



**Spokane County**

PARKS, RECREATION AND GOLF  
Doug Chase, Director

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## **DRAFT MINUTES**

### **SPOKANE COUNTY PARKS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (PAC)**

#### ***Regular Meeting***

January 31, 2024 at 8:00 AM

404 N Havana

Present: Kaitlin Erickson, Tom Mackenzie, Mel Fowler, Eric Sawyer, Curt Chambers, Dave Schaub  
Doug Kelly – Call in.

Not Present: Eric Johnson

#### **I. Call Meeting to Order (Chair, Dave Schaub) – 8:10 am**

**A.** Additions to the Agenda - None

**B.** Review and consider PAC minutes from the November 1, 2023, meeting – Kaitlin made a motion to approve the minutes and Eric S. moved to approve the minutes. The minutes were unanimously approved.

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

- Park Advisory Committee Members are encouraged to provide a brief report – Kaitlin shared she had visited Camelot Park and McLellan Conservation Area about a week ago and the trails seemed to be in good shape.

#### **III. 2024 Capital Budget (Doug Chase)**

- Overview of 2024 funded projects per 6 Year Capital Improvement Plan – Doug provided the PAC with a summary of capital projects funded in the 2024 adopted budget consistent with the County's 6-year capital improvement plan. Capital Improvements that are being funded in 2024 include the following:
  1. Parks and Recreation 5-year Vehicle Replacement Plan
  2. Plante's Ferry Stormwater Upgrades
  3. Plante's Ferry Phase 1 Renovation
  4. West Plains Park
  5. Fish Lake Property Acquisition
  6. Airway Heights ORV Park Phase 1 Renovation
  7. Bear Lake Regional Park Shoreline & Access Renovation and Enhancement
  8. Liberty Lake Regional Park Phase 1
  9. Liberty Lake Regional Park Zephyr Road Improvements
  10. Southside Aquatic Facility Design & Permitting for Aquatic Play Structure Replacement
  11. Northside Aquatic Facility Concession Trailer Replacement
  12. Liberty Lake Regional Park Rental Cabin Construction P2
  13. Linwood Tennis Court Renovation
  14. Northwoods Park Restroom Installation/Replacement/Renovation Project

#### **IV. Haynes Conservation Property – House Demolition (Doug Chase/Curt Chambers)**

- Presentation – Evaluation and Recommendation for House Demolition and Property Restoration for public access. The Parks Department is seeking support from the PAC to demolish the existing house in the Haynes Conservation area and restore the land to a more natural setting to increase public access to the Little Spokane River (see attached presentation).

Eric S. asked if increased access would include allowing boats to access the river. Doug explained that it is his understanding that the Little Spokane River is unique in regard to it being one (if not the only) body of water (waters of the state) in Washington controlled by the underlining landowner(s). Unlike other “waters of the state” landowners that own property extending underneath The Little Spokane River control their portion of the river and have the right to prohibit floating (or other use/access) on the water located directly above their property. . The County would not want to contribute to the possibility of the public trespassing on adjacent landowners’ portion of the river so we would not encourage or condone access for boats, tubes, etc. This would not apply to use of a personal flotation device (life jacket) for someone choosing to go for a swim on County property.

#### **V. Action Items:**

##### **A. Haynes Conservation Property**

Shall the Spokane County Parks Advisory Committee recommend and advise the Director of Spokane County Parks, Recreation & Golf (“Parks Director”) to: Pursue demolition of the existing house located on the Haynes Conservation Futures Property and restoration of the natural setting along the Little Spokane River following house removal to encourage increased public access consistent with findings and recommendation as presented by staff? Tom made a motion to pursue demolition of the existing house and Eric seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

##### **B. Elections**

###### **Open Positions:**

**Chair (2-year term): Mel Fowler**

**Vice Chair (2-year term): Tom Mackenzie**

**Land Evaluation Committee (Rotating One-Year Position): Kaitlin Erickson**

Eric S. moved to approve the Member Appointments and Doug K. seconded. The PAC unanimously approved.

##### **C. Amend / Update Park Advisory Committee (PAC) Operational Guidelines**

Shall the PAC amend the PAC Operational Guidelines to reflect quarterly meetings vs. bi-monthly meetings, and to recognize adjustments imposed by the Board of County Commissioners per adopted resolution 2023-0070? Tom moved to approve the updated PAC Operational Guidelines and Mel seconded. The PAC unanimously approved.

#### **VI. Written Department Update (Misc. 0-15 minutes) - 9:15 am**

**Time allotted for Questions/Clarification Advisory Committee Members may have associated with the “written departmental update”-** Eric S. asked about the details of the DNR Grant for Glenrose Trailhead. Curt explained that they have applied for a DNR Grant with the top priority being fire and fuel reduction with a component of community and public outreach in the

form of education. The grant would fund a Forester who would manage the project and put it out to bid. There is 25 +/- acres that will be forested.

Eric S. asked if Plante's Ferry Phase 1 was in good shape for additional phases. Doug explained that the department is currently focused on Phase 1 implementation only and initial cost estimates exceed funds available at this time. The process ahead will determine how many of the planned amenities will be completed. Future phases have not currently been budgeted for. It will be challenging to get Phase 1 fully under contract by the end of the year which is the deadline to utilize ARPA Funds. The County is meeting with the Owners Rep team to discuss items that can be worked on immediately, while staff proceeds with seeking approval from the State Project Review Committee to proceed with the project utilizing the Progressive Design Build alternative delivery method of construction.

Tom asked if there are any new updates to the future Park Administration Building renovation. Doug explained that it is currently getting ready to go out to bid and we are hopeful to move into the building before the end of the calendar year. Unlike the existing office building, the future building will be managed by the Spokane County Facilities department, similar to other County Buildings located on the County's downtown courthouse campus. Meaning, the Facilities Department will be responsible for ongoing maintenance and repairs of this building and not the Parks Department.

Meeting adjourned at 9:29 AM

**Next Regular Meeting:** May 8, 2024; **Location:** Special Location (TBD), contingent upon COVID-19 sanctions.

***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](mailto:acameron@spokanecounty.org). Please contact us forty-eight (48) hours before the meeting date.