



City of Spokane

February 3, 2010

By Hand Delivery and e-mail

Mr. Gary Lawton, President
Members of the Spokane Park Board
c/o City of Spokane Parks & Recreation Department
Spokane City Hall
808 W. Spokane Falls Blvd.
Spokane, WA 99201

Re: Permanent Appointment of Parks Director

Dear Mr. President and Park Board Members:

In October 2009, you welcomed Leroy Eadie as Acting Parks Director. I want to thank you for accepting this change in executive leadership while in the midst of numerous large and important projects and issues. I appreciate the challenges this posed, and the way the Board adapted to change.

Now that you have had several months to observe and evaluate Leroy's skills, talents, knowledge, and passion for our City parks and recreation programs, I trust you are as pleased as I have been with Leroy's performance.

I was familiar with Leroy's professionalism, grasp of big concepts, and ability to juggle a myriad of details. However, I was pleasantly surprised as he transitioned smoothly and successfully into this new role and the range of responsibilities that come with it.

Leroy quickly gained the confidence and cooperation of his management team and has earned the respect of staff throughout the Parks organization. Simultaneously, he is guiding seamless cooperation between Parks and his peers elsewhere in the City organization. He is respectful of the autonomy and role of the Park Board, while pursuing opportunities for closer alliance with other City departments.

An example of Leroy's leadership is the arrangement he crafted with the Public Works Division to refill the Cannon Hill Park pond with filtered rainwater in the design for the street bond project on Lincoln Street. This will save many gallons of drinking water and reduce the water bill to Parks, while maintaining an important community park feature.

"Spokane – Near Nature, Near Perfect"

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Leroy also acted promptly to ensure a strategy was put into place for disposition of the YMCA property after City Council's deferral of a decision on Conservation Futures funding. Working in concert with the Finance Division, Leroy has made sure the Park Board's position is well represented, and that potential investors are given full and complete information about the property.

I could relay other success stories resulting from Leroy's leadership thus far in the Parks & Recreation Department. I'm sure Board Members could as well. In a very short time, Leroy has achieved an impressive list of accomplishments.

Although you have contemplated a national search to fill the position, a lot of time and expense could be incurred searching for the perfect candidate, when we already have a top-notch professional filling the position for us right now.

As has been my custom, I would like to make this major decision in partnership with the Park Board.

Therefore, I request the Park Board vote to confirm Leroy Eadie for permanent appointment as the Parks Department Director. I would appreciate your formal consideration of this appointment at your next Park Board meeting.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Mary B. Verner
Mayor

cc.: Pat Dalton, Assistant City Attorney for the Park Board
Ted Danek, City Administrator