



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

Parks & Recreation Advisory Commission

February 14th, 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 January 2023 Minutes
3. Public Comments
4. Correspondence/Communication
5. Parks 2024 Budget
6. Trestle 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

January 10, 2023

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

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

Meeting held by Zoom and in person at City Hall

Called to order at 6:01pm

Minutes: December minutes were unanimously approved as submitted.

Public Comments:

None

Correspondence and Communication:

JoAnn shared an update from the Forest Board. The proposed boat launch at Little Cranberry Lake is waiting for the biologist report. The Forest Management Plan update will be starting in February. Also, The Friends of the Forest are working with Transition Fidalgo on various projects. They will make their data available for public viewing soon.

Jonn reported on the Parks Foundation. They are close to meeting the goal of \$250,000 for the trestle repair. Anything over the amount needed will be put into the maintenance fund for the trail. The Foundation is ready and willing to help with the SHIP trail once the weather is done making changes and a plan is made. The W 2nd trail is getting close to completion of the boardwalk between Baltimore and California. This was done in order to keep pedestrians and bicycles off of Oaks Ave. The cell tower leases are in review by staff for renewal.

Trestle Update:

The demolition was completed by Culbertson Marine on the 3rd and 4th of January. The permit for removing the additional pilings was delayed, however, Culbertson will be back to start the repair work and will pull some of the pilings at that time. It is looking like repair work by Strandberg will start the week of the 23rd. There is the potential for volunteers later in the process. Jonn and Chief Floyd are working on security cameras and solar lights.

Staff Reports:

Nicole reported that the porta-potty at the base of Mt Erie was blown up and completely destroyed. The team cleaned up the pieces and United Site Services picked up the remaining bits of the unit. We will not be replacing this unit at this time. The unit at the dog park was also removed after repeated vandalism. It will be gone for a minimum of a month to see about public response.

Due to winter storm damage, about 120 feet of the SHIP boardwalk was broken and has been removed. There is a hard shut at this time.

The new year is full of baseball field needs and new wood chips for the parks.

Dustin reported that work has begun on spring and summer programs. Pickleball is available indoors at Mt Erie elementary on Wednesday evenings. Monday will be added soon. Volleyball is being held at Fidalgo elementary on Wednesday and Friday evenings. The Daddy/Daughter dance will be on February 25th. A new program being offered is the E-sports league. This includes coaching and competition geared toward 10 and older. This is now an official WIAA sport, hoping to reach a new age group and demographic.

Karl reported that the Senior Center had a great December despite the snow and ice. He expressed a huge thank you to the crew for the snow removal. This allowed them to host the holiday lunch on the 22nd. They are not quite back to pre-Covid numbers, but getting there. The Center is also working in Spring and Summer programs, one of which is the Aging Mastery program. The Center received a federal grant for IT to set up more systems and resources for remote learning.

The Center is celebrating its 50th year! They are working with the museum for a rotating display in celebration of this milestone. There will be an open house in the fall to celebrate.

Bob reported on the Skate park-the 100% completion drawings have been received. This project looks to go out to bid soon and staff is optimistic about doing the skate park and pump track at the same time.

Other Business:

Jonn asked the Board what questions they had and what they wanted to see next month as discussion of the budget is started.

A question was asked about any update on the west end parks. These are the two lots purchased for parks some years ago. Council has asked to make them available to Habitat for Humanity. The money used to purchase the lots came from the Mt Erie cell tower lease funds and will need to be repaid in some way. Discussion continued about the balance of affordable housing and parks or green space.

Meeting adjourned at 6:53pm

Respectfully Submitted by: Darby Jordan

Parks and Recreation Update January 2023:

Senior Activity Center – Karl Wolfwinkle

Center Visitors & Programs:

On the 23rd, a lot of anticipated programs were realized—Functional Fitness, SHIBA Medicare consultations, SongShine, and a presentation by local photographer, Craig Weakley, to name a few. The photography presentation had a significant draw of 67 people. The turnout was a great demonstration of community partnerships and collaboration amongst Craig, a member of the Skagit Valley Camera Club, and promotion efforts of the ASAC Foundation and ASAC. All told, almost 200 people were in the building that day taking part in our programs and services. Average daily attendance in January was 123. December was 90; November was 103.

A few additional January highlights:

- Mayor Miller spoke with several constituents at 1:30PM on the 25th. Following the event, Lea DeVere received her 10-year Pride in Service Award from Mayor Matt. Lea's service to the City began at the Anacortes Museum as museum aide and docent from 2012-2018. Lea's work with the Center dates back to 2004 when she began part-time work first for Skagit County, then for the Anacortes Senior Activity Center Foundation and subsequently fulltime work with the Center in 2018. We are thankful for Lea's diligent work which includes the fabulous Center newsletter and other marketing materials. Fun fact about Lea's work--to date, Lea has edited and published nearly 1,000 PSA's and 250 newsletters promoting Anacortes Senior Activity Center programs and services. Thank you, Lea, for all you do for the good people of Anacortes.
- On the 26th, Skagit County Public Health Director, Keith Higman, came to the Center for a tour. Higman took the job in early January and oversees all aspects of Public Health, including Nutrition Services at senior centers throughout the county.
- Captain Chris Byer with the Anacortes Fire Department offered a comprehensive overview of AFD services on the 24th. One participant in the class came to offer her appreciation for help she recently received from AFD personnel.
- The Fiction Writing class is off to a great start. 12 apt pupils are engaged in the writing process with the end goal of a 30-40,000 word novel or novella. One student described his work with the class instructor, Vince Henley, is like "sitting across from Hemingway."

What's coming in February?

- "Interplay" will be offered on the 7th by retired corporate executive, John Malenic. The class uses movement, play, voice, and story to help participants connect with others in small and large group contexts.
- Weaving on a Table Loom is a course offered by master weaver, Liz Moncrief. The class is for beginners and intermediate alike and will take place on the 17th and 24th .

ASAC ADMINSTRATOR REPORT –JANUARY 2023

- We are looking forward to another COVID and flu vaccination clinic on the 16th. This will be the second clinic offered by Skagit County Public Health personnel. The Center's Wellness Committee will meet in early February to discuss additional clinic offerings throughout the year.
- The ASAC Foundation hosts a tremendous bake sale several times a year to raise funds for Center programs. The next scheduled bake sale is Friday, February 3 from 9AM-1PM.
- Newton's Law Jazz trio will play at the Center on Tuesday, February 14 at the Valentine's Day luncheon.
- The March for Meals Committee is hosting an ice cream social for the Aktion Club at the Center on Thursday, February 9th at 5:30PM to launch their fundraising campaign. Project Updates

- Aging Mastery Program—The Spring 2023 class is scheduled on Wednesday evenings from April 12-June 14. Registration for the spring class will go live on February 15th .
- Hybrid Technology Upgrade— City IT staff continues to develop a plan to move forward with the technology install and deployment.
- Outdoor Recreation Upgrade—Staff is determining the next steps towards getting bids on the project.
- Volunteer Training—Karl is working with our CPR/1st Aid trainer to offer two classes for our volunteers later this year.

Park Maintenance – Nicole Johnston

Baseball Season- Baseball and fastpitch season is set to start the week of Feb. 27th. Jonn and I are working on a new field rental form for Volunteer Park for user groups that would want to rent the field for profit/commercial use. More to come on this.

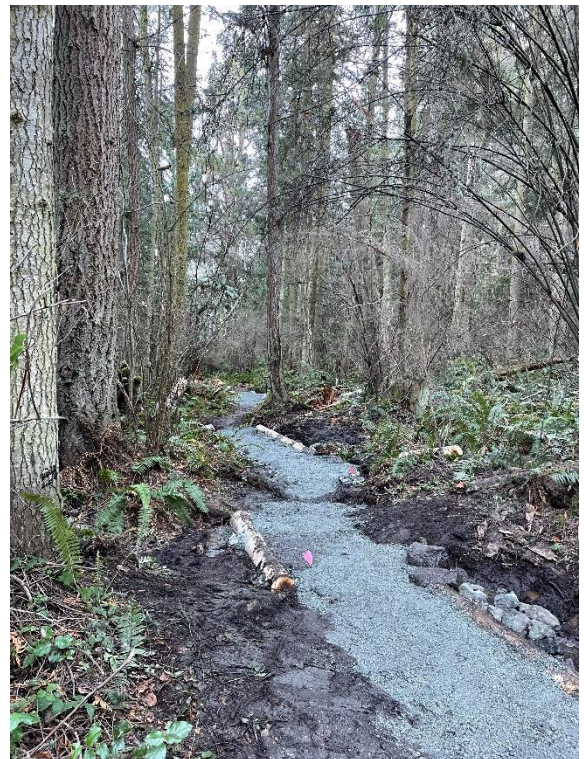


West 2nd Street Platform Project- Parks crew worked to install part of the platform through the wetlands on the connector trail that is between Baltimore Ave and Dakota Ave.

Seasonal Staff- We are looking to post the spring/summer seasonal staff positions in early February. We are looking to start a baseball seasonal as early as we can- end of February or early March.

Washington Park Update-
On Saturday, Jan. 28th & Sunday, Jan. 29th WTA (Washington Trails Association) had a work party on

trail # 501. Our very own Sky Guthrie assisted over the long weekend with the project. His report on the project was, “The work party this weekend was great. Addressed several muddy issues along trail 501. Received a lot of positive feedback from users that encountered us along the trail. Unfortunately, we did not quite finish the trail junction and some more material still needs to be added. All sections/surfaces are safe and walkable, it just needs to be revisited. Richard Mellon, the crew leader, mentioned he would reach out to his colleagues and try to assemble a ‘rapid response’ crew to come back soon and finish”.



Darby has been keeping us all updated on the 2023 Washington Park reservations. We have \$75,588 in revenue for the 2023 camping season.



SHIP Harbor Trail Update- Since Dec. 28, 2022 when the SHIP trail had extreme weather damage. I have been monitoring the changes down at SHIP, taking photos and doing my best to measure at the same locations. The canal where the fresh water and the salt water meet started at 15ft and is now measuring at 22ft. There is a new sign that we have posted on either end of the trail. The sign reads:

December 2022 king tides and winter storms damaged the Ship Harbor Interpretive Preserve Trail. A channel has been created connecting the Ship's Harbor wetland to the ocean, and the northwestern section of the wetland is transitioning from a freshwater, depressional wetland to an estuarine wetland.

The board walk between the State Ferry Terminal and the wetland is closed.

During high tides there is limited access, please plan accordingly so you are not stranded by incoming tides.

Please stay out of the fragile wetlands.

Questions? Contact Anacortes Parks & Recreation at 360-293-1918 or coa.parks@cityofanacortes.org.

TTP Update- On Friday, Jan. 27th Strandberg Construction and the crew from Culbertson Marine were working to remove the old creosote pilings onto the barge. The Strandberg crew is now starting to place the stringers onto the trestle. Our biggest challenge has been keeping people off the causeway, even though we have signs and gone to social media to remind the public to keep out.

Storvik Park Update- Nichola and I went through and made a list of the boards and equipment we will need to replace on the Our Town Our Park. Waiting to hear back from Leather's Playground on if they still have the equipment that we need to replace. Talking to the crew about improving the Northwest side of the park and what it would take to pull out all the concrete, horse shoe pits and put in irrigation/ grass. Thinking it would be nice to offer just another green space for park visitors, until we have the funds or a plan for that NW corner of the park.



Happy to follow up at the meeting with any questions or comments on the above report

Assistant Director Report – Bob Vaux

BEN ROOT SKATE PARK

12/22 Parks Crew Leadership Johnston and Tottenham met with me on site, reviewing proposed landscape and irrigation plan questions from Grindline design team. We were able to locate and communicate the answers.

12/27 Director Lunsford and I had a good fundraising update meeting with Rachel Muntean-Salazar and Seth Kiser. Both working hard on the search for continued funding for the skate park and pump track, respectively.

10th We received 100% CD's from Grindline. COA staff and volunteers currently reviewing.

18th We all met to review same with Grindline and subs. A few minor tweaks, and we all form a power circle of approval. Next stop, move the plan to bid package. COA staff working on that now.

24th COA and Grindline staff meet to lay out the critical path to bid documents. Hoping to have them finalized in the next couple of weeks.

TREES

12/23 Met with Dan Olsen at W. 12th residence adjacent to the ACFL. Reviewed the plan to remove a couple of hazard trees (identified by the homeowner, confirmed by Arborist ACFL Steve) that are a bit beyond our comfort level, due to the proximity to the fence and home. He will take them down on the 27th.

12/27 Reports from Dan and the homeowners that trees are safely on the ground, and all is well.

FOREST ADVISORY BOARD

5TH Thanks to the FAB for another great meeting. Discussion focused mainly on updating the ACFL Plan, and the importance of including science as we go forward.

20th Tabb, JoAnn and I met with Geri Rubin, working on protocol to replace Geri as our long-time equestrian rep on the ACFL Trail Committee. We will have an update at the Feb. FAB meetings.

ACFL VANDALISM

6th Sometime over last night the Ray Auld Drive port-o and privacy screen were blown to bits. APD called. Curiously, no char.

PARKS COMMISSION

10th Good discussion in preparation of reviewing Department priorities.

ACFL VOLUNTEER WORK PARTY

12th Steve, Sky and I met with the FoF team at the #109 NW Trailhead, planning for the 1/21 quarterly work party. Should be another great event.

ACFL MOTORIZED USE

We are seeing some unfortunate habitual motorized use of the trails this winter. This is of course in direct violation of our seasonal closure to motorcycles. We ask that when you do see this kind of thing, please call 911 immediately. In addition to being the right thing to do, it helps us document the need for fully commissioned law enforcement in the ACFL.

WASHINGTON PARK POLICY UPDATE

19th Our in-house team continued our work on wp policy review. Not ready to make formal recommendations yet but getting closer.

ROTARY CLUB VOLUNTEERS

19th Tom Decker and the Rotarians continue to up their volunteer game, joining me for another trail maintenance training. About 12 of us enjoyed some good weather and the sharing of thoughts on trail care.

W. 2ND CONNECTOR TRAIL

In-house construction of this raised trail began the week of the 16th. Looking good and sturdy, and a great level of protection for the adjacent wetland functions.

FRIENDS OF THE FOREST SCIENCE

20TH Director Lunsford and I met with FoF Community Programs Coordinator Ellie K, reviewing the updated wetlands monitoring plan. Ellie is looking to build upon the baseline data that has been previously collected. She asked for and received support to collect water samples and take them to the FoF office for further “lab” study. This will be confirmed at the February FAB meeting.

FOR WHAT IT'S WORTH...

...12/26 Christmas Holiday...12/27 attended Anacortes Family Center coordinated Motel Voucher meeting. Always a good multi-agency/organization discussion of helping those in need of transitional shelter...12/28-1/4 vacation leave...6th attended special Council Parks Committee meeting with Director Lunsford. Discussion focused on the trestle repair and W. 5th and 6th COA properties...19th ACFL Steve, Denise Crowe and I enjoyed a sunshine Samish Nation / COA hike on the north end of the 300's hill. Found some fresh motorbike damage, but no riders to contact...24th FoF Asa and I kicked off the new year with a regular meeting. Excited about further developing and supporting the Friends' community-based science work, as well as the expanding educational opportunities...26th 3 years have passed since the last “windowing” at San Juan Passage, and it's time for another round. Parks Manager Johnston and I met with Planning staff to review protocol. They are working up some helpful new strategies, and will be working with us throughout...

Recreation Report – Dustin South

Boys Youth Basketball League: It would not be winter in Anacortes without some basketball. Our youth season continued with the boys league in January. We saw a steady increase in participation this year. This season our total number participants was 194 compared 164 in 2021. Staff was able to accommodate the increased number of players, however it did put a strain on already taxed gym space. APRD youth basketball leagues continue to focus on learning the fundamentals of the game, encourage sportsmanship/teamwork, and skill development.

Pee Wee Basketball: The popular early childhood sports program started on Saturday, January 14 at the middle school gym. The program focuses on kids getting to participate in the sport of basketball, participants are coached by our awesome teenage staff and best of all the 4-6 year olds get to burn off some energy with their friends. This year we had 85 kids registered between two sessions, which is about average for this program.

Ballroom Dance: This month we offered Night Club Two-Step and East Coast Swing. Classes are getting a steady following of about 10 people or more for each class. Additionally, we are working with the instructor to offer some special Dad and Daughter Dance Lessons for the weeks leading up to the Dad and Daughter Dance Event at the end of February. We are excited for this opportunity and already have several Dads and Daughters signed up for this program. Staff is also working with the dance instructor to offer some community dances at the depot this spring and summer. And will be either held outside or inside depending on the weather. Some of the community dances will have live music and others will have a mix of DJ'd tunes. If dancing is not your “thing” people can also just attend to listen to the music.

Esports League: Staff started a new program this month with esports. This nontraditional sport program has been growing in popularity all over the world. APRD esports league was open to 10–14 year-olds. We ended up getting enough players signed up to start a Valorant Team. Coaching is being provided by Vanta Esports.

Fieldhouse Free Time: With the cold and wet weather outside, parents of toddlers are looking for opportunities for their child to burn off some energy and socialize with other kids their age. This

program is structured exactly for that. Staff uses the indoor fieldhouse at Volunteer Park Ball Fields. The program is open to toddlers ages 1-3.

Messy Me: Another popular toddler program that has a slightly different twist. Participants get to experience playing and interacting with all kinds of messy, squishy, and slimy materials. Kids have the opportunity to be creative and have fun in the process.

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 evenings in the Middle School and Tuesday evenings at Fidalgo Elementary from 7-9 pm. We have multiple options for indoor Pickle Ball at Mt. Erie Elementary Adult Drop-in (18+) Mondays & Wednesdays from 7-9 pm/ Parent & Child Drop-in (10+) on Sundays from 10-11:30 pm. Also, we have had some requests for Badminton to come back and staff is working on securing space and getting that going as soon as possible.

Other Items of Note:

Dad & Daughter Dance takes place on Saturday, February 25 at the Senior Center. Tickets are on sale now. Also, staff is working on a couple new programs for the next couple months. Madden '23 Football Esports Tournament will take place on March 18, registration is currently open. Staff is also advertising a Puzzler Competition, teams (of up to 4 people) compete to see who can complete their 500 piece puzzle in the quickest time. Prizes handed out for the top teams. The first competition will take place on February 15 and registration is currently open.

Total Volunteers Hours for January



Boys Youth Basketball

1 st /2 nd grade	9	X	7 hrs.	= 24
3 rd /4 th grade	6	X	5 hrs.	= 35
5 th /6 th grade	4	X	5 hrs.	= 15

Total for Month	227
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