



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

January 10th, 2023 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 December 2022 Minutes
3. Public Comments
4. Correspondence/Communication
5. Trestle Update
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

December 13, 2022

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

Staff present: Bob Vaux, Karl Wolfswinkle, Nicole Johnston

Meeting held by Zoom and in person at City Hall

Called to order at 6:01pm

Minutes: November minutes were unanimously approved as submitted.

Public Comments:

None

Correspondence and Communication:

JoAnn shared an update from the Forest Board. Transition Fidalgo was in attendance to give their annual report. Bob gave an update on the ACFL dams, with the grant request submitted. The Friends of the Forest benefit went well. The Trail Committee is looking for a new equestrian representative.

Trestle Update:

The Parks Foundation held their kickoff last week and so far have raised about \$160,000! It was a wonderful thing to see the whole community come together. All permits are approved and work is expected to start on January 3rd, weather permitting. Jonn and the police have met about installing cameras and solar lights.

West End Park:

Bob reported that at the Council meeting last night, there was support expressed to give one of the pieces of City owned property to Habitat for Humanity in some form. Details have not been finalized. Discussion ensued.

Staff Reports:

Karl reported that the Senior Center is having a great December. There have been school groups caroling and decorating, the North Pole/Santa event is this week. The Foundation retreat will be held in February with new volunteers. Karl is looking forward to some new programs in the new year. There

was a retired doctor that came to the center while visiting family in the area. He has published a book on Alzheimer's and dementia and would like to give a talk at the center. More offerings in the new year will be for strength and balance, and other practical offerings.

Nicole reported that for most of November the crew was focused on leaves, leaves and more leaves! There was a dog rescue out at Washington Park involving the APD and AFD. Thankfully the dog was ok. The Wonderland Walk was amazing! Nicole expressed how proud of the team she is for their tremendous hard work. A question was brought up about lights at Rice Field and after hours/community hours. Nicole will check into this. Bob and Nicole met with a couple regular pickleball players. They are asking for some signage about the basic rules and courtesies of the game. The Board expressed support of a sign.

Bob reported on the Skate park. It is back on schedule with the drawings and the project is being coordinated with the R avenue improvements. We are waiting on the engineer for the next step on the Washington Park restrooms.

Other Business:

None

Meeting adjourned at 6:58pm

Parks and Recreation Update January 2023:

Trestle Update: We are scheduled to start the demolition work the first week of January (weather permitting). If all goes according to plan, then we could begin the construction work later in the month. Fundraising for the repairs is coming along thanks to the exceptional generosity of community groups such as the Samish Indian Nation, Anacortes Kiwanis Club, HF Sinclair Corporation, Marathon Corporation, Skagit County and numerous individual donors.

Park Maintenance & Washington Park: Nicole Johnston

Washington Park- On Thursday, Dec. 8th Officer Nybo contacted me to let me know that a dog had fallen about 120ft off a cliff near trail #517 at Washington Park and that AFD was on their way. Once all emergency vehicles were through the entrance gate I locked it and headed out to cliff. The nervous dog owner was waiting for Fire Department to rappel down the cliff. Once the FD was with the dog which was a 3 year old husky they decided they needed to be picked up by a boat. 30 minutes later FD was picking up the dog and meeting the owners at the boat dock. They took the dog to the Pet emergency Clinic and the dog is going to be ok. We are happy that the dog is going to be ok. This is another reminder to all for why we have the rule to keep dogs on leash. Attached are photos of the epic rescue.



Wonderland Walk- Parks crew did more than just make sure Washington Park was ready to take on the Wonderland Walk event. The crew also decorated various sites for other groups and went above and beyond to help make this community event such a success.



2023 Campground Reservation Update- We opened reservations the morning of Dec. 16th at 6am for all 2023 at Washington Park-camping, group camp and group picnic shelter reservations. As on Dec. 21st we have close to \$28,000 in reservations so far.

MDD Mound Repairs- Coast to Coast turf was onsite on Dec. 5th/6th and they glued in the new pitching circle on MDD. The pitching rubber for the high school distance is on back order and once that is in, Coast to Coast will return to install the rubber and infill the mound with sand/ rubber mix to bring every area up to a playable grade. They also made a turf repair on Daniels Field at 1st base.

Dec. 20 Snowmageddon- Parks Crew did a great job working to get all the City facilities pathways cleared and even a few parking lots. Every department helped with the snow removal. Truly a team effort. (Attached are a few photos from the snow day)



Downtown Restrooms- We have closed both the Heart of Anacortes and the Depot Restroom facilities for now. Both facilities are seeing a high volume of vandalism and at this time it has been hard to keep up with the repairs and the graffiti clean-up that is needed to keep them both open.

Crew Update: Many if not most of the crew members, including myself will enjoy time off during the last week of December and I am sure we will all return refreshed and ready to take on 2023. In January some of the crew will help with the TTP repairs, we will make the plans with Street Department to pave around the upper restrooms at Washington Park and then start the prep for baseball season!

TTP Trail Counts for the month of December-

Period	Jan 1, 2022 → Dec 15, 2022		
Time	Tommy Thompson Trail	TTT Pedestrian	TTT Cyclist
January 2022	7646	6151	1495
February	7090	5758	1332
March	9375	7167	2208
April	4742	3516	1226
May (counter was not working & we lost the counts for this month)	0	0	0
June	9680	6134	3546
July	21140	12425	8715
August	20238	11922	8316
September	4387	3637	750
October	5066	4122	944
November	2792	2411	381
Dec. 15, 2022	456	415	41

Assistant Director Report: Bob Vaux

WHISTLE LAKE DAM

Nov 21 Public Works Tim and I met with Widener and Associates and did some grant work, re: the DOE High Hazard qualification grant. Widener's should have a draft grant application completed shortly.
Nov 23 Grant submitted.
Nov 30 Steve and I conducted the DOE required annual inspection of the WL and Little Cranberry dams. Happy to report that both are doing fine work and remain in-tact.
Dec 5 COA grant team working with DOE on a few details of the grant. Funding looks very promising.

BEN ROOT SKATE PARK

Nov 30 We received the 90% Construction Drawings from Grindline. COA staff, along with Rachel Muntean-Salazar and Fidalgo Trail Riders are reviewing. Early reviews are very positive.
In related news, MJB developers are working with COA staff on moving the existing the TTPW RR south, so they would have access to their property directly from the 22nd/R Ave round-a-bout. The RR would end up adjacent to the sk8 prk. I am the lead on the required conversion of the project at the Recreation and Conservation Office level. GIS Rob Hoxie taking the lead on all necessary map work. As always, we GREATLY appreciate his expertise.
Dec 9th 90% CD review with COA and Grindline staff. Working the details out, answering most all of the questions. Coordinating this project with the COA's "R" Avenue improvement project, that is also on the way.

BEAVER DAM/DECEIVER ROUNDS

It's that time of year when we pay close attention to the dams and culverts keeping the water moving; into Ace of Hearts Creek, Big Beaver Pond, out of Mitten Pond, into and out of the 32nd Street Swamp. I did one set of rounds on the 25th. ACFL Steve and Parks Tottenham doing most of the heavy lifting.

"A" AVENUE CROSSWALK

I was notified by Public Works on Nov 29 that the traffic safety committee has recommended a crosswalk to get folks across "A" Avenue at the old dump gate trailhead.
Dec 13 Nicole, ACFL Steve and I meet with PW staff to confirm the plan and figure out our support and participation. Should make it a bit safer out there.

WASHINGTON PARK POLICY REVIEW

Dec 1 The staff review team has not met in some time. We reconvened and got thru much of the existing policy manual. We are looking forward to completing this review, sharing our thoughts with Director Lunsford, then making our way to the Parks Commission.

WASHINGTON TRAILS ASSOCIATION IS BACK

Dec 1 Johnston, Tottenham, Guthrie and I met on Washington Park trail #501, near the intersection with the Loop Exit gate. WTA will be here at the end of January to work on muddy section of trail that is very well used. We are able to offer free camping to any WTA volunteer seeking same.

DECEMBER FOREST ADVISORY BOARD

Dec 1 Enjoyed a great Transition Fidalgo annual report from Eric Shen. Local citizen scientists doing great work. Looking forward to their deeper partnership with the Friends of the Forrest.

PICKLEBALL

Dec 6 Nicole J and I meet with a couple of local pickleball enthusiasts, looking for some help with court etiquette signage – emphasizing one game at a time and rotating in and out in a courteous manner. In other words; don't be a court hog. We will bring some draft signage to the Parks Commission for discussion.

TRESTLE REPAIR FUNDRAISER

Dec 6 A big THANK YOU to the Anacortes Parks Foundation for spearheading this important work. It's fantastic to be \$150K in toward the goal of \$250K...at the fundraising kickoff event! ...later in the month I begin working with Engineering Project Manager Jeff Beltramini on the repair logistics. It is looking very promising that Culbertson Marine will begin demo work on Jan 3rd.

#108 BRIDGE

An ACFL regular has reported concerns about the status of our bridge over the stream connecting Big Beaver Pond to the 32nd Street Swamp. Steve and I checked it out on Dec 7th. We do not believe it is an emergency, but we are beginning the process for replacement.

YEAR IN REVIEW WITH FRIENDS OF THE FOREST

Dec 8 Jonn, Asa and I had a great discussion. We are looking forward to 2023 and continuing the good works we do together. Highlights include the continued expansion of educational offerings as well as the same for the Trail Ambassador program.

WONDERLAND WALK

Dec 9/10 Our annual all hands event has come and gone, and most folks enjoyed the festivities very much. It was my pleasure working the campfires with Parks Staffer Braydn Krueger.



DECEMBER PARKS COMMISSION

Dec 13 Staff joined 4 of 5 Commissioners, discussions focused mainly on the City Council work with Habitat for Humanity on W. 5th, as well as pickleball and its many ramifications.

SNOW

Dec 20 Enjoyed the chance to work alongside the Parks Crew in the big snow, securing access to various COA facilities. Always a pleasure to be reminded of just how skilled and committed our team is.

FOR WHAT IT'S WORTH...

...congratulations to the FoF on this year's auction. While I have not yet heard final tallies, sounds like all went very well...COA staff working with a production company shooting an Audi commercial. They want to use Heart Lake Road for driving scenes. Will stage equipment at the Heart Lake parking lot for a few hours. Scheduled for Dec. 5th, weather permitting...enjoyed holiday leave on Nov 24/25...did a quick disc golf course walk thru on Nov 28. Found no negative impacts from the recent tournament hosted by the local DG club...working with ACFL Steve on an ACFL neighbor's concerns with a few NGPE trees on West 12th...reminder that I will be on leave Dec 28 – Jan 5, but will be in attendance at the FAB meeting on the 5th...HAPPY HOLIDAYS

Recreation Update: Dustin South

Girls Youth Basketball League: The league concluded the season on Saturday, December 17. Participation numbers were about normal for the league. Volunteer Coaches were great and the teenage referees did a good job as well. We continue working with ASD to utilize gymnasiums which has been a challenge due to their staffing shortages. Boys Basketball League registration happened this month for grades 1st – 6th. With practices & games starting in January after kids get back from Christmas Break.

Wonderland Walk: The event was held on Friday and Saturday, December 9 & 10 from 5:00 – 8:00 p.m. Attendance was about normal for the event, with about 750-1000 people on Friday and over 1,000 people on Saturday. Booth vendors decorated their sites well, we had school choirs back this year which added to the ambiance, and parking did become challenging at certain points of the night. Thanks to the Parks Maintenance Crew for their help setting up the week prior and for helping parks cars and light campfires both nights of the event. Other City departments that were involved this year included Senior Center, Street Department, Fire Department, and the Arts Commission. Thank to Council members Christine Cleland-McGrath, Ryan Walters, and Carolyn Moulton for volunteering as greeters at the event.

Ballroom Dance: Classes were canceled for the month of December. The next session of classes is scheduled to take place in January and the months following. Different styles of dance will be offered next month.

Visit the North Pole: The free event allowed kids and families to visit Santa and his friends at the Senior Center. We had about 140 people signed up and had a little over 100 showed up. Most kids were excited to see Santa and a few not so much. We would like to send out a very special “Thank You” to Santa and his elves for making the long trek from the North Pole. Also, thank you to the Senior Center Volunteers who helped make the event a success.

Fieldhouse Free Time: Toddler time at the Volunteer Park Fieldhouse. An open time for kids/parents to play with other children ages 1-3. Met in the morning once per week.

Messy Me: Toddlers participate in activities get messy throughout this multi-week program. Parents participate with their children.

Kids Night Out Holiday Edition: Kids in Kindergarten through 6th grade joined staff for couple hours of holiday fun. The event was held on Friday, December 16 at the Anacortes Senior Activity Center.

Adult Drop-in Sports: Drop-in Adult Volleyball continues to take place at Fidalgo Elementary on Wednesday and Friday evenings from 7-9 pm. Adult drop-in Basketball takes place on Sunday evening in the Middle School and Tuesday evenings at Fidalgo Elementary from 7-9 pm. Also, Pickle Ball has started back up at Mt. Erie Elementary on Wednesdays from 7-9 pm.

Other Items of Note:

Had our first meeting with the A-Town Publication Team to start planning for the next issue. After the first of the year, we will start putting getting information together for summer programming.

Total Volunteers Hours for December



Girls Youth Basketball

1 st /2 nd grade	6	X	4 hrs.	= 24
3 rd /4 th grade	7	X	5 hrs.	= 35
5 th /6 th grade	3	X	5 hrs.	= 15



Visit the North Pole

4	X	4.5 hrs.	= 18
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Wonderland Walk

45	X	3 hrs.	= 135
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Total for Month	227
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