



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

March 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 February 2023 Minutes
3. Public Comments
4. Correspondence/Communication
5. Capital Facilities 2024 Budget
6. ACFL Plan 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

February 14th, 2023

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

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

Guests present: Sara Hollahan

Meeting held by Zoom and in person at City Hall

Called to order at 6:00pm

Minutes: January minutes were unanimously approved as submitted.

Public Comments:

Sara Hollahan was in attendance and shared her thanks for all that the Parks & Recreation department does. She also inquired about pickleball. Jonn responded that pickleball was not in the 2020 Comprehensive plan but staff are looking at ways to accommodate expansion. Sara also mentioned an area of evergreen daphnie, an invasive species. Bob stated that he is aware of it and it is something that staff is continuously fighting.

Correspondence and Communication:

JoAnn shared an update from the Forest Board. The Board will be breaking the Forest Plan update into smaller parts to allow for focused review and public comments. There is no dam report yet, but hopefully soon. The Friends of the Forest are running lots of programs as well as their wetland monitoring.

Parks 2024 Budget:

The Board is wondering how they can help to set the goals for the Park projects. Jonn gave an overview of what funds the parks department-impact fees and property taxes for example. The department has worked hard to build a healthy reserve fund, however, for the 2023 year, the reserves are being used to cover staff costs. There has been reduced allocation of property taxes for parks as these funds are being used for other City projects. It is possible that the same will have to happen in 2024. The ACFL has quarry funds and interest earnings from the CEP that can be used for that particular area. There are

current renegotiations going on for the cell tower lease on Mt Erie with this revenue to be shared with the Kiwanians.

It was discussed that the Parks staff and Parks Commission will set their top 10 priorities and then ask council for their support. The Commission feels that if there are priorities made public, it would be harder for council to move Parks reserve funds into the general fund for other city uses. The quality of life in town can not be sustained with the growth of population and loss of budget funds.

It was mentioned that a “parks levy” could be one way to fund the Community Center which would ensure that money is set aside for that specific use. Other area Cities have passed a parks levy to fund their programs and needs.

Community donations were discussed as the generosity of town is often shown. Often in these cases, projects are donor driven instead of need driven.

Brad suggested that the list of priorities include full funding for maintenance in order to keep the parks healthy. The parks are unique in that there are no state standards to meet as with the fire department or water department.

Discussion continued.

It was decided that the Commission will review the Capital Facilities Plan and Impact Fees and come up with a list of priorities to present to the Council.

Trestle Update:

Construction continues and should be complete soon. The trestle will be back open in March, if not sooner. It will be opened for public use right away and then a grand opening and ribbon cutting to thank the donors and community. There are temporary cameras up now and Jonn and Chief Floyd are working on permanent security cameras and solar lights.

Staff Reports:

Jonn had nothing else to add to his report.

Nicole reported that the burned out lights are going to be replaced at the baseball fields tomorrow. She will bring to the next meeting a draft of a new rental agreement for outside groups using the City fields.

Bob had nothing to add to his report.

Karl reported that the Senior Center has been busy. He shared a letter from a regular attender expressing thanks for the programs.

Dustin reported that basketball season has finished. The Daddy Daughter Dance is coming up with some extra Saturday lessons being offered to the attendees. There will be Community dances at the Depot this spring and summer, hosted by our dance instructor Taylor Winningham. The recent puzzle event was a success and we will have more of these in the future.

Other Business:

Jonn reported on the R Avenue improvements that Public Works is doing. There will be changes to sidewalks, crosswalks and bus stops and a roundabout at 30th street. This work will go from 34th to 22nd and impact Alice Parchman Newland Park.

Meeting adjourned at 7:02pm

Respectfully Submitted by: Darby Jordan

Parks and Recreation Update March 2023:

Anacortes Senior Activity Center: Karl Wolfswinkel

On the 28th, Creamy Wilkins-Manning shared her story of growing up in Arkansas from 1935-1965. Wilkins-Manning shared how Jim Crow laws affected her and her family. The free event was sponsored by the Fidalgo Finderskeepers Questers Chapter in recognition of Black History Month. All told, 187 people were in the building that day for Center programs.

Average daily attendance in February was 135; January was 123. December was 90.

A few additional February highlights:

- The ASAC Foundation hosts a tremendous bake sale several times a year to raise funds for Center programs. The February 3rd bake sale raised over \$1,300 to support Center programs and activities.
- The Center's Wellness Committee attempted to offer its 6th clinic on the 16th, however, one of the key clinic personnel was unable to make it that day, so follow up appointments were offered for 6 individuals who returned to the Center on the 24th for their booster shots. 311 individuals have been vaccinated at ASAC clinics since they were first offered in January 2022. In addition to vaccination clinics, the Wellness Committee offers blood pressure checks two times per month, wellness tips that are widely distributed, and a monthly wellness program. Additionally, the committee hosts Fall Prevention Week in the fall. We are thankful for their continued efforts to promote health and wellness at the senior center.
- ASAC staff were pleased to join the ASAC Foundation on the 21st for a half-day retreat. The discussion was fruitful, and several programs and projects were identified and discussed that will provide additional benefit to Anacortes seniors. We are very grateful for the foundation's support and partnership.
- Retired corporate executive John Malenic started an Interplay program at the Center on the 7th. The class uses movement, play, voice, and story to help participants connect with others in small and large group contexts. The course will continue through March.

What's coming in March?

- Dr. Steven Rubin is a physician and psychiatrist from Nevada who specializes in senior neuro-cognitive, behavior, and emotional disorders. Dr. Rubin visited the Center in November after visiting family nearby and offered his expertise to us. On the 22nd, he will lead a discussion on the reasons why people develop dementia based on information from his book *Alzheimer's Top Ten Causes*.
- On the 8th, museum staff will offer a presentation on the history of Anacortes newspapers from 1882 to present.

- The Skagit County Meals on Wheels program is hosting their annual March for Meals benefit dinner at the Center on March 8th from 5-7PM. The March for Meals team expects a sellout crowd of 150 people and a night of fun to include bingo, live music, and raffle prizes.
- Joseph Campbell once wrote that “people forget facts, but they remember stories.” The Center is excited to offer a memoir writing class to our participants so their stories can be told. The class will meet on Thursdays from the 9th through the 30th.

Project Updates

- Aging Mastery Program—The Spring 2023 class is scheduled on Wednesday evenings from April 12-June 14. Open enrollment for the class began February 15th.
- Hybrid Technology Upgrade—Electricians were working in the building the week of the 27th to add outlets to power cameras and monitors for the project. City IT and Operations personnel hope to complete install in March.
- Outdoor Recreation Upgrade—Karl is meeting with a contractor on March 7th to discuss the size and scope of the project.
- Volunteer Training—A CPR/1st Aid/AED trainer came to the Center on the 27th to teach a course for 8 Center volunteers. We hope to offer an additional class in early spring with seats for volunteers and members of the general public.

Anecdote

Participant stories provide powerful perspective. We are thankful that Lois shared her story with us and equally thankful that she has discovered community at the Center.

I was not expecting much when I went to the senior center. Instead, I found experiences that have enriched my daily life—fun and laughter shared with other women in group activities, stimulating lectures, a stirring photographic presentation, a library full of many of my favorite authors, “meet and greet” meetings with city and law enforcement officials, expert computer assistance, sweet voices raised in song by Anacortes youngsters, and the ever-present efficiency and kindness of the wonderful volunteer staff. Surely the senior center is the welcoming jewel in the crown of Anacortes. Sincerely, Lois



Parks Manager: Nicole Johnston

SHIP UPDATE- We met with Beth from the DFW, she is a Habitat Biologist and she shared with us that most likely the rustic orange we have been seeing on the channel is a reaction occurring in the acidic low-oxygen freshwater wetland soils when sulfur rich sea water intrudes into the system. Some kind of iron reaction occurs with the sulfur that releases iron compounds. It seems that existing organic material helps feed the reaction, which is probably why that orange slime is clinging to all the vegetation submerged in the channel. Thought what she had to share was interesting. We continue to monitor and measure the channel as we develop the plan for what is next.

TTP Update- The Trail is OPEN! Just look at how happy our fearless leader looks on the TTP!



Athletic Field Rental Form- We have been working on a rental form for users that are for profit/commercial agency who want to host games or tournaments on the ballfields. Below are the proposed fees. Happy to discuss this in more detail at the next Park Board meeting.

Game/Tournament Fees:

	<u>Commercial Use</u>	<u>Comments</u> (max 4 games per field/per day)
Games	\$55.00/hr	Min 2 hr rental
Tournament	\$300.00/day	Prep for games by APRD staff only

Seasonal Staff- We are actively taking applications for the seasonal staff positions. Looking to fill the following positions: Water/Sanitation, Trim Crew, Washington Park, ACFL and a Cemetery mower. On Monday, March 6th Daniel Codd is starting as our ballfield seasonal staff.

Arbor Day- Save the date Friday, April 28th 10am at Causland Park. You're welcome to join us as we plant a tree with the San Juan Montessori school.

Washington Park- The campers are coming! We are up to \$100,000 in reservations for 2023.

Assistant Director Report: Bob Vaux

FRIENDS OF THE FOREST WATER QUALITY MONITORING PROGRAM

1/27 FoF Community Programs Coordinator Ellie Kravets and I spent much of the morning touring the "A" Ave landfill and the routes in and around Big and Little Beaver Ponds. She is determining some new sample sights.

FOREST PLAN UPDATE

1/27 Good meeting with FAB Chair Kit Gerwels, working on Plan review proposal for the Forest Advisory Board.

WASHINGTON PARK RR PROJECT

2ND Finalized the scope of work with HLN Engineering, re: site prep. Contract request has been submitted.

21st Contract with HLN for the civil work officially executed. Survey work will begin on site Fri 24th.

FOREST ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

2nd Good discussion regarding the ACFL Plan update. A formal schedule of calendar goals will be submitted to the FAB at its March meeting.

BEN ROOT SKATE PARK AND PUMP TRACK PROJECT

7th Jonn and I continue to work with all the fundraisers involved. Good meeting today with Sheri Muntean and Rachel Muntean-Salazar. They are seeing some very positive results to their hard work.

Also, work continues with Engineering and Legal on moving forward with bid specs. Doing some in house fine tuning now.

13th J. Symonds from Engineering, Parks Tottenham and I met on site to begin planning for the demolition of the existing parking lot. This is something we are going to do in house. We will be setting up the job as close to the contractor breaking ground as is possible. So, nothing eminent yet.

LITTLE CRANBERRY LAKE BOAT LAUNCH

14th City Parks and Planning Staff met with WDFW staffer on site to review the concept of shoreline conservation via a more focused boat launch area. Really good discussion. We are still waiting for biology report. Will share information with Forest Board when we have it.

We also went out to SHIP to discuss the latest hydrological activity out there. We will continue to monitor the situation. The ferry line customers are only going to increase from here forward.

PARKS COMMISSION MEETING

14th Good budget discussion. The Commission will work with staff on Department priorities and the future of the City's spending priorities.

FRIENDS OF THE FOREST EDUCATION PROGRAM

16th Jonn and I met with Asa and Youth Education Coordinator Hannah to go over her plans for the upcoming year. Good discussion. The City and the Friends continue to work together providing access to incredible education opportunities in the ACFL.

SKAGIT COMMONS AREA EASEMENT CONNECTOR TRAIL

21st This new non-motorized public pathway from Down Jones Way to "D" Ave is mostly established and getting use. Neighbors have some concerns about the motorized activity they are seeing. Parks and Public Works staff are working on some options to hopefully slow this issue down.

FOR WHAT IT'S WORTH...

1/26 Attended monthly ABPAC meeting. More good non-motorized planning. Positive reviews on the W. 2nd connector...

1/30-2/1 Out on sick leave...

8th Met with a Campbell Lake resident, discussed Heart Lake treatment history...

9th Parks Mgr Johnston and I contacted a homeless camp on the east side of Cap Sante. Abandoned. Staff cleaning protocol ensues...

9th Received two calls re: possible beaver dam vandalism near the #106 bridge/Big Beaver flow into Little Cranberry. The same area where we had some issues some months ago. Checked it out. Beaver have made quick work of any repairs that may have been necessary...

17th Personal leave...

Recreation Report: Dustin South

Boys Youth Basketball League: The league finished this month. Thanks again to all our volunteer coaches for helping make it a successful hoops season.

Pee Wee Basketball: Another program that concluded in February. Our awesome Student Recreational Assistants drive the popularity of this program.

Ballroom Dance: February classes for Night Club Two-Step and East Coast Swing took place. Next month we are offering Waltz and West Coast Swing Classes that still have space. Our instructor also taught some Dad and Daughter Dance Lessons to participants who are registered for the event.

Esports League: Practices and coaching (provided by Vanta Esports) continued this month. Games that are currently provided to the youth gamers are Valorant and Fortnite.

Fieldhouse Free Time: Another session of the program for toddlers ages 1-3 was offered in February. Parents are appreciative to have an opportunity for their little ones to play indoors and interact with other kids the same age.

Puzzler Competition: In this new event, teams of 4 people competed to see who could complete their 500 piece puzzle in the fastest time. We had 6 teams in the inaugural event and could have had more if we were able to obtain more puzzles. Looking to offer another event in March. Teams really got into the festivities with one team having t-shirts made. Prizes were given to the fastest 3 teams to complete their puzzle. The fastest time was about 51 minutes.



Dad and Daughter Dance: The annual event took place on Saturday, February 25. Our participation numbers were back to pre-pandemic which were over 300 participants. Staff utilizes the Senior Center to host the event. Along with music/dancing, participants are treated to goodies, door prizes, and photos to commemorate the event.

Adult Drop-in Sports: Drop-in Adult Volleyball continues to take place at Fidalgo Elementary on Wednesday and Friday evenings the time has been expanded to 6-9 pm. Adult drop-in Basketball takes place on Sunday evenings in the Middle School and Tuesday evenings at Fidalgo Elementary, times have slightly been adjusted to 5-7 pm (Sundays) and 6-8 pm (Tuesdays). 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.

Badminton League: Building off the last season the all ages badminton league is back and started with their first session on Friday, February 24. The league will continue on Fridays (6-8pm) and run through March at the middle school gym.

Other Items of Note:

Madden '23 Football Esports Tournament will take place on March 18, registration is currently open. Staff is also continuing to work on programs and events for the summer and planning to get that information together in time to put into the Spring/Summer A-Town Publication. Which is expected to be in community members mailboxes by April 19th.

Total Volunteers Hours for January



Boys Youth Basketball

1 st /2 nd grade	9	X	4 hrs.	= 36
3 rd /4 th grade	6	X	5 hrs.	= 30
5 th /6 th grade	4	X	5 hrs.	= 20

Total for Month	86
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