



ANACORTES PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT

**P.O. BOX 547, ANACORTES, WA 98221
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Anacortes Community Forest Lands Advisory Board

November 3rd, 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. Approve October 2022 Minutes
3. Board Member Update
4. Public Comments *for any item not on the agenda*
5. Pacific Northwest Trail Signage
6. ACFL Dams Update
7. Friends of the Forest Update
8. Parks Commission Report
9. ACFL Trail Committee
 - Equestrian Member
10. Staff Reports
11. Other Business

Adjourn

Minutes of the Meeting: October 13, 2022

Board members present: Brian Wetcher, JoAnn York-Gilmore, Kit Gerwels, Tabb Stringer

Staff present: Bob Vaux, Steve Phillips, Darby Jordan

Guests: Asa Dean

Meeting held in person and via Zoom and called to order at 6:00PM

Minutes: September minutes were unanimously approved as submitted.

Board Member Update:

Bob shared that Nick Stowe has officially resigned from the Forest Board due to his increased travel schedule. There are a few applications in the Talent Bank which the mayor is reviewing. We hope to have a decision in the next month.

Bob also shared that JoAnn has been reappointed to both the Forest and Parks Boards.

Public Comments:

None

ACFL Dams Update:

This project is still ongoing, but Bob was just notified that the Dept of Ecology has deemed the City of Anacortes eligible for the FY22 High Hazard Potential Dam (HHPD)

Rehabilitation Grant program. This is FEMA money administered by the State. The COA is working with a consultant on a planning grant. We are still waiting on the report on the dam status and recommendations.

Friends of the Forest Update:

Asa shared that the Friends are again hosting fieldtrips out in the woods! This is a first since 2019 and everyone is very excited. These trips are for Kindergarten, 3rd and 7th graders and are done in conjunction with in-classroom activities.

The annual benefit fundraiser will be held on November 12th at the Transit Shed. Tickets are on sale online and at Watermark books.

Asa stated that their after school programs are up and running.

Parks Commission Report:

JoAnn reported on the September meeting of the Parks Commission. There was a guest in attendance to speak about a proposal to convert the unused shuffle board and horse shoe area at Storvik park to a sand volleyball space. The Board expressed support for hearing more details and cost estimates.

At the Parks meeting, Jonn reported that he had met with a few contractors who helped with the TTPW trestle rebuild the last time it was set on fire, including Nels Strandberg and Andy Culbertson, as well as a new fencing company. The permits are in process with local, state and federal agencies. There are many different entities involved-Coast Guard, Army Corp, WDFW and the City. There may be an opportunity to remove some of the unused pilings during demolition. Materials are being ordered as many of them are delayed due to supply chain issues. There was not as much burned as last time according to preliminary evaluations. There is no estimate of cost at this time, but when that cost becomes clear, there are community groups ready to help with fundraising.

Some of the neighbors of the Clearidge pickleball courts have reached out about the noise from the courts. Bob has invited them to come to the Parks Board meeting. There will be a closure of the Guemes Channel Trail next week to do some tree trimming. Community fundraising will start soon for the skatepark and pump track.

ACFL Trail Committee Report:

Bob reported that there has been nothing new since last month. Bob did meet with the WTA team about a project at Washington Park. This will be done hopefully in January or February.

Bob reported on the other trail project in the works at this time, the W 2nd Connector trail. A trail of sorts has been there for years, but the Parks staff is working with Superior Systems on a metal raised path. Staff is hoping that the public will enjoy this new “bridge” and see the benefits of using it in other areas to protect wetlands.

Staff Reports:

Steve had nothing to add to his written report.

Bob spoke about everyone’s hope for rain soon. The trails are very dry at this time. There was a vehicle accident and tree scorch on Mt Erie that was thankfully contained. The trails will seasonally close to motorized vehicles on November 1st.

Other Business:

Kit mentioned that he has been on the board for about a year and has noticed a few things that he would like more information on. He is hoping to have a more open discussion about the budget, how it is set, how the Board can affect change, if there is any way to impact the revenue sources, CEP and Endowment Fund. Bob stated that he would speak with Jonn and see about having Jonn speak at the next board meeting.

Tabb asked about getting some trees trimmed near the Fir Crest neighborhood. When on horseback, they are quite low. Steve will get this taken care of and asked that anytime this is noticed, just send an email and he will take care of the trimming.

Discussion was started about the ACFL plan and the update. This will be a process spanning several months but can be divided and started next year.

Adjourn at 7:30pm

Respectfully Submitted by Darby Jordan

October 2022 Report from the Assistant Director's Desk

TREES

Mon 3rd: working on Parkside neighborhood NGPE issues with the HOA and Planning staff. One very strait forward hazard tree issue, the other is more complicated and contentious.

Mon 17th: Nathan from Planning and I visited the more complicated site. He will be taking on compliance issues from here and will keep me in the loop.

Wed 26th: handled an initial tree consultation on "W" near the top of Cap Sante. Will be a Streets Division task.

WPRR

Tues 4th: on site meeting with Josh/Quantum, Steve/COA Engineering and Parks staff. Making sure we don't have anything unexpected from a site design perspective. Steve agrees the project should be very straightforward.

As we progress through this process, it is becoming more and more clear that a CXT unit may be our best option, especially since we have moved the RR away from the shop (originally, we thought of this as a remodel / add-on).

Wed 26th: met with Civil Engineer Heike Nelson and COA Engineer Steve Lange, reviewing CXT options. It is looking very promising.

WHISTLE LAKE ACCESS

Tues 4th: conducted another #20 trailhead meeting with local recumbent bicycle riders looking for access around our substantial gate. It's a tough situation, and these folks have been very patient. Exploring a few more options with Director Lunsford, as well as Planning staff.

ROTARY AND CAP SANTE PARKS KIOSK SIGNAGE

Special thanks to Museum Director Lunsford and staffer Adam Farnsworth for their continued work on the new Rotary Trail kiosks. Rotarian Jack Darnton remains the Club lead on this project, and Samish Indian Nation Chelangen Director, Jackie Ferry, continue their respective roles as key partners. We are hoping to have the finished products in place this winter.

MT. ERIE SUMMIT ROAD FIRE

Over the weekend of the 8th/9th we had what looks to be a vehicle fire along this route. Parks staff were not called. Some vegetation was scorched, but thankfully no blaze took hold.

WASHINGTON PARK TRAILS

Mon 10th: APRD staffer Sky Guthrie and I met on site with WTA NW Regional Mgr Arlen Bogaards and volunteer extraordinaire Richard Mellon. We explored three different potential project sites. Arlen and Richard working on a scope of work proposal for what we hope will be a Jan or Feb '23 trail upgrade.

OCTOBER PARKS COMMISSION

I had invited some folks from the Clearidge HOA to the meeting to discuss their pickleball issues. No one showed. The Commission did discuss this growing phenomenon and looks forward to engaging with our Clearidge neighbors.

OCTOBER FOREST ADVISORY BOARD

Sadly, we say to goodbye to Nick Stowe. Nick did a great job representing not just the mountain bikers, but truly understanding the heart of the ACFL, and doing his best to advocate for its long-term health. We thank Nick for his years of service to the FAB and wish him well on his next adventures.

The meeting highlighted by Darby's presentation of the new public access tools for the COA budget.

HOMELESS WORK

Wed 12th: Director Lunsford, Parks Manager Johnston, APD Capt. Fuller, Anacortes Family Center Executive Director Dustin Johnson, AFC Community Resource Manager Nina Lundsten and I met to review our subsidized camping protocol at Washington Park. All in all, we are working together effectively, bringing compassion and fairness to the process. We are developing some new policies that should help unify the process when others such as St. Vincent DePaul and the Salvation Army get involved.

PUMP TRACK & SKATE PARK

Fri 14th: Met with Seth Kiser and Josh Gates from the Fidalgo Trail Riders mountain bike club. They are spearheading the fundraising for the pump track. Both participated in the earlier design charette with Grindline and are bringing lots of enthusiasm to the next phase. Big thanks to both of them.

We have had to adjust the Grindline design timeline a bit but are hoping to get back on the previously schedule track in the next few weeks. We are expecting 50% Construction Drawings by the end of work Fri 28th.

WHISTLE LAKE DAM

We have heard back from DOE, and our eligibility for the FY22 High Hazard Potential Dam (HHPD) Rehabilitation Grant program has been confirmed.

W. 2ND CONNECTOR TRAIL

Mon 24th: Director Lunsford, Foreperson Tottenham and I made a trip out to Superior Systems to check on the manufacturing of our elevated trail. This new project has the chance to really change our game when it comes to wetland protection and enhancement. Our public comment period on this project closes today, so we are waiting to see what we receive.

2023 BUDGET

Mon 24th: Director Lunsford presented our hold the line budget to Council. There was some discussion about our maintenance goals and if current staffing levels are able to meet them, as well as potentially lengthening Anacortes Senior Activity Center hours. No mention of having to cut back any further.

PACIFIC NORTHWEST TRAIL

Tues 25th: FoF Asa Deane and I met with Eric and Sterling from the Pacific Northwest Trail Association. We have been discussing for years the addition of some PNT signage at the 23rd Street #100 and #248 trailheads. Eric and Sterling brought some draft signage for review, and it will be shared with the FAB at the November meeting.

FOR WHAT IT'S WORTH

Leave taken: Oct 6, 7, 19, 20, 21

Faithfully Submitted,

Bob Vaux
October 27, 2022

ACFL Maintenance Report OCTOBER – 2022 by Steve Phillips

October 26, 2022

This month's report is brief, covering October 6-26, during which time I took a week's vacation. Following are some highlights.

Maintenance Activities

10/6 – The Parks staff collaborated on a Fall shop cleanup after our monthly Tailgate Safety meeting.

10/7 – I completed my yearly forklift recertification class through the City of Anacortes. It is rare that I need this, but extremely helpful when I do.

10/7 – Dave Oicles and I were invited to Urban Forest nursery for a tour and in-depth description of their current stock. Jim Barborinas gave us insight to some of his nursery's best current street tree offerings in addition to trees that are better suited for parks. Although one can find some of this information online, this tour was extremely informative and will save us a great deal of time in our next tree selections.

10/10 – I checked out the site where a tree had crashed and ignited on Erie Mountain Road (no injuries). It appears that the fire remained in the vehicle and charred the trunk of the large Douglasfir. This occurred at a location familiar to me, and I would like to explore options to discourage drivers from intentional fishtailing around this corner and protecting drivers that may accidentally veer off the road here. If drivers comply with the 15mph speed limit, there is absolutely no hazard here under normal driving conditions.

10/11 – I found myself still watering trees (Skate Park, City Hall, 32nd Street roundabout, 28th St. Playground). With warm and dry conditions in the forecast, I figured I'd give our street trees another boost before rain, cool, and darkness collaborate to maintain soil moisture.

I also took a few minutes to check on the health of some ailing native shrubs that I planted this spring at Rotary Park. They have been consistently watered, but 4 out of 6 appear to be dead. I am hoping the nursery will work with us on replacing these and potentially finding a good substitute so that another growing year isn't wasted on the planting site.

10/12 – Parks staff helped me remove a hazard tree along the "Goat Trail", the connector trail parallel to 18th street that connects D and C Avenues.

I began a two-day project to install a turnpike at the western entry point to Trail 109, hopefully eliminating a muddy situation for trail users that has resulted in widening of the trail at this point. I neglected to take a "before" photo, but the "after" is below. I also used a leaf blower to remove debris from the road leading to this trailhead (accessible via Clyde Way).

10/14 – I spent some time removing duff and debris piled up by beavers to obstruct our beaver deceiver there.

10/17-21 – Vacation. Parks Foreperson Brian Tottenham covered with occasional garbage/restroom checks.

10/24 – upon returning from vacation, I did a thorough garbage run and bathroom cleaning. I also helped replace unruly tree grates on downtown street trees.

10/25-26 – I spent some time at the 32nd Street beaver deceiver, preparing for winter. Our beaver(s) had piled up a summer's worth of mud and sticks, so I distributed much of that material near the bases of the alders that were been planted nearby two winters ago.

10/26 – Today I cleared trees in two areas – a newly reported blowdown on 313 and the low-hanging willows at the Fircrest end of 126.



New turnpike, Clyde Way Trail 109 access. MacLeod tool for scale.