



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

Parks & Recreation Advisory Commission

Aug 9th, 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 June 14th, 2022 Minutes
3. Public Comments
4. Correspondence/Communication
5. Community Youth Center
6. Skate Park Update
7. Department Reports
8. 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

June 14, 2022

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

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

Meeting held by Zoom and in person at City Hall

Called to order at 6:00pm

Minutes: May minutes were unanimously approved as submitted.

Public Comments: none

Correspondence and Communication:

Jonn reported that the Parks Foundation did not meet.

JoAnn reported that the Forest Advisory Board held their last meeting as a hike in the ACFL. They visited the property line with Predators of the Heart. They also hiked to the site of the recent work party and viewed the trail repairs. There will be no July meeting for the Forest Board.

Cemetery Fees and Policies:

Nicole, Jonn and Darby are going to City Council on Tuesday. Darby will present the interactive map and online tools. Nicole will present the expansion and policies we are looking to update. The last update being in the late 1980's and we are looking to add columbariums and green burials. Jonn will present council with the request to raise rates of a full burial plot to match the average of the area. This will help recover the costs of the expansion and build a reserve. This is about a 40% increase to the cost of a full plot. The other request of council is to move all cemetery fees to the Unified Fee Schedule which will keep them in line with inflation.

Staff Reports:

Nicole reported that we have a full staff of seasonals! This will allow the team to keep up with the mowing. The crew is getting ready for Bark in the Park and the 4th of July as the next two big events.

Dustin spoke about Bark in the Park, to be held on Saturday at Storvik Park. Anacortes High school just finished up their partnership with the flag football program. Upcoming events include Kids R Best Fest on July 9th and adult softball will be starting in July. The softball has a change to the rules with the men

being required to use wood bats. This is for safety purposes. Matt Rutz is our seasonal recreation leader this summer, and we also have an intern from WSU, Carlos that has been helping the recreation programs. At the Senior Center, numbers are still increasing. The staff, and several volunteers, attended the National Council on Aging conference. It was very informative and helpful to all who attended.

Bob reported that the ribbon cutting at the Rotary Trail went great. There were several speakers and many guests utilizing the new trail. The Parks staff did a LOT of work on this project along with over 400 volunteer hours.

Jonn reported that the City Council expressed support of authorizing \$100,000 for the new skate park project, for a total of \$735,000 raised so far. There will be an official vote in July.

Jonn also met with the Kiwanians regarding the Puget Sound Energy cell tower that they donated to the City back in the 1950's. Both the City and the Kiwanians receive compensation from this lease.

The skate park is close to its final design. There has been an increased interest in a pump track. There will be a focus group of trail riders and Grindline to discuss this option. It may be a phase two project as support is growing. The goal for fundraising for phase one is \$850,000-\$900,000 due to the increased cost of materials from Covid. There will be an opportunity for sponsorship or naming rights on parts of the park to help with the fundraising.

Other Business:

Jonn asked if the Board would like to have a July meeting or skip until August. The Parks department has no pressing issues. The Board decided to have a July meeting.

Christine asked about the remote-control cars. Bob and Jonn have reached out to the local representatives to meet and find some understanding and common ground. Alex asked about the damage the cars are causing. Jonn responded that parking for their large groups is an issue, and damage to meadows and other fragile areas from the cars and increased off trail traffic.

Sarah asked about the problems at the beaver dam. Bob explained that someone has been destroying it and then someone else has been rebuilding it. No one has been seen at this time doing the damage.

There are no permits to do any work on the area. Bob is hoping to get the word out and create a community awareness, and asking anyone that sees something to contact the police.

Meeting adjourned at 6:38pm

Parks and Recreation Update – August 2022

Bob Vaux – Assistant Director

SMASH AND GRABS

On July 24 and 25 in the Anacortes Community Forest Lands we had one trailhead car prowler each day: #248 and #20. The Anacortes Police Department responded to both. Please remember to never leave valuables in your vehicle.

SK8 PARK

7/18: The design team from Grindline came up to our Senior Activity Center and lead a pump track design charrette. Anacortes Skate Park Improvement Project President, Rachel Muntean-Salazar, did a great job of working with representatives from local mountain bike club Fidalgo

Trail Riders on the potential added phase to the project. Director Lunsford and I were in attendance as well. FTR volunteers are currently fine-tuning design ideas, while I work with COA Public Works staff on sidewalk and parking options. We are looking to get the pump track info to Grindline the first week of August.

DOE VISITS Whistle Lake AND Little Cranberry DAMS

Spent the morning of 7/7 with two engineers from Dept. of Ecology's Dam Safety Office inspecting our two sites. Their reports should be coming soon.

GEESE FACTOR

We did have to temporarily close Little Cranberry to all forms of in and on water recreation, very likely due to the increase in goose poop. We continue to work with the Skagit County Health Department on safe use protocol. As of 7/8 we are back open under a caution flag.

HOLIDAY WEEKEND

Spent a few hours each morning on the 2nd, 3rd and 4th, doing fireworks and camping patrol in the ACFL. The weather was our best possible enforcement tool. There were a few vanlife and car campers that needed to be nudged along. Devanne, Jillian and Steve did a great job. We did find the remnants of fireworks at Heart Lake parking lot the morning of the 5th. May have to close that gate next year.

EBIKE IMPACT TRAIL STUDY

7/14: Friends of the Forest Executive Director Asa Deane and I began to fine tune our "top-secret" selected monitoring sites. This will help us better understand any impact from Class 1 ebike use in the Community Forest Lands.

WHISTLE LAKE CROWD

It's been the usual scene this summer; most folks enjoying themselves with family and friends. Some continue to pretend there are no rules, and some are resorting to harassing our seasonal staff. There is one group of young men in particular we are working to track down.

REGULAR MEETINGS

6/30: great monthly COA/Samish hike with Denise Crowe. South Cranberry beaver habitat inspection. All looking good.

6/30: ACFL Steve and I met with FoF Asa, working on our routine, partnership and future plans.

7/7: Parks Crew Tailgate Safety meeting.

7/25: Denise Crowe and I conducted our monthly Samish / COA ACFL hike. We combined the trip with a Whistle Lake patrol of 20/204. A beautiful and thankfully quiet trip.

FOR WHAT IT'S WORTH

6/30: Finance Staff kicked off 2023 budget season with a Capital Facilities Plan meeting.

Leave taken: 7/1 vacation day, 7/8 sick day, due to covid+ proximity, 7/11-13 vacation days

7/5: assisted some WWU biology students with their local lake water sampling.

7/5, 7/14: did some more FoF Trail Ambassador training with Ashleigh and new volunteers.

7/6: I assisted Skagit Co Health Dept look for a unique algae in Little Cranberry. It was reported by a citizen. We found some. Samples were taken. The species was identified as a cyanobacteria, however the tested level of toxin was well below the recreational guidance values.

7/18: pitched in on some lower Cap Sante residential tree questions. Really appreciate it when folks reach out before the tree falls.

7/20: did some dead street tree recon for Streets. They will remove one from 7th and "R".

7/22: met with staff at WP campground site B20. Looks like we have an old white fir snag that is losing a limb or two. We are working on a plan to drop it.

7/25-29: Director Lunsford, Parks Foreperson Tottenham and ACFL Steve all happened to be off this week. Special thanks to Parks Manager Nicole and our Seasonal ACFL Team for the extra attention and effort regarding ACFL Sunshine Patrol. Numbers pretty solid during this sunshine streak. Also, thanks to APD for some OT shifts doing same. Whistle was pretty family friendly on July 26th.

7/25: City Council Meeting. Open Streets approved as well as \$100K REET transfer to SK8 PRK.

Recreation Update- Dustin South, Recreation Manager and Travis Anderson, Recreation Coordinator:

- Pirate Run (formerly Art Dash) went well on July 30th. The theme was well received and enjoyed. About 250 runners total.
 - Soccer League registration is wrapping up. Numbers are down a little bit in the City League as of today, 397. Compared to this time in past years, 411 (2021), 459 (2019), 404 (2018), and 412 (2017). County League numbers are up from last year by about 20. However, need another 20-30 to get back up to pre pandemic numbers. Soccer league numbers across the county are gradually declining for the older kids in Skagit Valley as a whole. While soccer is still the preferred youth sport by far for the 10 years of age and younger.
 - Adult Softball wood bats are working well. Unintended affect is the games seem to be moving along faster.
 - Outdoor Movie date was changed, now will be held on Friday, September 2 at dusk. Sing 2 is the movie.
-

Parks Update – Nicole Johnston, Parks Manager

- We have installed 2 of the new fire rings at Washington Park
 - We have sold the first cemetery plots in the new section of Grand View.
 - Crew has been busy mowing, trimming and fixing irrigation
 - Washington Park remains full most Thursday- Sunday's this summer
 - Next up is getting the fields ready for soccer season
-

Department Update- Jonn Lunsford, Director

- City Staff is working with community leaders and the Boys and Girls Club on potential fundraising strategies for a new Community Youth Center located on private property near the skate park.
- We have secured matching funds to begin our research on the idea of replacing the Thompson Trail Trestle and causeway with steel and concrete pilings. This work is funded by the state Estuary and Salmon Recovery Program in partnership with the Samish Indian Nation and Department of Natural Resources. The idea is that if rock rip rap and creosote pilings are removed then the natural flow of water into Fidalgo Bay would improve salmon habitat.