



ANACORTES PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT
P.O. BOX 547, ANACORTES, WA 98221
(360) 293-1918 / (360) 293-1928

Parks & Recreation Advisory Commission

April 12th, 2022 at 6pm

**This meeting will be held BOTH virtually and
in person at the Parks Conference Room
(904 6th Street)**

Access to the meeting via Zoom through this link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86301958882>

Preliminary Agenda

1. Call to Order
2. Approve March 8th, 2022 Minutes
3. Public Comments
4. Correspondence/Communication
5. Cap Sante Trail Discussion
6. Department Reports
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*

Meeting Minutes for Anacortes Parks Commission

March 8, 2022

Staff in attendance: Karl Wolfswinkel, Jonn Lunsford, Dustin South, Bob Vaux, Nicole Johnston

Called to order at 6:04pm

February meeting minutes unanimously approved

No Public Comments

Department Reports:

~Karl: Great programs at the ASAC recently from Bret Lunsford and Adam Farnsworth. Recent bake sale raised @ \$1100. 130 vaccinated at free ASAC walk in vaccine event. Other programs beginning to pick up, averaging about 10 more participants per day facility wide. Will be hosting local elected officials for talks soon. Thanks to the Parks Crew for doing some nice grounds work. Commission happy to receive all the positive updates.

~Dustin: Shared options for an outdoor work out structure for the ASAC. Had a great first night of badminton, and youth volleyball is coming. Also working on finalizing summer programming. Youth track happening at the end of April. New table manners class getting some interest.

~Nicole: ballfield scheduling is fast and furious, featuring added numbers of ultimate, youth rugby and 7 on 7 football. The mowers have been fired up and we are pushing our restroom hours a little later. The hours on the lower restrooms at Washington Park are a big hit with staff, and have limited vandalism and other questionable behavior.

~Bob: The Rotary Trail project on Cap Sante has been fully permitted, and we will get the project started next week. The Commission discussed the project a bit.

~Jonn: has been working on a possible cell tower lease in Ace of Hearts Park. Commission discussion ensued. Jonn explained the permitting process follows the lease agreement being reached. Jonn has also been discussing the long fabled small repair/garage/boat storage with the Anacortes Waterfront Alliance. Jonn invited all the March 15 skate park planning meeting with Grindline at the Council Chambers. Jonn discussed a variety of Samish Nation related topics with the Commission, with a focus on the work the Port is doing at Q'elech'ilhch Park. Jonn working to make sure there is not a hidden spot at the east end of the beach as the Port is closing the east access to the beach.

~JoAnn: the Commission's liaison to the Forest Advisory Board, shared the ebike decision update; to set up some control spots with the Friends of the Forest, and spend a year monitoring bicycle impacts, giving Class 1 ebikes a free pass for one year. Council may hear this first. Commission discussion ensued.

Sarah would like to bring back correspondence/communication as a formal agenda item.

Chris asks about the partnership with Fidalgo Pool? Jonn says it's over.

Brad would like to know about sea shell management on the Tommy Thompson Trail. Nicole talks about our volunteer team of trail cleaners, including Parks Commission member Alex.

Adjourned at 6:48pm

Parks and Recreation Update – April 2022

Grand View Cemetery Phase Two Update:

Trinity Contractors is working to finish up the repairs to the asphalt road and stain the good neighbor fence by March 31, 2022. Powertek Surveying company is moving forward on completing the record of surveying and setting the block corners. They are set to be completed with this work by the end of April. The south end of the expansion will have close to 2,000 plots not including the Urn Garden.

Washington Park Update: Activity is picking up at the campground. Looking ahead to the summer months the group camp site is 90% full through August. The reservable picnic shelter is 50% booked for the weekends. Boat pass sales are picking up and we have been receiving lots of calls for last minute or "within the two weeks to reserve" calls for camping. In other Washington Park news we are working with Veca to install a new main distribution panel next to the campground pay station. The City has received the required permits from the city to move forward on the new fire rings we are hoping to install before summer.

Ballfields: Baseball & fastpitch seasons are underway. All of the youth leagues will start playing games in early April. We have hired a seasonal ballfield person and he is set to start April 6th. We had a rep from Coast to Coast turf come and meet with Brian, AJ and I and he gave us some recommendations for ways to improve the mound at MDD field and also he gave us ideas for how to better manage Daniels Field where the coaches often stand and throw for batting practice. The rep looked at Volunteer field and he is going to send renderings of what the field could look like with the addition of an all-purpose field lined in the outfield.

Volunteers: This past month we have had a great help with volunteers on two trail projects. We had a crew for two days working on trail repairs on trail 113 from the WTA (Washington Trail Associations). On the Cap Sante Centennial trail we have had many Rotarian volunteers and even our own Fire Chief Bill Harris volunteer on the trail. At the Dog Park we had a few volunteers work with the crew to install a curtain drain to help the water get where it needs to go. Those volunteers also helped with spreading bark and rock at the dog park.

Cap Sante Centennial Trail Update: This trail project is moving along with the combination of Parks crew spending time and the Rotary Club volunteers. If you get a chance I recommend you take the opportunity to check out the trail. Just park in the lower Rotary Park parking lot and follow the gravel path.

The Parks crew has been busy this month mowing, trimming, weeding, sanitation routine and cleaning the occasional graffiti! Crew was able to roll out Kiwanis Meadow field and we found only one broken irrigation head that we will need to repair. That was a relief as we were not sure how bad the damage was going to be. The streets department has this new remote control RC mower. That have helped parks out by mowing the median on “R” Ave and mowed the Kiwanis Waterfront parking lot and cleared out the blackberries that were near the parking lot.

Spring is here and we are ready. We are still however looking to hire seasonal staff this summer, so please help us spread the word and send people my way. I am happy to talk to whoever might be interested in working for parks this summer.

Nicole Johnston
Parks Manager

Anacortes Senior Activity Center Update

- The Center will return be open from 8am to 4pm starting April 1.
- City Council Member Carolyn Moulton will be at the Center on April 20th at 1:30pm for an informal chat with citizens.
- Steve Philips with the Parks and Recreation Department’s Community Forest Lands staff will offer a birding class on April 26th. Time TBA.
- A “Cut the Cord” class with Martin Harris, of the Center’s technology volunteers, in conjunction with City Fiber staff member Kimberly Henry will be held on April 5 and 6. Please contact the Center for times.
- The Easter Luncheon will return on April 14th with a bonnet contest and special piano music provided by Nick Nicholai.
- Island Health CEO Elise Cutter will be at the Center on April 21 to discuss the hospital’s new name and service. The program will be offer both virtually and in person.

Karl Wolfswinkel
Senior Center Administrator

Skate Park Community Meeting: The next meeting will be held at 6pm on Thursday, April 21st in City Council Chambers (904 Sixth Street). Our design consultant, Grindline, will bring conceptual drawings based on the input they received via an on line survey and community meeting.

April Art Walk: The Arts Commission hosted an art walk at the 98221 Gallery in City Hall on Friday, April 1st. It was the first art walk since 2020 and a welcome return to support local artists.

Conservation Easement Program: Mayor Miller will be joined by Board and staff from the Skagit Land Trust to sign the new Conservation Easement contract between the two organizations. 250 new

acres will be placed into conservation through this update. Friends of the Forest staff will also be on hand as an important member of this public/private conservation partnership.

Jonn Lunsford
Director

ROTARY TRAIL PROJECT ON CAP SANTE

I joined club members for their evaluation of landscape architecture firms hoping to work on the preliminary east viewpoint project. Impressed with their thoroughness. They have hired Pacific Landscape Architecture (PLA) out of Bellingham to come up with a couple of conceptual drawings.

Project lead Tom Decker and I met with Anacortes Yacht Club leadership, exploring partnership options on the Rotary Park Lane trailhead that we share. Good talk. Will put together a site visit sometime soon.

3/10: Parks Maintenance Leadership and I met with Rotary Club project leads on site as we now have the necessary permits in hand to get the trail built. We have firmed up plans, and will begin the process of material gathering and specific work phase planning.

3/15: Parks staff gets rolling on trail project. It's already looking good on day one. I spent time on this day meeting with Rotarians and PLA.

SKATE PARK PROJECT

Public Works Justin Symonds and I met with the GeoTest hole digging team on site first thing March 7.

3/15. Justin, Director Lunsford, local Skate icon and fundraiser Rachel Salazar and I met on site with the Grindline

<https://www.grindline.com/>

team. These fellows are very excited to get rolling on the design phase of the project. We walked the site and prepped for the community planning meeting to follow. This gathering had many young, smiling faces in attendance. They all seemed quite happy that we had hired some actual skaters to come in and work with them on a new park.

VOLUNTEER TRAIL STEWARDS

On the heels of last summer's successful Trail Ambassador Program with the Friends of the Forest, we are now working on a Trail Stewards effort. This will create some new trail maintenance crew leaders who will be able to organize and lead trail volunteer work parties. FoF staff, local mountain biker and president of Fidalgo Trail Riders Josh Gates, and ACFL Trail Committee motorized rep John Meehan and I met at Little Cranberry March 21 to share and organize thoughts and ideas on this front. More coming soon.

TRANSITION FIDALGO AND FRIENDS

Joined a very productive review of the group's ACFL Monitoring Program plan. They should have a finalized document for COA review soon.

WASHINGTON PARK

Working with maintenance staff on plans for campsite improvements, especially designating power outlets and improving reservation visibility.

DISC GOLF COURSE VANDAL

A beautiful yew tree was senselessly cut down along one of the dgc fairways. Still hopeful that that community will figure out who and give us all a chance to discuss right and wrong.

EBIKES

Thank you to the Forest Board for working through three very long meetings on the way to a recommendation for a Class 1 ebike trial run. Specifics of the plan are being reviewed by Mayor Miller and Director Lunsford.

A special thank you and farewell to Sandra Starbuck. It has been a real pleasure working with you.

FRIENDS OF THE FOREST ANNUAL MEETING

Made a cameo appearance, with a brief update on our 2021 work with the FoF, and the ACFL in general. I appreciated the invite.

ROGUE TRAIL BUILDING AT 107

A few hundred feet in from 31st Street, and several hundred feet south, our rogue trail builders are back at it. I have enlisted the help of our mountain bike community to keep an eye on the area. Several trees have been needlessly damaged by axe play, and a large quantity of moss has been removed from a rather picturesque rocky ridge. Parks Crew Foreperson Tottenham and ACFL Steve are also keeping pretty close tabs on the site. APD has been briefed.

NATIONALS TRAILS DAY

This year's event is happening Saturday, June 4th. We are working with the Friends of the Forest and the good folks from SWITMO (Skagit-Whatcom-Island Trail Maintenance Organization) on a plan that will most likely be centered around the #107 trailhead off of 31st Street.

LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITY

Director Lunsford, Recreation Mgr South and I met with Rep. Ramel and his Legislative Assistant (and Anacortes City Council member) Amanda Hubik. The Representative does not believe there is any money for the skate park in this year's Olympia budget package. We also discussed the Tommy Thompson Parkway creosote piling clean-up project being worked on with the Samish and the Port, as well as other projects. We are looking forward to the Representative joining us for a parks tour after the current session.

Bob Vaux
Assistant Director

Recreation Report by
Dustin South, Recreation Manager &
Travis Anderson, Recreation Coordinator

Kids Table Manners/Etiquette Class: Staff learned of other community parks and recreation departments offering similar programs which focus on teaching youth how to properly set a table, pass food, etc. while partaking in a casual or formal meal. With our class participants, in grades 2nd through 4th, got to practice these skills with table settings and other props. The program was taught by Chef Jackie Davison, with curriculum from the New England School of Protocol. The class was held up at the Senior Center with the help of one volunteer, Sally Hill. We had a total of 6 kids registered. We plans to offer the class again this fall prior to the holiday dining season.



Badminton League: A new all ages badminton league was offered this spring. Surprisingly 22 people registered to participate. The program takes place at the Anacortes Middle School Gym on Mondays and Wednesdays from about 6-8:30 pm and started on March 21st. The program is scheduled to continue through April and maybe a little longer if the participants would like to keep it going. The program was initially offered as an adult program, however we had some youth that wanted to participate, so we opened it up for all ages and we have participants from 6 to 68 in attendance.

Youth Volleyball Recreation League: after a couple seasons off, the league was back to its normal spring season. Primarily offered to kids in grades 4th-6th, this year staff expanded it to 7th & 8th graders as well. Participation numbers are at the highest they have been with 106 youth signed up to play. The program is once again being held on Tuesdays and Thursdays in the afternoon/evening time at the Middle School Gymnasium. Practices started March 22nd and will continue through the end of April.

Upcoming Events/Programs: Youth Track and Field and Youth Flag Football will start at the end of April. Staff continues to develop programming for the summer months. We are already getting inquiries from parents/guardians about some of our more popular classes we traditionally offer. Due to the uncertainty of the exact timeline for distribution of the summer A-town publication staff is working on an alternative marketing plan to utilize electronic means (including social media, etc.) to advertise our summer programs and events. We have an electronic newsletter that parents/guardians can sign-up to receive information as it becomes available. Please email: travisa@cityofanacortes.org if you are interested in being added to the distribution list.

Additionally, Adult Drop-in volleyball will resume at Fidalgo Elementary on a Wednesday and Friday schedule starting on April 13. To sign-up for play please go to our registration website at:

<https://sportsites.com/Admin#Root195987f9e-7340-406e-a80d-bf35d24446e00>

Total Volunteers Hours for March



Co-ed Yth Volleyball

8 X 6 hrs. = 40



Kids Table Manners/Etiquette

1 X 2 hrs. = 2

Total for Month 4

