



## ANACORTES PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT

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# Anacortes Community Forest Lands Advisory Board

May 5, 2022

6pm

In person and virtual meeting options.

In Person: City Hall, Main Floor Conference Room

Zoom Meeting Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88308344363>

### Preliminary Agenda

1. Call to Order
2. Introduce New Board Member
3. Approve April 2022 Minutes
4. Public Comments *for any item not on the agenda*
5. Trail #248 Neighborhood Concerns
6. Remote Control Toys in the ACFL
7. Summer Hike with Friends of the Forest Board
8. Friends of the Forest Update
9. ACFL Trail Committee Update
10. Staff Reports
11. Other Business

Adjourn

## **April Forest Advisory Board Minutes**

April 7, 2022

**Board:** Kit Gerwels, Brian Wetcher, JoAnn York-Gilmore, Nick Stowe

**Guests:** Asa Dean, Colleen Sargent, Richard Mellon

**Staff:** Bob Vaux and Jonn Lunsford

Call to Order: 6:04pm

**New Board Chair:** Nick nominated Kit, Brian seconded the motion and all voted in favor of Kit Gerwels serving as the new Board Chair.

March 2022 Board minutes were approved.

**Public Comments:** none

**Little Cranberry Lake Discussion:** Jonn started the discussion and introduced Colleen Sargent, who as a member of the Anacortes Parks Foundation, is supportive of improvements to the Cranberry Lake area. Staff presented a visual overview of the concept that includes restoration and access to the shore. The Board supported taking this idea to the permitting process where there will be opportunities for public comment and input.

**ACFL Commercial Use Discussion:** Brian asked if the commercial use language in the recently approved Conservation Easement Program were broader than the Forest Board wanted and asked what is the public benefit to a commercial use. Kit commented that allowing commercial use may be perceived as an implied preference to that operator. Nick noted that he was not supportive of broader commercial use. Staff explained that commercial use of the ACFL has been limited to climbers on Mt. Erie, some commercial shoots on Mt. Erie and a stand-up paddle board yoga class on Little Cranberry a few years ago. JoAnn stated her preference that a recreational group go through Parks and Recreation to offer a class. Discussion ensued. This topic can be clarified at the next ACFL Plan update.

**Friends of the Forest Update:** Asa Deane provided an update on the FoF's summer programs and upcoming hiring advertisement for new staff.

**ACFL Trail Committee Update:** No meeting occurred. Brian asked about motorcycle use possible extension of the seasonal closure.

**Staff Report:** Steve reported about the Washington Trails Association's work on trail 113 and work on the Rotary Park trail. Bob reported on parking complaints from neighbors near the powerline trail access on Mt. Erie (Trail 248). He is trying to find solutions through signage and talking with the County. Discussion ensued. Joann reported on the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission and enthusiasm for the new skate park plans.

**Other Business:** Brian asked about bicycles groups at the Heart Lake parking lot and was concerned that the groups riding together were too large making it difficult for others to use those trails. Discussion ensued. Brian also reported that Jack Hartt is leaving Transition Fidalgo and wanted to thank him for his work.

Adjourn: 7:30pm

## **April 2022 Report from the Assistant Director's Desk**

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### **ROTARY CLUB TRAIL PROJECT**

- Parks staff and Club volunteers working well together, making significant progress.
- Club volunteers also working on June 11<sup>th</sup> ribbon cutting event.
- April 5 site visit; project looks great. Trail is sound and mostly complete. Talked with a couple of Rotarian volunteers. The Club has been logging some impressive volunteer hours.
- 4/7: GPS Hoxie and I walk the trail. He will survey it for new map soon. Volunteers still on site doing great things.
- 4/19: on site with John Dumas, POA. We discuss and agree to kiosk placement near the Rotary Trail x Marina Trail.
- 4/20: Director Lunsford and I joined Tom D and Jack D from the Rotary Club on a final walk thru to confirm signage and kiosk placement along the new route. Unanimous agreement pretty much all the way around.

### **SKATE PARK DESIGN REVIEW**

- 4/21: had a good community meeting where Grindline revealed their initial conceptual renderings for the new skate park. Good back and forth with the public. A more detailed proposal is planned for late May.
- Attended 4/25 Council Meeting: Mayor Gere made a solid presentation regarding a potential Community Center, which could be located immediately south of the skate park. Private developer interested on working with the COA on a variety of issues in that neighborhood.

### **HEART LAKE OPENING DAY**

- Met with the Opening Day weekend parks staff team. We are good to go. Have also requested extra patrol from APD.
- Opening Weekend was very family friendly. I spent a little time out there, and had staff scheduled Saturday/Sunday 4-23/24.

### **ANNUAL DALLAS KLOKE MT. ERIE CLEAN UP PROJECT**

- Saturday, April 16: I welcomed a dozen + climbers to the mountain, especially thanking them for their ongoing care and setting of good examples on the mountain. Special thanks to the American Alpine Institute, Climbers for Christ and Jim Thompson. We had a very good communication session regarding the increasing numbers at the "Powerlines" trailhead, and the need to educate many of these numbers on outdoor and neighborly etiquette.

### **POWERLINES TRAILHEAD NEIGHBORHOOD ISSUES**

- The neighbors have been reaching out to me, describing lots of overnight and unsavory activity around and about. We are reaching out to climber groups, updating our trailhead and website messaging, as well as discussing options with Skagit County. Happy to report Saturday AM 4/23, there were only 3 rigs parked out there, and the next morning there were none.

### **WASHINGTON TRAILS ASSOCIATION**

- Thanks to ACFL Steve and local WTA volunteer Richard Mellon for a great project on 113. I finally got out there to take a look on April 6, and it is as good as promised.

### **SEASONAL STAFF**

- Parks Manager Johnston and I are conducting some interviews and asking for help recruiting for these brief but vital positions.

### **DISC GOLF COURSE**

- April 5 site visit with DGC volunteer and local enthusiast Aaron Bryant. He will be proposing some possible upgrades to staff. After we review, we may be coming to the Parks Commission with them.

## TREES

- Local asks for hazard tree eval at #100 S. Trailhead, 23<sup>rd</sup> Street. It is and will have to come down.
- Did some pruning needs recon at Storvik with Brian Tottenham. Will be working on an estimate from a tree service as one of the projects exceeds our comfort level.
- ACFL Steve and I met with Forest Ridge HOA and Eager Beaver, confirming windowing plan that is approved in the plat language.

## REGULAR MEETINGS

- 4/7 Tailgate Safety Meeting with the Parks Crew, with a Washington Park policy review follow up.
- Washington Park policy group had a good signage session. We are planning to continue our upgrades, and hopefully, simplification.
- Denise Crowe and I had a great Opening Day Eve walk around Heart Lake. Checked all the social trail fishing spots. All quiet.
- Asa and the Friends staff and I continue our regular contacts, working on Trail Ambassador and Stewardship programs.

## FOR WHAT IT'S WORTH...

- Enjoyed vacation March 23<sup>rd</sup> – April 3<sup>rd</sup>. Thanks so much to all the staff who covered for me.
- Did some early April north 300's recon, upon the recent report of motorized trail use. No contact thus far.
- Attended one day of the annual Washington Recreation and Park Association Conference on 4/13. Good to be reconnecting with the outside world again. Briefed APRD staff on sessions I attended and some vendor conversations. We are very fortunate here in Anacortes for all the parks & rec support from our citizens and elected officials.
- ACFL Steve and I met on #118 with Bruce Rustad, re: small trail improvement project. Am running the plan by Planning. It is essentially improving a bit of drainage, rerouting 50 feet of the trail into 20 feet, moving away from the nearby wetland.
- Attended a WCIA Parks Risk Management webinar. Good review.
- Working on a way for less abled recumbent bicyclists to gain access to Whistle Lake. The biggest challenge being creating a space big enough for them that does not also allow easy quad access.
- Assisted COA consultant and Public Works with tour of Puget Way area wash out of Washington Park Property.

Faithfully Submitted,

Bob Vaux  
April 27, 2022

ACFL Maintenance Report APRIL – 2022

by Steve Phillips

April 27, 2022

Again this month, much of my time has been spent at Rotary Park to make this trail a reality. This month, we completed most of the upper trail work and shifted our focus to the entrance. Volunteers have also been doing their part to address the evergreen daphne problem at the park.

## Maintenance Activities

4/4/22 – Cedar top had split and fallen into Whistle Lake parking lot. Bucked log and cleaned up.

4/5/22 – cleared Heart Lake beaver dam. Cut tree off trail 10.

4/9 – 4/10/22 – Along with Sky Guthrie, completed classroom and hands-on Sawyer training put on at Mount Erie fire department. This is the same chainsaw competency training given to fire line workers across the country. We both

learned new skills and techniques to improve our safety and proficiency in the ACFL, at Washington Park, and at other City parks. Chief Harris of the Anacortes Fire Department sponsored our attendance in the class.

4/11 – 4/13/22 – preparation for, and planting of, Arbor Day tree planting at 28<sup>th</sup> Street Playground. This is the first tree in the park, aside from a peach tree between the playground and the Community Garden, whose origins are unknown to me. This year we planted a Tupelo tree (*Nyssa sylvatica*), a tree native to the Eastern US that should do well there, casting shade from its glossy green leaves over the newly placed bench. In fall, it will display a fiery red. Nicole Johnston and I were joined by Mayor Miller and Fiddlehead Montessori.

4/15/22 – Braydn from the Parks crew joined me to remove several blowdown trees on trails.

4/18/22 – Hung a sign on the eastern end of Trail 239 to indicate the trail's end. Fixed a sinkhole on the tread of Erie Mountain Road. Filled with ballast and packed with gravel, then patched with cold mix.

4/18/22 – Hung “dogs must be on leash” sign near the beginning of Trail 10. This rule had not been posted here since the kiosk at this entrance was destroyed by a vehicle around last Christmas.

4/19/22 – hung a sign at the terminus of 122 to indicate the trail's end. Also cut a step-through in a log that had been obstructing the trail. “planted” cedar post and added brush to further decommission the Wye at the 102/122 intersection, hopefully decreasing erosion here.

4/19/22 – hung new trail sign at 101 trailhead in Little Cranberry parking lot.

4/19-4/20/22 – patched potholes at Heart Lake parking lot with 1 1/2” minus gravel using Parks’ 5-yard dump truck, rake.

4/19-4/24/22 – preparation was completed, and extra staffing was scheduled for opening day of fishing season at Saturday midnight. Braydn and Myles picked up extra shifts to help, and Bob kept an eye on it all weekend. I worked until midnight on Friday, meeting 2 parties who were staged to have a line in the water at 12:01 AM Saturday. It's a family tradition for both groups. Overall, the numbers were not astronomical; and people behaved in a civil manner.

April 2022 – cut blowdowns on 201, 120, 115, 113, 218 (3 trees), 230 (2 trees), 226, 305, 22, 122, 215. Many of these fell in the multi-day windstorm mid-month.



Fawn Lily on Trail 239, April 18.