



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

Sept 13th, 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 August 2022 Minutes
3. Public Comments
4. Correspondence/Communication
5. Disc Golf Tournament
6. Rotary Club Presentation
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

August 9, 2022

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

Staff present: Bob Vaux, Jonn Lunsford

Meeting held by Zoom and in person at City Hall

Called to order at 6:03pm

Minutes: June minutes were unanimously approved as submitted.

Public Comments: none

Correspondence and Communication:

JoAnn reported on the Forest Advisory Board meeting. Staff reported that the Little Cranberry Lake boat launch project is in process. The Friends of the Forest requested additional signs for the area to protect sensitive areas. Bob reported that the Department of Ecology had been out for a site visit to Little Cranberry and Heart Lake dams. Their report will be delivered soon. The water issues at Little Cranberry Lake have improved, and the restrictions were lifted. JoAnn reported that the Forest Board is in support of a program by Skagit System to harvest seeds in the ACFL to help support plant diversity in the Skagit River Valley. The Friends of the Forest have had a great trail program this summer and it will continue through Labor Day. Dr. Reem Hajjar joined the Forest Board meeting. She is a forestry professor at Oregon State University and is doing a nationwide case study on community forests. She will be here mid-August to interview a number of people about the ACFL. Jonn shared that the Parks Foundation did not meet.

Community Youth Center:

Jonn reported that this is still in the beginning stages of the process. The City is working together with the landowner and various community groups, including the Boys and Girls Club, on the best way to make this happen. . The restroom at 22nd would potentially be moved. The City and MJB are looking at a trade but due to it being built with state grant funds, it would have to be an in-kind trade. Sarah asked about the name of a community center vs a youth center. Jonn responded that it would be both.

Skate Park Update:

Bob shared some of the designs and concepts for the new skate park. The new park fits within the footprint of the old park. There was a design charrette with the Fidalgo Trail Riders and Grind Line to discuss a pump track that would be located just north of the new skate park. The City is looking at the parking lot and the possibility of it being shared by the skate park and community center. Bob also shared about the moving of the restroom to south of the skate park and that would require approval from the Recreation Conservation Office.

Staff Reports:

Jonn asked if there were any questions on the submitted reports as both Dustin and Nicole were not in attendance.

Chris asked about an update to the Cap Sante look out now that the Rotary Trail is complete. Jonn just met with the Rotarians this week and they will attend the September meeting to present their ideas to the Board.

Chris then asked about the Guemes Channel Trail and if this is still in process. Bob and Jonn responded that there have been no updates or changes but it is still on the priority list.

Chris reported that she had attended the Public Safety meeting held last week with several council members and the police chief. They spoke about the homeless issues facing the City as well as the drug problems they are dealing with. Chris asked if the Parks department is in sync with these policies and aware of the issues. Jonn stated that the department works with both the police and Anacortes Family Center to offer services to the homeless that are in our parks. If they refuse services and continue to break rules in the park they may be trespassed by the police.

Chris' final question had to do with motorized vehicles on the trails in town, specifically the Tommy Thompson trail. She mentioned there has been an increase in ebikes and electric skateboards, the majority of which are traveling at very high rates of speed. She asked if there would be the possibility of making the trail a pedestrian only and moving all wheels to the street. Jonn responded that at this time, there is no plan to make the trail pedestrian only and the focus is more on enforcement of the speed.

Other Business:

Bob mentioned that Open Streets will be held again this year on Sunday, August 28th.

Jonn let the Board know that there is a run being organized by an outside group, the same group that hosts the Santa run. It is a fundraiser with an expected turnout of about 250. The Board expressed support for this event.

Brad asked about the Heart Lake master plan and what the next steps are. Jonn let him know the next state grant cycle will open in 2024.

Sarah asked about the projects that have been done and the possibility of ensuring that state grants are applied for every two years to keep projects moving forward. Discussion ensued. Jonn spoke about the projects that have been completed and why some move up the priority list faster than others. He suggested that the Board be part of the discussion about the Capital Facilities Plan for 2023 and give input about their goals.

Jonn mentioned that some Board members will be up for reappointment in October and we can visit that issue next month.

Meeting adjourned at 7:00pm

Respectfully submitted by Darby Jordan

Parks and Recreation Update September 2022

Thompson Trestle Fire: On Tuesday morning, August 30th a fire damaged a stretch of the Tommy Thompson Trail Trestle approximately 77 feet long. The trail surface was destroyed along its entire width in this zone. Our thanks to the many first responders who limited the damage and put out the flames. We are actively investigating the cause of the fire and have closed the trail from the RV Park to March's Point. We are working to identify the extent of structural damage from the fire and begin a rebuilding plan. While we do not have a cost estimate to repair the structure, many people have inquired about how they may donate. The Anacortes Parks Foundation has generously set up a donation portal at the website: www.anacortesparksfoundation.org

There are always a lot of moving parts in the summer for the Parks Department and the crew has worked incredibly hard to keep the parks and trails looking as good as we can. Below are just a few highlights of things we have been busy with this summer.

Cemetery Update-

- ~Lot sales in Grand View West (the new section) started on Monday June 27,2022. So far this summer we have sold three lots.
- ~ALL full burial lots, new and old sections, will have a price of \$1170 beginning on Monday, June 27, 2022. All other prices are staying the same.
- ~The online map is new and improved (thanks to the City GIS Specialist Rob Hoxie!!!)
- ~We are currently working on updating the policies for what we want to allow for monuments, what we want to allow for green burials and for the future site of the columbarium area.
- ~Trinity Construction was back onsite on June 29, 2022 to make repairs to the concrete sidewalk that we requested. We are really close to giving Trinity Final Acceptance on the project. I anticipate this will happen the week of Aug. 29- Sept. 2.
- ~Parks Crew and Jesse, our seasonal cemetery trimmer, have worked hard to get the cemetery mowed and all headstones trimmed. It is almost time again to trim all the headstones.

Washington Park-

~The campground has been nearly full each weekend all summer long.

~Happy to report that all the new seasonal staff we have hired for the park are thriving and doing great. We are currently down to only two seasonal staff who will work through mid- September.

~We have installed two of the 8 fire rings at Sunset Beach. When we find the time we will work to install the remainder. (See attachment #1)

~You will see a few new signs at the park. We have worked with SignDog to get more informational signs for the Group tent site, for down at the dock and a few others.

Crew-

~Braydn Krueger and Myles Farrell have reached one year of official employment by the City in July. Congratulations to them.

~ This summer we have had an excellent line up of seasonal staff on the trim crew, Washington Park, in the ACFL and on sanitation.

Ballfields-

~On June 8, 2022 Coast to Coast Turf did the deep clean on both the turf fields. The representative from the company told us that the fields were in good shape, with the one exception of the pitching mound area on Daniels field. We were already aware of this and we are trying to encourage all users to use the portable pitching mound. We also closed Daniels field during the month of August for a few weeks so that AJ could do more groomer, spray for weeds and spend more time on the field.

~We hosted a three day Baseball tournament for Skagit College June 24-16 and we hosted the Anacortes Steamers tournament July 1-3.

~This Fall the turf fields will be full of youth soccer teams using the outfields and also Fall Ball baseball.

~ The crew worked on Rotary Field all summer to keep it game ready for the Adult Softball League that ran July 10- Aug. 28.

Nicole Johnston
Parks Manager

WASHINGTON PARK

7/27: on site meeting with Josh Baldwin from Quantum Construction and COA Environmental Planner Nathan G. We are working on a site plan and bid package for a restroom. Location to be very close to where there are now two Group Picnic port-o-potties. Mr. Baldwin's expert consultation is greatly appreciated.

8/4: Parks Crew member Sky Guthrie took the lead on a hazard tree fall in site B20. The 100+ foot very dead white fur came down just where we needed it to. Thanks to DNR NW Region crew for coming over and lending an educational and clean up hand.

8/5: was notified of a fire call at the park. Went out there around 530PM and found a DNR crew and AFD Chief Bill Harris. They were happy to report that the smoke had come from a bbq/smoker at the Skyline Cabana.

WHISTLE LAKE PATROL

7/27: special thanks to ACFL seasonal Devanne for working a 6-hour OT shift today. With various vacations and other commitments, she was my last hope for help out there this afternoon. She did great at the lake while I managed parking.

CITIZEN SCIENTISTS

7/27: working with Transition Fidalgo Lead Scientist David Peterson on some plans for large scale forest typing in the ACFL. A larger meeting is in the works.

8/3: Dave, ACFL Steve and two forestry students and I met to further discuss and plan this project. We were joined by GIS Hoxie. Steve is working on some notes for Dave, and we will review some more detailed maps shortly.

ABPAC/OPEN STREETS

7/28: attended regular meeting. Putting the finishing touches on this year's Open Streets event.

8/17: Open Streets meeting with Parks Manager Johnston and Public Works Tim. Road closure details coming together.

WATER QUALITY

7/29: posted additional blue green algae "When in doubt, stay out" signage at Little Cranberry after a frequent local swimmer complained of scummy water. Worked with Darby on social media messaging as well.

8/1: Skagit County Health Department (SCHD) samples Heart and Little Cranberry for blue green algae.

8/2: fecal coliform testing at Little Cranberry continues to show very low numbers, keeping water-based recreation safe.

8/3: Director Lunsford and I met with DOE lake treatment permit specialist. We cleared up our history of treatments in and on Heart Lake and received the green light to move forward with Aquatechnex on treatment for Eurasian milfoil. Still working on specifics but hope to have the work scheduled soon.

8/4: SCHD blue green algae sample results are well below safe recreational levels in both Little Cranberry and Heart Lake.

"HEAT WAVE"

7/30-31: we managed pretty well throughout the week, considering ACFL Steve and Director Lunsford both happened to be on vacation. Devanne and Jillian did great work, and Parks Manager Johnston was there earlier in the week for support as well. I focused on weekend parking detail, and the vast majority of our approximately 1200 weekend visitors at Whistle just wanted a beautiful place to cool down.

VEHICLE PROWLs

These are on the uptick, not just in the ACFL, but city-wide. We have posted a few more warnings and done the same on social media.

POWERLINES TRAILHEAD

7/30-31: I checked on #248 trailhead both days about noon. There were about 15+ vehicles. Other than a couple blocking the private gate adjacent to COA property, all vehicles were parked legally.

FRIENDS OF THE FOREST

8/2: regular meeting with Asa. FoF summer party was a true success. I was unable to attend due to high volume of Whistle Lake visitors.

TREES

8/3: ACFL Steve and I responded to a hiker's concern about chainsaw-based tree work happening near #208x#221. A Parkside Neighborhood resident had hired a tree crew without first working with the COA. Steve and I had a good chat with the crew and were able to confirm the majority of the work is ok. There is a little left to talk about.

8/4: ACFL Steve and I worked through some hazard tree issues with a Fir Crest resident, adjacent to ACFL NGPE. All is well.

8/11: ACFL Steve and I meet with a "W" Ave couple, adjacent to Cap Sante park. We talked through some tree concerns. We will continue to monitor the site.

SEASONAL STAFF

Just when we got comfortable with a good summer staff, August came, and the young people started going back to school and the like. Nicole worked hard to come up with stop gap measures (people willing to work for us for a month or so). She found one and may be verging on a second.

8/8: Jillian's farewell ACFL shift today. I finally took she and Devanne out for the annual thank you for trimming all the trails luncheon. Jillian really enjoyed her summer with us, and we certainly are the better for having had her on the team. Thankfully, Devanne is here into September.

TAILGATE SAFETY MEETING

8/4: good one with the Parks Crew. We take these seriously, and good discussions typically ensue.

AUGUST FOREST ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

Managed a widely varied agenda in a very efficient manner. Well done Chair Gerwels.

CITY COUNCIL

Attended the 8/8 meeting, where the Council discussed getting our Parks and ACFL hours (5A-10P) formally into City Code. There was no objection. Formal approved achieved at 8/15 meeting.

PARKS COMMISSION

The August meeting featured a good discussion regarding establishing project priorities and engaging in the budget process to support funding these priorities.

HEART LAKE EURASIAN MILFOIL

Director Lunsford and I have been working with DOE and Aquatechnex on the need for about 9 acres of treatment for Eurasian milfoil. We are also adding the removal of Yellow Flag Iris. There are currently a few spotty patches along the western shore. We are hoping the treatment will happen by the end of August.

8/12: I posted herbicide application notices at six key spots around HL.

ROTARY TRAIL

Tom D and Jack D from the Rotary Club, Jackie Ferry from the Samish Nation staff, Museum Director Bret Lunsford and I spent a couple of hours reviewing each of the four new kiosks serving the new Rotary Trail. There is temporary signage in place now, and we are working toward permanent installations. It was a great discussion, and I am looking forward to the creative skills of all involved coming up with some helpful, educational and inspirational content.

BEN ROOT SK8 PRK REMODEL PROJECT

8/12: Director Lunsford and I Zoomed with the Grindline guys on some parking issues for the project. Discussed options for working with Community Center project.

ACFL CASE STUDY

As introduced at the August FAB meeting, I met with and was interviewed by Dr. Reem Hajjar, from the Forestry School at Oregon State University. She is meeting with several ACFL types over the next days. Enjoyed the session.

SAMISH NATION / COA HIKE

Steve, Denise and I had another great outing on 8/18. Highlighted by a powerful barred owl encounter on #28.

Bob Vaux, Assistant Director

Recreation Staff Report: June, July, August

Dustin South, Recreation Manager

Travis Anderson, Recreation Coordinator

Pee Wee Baseball: Took place on Thursdays in the month of June. Participants ages 4-6 were able to hone their baseball skills while having fun. Our teenage staff provide the coaching, emphasizing basic teaching of skills versus game play. We had a total of 76 kids registered between two sessions.

Kids Fishing Event: APRD continues to partner with the Puget Sound Anglers to host this annual event. Kids under 15 years of age can fish for free. PSA offers tips and tricks, so kids increase their chance of catching “the big one”. The event was held at Heart Lake on June 4. Kiwanis Club provided snacks for the morning and prizes were given away thanks to generous community donations.

Tots in the Park: A toddler play group that took place at Washington Park. The program which has about 15 total participants was held on Tuesday mornings throughout June.

Youth Volleyball Camp: Coach Swapp and her high school Volleyball players led a camp where kids could increase their volleyball skills or learn new ones. The camp was held at the high school gym on June 6-8 and had a total of 41 participants. A big “thank you” to the AHS Volleyball Team.

Bark in the Park: After a two-year hiatus the event came back much to the delight of dog owners in our community. The annual event has gone to the dogs for many years. Several vendors and participants were in attendance. Brian Geer was back as the master of ceremonies and a good time was had by all. The event was held on Saturday, June 18 at Storvik Park.

Girls Youth Basketball Camp: Coach Dunham and handful of the HS girls basketball players helped put this camp on for the youth in town. The camp was held on June 22-24 at the middle school gym and had 53 total participants. As part of their registration fee, kids got to take home a basketball which they could continue practicing their basketball skills with.

Summer Camps: Our series of 8 themed summer camps (Survivor, Dino, and Pirate) started at the end of the month of June. All of them filled within a matter of weeks, which took longer than in the past when the camps would be filled within a matter of hours. New this year we were able to hire seasonal Recreational Leader which allowed us to expand the program from 2-3 weeks to 8 weeks of programs. We had a total of about 150 participants registered this year which was an increase of about 275% of past years. This increase was due in large part to addition of our Recreational Leader running the program.

Youth Sailing Class: Our continued partnership with Anacortes Waterfront Alliance allowed the city to offer Learn to Sail classes again for the community. We had a total of about 30 youth and 12 adults participate in the beginner level classes. AWA offers more intermediate and advanced classes for participants to continue with. Additionally, they have opportunities for people to “drop-in” sailing as well as private lessons. The organization is rapidly gaining momentum and becoming a popular option for people to access water recreation.

Skyhawks Sport Camps: APRD has been partnering with Skyhawks sports for several years to offer a variety of recreational sport camps in the community. Typically, we will try to offer some sport camps that we do not already offer. Camps that were offered this past summer were, Tennis, Multi-Sport, Track & Field, Basketball, and Lacrosse. Participation numbers for each camp varied from 15-25 kids, depending on the specific camp. Working with Skyhawks allows staff to offer more recreation opportunities for kids throughout the summer months.

Night Out at the Park: Took place for kids out at Washington Park in July. The program planned an evening of outdoor fun for the participants including activities and snacks centered around everything the park has to offer. There were 24 kids signed up for an evening of fun.

Youth Wrestling Camp: The past couple summers staff have partnered with the local Hawkeye Wrestling Club to provide this recreation opportunity for youth in the community. The camp is geared toward beginner wrestlers or kids looking at possibly starting to participate in the sport. Thanks to the Hawkeye Wrestling program for providing the opportunity.

Pee Wee Sports Camp: This FUNdamental sports camp offered a different sport each week and allows kids ages 4-6 years old the opportunity to try a variety of athletics. We had about 70 kids participating in this summer program.

Youth Soccer Camp: Anacortes High School Girls Soccer team partnered with Recreation Division to provide an awesome opportunity for youth to learn new and refine old soccer skills early in the month. There were 104 participants, Kindergarten through 5th grade, who got to take advantage of this program. As part of the registration fee, participants received a soccer ball to continue practicing with. Gretchen Hanson, head coach, and Samantha Schwetz, assistant coach, and all of the girls high school players (and some boys high school players) volunteer their time to organize the program. A big “thank you” to the team for all they do for the youth in the community.

Adult Co-ed Softball: This popular league was offered again for the community. We had a total of 9 teams registered for the 2022 season. We average anywhere from 8-12 teams participating each year. Games are usually played on Sundays, starting the weekend after 4th of July, and concluding the weekend before Labor Day. New this year we instituted a “wood bat” rule for male batters. This created less “pop” of the ball off the bat which makes the game safer. We work with the Skagit Valley Softball Umpire Association to provide umpires for all the games. They have done a great job for us over the past several years. However, they are looking at increasing their membership. Anyone who might be interested in becoming a softball umpire please let Dustin know.

Kids R Best Fest: Another event that has returned after a two-year layoff. Saturday, July 9th was filled with a variety of fun filled kid/family friendly activities, games, and entertainment. Staff was able to find a new pony ride vendor to once again supply this very popular activity. Thanks to the Parks Maintenance crew for helping get the park ready for the event. We also would like to thank the following organizations and groups for their participation in the event, Action Academy Anacortes, Anacortes Fire Department, Anacortes Lions Club, Anacortes Public Library, Anacortes Police Department, Anacortes Rotary, Civil Air Patrol, Fidalgo Animal Medical Center, Fidalgo Island Rotary. Girl Scouts of Western Washington, Island Health, Kiwanis Club (Noon), Kiwanis (Sunrisers) Linda Earwood, Natural Way Chiropractic, North Sound Chiropractic, Playhouse Dental, Skagit Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault Services, Shannon Point Marine Center (WWU), Soroptimist International of Anacortes, Trinity Anglican Church, Wolf Hollow Wildlife Rehabilitation Center, and Wren Schultz. For those who would like to plan for next year the event will be held on Saturday, July 8th, 2023. Also, if you know of any groups that have not participated in the past and would be a good addition to the event, please let Dustin know.

Challenger Soccer Camp: Recreation staff continue to work with Challenger Sports to provide soccer development program during a week in the summer. This unique camp brings coaches from overseas and is a great opportunity for kids to learn how to play soccer (or futbol) with an international flavor. Challenger does a great job with the camps, keeping the drills fun and engaging for the participants. There were about 70 kids signed up for the camp this past July.

Pirate Run (formerly Art Dash): Staff continues its partnership with the Anacortes Arts Festival Organization to offer a fitness/recreational opportunity for the community while making a fun family orientated event. This year’s event had a pirate theme and featured a new route. We had about 220 participants. The event took place on Saturday, July 30th, the weekend before the Arts Festival. Although sometimes not as competitive as other runs “themed” running events have grown in popularity and can entice runners to participate who might not otherwise.

Youth Soccer League: The largest youth sport in our community continues to be the case with over 520 kids registered (Cty and County Leagues) to participate in the 2022 season. Teams are offered for kids ages 5-14 years old. The leagues are made possible by countless volunteer coaches, thank you! During the next couple months, you will see lots of kids practicing soccer skills at just about every open piece of natural turf (and some artificial turf) spaces in town. Additional thank you to our parks maintenance crew for getting fields painted, soccer goals assembled, and outfitted with nets. There are several different sizes and shapes to coordinate.

Adult Drop-in Sports Programs: We have been able to resume Adult Basketball on Sundays, and Adult Volleyball on Wednesdays and Fridays. Pickleball has been playing outdoors during the summer months, and thus is not being organized by the recreation staff. Once the weather gets cooler and wetter and the days become shorter pickleball may look to move inside to the gymnasium at Mt. Erie. However, we are still looking for a gym supervisor to oversee the program when this happens. Badminton, a new drop-in program, this summer has increased in popularity, and we will investigate the possibility of continuing the program through the fall/winter months.

Upcoming Events/Programs: Adult Whiffle Ball League is currently accepting registrations; this is a new league for the fall and any interested in participating please reach out to the parks and recreation department. Pee Wee Soccer registration is also currently taking place and scheduled to start in early September. This program is less about playing a game schedule and more about learning and developing skills in a fun environment.

Staff is working with a ballroom dance instructor to teach classes at the Depot. The instructor has experience teaching a variety of dance styles and they are interested in working with the recreation team to organize some community dances throughout the year as well.

Other Items: For the second grant cycle in a row staff participated in the Recreation Conservation Office's Youth Athletics Facility grant review committee. The application process is held in even years for funding to take place in odd years. It is a very helpful process to learn what makes successful grant application submissions, trends in athletic facility development, and learn about what other communities are doing to develop recreation opportunities for youth.

A-Town Publication is back! The city will be publishing and distributing the next edition of the A-town in mid-September. This has truly been a collaboration of departments and we thank Jennifer Tottenham for collecting article information and Adam Farnsworth for designing the next issue. The publication will have general information from a variety of departments as well as advertising recreation programs for the next several months. Staff have some exciting programs planned!

Total Volunteers Hours for June, July, & August



Kids R Best Fest

3 X 6 hrs. = 18



Pirate Run

7 X 3 hrs. = 21



Soccer League Coaches

4 X 7 hrs. = 28

Total for Month