



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

April 11th, 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 March 2023 Minutes
3. Public Comments
4. Correspondence/Communication
5. Capital Facilities 2024 Budget
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

March 14th, 2023

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

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

Guests present: Peter Dragovich

Meeting held by Zoom and in person at City Hall

Called to order at 6:01pm

Minutes: February minutes were unanimously approved as submitted.

Public Comments:

Peter Dragovich was in attendance as a representative of the Anacortes High School class of '71. The group is wanting to do a bench or other memorial for classmate Lewis Austin Jones who was quite active in town as a photographer and artist. He also served on the Museum Board. They would like to have the memorial tied to the history of Jones, such as the museum, Depot, library or Preston. Jonn let Peter know that Nicole was the one to speak to about a memorial. The Board expressed support for this project.

Correspondence and Communication:

JoAnn shared an update from the Forest Board. The Little Cranberry dam report was received today and contained no unexpected information. There will be a delay on the Whistle Lake dam report. The Forest Board was given a budget update by Jonn just like the Parks Board.

Jonn reported that the Parks Foundation had their meeting today. The Mayor was in attendance and they spoke about the Guemes Channel Trail. There has been a change in ownership of the Lovric's property and the new owners are open to working with the Foundation to find a way forward. The Foundation is also looking at the issue of more pickle ball courts and finding an appropriate spot. Jonn shared that the community group continues to meet and talk about the Youth Community Center.

Parks 2024 Budget:

The Board continued the discussion about the Parks budget that was started last month. They have reviewed the impact fees and also the Capital Facilities Projects (CFP). Jonn gave an overview of what

projects have been completed and why those took priority-some were grant funded, others by donation, or due to necessity. It was suggested that the Board make a list of their top priorities, staff will look at what grants are available and then arrange the CFP based on that information. The Board was interested in going to Council to request a baseline in funding each year that would allow for planning, maintenance, repairs, large projects and grant matches. They agreed that a predictable source and amount of funding is desired. Discussion continued about what to present to Council. The Board then asked that staff come up with a priority list or projects for the April meeting.

ACFL Plan Update:

Bob shared that the Forest Board is starting the process to review the Forest Plan. The last plan was adopted in November of 2021 after several delays. The Board is allowing plenty of time for a focused review by the public and board members.

Staff Reports:

Jon shared that the Trestle grand re-opening will be on March 31st at 2pm.

Bob reported that the skate park project is just about to go out to bid. He also recently had a site visit with the engineer working on the Washington Park restrooms.

Karl shared that the Senior Center is working with their Foundation on the capital project of the outdoor space at the front of the building. The retreat with the Foundation will be this week, working on the long-range plan for the Center.

Dustin reported that the A-Town magazine will be out next month with the Recreation programs for Spring and Summer as well as lots of information from all City departments.

Other Business:

None

Meeting adjourned at 7:04pm

Respectfully Submitted by: Darby Jordan

Parks and Recreation Update April 2023:

Tommy Thompson Parkway- For the first time in a long time we have volunteers set to sweep the shells on the causeway and trestle every day of the week. Friday, March 31st is the ribbon cutting and cookie party for the re-opening of the TTP.

Grand View Cemetery Update- The Parks Department hired Olsen Tree Service to do some stump grinding for us at Causland Park and up at the cemetery. We were impressed with the large stump they removed from the center of the urn garden. There has been some talk as to what to do with that space. Some ideas are to put a bench in or to just leave it grass. We had our first burial in the new section of Grand View West on March 25th. Despite the epic rain we had the night before the service everything went smoothly.

First Mow of the season and cherry blossoms happened during the month of March. Spring is in the air! Mowing season is here.



RAD Take Two- Thanks to the crew they were able to re-build Ray Auld Drive Port o Potty enclosure. Let's hope for the best and that the 2nd time is the charm.

The Heart Restroom & Washington Park Restroom- The Heart of Anacortes Restroom received new hand rails and both units were opened up on Friday, March 24th. The Uppers and all of the lower restrooms as Washington Park will open up over the first weekend of April.

Washington Park Update- Campers are coming... Darby has shared with me that every Friday and Saturday in the months of July & August has a reservation in the reservable spots.

Baseball Season- Baseball season is in full swing. Volunteer Field is looking like a real baseball field again. Nice work to the entire crew to get that field up and running. Anacortes High School teams have hosted various games this past month. All the youth teams have been having practices on all the fields 6 days a week. Games for the youth teams will start up in April. Veca Electric did some work on one of the poles on Daniels installing a new harness. In doing that Veca found that we have more problems with light pole 1 and 2 on Daniels Field and they are suggesting we replace the underground wire. This will be expensive to do, but something that we will have to replace eventually. I'll be working with Veca to set that work up.



SHIP Harbor Boardwalk Restoration Project Update- Shared last month that Jonn and I met with J. Gordon from Geo Engineers. We are moving forward with them so that they can provide geotechnical engineering services related to foundation repair for an elevated boardwalk section on the Ship Harbor Trail. They will review existing information including any soil, geologic maps and any other data pertinent to the site conditions. They will complete one day dynamic cone penetration tests (DCPT's) along the failed section of the boardwalk. Then they will evaluate pertinent physical and engineering characteristics of the site based on the DCPT data. They will make foundation recommendation for re-supporting the boardwalk structure. The more I learn about all of this work that is going to be done I will keep you posted. Once Geo Engineers is finished they will provide a letter report presenting conclusions for design and construction of the new foundations for the boardwalk.

Athletic Field Rental Form- I will email the Parks Board a copy of the Athletic Field Rental Form that we are starting to use. Any questions or comments feel free to let me know at our next meeting or email me.



Graffiti – Parks crew has seen an uptick in graffiti. Most recently the Volunteer Park as seen the most consistent graffiti. The back wall of MDD field, inside the Daniels home team dugout, inside the port o potty behind the fields and inside the women's volunteer restroom. We have reported all of this to the PD and to AHS. As always we do our best to cover up the graffiti in a timely manner, if you're out and about and see something don't hesitate to reach out to me or send me a photo and location.

Runner's Art Work- Just because I do not want to end my report with the topic of graffiti I wanted to share the art work that is on the "Runner's" sculpture along the TTP. Maybe you have noticed it already in your travels, but the Anacortes Middle School Art Class worked with the Anacortes Arts Festival to create the art you see on the sculpture.

MT. ERIE ROCK CLIMBING

Feb 22nd ACFL Steve and I met with local climbing expert and author, Jim Thompson. Acknowledging the unique circumstances of this user group, we do our best to stay in touch and make sure we are not missing anything too obvious. Local climbers do an excellent job of keeping an eye on the routes and the condition of the south side of the mountain in general. The Forest Advisory Board will be working on updating the job description of the Climbing Committee over the next year's Forest Plan Update.

WASHINGTON PARK CARETAKER RESIDENCE

Feb 22nd Caretaker Chris (since 2017!) and I conducted the annual residence inspection. Overall, the structure is sound and Chris continues to be a happy resident. The issues that need attention are not new, i.e., one leaky roof area where the carport meets the pitched roof of the home, natural gas heat thermostat, kitchen vinyl and a couple of other smallish matters. I will review with facilities.

WASHINGTON PARK RESTROOM PROJECT

Feb 24th Survey crew on the ground this morning, getting the baseline topography for the project. Look forward to meeting with Heike Nelson, our Civil Engineer, next week to begin to "flush" out the details of this eventual CXT Unit drop in.

14th Heike and I spent some time with the survey data, and visit the site to answer a few questions. She will have a preliminary drawing to me in the next few days.

ACFL CAMPERS

1st Acting on a tip from one of our mountain bikers, ACFL Steve and I went in search of a camper(s) in the 300's region. Steve spotted the camp, and we made contact as one of the two occupants was present. This is not our first contact with these folks, who choose to live in the woods. After a philosophical discussion about humans living in the ACFL, we issued a 24-hours to pack up and leave order. I later contacted APD, met with an Officer, and requested the two be trespassed from all COA parks, trails and the ACFL.

2nd ACFL Steve and Braydn confirm that the campsite is being cleaned up and vacated. APD notified of this as well.

WASHINGTON PARK POLICY REVIEW

2nd Our in-house Blue-Ribbon Panel completed its review of the WP Policy Manual. Darby will work on an updated draft for the Panel's review. Next stop; Director Lunsford, then on to the Parks Commission.

BEN ROOT SKATE PARK IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

6TH City staff and Grindline Team meet to finalize bid specs after extensive COA review. Very efficient, smooth meeting. Grindline engineer has a few tasks to take care of, and should be back in touch within a couple of days.

7th Fair amount of back and forth between COA staff and Grindline Team. All progress today.

16th Engineering Justin and Legal/Contract Specialist Tiffany confirm that our bid package is ready to hit the streets. It's big day! Bid will open March 22, and close April 13.

18th Attended the fundraiser for the project at the Depot, put on by Fidalgo Trail Riders and the Skate Park Improvement Project. Was able to shake a few hands and say a few words. These folks are working hard to realize this dream. Inspiring.

EARTH DAY VOLUNTEERS

6th Bob from Anacortes Diving and Supply has offered to put a group together to do some lake clean up. As Earth Day is most likely opening day at Heart Lake, we are going to return to Whistle with the volunteer clean up diving team. Really appreciate what they are able to do.

FRIENDS OF THE FOREST ANNUAL MEETING

9th Thank you to Asa Deane and the FoF for inviting me to be a part of their annual meeting. Had a great session with their board prior to the broader membership gathering. Enjoyed being able to share a few thoughts, and take in great presentations by Asa, former FoF Educator Beck and AFD Chief Bill Harris.

ACFL FOREST PLAN UPDATE

10th Getting the word out on the ACFL 2021 Forest Plan update process. Met with Briana Alzola from the 'Anacortes American'. Should be a quick story in the 3/29 edition.

DOE DAM PERIODIC INSPECTION REPORTS

14th We have received the Little Cranberry dam report, and have received a rating of "Fair": "...no existing dam safety deficiencies recognized for normal loading conditions..." We anticipated this rating, and will continue to manage the LC dam as we have since the '94 safety upgrade. The Whistle Lake dam inspection report has not yet been completed.

28th The Whistle Lake Dam inspection report from DOE arrived yesterday. We've got some work to do, and the DOE grant will help us accomplish much of it. Will discuss further at the April FAB meeting.

FOR WHAT IT'S WORTH...

...2/23: attended ABPAC meeting. Good review/discussion of local bike/ped map. John Pope has put a lot of work into this...2/23: met with some Forest Ridge residents regarding view windowing to the east. This is all spelled out in the plat information. Should be meeting with an arborist on site soon to finalize the plan...2/23: met with the Fidalgo Nature School Executive Director regarding their planned field trips into the ACFL. They had previously been working with the FoF on these but will now handle them on their own. Good plan, good meeting, we will stay in touch...2/24: ACFL Steve, Denise Crowe and I enjoyed a beautiful afternoon north of Heart Lake

for the monthly Samish/COA hike...2/28: as prescribed in the Forest Ridge plat, I met on site with HOA reps and a private arborist to review conditions for view windowing thru the woods east of the development. Once the plan is finalized between the HOA and the arborist, I will circle back for review...2/28: FoF Asa and I held our monthly 1:1, mostly discussing prep for March Forest Advisory Board and FoF annual meetings...1st: ACFL Steve and I took a look at some COA owned trees on Grand View Cemetery property adjacent to Blue Heron Circle. Two mature alder. We are working with the neighbor on a plan...2nd: attended Parks Crew Safety Meeting...2nd: much of March Forest Advisory Board meeting spent with Director Lunsford's budget update. FAB also confirmed schedule for Forest Plan Update...9th: back to Forest Ridge, met with Dan Olsen, local arborist hired to do the windowing previously mentioned. He is a good man doing good work. His plan is sound, and I approved on site. He hopes to get the work done in a week or two. He will keep me dialed in...10th: ACFL Steve and I recon'd a couple of social trails in the South Cranberry Unit. Had a good chat with a neighbor we had not previously met. No troubling discoveries...14th: Parks Commission meeting. Good continued discussion of project priorities, funding options and building the Parks Capital Facilities Plan. PC looking to reach out directly to Council...Heart Lake Opening Day is April 22 this year. We are putting our staffing plan together...on vacation March 19 - 27...28th: regular meeting with FoF Asa. Beautiful day for a walk 'n talk along 128 and 101...

Bob Vaux, Assistant Manager

Center Visitors & Programs

On the 22nd, Dr. Steven Rubin offered his expertise on Alzheimer's at the monthly Wellness Committee presentation. Dr. Rubin is a Nevada-based physician and psychiatrist who specializes in senior neuro-cognitive, behavior, and emotional disorders. Twenty people attended the presentation, each with their own motivation for learning more about the disease, including individuals with family members affected by Alzheimer's.

A few additional March highlights:

- The Skagit County Meals on Wheels program hosted their annual March for Meals benefit dinner at the Center on the 8th. The sellout crowd contributed over \$8,500 to fund meals for Skagit County seniors. Funds from another fundraising event in Skagit County as well as contributions from private parties and businesses will be tallied in early April.
- Mayor Miller offered his State of the City address to 17 in-person participants on the afternoon of the 22nd. In addition to sharing valuable information and conversation about the city, we are thankful for Mayor Miller's pitch of Center programs and an invitation to the ASAC Foundation's gala fundraiser in May.
- One hundred eager participants crowded the Great Room on the 17th for our annual St. Patrick's Day celebration. Ukelele band Essential Element offered some festive music and dance. Karl

also shared some holiday-related trivia to engage the audience and one participant shared her best Irish accent with the group while reading a traditional Irish blessing.

What's coming in April?

- The Aging Mastery Program begins on Wednesday the 12th at 5PM. The class is open for up to 20 participants engaged in a 10-week journey to make meaningful choices and changes to enhance the aging process.
- Council Member Carolyn Moulton will be at the Center on the 12th for an informal conversation about City Council work.
- Our annual Easter luncheon will take place on the 6th to include an Easter bonnet parade and special music by violinist Lauren Lamont.
- The foundation is hosting another bake sale on Friday, April 7. Proceeds will benefit Center programs and services.
- A six-week Home Computing 101 course, taught by Center volunteer Kalen Delaney and facilitated by the Anacortes Senior College, will be offered in the Great Room beginning April 19.

Project Updates

- Hybrid Technology Upgrade—Karl discussed the project at the City Council meeting on March 6th as part of the Planning Department's update on the Community Development Block Grant funds that were used for this project. City IT and Facilities personnel will finalize the installation later this spring.
- Outdoor Recreation Upgrade—Karl met with a contractor two times in March to discuss the size and scope of the project. The contractor is developing a bid to be evaluated in April.
- Volunteer Training & Appreciation—Karl joined the Skagit County Commissioner's meeting on Tuesday, March 28th to commemorate Skagit Volunteer Month and the important contributions of the Center's dedicated volunteers.

Center Impact

We are thankful for this excerpt from Betty who recently shared the impact the Center has had on her life.

ASAC gave me life after loss. In March 2020, I moved to Anacortes from Tampa, Florida after the passing of my husband. COVID shut down the world giving me way too much time. ASAC reopened and I started with Seated Wellness. I had a few lunches and enjoyed the Easter

luncheon with the Easter bonnet parade. The Silver Foxes exercise class was next. Before I knew it, I had a life again. The welcoming acceptance I felt led me to volunteering at ASAC. I took advantage of all the programs during Fall Prevention week. Next came the Aging Mastery Program. There are many multi-week programs and a few one-time programs I would like to take on top of what I am already doing. My daughter was helping me with my upcoming schedule and had to remind me that there are more events and programs than what I have time for. So many fun things to do but I have to pick and choose. I chose SongShine to help strengthen my voice. I helped at our bake sale. While selling baked goods, I met a few people from Mah Jongg and the painted rock groups. Could I possibly add more to my time at ASAC?

Karl Wolfswinkel, Senior Activity Center Administrator

Recreation Staff Report:

Ballroom Dance: For March we had the following classes offered. Waltz, West Coast Swing, Rumba, and Salsa. We will continue these classes through April. Additionally, we are offering a punch card option, where participants pay for a certain number of visits. This allows them the opportunity to move around between the different types of classes in a month. There is a following of dancers continuing to build for this type of enrichment class. For those not interested in lessons but just want to dance there are some community dances scheduled throughout the summer. Dates will be in the A-Town Publication

Esports: Staff hosted the first ever Madden 23 Football Video Game Tournament on Saturday, March 18. This was a new event for the department and we hope to build some momentum for future events of this type. Practices and coaching (provided by Vanta Esports) continued this month. Games that are currently provided to the youth gamers are Valorant and Fortnite. Staff is looking into feasibility of offering some week long camps for youth to continue to build interest.

Puzzler Competition: In March we held our second event of its kind. However, we saw our participation number quadruple. 10 teams participated this time around with the fastest team completing their puzzle in a blistering 47 minutes. This was the last team competition until the fall. Our next event, Puzzlemania will have individual people compete against each other to see who can complete their 300-piece puzzle in the fastest time and be crowned "Puzzlemania Master!" One of the neat things about this program is it has attracted some participants who may not participate in other programs we offer.

Fieldhouse Free Time: A continuation of a popular program that was offered during the winter months. Staff was able to recruit some volunteer parents to help facilitate the program so that it could keep going. There might be a break in the summer months when the weather is nicer, and kids are playing outdoors at our parks and playgrounds.

Badminton League: All ages Badminton program finished up in March with participation doubling over the last year's program. The popularity in non-traditional sport programs like badminton and pickle ball seem to be growing. Which has let staff to pursue other opportunities for people to recreate.

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 can be creative and have fun in the process. The class traditionally takes place in the at the Anacortes Senior Center which provides some opportunities for some intergenerational interactions.

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. **Pickle Ball schedule over the next couple months could change as we find a new gym supervisor for that program. Please refer to our website for the most up-to-date information on all of our Drop-in Programs. Additionally, staff has been working with Adult Soccer and Ultimate Frisbee groups to provide recreational drop-in play on Rice Field. The school district requested groups work with us for scheduling purposes.

Spring & Summer A-Town Publication: Scheduled to be mailed out to the community around April 19th. This issue will be packed with lots of information, including all our summer recreation programs and general information about the city projects. Community members have relied on this publication for a variety of reasons, and we are pleased to produce in-house.

Total Volunteers Hours for March

	Field House Free Time			
1	X	8 hrs.	=	8
	Drop-in Sports			
2	X	16 hrs.	=	32
Total for Month				40

Dustin South, Recreation Manager
Travis Anderson, Recreation Coordinator