



ANACORTES PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT
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Parks & Recreation Advisory Commission

Preliminary Agenda

Regular Meeting on March 8, 2022 at 6:00 PM

Access to the meeting via Zoom through this link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85776295672>

1. Call to Order
2. Approve Minutes
3. Public Comments
4. Department Reports
5. Skate Park
6. Q'elech'ilhch Park
7. Other Business

If reasonable accommodation due to a disability are needed, please contact Mac Jackson at least 48 hours prior to the meeting date (360-299-1961)

ANACORTES PARKS & RECREATION

Advisory Commission

Meeting Minutes

*Sarah Nichols, Chairperson
Jo Ann York-Gilmore
Brad Adams
Christine Hansen
Alex Hernandez*

February 8, 2022

Members Present: Sarah Nichols, Jo Ann York-Gilmore, Christine Hansen, Brad Adams and Alex Hernandez

Staff Present: Karl Wolfswinkel, Dustin South, Nicole Johnston, Bob Vaux and Jonn Lunsford

Called to Order: 6:00 PM

Minutes: January minutes were unanimously approved as submitted.

Public Comments: None

Department Reports:

•**Karl Wolfswinkel** reported that it was a busy January at the Anacortes Senior Activity Center, including a visit from Mayor Miller. They hosted a vaccine clinic that went well and are looking forward to another one this week. The hybrid programs are going well, reaching many people in person and at home, as well as allowing instructors to teach even while out of the area. The bake sale was very successful and raised \$1000 for the Foundation. Anacortes Police Department's Community Service Officer will be out soon for a chat. The latest major project is the Aging Mastery Program is starting again in April. It will run for 10 weeks, hearing from aging professionals in many areas. Nicole, Dustin and Brian are working on the children's play area at the front of the center. The crew will be taking out the playground equipment and making it more user friendly for active seniors. The Foundation Retreat is upcoming, and they want to focus to turn to raising funds and be less hands on with daily use at the Center. Their major contribution was bringing the center to the city from the county.

•**Dustin South** stated that the only thing not on the submitted report was the starting of a Badminton league that will be open for adults at the end of March. There will also be a manners and etiquette class offered for kids now, but that may change to pre-holidays if there are not many participants at this time. The recreation department is prepping for summer camps and events, which is very exciting after being down for a season. They are looking to hire more student leaders for camps to help accommodate the need in town. He is also looking into e-sports/video games, specifically a company that will keep kids safe and monitored. They run it like a regular sports league, with practice and games. This would open up the options to other groups of kids that have not typically participated in previous recreation offerings.

•**Nicole Johnston** expressed a big thank you for coming out to visit the cemetery. The only change to the written submission is a change to Washington Park restrooms. In an effort to curb vandalism, the lower restroom shower units at Washington Park will be closed overnight for the winter season. Brad asked about

restroom hours in the other parks, an inquiry from community member John Morgan. Nicole replied that due to staff hours and vandalism, the winter hours are shorter. After day light saving, spring and summer hours will be longer when we have more staff.

•**Bob Vaux** mentioned that he was close to finishing the application for the Rotary project on Cap Sante. Sarah asked about the eBike discussion. Bob mentioned the informative article written for Friends of the Forest and gave a brief overview of the report from Bellingham City Parks and Washington State Parks. He said that any new user group or tool will add to the number of trips and length of trips, and will need to be considered. The largest group of voices submitting comments are the 65(plus) year old males with the need for a bit of help due to health or surgeries. The Forest Advisory Board has devoted two meetings to the discussion and set February 24th as the deadline for written comments. The March Forest Board meeting will allow the Board to deliberate, with the possibility of an April meeting decision from Board. There will also need to be discussion about the Tommy Thompson Trail, Washington Park Loop Road and Guemes Channel Trail and allowing eBikes on these trails. Brad asked about the Guemes Channel Trail repairs. Bob shared what had been done last week to repair the winter storm damage. The team is working with Mayor Miller on upcoming options and decisions regarding cost to keep up on repairs. The trail needs some asphalt in small areas this spring when it is available. Alex expressed concern about speed on the Loop Road and asked if it is possible to get more speed bumps to help with this. Bob spoke to the amount of discussion about this and types of speed control that has happened over the years. The Parks department is looking at options with Public Works to slow traffic. Alex also asked about the Storvik park basketball court and horseshoe pit, if anything has been proposed? Jonn answered that a group wanted to put sand volleyball there but they were slowed due to Covid. At this time it is unsure what the current need or desire is, but the Parks Department is open to looking at this area again.

•**Jonn Lunsford** gave an update on the skate park. A survey was sent out to allow the public to weigh in on what features are desired for the new park. The permitting and surveying are taking place now with the goal to open in the Spring of 2022. Brad asked about the N Avenue park, now named Q'elech'ilhch. Jonn stated that the Parks department is working with the Samish Nation and the Anacortes Museum on a plan for the park including the art and displays to have there. The Port is also part of the process to make this a nice area to visit.

No other business.

Meeting adjourned at 6:37pm.

The NEXT MEETING will be held on Tuesday, March 08, 2022, at 6:00 PM, virtually.

Respectfully submitted by: Darby Jordan

Parks and Recreation Update – March 2022

SKATE PARK

I will be on this project team from here on out. We had our initial planning team meeting Jan 31. We are mapping out our Planning Department critical path map. Looking forward to working with local inspiration Rachel Muntean-Salazar, as well as the Grindline team.

Feb 9: Director Lunsford and I walked and talked the site with Samish Tribal Historic Preservation Officer Jackie Ferry. Always a pleasure working with Jackie. Of course, we will keep her apprised as we move forward, and she will let us know if there is anything we need to know.

WINTER VOLUNTEER WORK PARTY

On a grey, rainy Feb 19th morning, we had over 30 hearty souls show up for the quarterly Friends of the Forest/COA ACFL volunteer work party. We managed to do some great surfacing work along #100, and pulled many invasive plants. Thank you one and all who came out.



ACFL/FoF/WTa

The Friends of the Forest have been advocating for an ACFL trail crew project with the Washington Trails Association. After our meeting on #311 last month, we decided to pursue a simpler task in the meantime. ACFL Steve has been touring the 113/124 area with WTA and me on different occasions. We are in the process of finalizing a plan.

LEGISLATIVE MEETINGS

Director Lunsford and I met with Cole Harvey, Legislative Aide to Rep. Lekanoff. Had a fine discussion of various park projects, including pursuing grant \$ for the Skate Park project.

WASHINGTON PARK

We have been discussing how to improve the local discount protocol for camping and parking with our Finance Dept. We hope to have some information for the Parks Commission in the near future.

We also have put together an in-house WP Task Force. We are looking at all WP policies, and working toward making some recommendations to Director Lunsford in the next few months.

ROTARY CLUB TRAIL PROJECT

The excitement is building on Cap Sante. We are working on kiosks, maps and trailheads in early February. Also submitted the upland permit application.

Feb 9: COA GIS Master Robert Hoxie and I recon the trails so he may begin zeroing in on necessary coordinates for project map making.

ACFL Traffic Safety

At the request of some trail regulars, I have submitted for Traffic Safety Committee review the Heart Lake Road crossing from the main HL parking lot to trail #313. We all know what a speedway that road corridor can be, and this blind corner can be treacherous for our hikers, bikers and equestrians.

GUEMES CHANNEL TRAIL

Our Parks Crew did a great job repairing the latest round of storm damage.

TREES

Planning asked us to take a look at an issue in the NGPE at Geer Lane. N. Johnston conducted the site visit and passed info back to Planning. Outside Parks jurisdiction.

Cap Sante Madrone Vandalism Feb 1: APD called with a report of this. I followed up Officer Rhodes' report with some quick recon and photos. Looks like at least 3 portions of substantial living limbs were cut out. Parks Crew staff Tottenham and Guthrie took a closer look the following morning. Did not find any more damage to trees, but some random burned grass and some candy wrappers. Always hate to blame those darn kids, but this one is looking that way. ACFL Steve and I met with an Orchard Avenue residence, discussing NGPE tree concerns. Steve will do a formal arborist assessment.

REGULAR MEETINGS

Had our quarterly meeting with our Council Parks Committee. The 2022 roster is Moulton, McDougall and Hubik. We covered a lot of ground, and were able to answer several good questions.

Consistently working with Friends of the Forest. Recent highlights include Ebike discussions, volunteer work party planning and programming schedule.

Our Parks Crew conducts very frank and helpful tailgate safety meetings monthly. I do my best to attend.

Thanks again to the City of Bellingham and State Parks, respectively, for providing our February Forest Board meeting with such a great panel. The ebike discussion was very helpful for me.

Enjoyed a Parks Commission field trip to Grand View Cemetery. Nicole J has done a fantastic job shepherding that project along.

ACFL Steve, Denise Crowe and I continue our monthly COA/Samish gatherings on the trails in the woods. We visited Washington Park in February. Blue blue sky and bright bright sun.

FOR WHAT IT'S WORTH...

It's hard to put into words just how amazing the Johnston/Tottenham lead Washington Park shop clean-up was on Feb 18th. THANK YOU

Working with the Museum on the future of James Rice Civic Park, re: a true waterfront destination is lurking in that neglected triangle... amidst the scotchbroom and the old RR ties.

Been upping the drive by's at Ace of Hearts Dog and Ballfield Park. Been happily surprised by the lack of dog traffic on the ballfield.

Working on our DOE Aquatic Plant and Algae General Permit.

Personal leave taken: Fri 2/4.

Bob Vaux

Parks Crew has been keeping busy this past month. Below is a little glimpse of what we have been doing.

Grand View Cemetery Expansion Update: We have extended the contract time for Trinity Construction to return and make the repairs to the asphalt road and to stain the fence. They now have until March 31, 2022 and feel optimistic they will get the work done by then. Jonn and I have been working with Tuttle Engineer and Powertek Surveying to finalize the plot layout plan. The goal is to have all the plots surveyed and the monument markers in the ground by April 30, 2022.

Ray Auld Drive Port o Potty Pad: Crew has poured a pad for the port o potty that is located at the Mt. Erie parking lot on Ray Auld Drive. Crew will build a privacy screen that is similar to the one that is located at the top of Mt. Erie.



Guemes Channel Trail Repairs: Crew spent time on the GCT cutting the asphalt where it had washed away from the storm and filled with gravel. This spring when we find the time we will return to patch the trail with asphalt.

Americus Altair Memorial: Crew spent time cleaning up and mulching at the Americus Altair Memorial located at Civic Rice Park. Just in time for the memorial ceremony they were having on Feb. 14, 2022.

Seasonal Staff Update: The parks seasonal staff positions have been posted. I attended a WRPA Job Fair in Bellingham on Feb. 10th and talked to a few interested people. Help spread the word <https://www.anacorteswa.gov/Jobs.aspx?UniqueId=101&From=All&CommunityJobs=False&JobID=Seasonal-Parks-Maintenance-35> we are looking for staff to work in the ACFL, Washington Park and on the parks crew.

Holiday Wreaths/ Lights: Parks crew helped take down the holiday wreaths/ lights in the downtown trees. Chamber is taking over the lights downtown and I am told they will be putting rope lights around the trunks of the trees downtown.

Fire Rings for Sunset Beach: Completed the Shoreline Exemption permit for the installation of the new fire rings for Washington Park. Now we have to make time to start removing the existing fire pits and order the new fire rings. We are looking to order 8 fire rings.

Work Party Update: On Feb. 22nd Skagit Baseball team arrived with 30 players and helped AJ with Volunteer field. On Feb. 26th 40 plus showed up from the boys high school program and the group got a lot of work done down at Volunteer Park to include pressure washing and weeding the flower beds. Super thankful for all the parents, players and coaches who helped out.

Dog Park Update: During the week of Feb. 23-25 the crew worked along with a few volunteers on the drainage at the dog park and added mulch. We had to close the dog park for a few days while doing this work and we really appreciated everyone's patience during the closure.



Baseball Season: Baseball season is here. AJ has done a good job getting the fields ready and will continue to work to get Rotary, Ace of Hearts and Storvik ready for the youth teams that start practices the week of March 14th. I had a field users meeting with the youth teams and Anacortes Little League shared that they have a record number of kids turning out and were still not sure how many teams they will end up having. In addition to the Anacortes Little League I will schedule field time for the Lady Blackhawks and a few other Anacortes baseball teams. With Spring sports starting for the high school I am sure we will feel the ripple effect of Rice field not being as available. Already I am working with the youth rugby program to find them field time. Unfortunately Kiwanis Meadow field and Storvik field are not quite ready for frequent traffic, but we will do our best to get these groups field time.

Tommy Thompson Parkway: Thanks to the street department for mowing along the TTP from 22nd Street to the RV Park.

Mt. Erie Road Emergency Road Closure: On Friday, Feb. 25th Parks crew had to do an emergency Mt. Erie Road closure. Parks Department had received a request from the police department that cars were spinning out while trying to drive on the road. Thanks to Brian and Jonn for taking care of this. The snow and ice have melted and the road was open by Sunday, Feb. 27th.

Nicole Johnston

Senior Activity Center Visitors & Programs

On February 16th, Anacortes Museum Director, Bret Lunsford, and Education and Media Curator, Adam Farnsworth, offered a program about the museum's newest photography exhibit. There were 12 who attended the museum's program and 3 participants signed up for a museum tour offered in March. Bret and Adam also offered to exhibit otherwise unused museum displays at the center and offer ongoing classes. Fifty-seven others came on the 16th for lunch, pinocle, yoga, and the ever-popular mosaics class.

February Highlights

- The foundation bake sale on 2/4 was a success—over \$1,100 was raised to support center programs.
- On the 11th, we offered a vaccination clinic and 27 people received their first, second, or booster COVID-19 vaccinations. All told, 130 people received vaccinations at ASAC clinics in January and February. The Wellness Committee will discuss possible future clinics at their meeting on March 3rd.
- On the 17th, there were 84 center participants in the building for basket weaving, computer assistance, women's pool, silver foxes aerobics class, and ukulele chording and strumming. After all that activity, several congregated in the Great Room for butternut squash lasagna.

What's Coming in March?

- On the 14th and 28th, Stephanie Fernandez will offer a basics of birding class. Participants will be given information on what they will need to begin their birding journey. An accompanying class

will be offered by Anacortes Community Forest Lands Maintenance Worker, Steve Phillips, who will offer a birding experience on April 26th at Heart Lake.

- On the 23rd, Mayor Miller will return for the second time to the center to offer an informal conversation about city business.
- On the 29th, Senator Lovelett will share highlights from this year's legislative session and the bills that she has sponsored. Senator Lovelett is planning to join virtually. This will be a hybrid program offering.
- Chef Jackie Davison is offering a cooking demonstration at the center on the 30th. For \$10, in-person participants can attend the demonstrations and taste samples prepared by Jackie. Online participants can also join free of charge.
- Our Wellness Committee will be hosting Dr. Steve Templin on the 23rd. Dr. Templin will discuss how our nervous systems are programmed by prior life experiences to automatically respond to stress, the effect on our immune systems, and what methods we can use to restore balance to our autonomic nervous system
- The state indoor mask mandate is lifting on the 12th. The city plans to follow suit which will affect our indoor masking requirements and will likely bring in programs that met elsewhere when masks were required.

Project Updates

- Aging Mastery Program—registration now open for core curriculum class scheduled for April 13-June 15; 10 class registrants as of 2/28.
- Hybrid Technology Upgrade—currently in team building phase. Have one new volunteer interested and one hybrid instructor on board to join the team. Thanks to Kirk Kennedy for offering to be a virtual participant in hybrid classes to evaluate existing technology.
- Outdoor Recreation Upgrade—planning team met on 2/16 to discuss scope of project and review vendor offerings. Anacortes Parks staff performed fence and structure removal on 2/17 to open the area up to visitors. The team is building a survey to offer center participants and greater community an opportunity to provide feedback on future renovations.

Volunteer Training—researching CPR/1st Aid/AED trainers for our receptionists.

Karl Wolfswinkel

Conservation Easement Program: This is the program by which nearly 1800 acres of the Anacortes Community Forest Lands (ACFL) was conserved several years ago. We are updating the deed and contract language after working on this with the Skagit Land Trust over the past several years. It is scheduled to come before the City Council on March 7.

Skate Park Community Meeting: If you would like to give your opinion on the design for the new skate park, please attend the meeting on March 15th in City Council Chambers. You can still take our online survey about the park at the following link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/5GHN3W6>

Jonn Lunsford

Recreation Staff Report:

Boys Youth Basketball League: Our 2022 season wrapped up on February 19th. Overall, the season went well. Our staff did a great job throughout the season, and we did our best to implement COVID protocols. Gym space continued to be a challenge for the entire season, and we look forward to getting back into the elementary gym space regularly next season.

Pee Wee Basketball: This program completed on Saturday, February 5. There was a total of 74 kids who participated during the four-week program. As part of their registration fee, each child received a mini basketball to keep practicing basketball skills they learned.

Daddy Daughter Dance: After a one-year hiatus, the 2022 event was held on Saturday, February 19, at the Anacortes Senior Center. Due to COVID we had limited the number of tickets to 150 dads and daughters, however we were able to open that up to a few more participants a couple weeks prior to the event.

We also decided to serve the snacks and drinks outside, with the addition of asking all in attendance to wear their masks while inside dancing. The event went great, and we are glad to have back this community favorite.

Upcoming Events/Programs: Next month we have an adult badminton league starting up. Offering a Table Manners/Etiquette Class for kids in mid-March. Later in March we will have Youth Volleyball League start.

Other Items of note: We are continuing to work with the Anacortes School District to get access back to the elementary schools for our Adult Drop-in Programs, i.e., Volleyball, Pickle Ball, and Basketball. Recreation team met with new APD Community Services Officer Brent Lindquist to discuss use of Citizen's Auxiliary Patrol Volunteers at select special events throughout the year. Staff is also exploring starting an Esports League for Teens this Spring. Lastly, hoping to finalize contract with Anacortes Waterfront Alliance for "Learn to Sail" classes this summer.



Total Volunteers Hours for February



Boys Yth Basketball

1 st /2 nd grade	12	X	9 hrs.	= 108
3 rd /4 th grade	10	X	15 hrs.	= 150
5 th /6 th grade	3	X	15 hrs.	= 45

Total for Month 303

Dustin South & Travis Anderson