



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

June 14th, 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/85776295672>

Preliminary Agenda

1. Call to Order
2. Approve May 10th, 2022 Minutes
3. Public Comments
4. Correspondence/Communication
5. Cemetery Fees & Policies
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

May 10, 2022

Board members present: JoAnn York-Gilmore, Christine Hansen, Sarah Nichols, Alex Hernandez, Brad Adams

Staff present: Bob Vaux, Jonn Lunsford, Nicole Johnston, Dustin South

Meeting held by Zoom and in person at City Hall

Called to order at 6:03pm

Minutes: April minutes were unanimously approved as submitted.

Public Comments: none

Correspondence and Communication:

JoAnn reported that all items are included in the agenda packet, except the topic of remote-control cars. However, the Forest Board did not take any action at this time. Jonn reported on the Parks Foundation. They are in talks about the restrooms at WA Park. Funds are being gathered from various sources. This project is waiting for a bid to come in and then it will go out for drawings. The project is about \$80,000 short at this time. Once the bid comes in from the engineer, we will have a better idea of total cost.

Cap Sante Trail:

June 11th is the ribbon cutting ceremony for this trail. There is no current trail use policy on Cap Sante or Rotary Park. Bob suggests that the trail should be hiker only, but bikes allowed on the asphalt trail. The Board moved to approve the motion of hikers only. Approved unanimously.

Cemetery Fees and Policies:

Nicole, Jonn and Darby are working on gathering information and cost comparisons for area cemeteries. They are hoping to adjust costs to be about average of other local cemeteries. We will need to go to council with any price increase, green burial policy, and columbariums. Nicole added that the need and cost for maintenance and supplies has doubled, and that we are not raising prices to make a profit, but to cover costs. The average for a burial lot would be \$1300. Jonn spoke about Fern Hill with 88% of their budget coming from taxes, and 12% are fees. Ours are 80/20. Brad suggested that out of city residents would pay a higher amount due to not paying property taxes. JoAnn agreed with Brad. Staff will investigate this option.

eBikes:

The ebike discussion in the ACFL has been settled, but no policy for the Tommy Thompson Parkway, Guemes Channel Trail, or WA Park loop road has been set. It was not expected that the Board have an answer tonight, but we hope to make a decision within the next few months. Parks staff is suggesting Class 1 ebikes only. Brad commented about TTP being a safer route than the highway, and this is a good reason to allow ebikes. But he feels there should be a speed limit. Jonn will look into a code that would enforce a speed limit for all users. Chris spoke about how in Canada they have some trails that have cameras to monitor speed. Jo Ann spoke about WA Park and thought bikes are supposed to follow the vehicle rules. The question was brought up about the pre-10am use and allowing bikes. Another example was about campers and children and allowing them at all times. Jo Ann asked that we clarify if bikes are vehicles or if they are allowed before 10am? Parks staff will look at signs and policies to clarify user groups. Christine asked about a bike lane, something single file and narrow. Dustin spoke about the speed of the bikes needing to be the same speed limit as cars. Discussion will continue at the next several meetings

Staff Reports:

Dustin spoke about the kickoff of the summer recreation season. Sailing registration filled within 8 minutes! Staff has expanded several camps to allow for more student opportunities. Adult softball league is back this year! The youth track program held this spring served about 130 kids. Ed Gegan is in talks with the department about incorporating some special Olympics programs with a potential start in the fall. Dustin gave the report for ASAC: They are resuming rentals with a soft start in June. They held a vaccination clinic last week with another this summer. The Aging Mastery Program is full and going well!

Nicole said the grass is growing everywhere! The team is trying to keep up. Baseball is in full swing, school teams and little league. The Parks team has been helped by AHS baseball with some maintenance. Fire rings have been ordered and will be set soon at Washington Park. Hanging baskets will be delivered next week. The department is still in need of a water/sanitation person and a cemetery mower.

Bob spoke about opening day at Heart Lake that went great. It was much calmer than in years past, much more family friendly.

Jonn mentioned that the Daniels family wants to turf the last grass field at volunteer park. Hoping for 1/3 of cost to be fundraised or covered by community. Would be a great year-round field for many user groups.

Other Business:

Bob spoke about the RC trucks that has been brought to the attention of the Parks department. Cap Sante and Mt Erie are perfect places for the terrain they desire. He brought this to the attention of the Forest Board. The ACFL has a strict no off trail use policy. It was mentioned that possible additional signs would help. Darby researched the social media pages of these groups as they have not responded to previous attempts to contact. Jonn is looking at municipal codes that these groups are breaking and trying to get them to submit a permit to facilitate discussion.

Meeting adjourned at 6:57pm

Respectfully submitted by Darby Jordan

Parks and Recreation Update – June 2022

Parks Maintenance Report: Nicole Johnston, Parks Manager

Cemetery Expansion Update- Closed out the DOE Stormwater Construction Permit. This is a report that I would have to submit each month while the project was under construction. We are still waiting on the record of survey to be submitted by Powertek Surveying to Skagit County. Jonn, Darby and myself will go to the City Council on Tuesday, June 21st to talk about the updates to the cemetery fees.

Baseball- Hosted District & Regional State BB tournament. On June 2nd we are hosting the Senior All Star games for the conference. AJ and Kaden have done a good job keeping Volunteer Park mowed, trimmed and ready to host all of the park visitors.

Hanging Baskets- We hired Halsie Keltner for the summer to water the hanging baskets and take on the sanitation route. Everyone on the crew is extremely appreciative of her.

Spray Pad- Spray pad is open for business – Open 7 days a week 11am-6pm

Memorial Day Weekend- Crew had the Cemetery, Causland Park and Washington Park looking good.

Washington Park- Lots of mowing and trimming has been happening at the park. We are down to only two seasonals at the park, but we are hopeful to hire two more here shortly. Memorial weekend came and went. The weather over the long weekend didn't make the campground too busy. The boat lot has been consistently busy, especially when shrimp opened up.

Parks Crew will continue to mow and trim our way through the month of June and of course get ready for the 4th of July.

Parks and ACFL: Bob Vaux, Assistant Director

ROTARY PARK CAP SANTE TRAIL PROJECT

- 4/27: spent the afternoon assisting Public Works' Tim and GIS Rob survey the trail. This will lead to accurate mapping project.
- ACFL Steve, Tom Decker and all kinds of Rotary volunteers and APRD staff keep working on the trail and the trailhead. Really looking good.
- I keep making cameo appearances; helping with decisions, locations and such.
- The June 11th ribbon cutting approaches, and everything is gelling nicely.

WHISTLE LAKE DAM

- Our remote earthen dam has received some press in the last couple of weeks. As explained before, Parks has been working with Public Works on the upgrades deemed necessary by Department of Ecology. We are looking at a July site inspection from DOE at this time.

NATIONAL TRAILS DAY: June 4th

- Our spring quarterly work party with the Friends of the Forest will be happening at the #107 trailhead on this day. We are also welcoming our old friends from SWITMO to the project. 9A-12P.

GUEMES CHANNEL TRAIL

- 5/2: spent a few hours documenting storm damage along the trail. Tim Hohmann from Public Works and I hosted teams from the Federal and State governments, along with our consultant.

SKATEPARK

- Work continues on the design front with Grindline.

LEGISLATIVE MEETING WITH SENATOR LOVELETT

- 5/10: Director Lunsford, Managers Johnston, South and I met with Sen. Lovelett at the skate park. We walked her through the current skate park redux process as well as the Community Center concepts recently laid out by Mayor Gere.

SEASONAL STAFF

- Parks Mgr Johnston and I are finding what are hopefully a few diamonds in the rough. The roster is close to filling out, but still calling out for job seekers.
- 5/20: happily welcomed Jillian and Devanne, our ACFL summer team. Looking forward to great things from them. We are still searching for at least three more seasonals for the cemetery, parks crew and Washington Park.

FOREST ADVISORY BOARD

- Mayor Miller has appointed Tabb Stringer to the Board. The appointment was unanimously approved by Council at the 5/2 meeting. FAB and staff were able to welcome Tabb aboard at the May meeting.

32ND STREET SWAMP CULVERT REMOVAL

- Since the end of 32nd Street was classified as an emergent wetland in 2019, we have been exploring the option of removing the culvert that connects that area with the property to the north. Public Works maintains the area north of 32nd in order to keep the ditch adjacent to private homes cleaned out. The culvert is often plugged by the neighborhood beaver, so PW is happy to have it removed. We would also do a better job protecting the emergent wetland with that old two track connector gone. Director Lunsford and I met on site with PW and Planning personnel on 5/13, and we are now pursuing the necessary permits to move forward with the project.

LITTLE CRANBERRY LAUNCH PROJECT

- As previously discussed with the Forest Advisory Board, GeoEngineers is going to start their research at the lake to support our permit applications for this project. There is no established timeline yet.

VOLUNTEERS

- 5/21: worked much of the day with our team and the Friends of the Forest staff on Stewardship and Ambassador training. Looking forward to the expansion of the already successful Ambassador program. This is the folks “tabling” at various trailhead parking lots. Good info sharing, additional sets of eyes, community reps.

TREES

- I had a very quiet month on the hazard tree front. A couple of phone calls and emails.

REGULAR MEETINGS

- 4/28: monthly ABPAC (bicycles and pedestrians) meeting. Our focus on Open Streets planning for August 28th. Should be another fun non-motorized event.
- 5/5: tailgate safety meeting with Parks Division. Always a good exchange, and important reminders.
- FoF Exec. Dir. Asa Deane and staff continue to be regular contacts and partners.
- 5/19: regular quarterly meeting of the Council Parks Committee. Always a good exchange of our plans and their feedback, questions, etc.
- Denise Crowe and I handled this month's COA/Samish exchange hike. An incredible journey thru the south facing meadows of Sugarloaf. Wildflowers abound!

FOR WHAT IT'S WORTH...

- 4/28: toured the Predators of the Heart property with a variety of County and City officials. POH is working on a variety of permit applications to continue their captive management of a variety of exotic animals. Parks focus is the safety of ACFL trail users.
 - Days off: Fri 4/29, Fri 5/6, Mon 5/23.
 - We lost ACFL Steve to jury duty for a good chunk of May. Glad he's back.
 - On-going special thanks to Tim Hohmann from Public Works. He is our go to guy on many fronts, and always finds time and grace to handle us with.
 - Shout out to the Parks Crew... from Mother's Day to Veteran's plaque dedication at Causland, they continue to shine for not only special events, but all the regular needs in between.
 - ACFL Steve, Parks Maintenance Myles and I were called out on 5/25 to help look for a presumed missing elderly gentleman. We were told to stand down after a couple of hours when Skagit County Search and Rescue arrived. They did not believe it was likely he was in the ACFL at that time.
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Parks & Recreation: Jonn Lunsford, Director

- Parks and Recreation Staff will go to the City Council on June 13 to ask for \$100,000 in city funds for the skate park upgrade. Our request is to ask for a city financial contribution to match over \$650,000 in existing private donations for the park. We will also continue private fundraising as we get closer to the final plan drawings so we can show potential donors exactly what we are going to do.
- Staff will again go to City Council on June 21 to discuss adding cemetery fees to the city's Unified Fee Schedule (UFS). This allows for fees to adjust annually with inflation. We will also request an increase in the cost of full sized burial plots from the current cost of \$814 to \$1170. This is the approximate average cost of these plots at other publicly owned cemeteries in our region. This increase will help us take on the added costs of the recent cemetery expansion and continue to make improvements in the older sections at Grand View Cemetery.
- Staff is also preparing documents with the State's Recreation and Conservation Office for our grant contract regarding a feasibility study at the Thompson Trail Trestle. This project will estimate the cost and schedule to remove rip rap and creosote pilings to improve the health of Fidalgo Bay while rebuilding the trestle. This is only a feasibility study; such a project would need to go through a long process of public discussion and permitting before proceeding.

Youth Track and Field: The Track and Field program was offered for 1st-6th graders and ended May 9th with 138 participants registered for the program. The highest registration numbers since 2018. After modifying this program in 2021 to meet state health guidelines it was exciting to bring back this program at full capacity. In keeping with tradition, the last few days finished with track meet events and ribbons were given out to all the participants.

Youth Flag Football: The Anacortes Football team offered a Youth Flag Football program for K-6th that ended May 27th with 94 participants registered for the program. The program offered an alternative to contact football for children while interacting with Anacortes High School football players and coaches. The program boasted its largest participation numbers since its inception.

Messy Me: The recreation staff was excited to bring back the early childhood development course Messy Me. Messy Me took place at the Anacortes Senior Center, Tuesdays in May. This parent child course provides children the opportunities paint, color, make a mess, socialize, and work on motor skills. Registration was maxed out for this program at 20 participants. Pre-pandemics levels hovered between 10-20 participants depending on time of the year program was offered and if multiple sessions were offered.

Summer Program Registration: As we mentioned in last month's report registration for several of our recreation programs kicked off recently. Some programs have filled and others still have spots available. We have been able to get some of the kids off the youth sailing class waitlist by getting them enrolled in a classes as we have been able to move a few kids around. Also, our cooperative efforts with Anacortes Waterfront Alliance will provide some other opportunities for youth to get on the water this summer. Initial registration numbers for other programs and camps are looking very promising.

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, we are working with the Anacortes School District to bring back our Ault Open Gym basketball starting in June and working with them to get a facility scheduled.

Other Items: County Soccer league is making a big push to increase our referee pool for the upcoming fall season. There is a course coming up on Saturday, June 11 in Mount Vernon to get new referees certified to work games. Anyone interested in taking the class and becoming a soccer referee is encouraged to take the course. Please visit www.wareferees.org to register and complete online training. Or folks can email president@skagitrefs.org for more information.

Total Volunteers Hours for May



Flag Football

12 X 12 hrs. = 144

Total for Month 144