



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

November 8th, 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 September 2022 Minutes
3. Public Comments
4. Correspondence/Communication
5. Trestle Update
6. West End Park
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

Oct 11th, 2022

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

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

Guests: Brian Wetcher

Meeting held by Zoom and in person at City Hall

Called to order at 6:01pm

Minutes: September minutes were unanimously approved as submitted.

Public Comments: none

Correspondence and Communication:

Bob reported that the Forest Board meeting is delayed this month until Oct 13th.
Jonn shared that the Parks Foundation did not meet.

Sand Volleyball:

Brian Wetcher was 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. With the space measurements, it would accommodate two courts without removing the trees in the area. The courts could be used for sand volleyball, sand soccer and foot volleyball. In the past, there have been suggestions of bocci ball, pump track, community center or child care. There was previous interest in sand volleyball that was stalled due to Covid. Discussion continued. The Board expressed support for hearing more details and cost estimates. Brian will coordinate with Bruce McDougall and create an updated plan to bring back to the board.

Trestle Update:

Jonn reported that he has met with a few contractors who helped with the rebuild last time-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.

Staff Reports:

Nicole reported that with all of the sunshine we are still having, the numbers are high at the park for both day use and camping.

Bob reported that some of the neighbors to the Clearidge pickleball courts have reached out about the noise from the courts. He 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. Bob also reported that community fundraising will start soon for the skatepark and pump track.

Jonn stated that the trestle rebuild is the main project at this time.

Karl reported that the Senior College will be offering a class on October 19th titled Art and the Brain. The Orcas Island Senior Center representative came to tour the ASAC and was impressed with our space and variety of program offerings. Karl attended a Skagit Valley meeting of local senior centers and was able to tour the Sedro Woolley center.

Dustin reported it is all soccer all the time right now! The Recreation department also has the Dallas Klope Mt Erie run on October 29th at 9am, and the Haunted Forest the same day at 6pm. Alex inquired about switching the run to a Sunday so that the soccer coaches and parents could participate. Dustin will pole the regular participant runners.

Other Business:

Brian asked if the MJB property has proposed any open park space in their plan. Jonn replied that the City has not been given any proposal yet.

Meeting adjourned at 6:49pm

Parks and Recreation Update November 2022:

Thompson Trestle Repair Update: We have completed our local permits and are finalizing our state and federal permits. Once they are approved then we can begin our demolition work on the site. Our goal is to start that work this month.

The Anacortes Parks Foundation has generously set up a donation portal at the website:

www.anacortesparksfoundation.org

Assistant Director Report:

TREES

Mon 3rd: working on Parkside neighborhood NGPE issues with the HOA and Planning staff. One very straightforward 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.

WASHINGTON PARK RESTROOM

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.

Bob Vaux, Assistant Director

Parks Manager Report:

Cemetery Update- Parks crew worked this month installing curtain drain along the new interior road. This will help manage the water and keep it from going over the interior road. Breaking news at the cemetery is that the chestnuts are all down and the crew feels that we don't have as many this year!



Washington Park Update- Sky took the lead on installing a curtain drain around the Washington Park office. This is going to help keep the water out of the building. We are also planning to install insulation, a heater and potential new windows. Dean more than anyone is going to appreciate these improvements to the work space. Already the office at the park feels warmer. Upper restrooms are closed for the season and the campground is slowing

down as we transition into fall/ winter weather. The Parks Crew will be helping Travis get ready for the Haunted Forest event on Oct. 29th.

Field Update- New Creations Building, LLC finished up the work on the outfield wall on MDD field. We installed new plywood on the backside fence and new pvc skirt board on the inside of the fence. When a weather window opens up they will paint the backside of the fence green. Still planning to remove the Big Brown Mound, just waiting to get confirmation on the final cost and the timeline to start this project from Coast to Coast Turf.



Tree Grates- Walking downtown you might have noticed some tree grates were uneven or even lifted. Nichola and Steve took time this month to check each grate and either remove completely and fill in with gravel or switch grates out completely. Some trees downtown will have to get replaced eventually as they are lifting the sidewalk.

Clearidge Courts- We installed our Park Rule's sign at Clearidge Park. The Park hours listed on the sign are the standard 6am-10pm. We do have signs posted at the courts indicating the pickleball court hours are from 8am-8pm. We may want to consider a fall/winter hours for the pickleball courts.

Voucher Program Update- Parks, Police and the Anacortes Family Center took the time to meet and go over each other roles with helping homeless in the parks. We also worked on a plan to follow when the subsidized groups are wanting to hand out vouchers for guest to camp at Washington Park. Essentially, we will work with the Anacortes Family Center who will screen potential guest before a voucher is handed out. This will be a transition and change for the subsidized groups, but in the end, I am hopeful this will help eliminate some issues we have been having at the campground.

Nicole Johnston, Park Manager

