board of County Commissioners.

Mr. Chase stated that there are three members who will be ending their term at the end of the year. With the changes to the number of commissioners, there is some anticipated change under the new board. One scenario could be that the PAC will have one member per commissioner, and the 6th member would be an at large youth or adult.

Another change that may or may not take place would be that the new board might choose to limit the appointees to live within their district. Once there is more direction, Park Staff will reach out to PAC members with expiring terms.

Mr. Sawyer asked how the county defines a youth? Mr. Chase replied a youth is anyone under the age of 18. Mr. Sawyer stated that there has been some great luck getting college kids for these types of positions. There are so many kids who are coming out of college who are looking for practical experience.

Mr. Schaub stated that going into 2023, he and Mr. Knowles are going to work together to keep agendas that are compelling. He asked that PAC members reach out if they are interested about certain projects.

VI. Written Department Update (Misc. 0-15 minutes)

Time allotted for Questions/Clarification Advisory Committee Members may have associated with the "written departmental update".

END: 9:15 am

Next Regular Meeting: TBD. Draft 2023 meeting schedule prepared for review and consideration;
Location: 404 N Havana.

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.”

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT (ADA) INFORMATION: Spokane County is committed to providing equal access to its facilities, programs, and services for persons with disabilities. The Spokane County Parks, Recreation & Golf Conference Room is wheelchair accessible. Individuals requesting reasonable accommodations or further information may call, write, or email Ashley Cameron at (509) 477-2122 (TDD), 824 North Adams Street, Spokane, WA, 99260; or acameron@spokanecounty.org. Please contact us forty-eight (48) hours before the meeting date.