



ANACORTES PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT
P.O. BOX 547, ANACORTES, WA 98221
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Parks & Recreation Advisory Commission

May 10th, 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 April 12th, 2022 Minutes
3. Public Comments
4. Correspondence/Communication
5. Cap Sante Trail Discussion
6. Cemetery Fees & Policies
7. E-bikes
8. Department Reports
9. 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

April 12, 2022

Members Present: Sarah Nichols, Jo Ann York-Gilmore, and Alex Hernandez

Staff Present: Dustin South, Nicole Johnston, and Jonn Lunsford

Called to Order: 6:02 PM

Minutes: March minutes were unanimously approved as submitted.

Public Comments: None

Correspondence/Communication:

Jo Ann gave an update from the Forest Advisory Board, reviewing the plan for the ebikes trial period in conjunction with Friends of the Forest. A blind study will be conducted in several locations on trails that allow bikes to determine any impact that ebikes have. After that trial period a recommendation will be made and included in the review and revision of the Forest Plan. Sarah asked about a decision on the other trails, such as Tommy Thompson, Loop Road and Guemes Channel Trail, and ebikes. Jonn stated that there are no rules at this time about ebikes in these locations but a recommendation could be made. He is working on an ordinance for the TTP to place a 15mph limit to help with some user group conflicts that have come up.

JoAnn also spoke about a donation to Friends of the Forest for shore improvement and a small boat launch at Little Cranberry Lake. The Forest Advisory Board has expressed support for this project.

Jonn spoke about the Parks Foundation that will be meeting next month. There is a donor interested in redoing Volunteer Field as a turf field hopefully next year. This will need to go through the budget process as the donor is hoping for some community involvement and support, probably 30% of the cost coming from other groups and community support.

Cap Sante Trail Discussion:

The Rotary Club has been working alongside the Parks crew to fix up the Centennial Trail at Rotary Park, going up to the top of Cap Sante. Bob Vaux submitted that he feels this trail should be classified as hiker only as it is not designed to be multi-user. There will be a more formal discussion in next month's meeting. The board is in agreement with the hiker only designation.

Department Reports:

Nicole Johnston had just a couple things to add to her written report. There will be a tree planting in honor of Arbor Day on April 13th at the 28th Street Playground. The mayor will be present as well as children from Fiddlehead Montessori school. The Public Works department has gotten a remote-controlled mower and has

been helping in some of the Parks in the hard to reach areas and slopes as well as the middle of "R" Avenue making it safer for the team.

Dustin South added just a few things to his written report. He and Darby spoke with a Single Mom's group in March. It was very well received, and they would like to volunteer to help somehow with our parks. The Egg Dash is this Friday and is the fastest event put on by the Recreation Department! Summer programs are getting ready to kick off and announcements for this are moving to more electronic based and less dependent on the A-Town publication.

Dustin South reported in Karl Wolfswinkel's absence about the Anacortes Senior Activity Center. They held a Birding class recently with ACFL Steve presenting. This was very well received, and they hope to offer this again. The Bake Sale is on April 15th from 9am to 1pm and is a fundraiser for the ASAC Foundation. Their Easter lunch will be held on the 14th and will include a bonnet contest. The ASAC team is working to get organized and offer facility rentals again, hopefully by June.

Jon Lunsford spoke about the next skatepark meeting being held on April 21st at 6pm. Sarah Nichols asked about funding sources for this project and if any State funding or grants are available. Jon responded that this year no State funding was available. Jon also spoke about the cemetery expansion. The fees and policies will be going to City Council on April 25th and there will be more discussion in the May meeting for the Parks Board.

Other Business:

A community member in attendance asked about the possible cell tower by Ace of Hearts Park, inquiring about placement and size. Jon responded that details have not been decided yet as it is still in the early stages of the process. The City has to agree to work with Dish Network and then it will go through the full public permitting process.

Meeting adjourned at 6:32pm.

Respectfully submitted by Darby Jordan.

Parks and Recreation Update – May 2022

ROTARY CLUB TRAIL PROJECT

- Parks staff and Club volunteers working well together, making significant progress.
- Club volunteers also working on June 11th 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 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, 23rd 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 23rd – April 3rd. 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.

Bob Vaux, Assistant Director

Grand View Cemetery Expansion Update- Thanks to the Parks Crew and Jonn for helping spread dirt and more grass seed in the south end of the cemetery expansion. This will not only look good, but will help with erosion control. We will have the record of survey complete by April 30th. The monument markers will take up to 3 months to be shipped, so by the end of August is when we are giving the surveyor to set all of the markers in the ground.

Washington Park- If you drive out to the loop road you will notice a new white line and stop sign just before you enter the loop road. We are hopeful this will keep trailers/ RV's from driving the scenic loop. Also around the park we have some updated signs and a few new signs sprinkled around the boat lot and day use thanks to the Street Department. We have ordered the 8 new fire rings for sunset beach and will look to install them as soon as they come. Camping is definitely picking up. Just over the weekend of April 22nd we had 53 campers. We are excited that we have a three seasonal staff that are scheduled to start in early May.

Ballfields- The ballfields remain busy. We are getting ready to host the District and Regional baseball tournaments for the high school team. The Sport Champ Deep Clean of the synthetic turf was postponed this month so we will schedule this service as soon as the high school teams are done using MDD and Daniels field.

Seasonal Staff Update- In the month of May we will have two on trim crew, two for the ACFL trimmers and three Washington Park seasonal staff that will start. We are still looking for a cemetery mower.

Earth Day- I shared last month that we were celebrating Arbor Day at 28th Street Playground. Thanks to Mayor Miller and the Fiddlehead Montessori kids for helping us plant our tree. On Earth day we were appreciative of both Rotary groups who picked up trash along the Tommy Thompson Parkway.

Kiwanis Waterfront Park- Parks crew installed a fence near the bluff to keep visitors away from the edge. Fence looks nice and we hope this encourages visitors of the park to use the walkway down to the beach instead.

The crew has been keeping busy mowing and trimming. Everyone is ready for the seasonal staff to start so we can be even more efficient. Coming up is getting the cemetery looking as good as we can before Mother's Day weekend.

Nicole Johnston, Parks Manager

Cemetery Fees: City staff is researching costs at public and privately owned cemeteries, nearby cemetery districts and new burial policies as we look at an increase in the purchase fees at Grand View Cemetery. I spoke at City Council on April 25th and expect that we will return later in May to provide more information and perhaps a recommendation on fee increases.

West 2nd Trail Improvements: I have submitted our permits and wetland report to hopefully move us closer to improving the trail at West 2nd Street and Baltimore Avenue. The trail was built long ago and is a convenient connector that lets pedestrians and bikes avoid using Oakes Avenue. The complication is that it goes through two Class IV wetlands. Our plan is to bring in an elevated trail in a couple of sections to allow the trail to be used year-round. Restoration is also an important part of the project. We are proposing to remove invasive non-native plants from the wetlands and buffer and replace them with appropriate native species.

Jonn Lunsford, Director

Recreation Update:

Dustin South, Recreation Manager

Travis Anderson, Recreation Coordinator

Badminton League: This was a new program which started in March and morphed into a drop-in style of play as it continued through April. The number of players fluctuated throughout the month. However, there has been some interest to continue offering drop-in play through the summer and staff is looking at working with the school district to find gym time.

Youth Volleyball Recreation League: Season concluded on April 28th. Primarily offered to kids in grades 4th-6th, staff expanded it to 7th & 8th graders as well. This was a success and will continue to offer to middle school ages groups as long as registration numbers support it in the future. The league finished the season with 110 participants which was up from 77 participants in 2019 and 71 participants in 2018. We appreciate the Anacortes School District working with us to secure gym space for the program and the High School and Middle School Volleyball Coaches for helping us promote the program.



Egg Dash: Staff held this annual event after a two-year hiatus. Once again, this is the fastest special event that we offer. We had three designated age group areas set-up for egg hunting. Several thousand eggs were spread throughout Storvik Park and the kids had a great time. We would like to “thank” Mayor Miller for officially starting the event. If you missed this year’s event, make sure to show up a little early next year!

Youth Track and Field: A basic introduction to the sport of Track and Field for kids in grades 1st -6th grade provides kids the opportunity to run fast, run with a pace, jump for height and distance, and learn how to throw different types of implements. With the wide age ranges and the program being co-ed. This affords some families the opportunity to have all their children involved at one time. Through the first couple weeks the weather has not been ideal, but staff as has powered through and it has not deterred the athletes. Participation numbers are at about 138 this year, slightly up from 131 in 2019 but down significantly from high numbers of 180 and 174 in 2018 and 2017 respectively. (The decline could be due to increased popularity of Youth Lacrosse and Rugby starting up in town within recent years.) Thank you to the AHS Track and Field Coaches for letting us recruit several of their athletes to help with our track and field program. Their continued support is much appreciated!

Youth Flag Football: The Anacortes Football team is offering Youth Flag Football program for K-6th and began on April 27th with 94 participants registered. Participant registration increased from 75 in 2021. The program offers an alternative to contact football for children while interacting with Anacortes High School football players and coaches. We also heard parent requests over the years for a youth flag football program. Would like to thank the high school football team coaches and players for helping facilitate this opportunity for youth in the community.

Summer Program Registration: We kicked off summer program registration on Monday, April 25. We staggered the registration for a variety of programs. These programs included the youth/adult learn to sail classes, youth volleyball camp, girls basketball camp, youth soccer camp, wrestling clinic, and messy me class. Some of the programs filled very quickly and staff are looking at ways to expand offerings for the popular programs. Our next batch of programs will start registration on Monday, May 2nd. Staff has increased our electronic and social media marketing plan to help reach the community with our program offerings. Travis and Darby have been instrumental in finding way to increase our electronic medium for increased market exposure.

Upcoming Events/Programs: We are excited to bring back some special events this summer. Kids Fishing Event will take place on Saturday, June 4 at Heart Lake. Bark in the Park will be held on Saturday, June 18 from 10am-1pm. Kids R Best Fest on Saturday, July 9 from 10am-2pm, and the first ever Anacortes Pirate Run (formerly the Art Dash) cast off on Saturday, July 30. For more details please see our website at: <https://www.anacorteswa.gov/545/Special-Events> Additionally, Adult Drop-in volleyball has resumed at Fidalgo Elementary on a Wednesday and Friday schedule and this started on April 13. To sign-up for play please go to our registration website at: <https://sportsites.com/Admin#Root195987f9e-7340-406e-a80d-bf35d24446e00> The Pickle Ball drop-in program has decided to focus on playing outdoors over the course of the next several months. We are looking for a gym supervisor for the Fall when they typically move indoors to play.

Total Volunteers Hours for April



Co-ed Youth Volleyball

8 X 9 hrs. = 72



Egg Hunt

3 X 1 hrs. = 3



Flag Football
10 X 3 hrs. = 30

Total for Month 105