



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

June 13th, 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 May 2023 Minutes
3. Public Comments
4. Correspondence/Communication
5. Budget 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

May 9th, 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, Nicole Johnston

Meeting held by Zoom and in person at City Hall

Called to order at 6:00pm

Minutes: April minutes were unanimously approved as submitted.

Public Comments:

None

Correspondence and Communication:

JoAnn will give an update from the Forest Board with the next agenda item.

Jonn reported that the Parks Foundation is going to hold the funds for the Skate Park Improvement Project.

Jonn also shared that he met with representatives from FEMA regarding various programs and assistance. Their programs are not available for rebuilding but could be used for other Samish projects.

ACFL Plan Update:

JoAnn shared the latest on the Forest Plan update as the Forest Advisory Board met last week. The original plan laid out to go through the plan section by section does not seem to be the best approach. The Board is going to take a break with the joint June hike with the Friends of the Forest, and a July vacation, and then revisit the approach and public comments in August. The Board feels specifics are good, but they don't want to discourage public comments on any area of the Plan. There was also some trouble hearing as the meeting was held in the Council Chambers and utilized the audio equipment there. There is a November 2026 deadline for the update, so plenty of time to sort through all the information being shared.

Staff Reports:

Dustin reported that City Hall experienced a water leak originating on the third floor and impacting the IT department on the second floor as well as the basement Boys and Girls Club and storage. In better news, spring and summer programs opened up on April 21st and many filled right away. There are wait lists started for the most popular classes. The upcoming events for the summer are: Kids Fishing Day, Bark in the Park, Kids are Best Fest and the Pirate Run.

Karl shared that the Shelter Bay Chorus gave a concert at the Senior Center and was well attended. May brings the National Council on Aging conference. Karl and Lea will attend the virtual conference. Anacortes High School has a news program run by students called The Rock. A recent episode (#22) included a segment of Seniors to Seniors where high school seniors interviewed several visitors at the Senior Center for their wisdom and advice on life. The Senior Center Foundation is holding their fundraiser on May 20th and is sold out. The goal is to raise \$100,000.

Bob reported that the skate park project is holding its first preconstruction meeting. There is still fundraising to do, but the project is moving ahead. This will go to the Council for approval on May 22nd. Janiki will be the general contractor with Grindline as the subcontractor. The estimated timeline for this project is about three months with the parking lot demo being done in house. Bob also shared that the Washington Park restroom project is moving along with talks between staff in Parks and Wastewater. The need for a sewer pump station is being incorporated in the plan.

Nicole announced that we still need seasonal help in the ACFL, two people, and one person for cemetery mowing. The Parks staff is currently hosting the school district tournament for baseball and will host the Little League state tournament later this summer. Other interesting facts include the first upright headstone in the new section of the cemetery.

Jonn shared that the City Directors and Council members will have their retreat next week. He is going to take the letter written by the Parks Board and present it to the Council. (This letter can be seen below in full.) The staff is preparing for higher temperatures this weekend and the crowds that can bring to the lakes.

Other Business:

Brad asked about electric motors on the lakes if the combustible engine is covered. This is allowed per City policy. Sarah asked about the school district change in policy with their field use fees. Dustin and Jonn responded that this will not impact the partnership with the City and School District.

Meeting adjourned at 6:36pm

Respectfully Submitted by: Darby Jordan

Parks and Recreation Update June 2023

Parks Maintenance & Washington Park: Nicole Johnston, Parks Manager

Mowing, weed eating, watering and fixing irrigation has filled most days this past month. Our batwing mower has been giving us some trouble, so we have put the request in for a new mower that we hope to add to the fleet by 2024. This past month of May has gone really fast for us in Parks. Below are just a few highlights from the month.

Causland Park- Parks Department would like to thank the Anacortes Young-McCool VFW Post 12220 for volunteering their time to spruce up Causland Park. This group of volunteers that included the Mayor worked hard to spread 20 yards of mulch and helped with weeding. All of this helped to have Causland Park looking good for the Memorial Day weekend.



Spray Pad Opened- After our last meeting we talked about opening up the Spray Pad before the Memorial Day weekend. That was exciting to have the pad up and running by May 10th.

Seasonal Staff- We have started a few new seasonal staff this past month. Lucy & Henry have started working with Steve in the ACFL, Dylan has started to work with Nichola as the cemetery mower and at Washington Park Lucca has returned and we also have Gabe and Cameron. Everyone is doing great so far and the crew is happy to have the help.

Grand View Cemetery-

Nichola and the entire crew have been keeping busy trimming all head stones and mowing for Mother's Day weekend and doing it all over again for Memorial Day weekend. Huge thank you to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter- Day Saints for organizing a work party at the cemetery on May 20th. They did a lot of weeding and clean up for us.

Baseball Season- Baseball season is still in full swing. All the youth fields are being used almost every night, including a few Saturdays. I mentioned this in the last meeting, but we are hosting the State Little League Tournament July 22-31 at MDD and Storvik Park. At Volunteer Park we hosted the district tournament in early



May. Next up in the month of June we have our first field rental for a high school tournament that is being organized by Servoss Baseball, LLC on Daniel's Field.

Wildland Training- Both AJ and Nichola completed the two-day Wildland Training. In this course students learn and apply nationally accepted safety standards and skills for the use of chainsaws. Skills include proper PPE use and saw techniques, field maintenance-tuning-troubleshooting, and tactical applications of saws. Practical exercises include brushing, limbing, and bucking for fire line construction and mop-up operations. Steve, Sky, AJ and Nichola have all received this valuable training. Thanks to Fire Chief Harris for including Parks Department and for making this available. The goal is to have everyone on the crew who would like this additional training take the course.

Washington Park Update- This past month we have had to put out the Campground Full sign two weekends in a row (May 19-21 and May 26-28) . Over the Memorial weekend in the boat lot we had \$3,700 in sales for boat lot parking. On May 31st the Street Department overlaid three areas along the loop road. We closed the loop road to all users on Wednesday, May 31st.

Assistant Director Report: Bob Vaux

LAST COUPLE DAYS OF APRIL

27th: Good to hear at ABPAC meeting that the arts community (Arts Festival, AMP, etc) will be back at Open Streets this year. Live music and other performances always add to the day.

The COA training week with FEMA culminated in an Emergency Operations Center drill in the afternoon. We received positive feedback from the FEMA training team and will continue to work to help our community through whatever might come our way.

28th: Denise Crowe, ACFL Steve and I enjoyed our monthly Samish/COA ACFL outing. We found ourselves wandering the upper reaches of Sugarloaf, just a bit before the wildflowers really start to show themselves, but hints abound. Helped some folks with directions as well.

WEEK OF MAY 1ST

Jonn and I working with Public Works, specifically Brian and Steve from the Waste Water Treatment Plant (WWTP), on plans for the pump station necessary for our Washington Park restroom project.

While expensive, this is the safest option for moving the sewage to its intended place.

Parks Tottenham and I met with Tom Decker, Rotary/Cap Sante Parks Trail Project Lead. We walked the trail, reviewing invasives for future volunteer work. We also talked about the future of the possible viewpoint project. Rotary working with Director Lunsford on this phase.

On May 4th COA staff met with Janicki General Contracting, winner of the Ben Root Skate Park improvement project bid. They have Grindline on their team as a Sub-Contractor. We have been able to come up with a funding strategy involving the continued work of Rachel and her Skatepark Improvement Project team, along with the Fidalgo Trail Riders. The Janicki Team seems excited to be a part of this.

Attended Parks Staff tailgate safety meeting at the Ops Shop. Appreciate folks taking these seriously and contributing to the monthly discussion.

Worked through the May Forest Advisory Board meeting with the FAB, and the public. The FAB has decided to redirect the Forest Plan update process. Updates to the process should be available prior to the August 3rd meeting.

Off May 5 – 8.

WEEK OF MAY 8TH

Another good meeting with WWTP leadership. We are close to finalizing a pump station plan for the Washington Park restroom project.

Enjoyed a very efficient Parks Commission meeting, focused on a great letter from the Commission to the Council regarding Parks & Rec budget and project priorities.

Held a Pre-Con meeting at BRSP with Janicki, Grindline, Rachel and COA staff. Efficient work through the list. A few minor tasks to take care of, but all in all getting very close to GO TIME.

Recreation Report: Dustin South, Recreation Manager & Travis Anderson, Recreation Coordinator

Youth Volleyball League: The league finished up this month with a little over 100 participants. Thanks to all our coaches for instructing kids on the fundamentals of volleyball. Also, thanks to the school district for allowing us to schedule gym time at the middle school for the program.

Youth Flag Football: Finished this month with over 140 participants taking part in the skill development and games. This is a non-contact program where instead of “tackling”, flags are used to “down” a player who has the ball. This helps young kids rely on moving their feet and focusing with their eyes more. It really can be a good progression for kids who would like to participate in tackle football someday. Kids received a youth size football to continue practicing with as part of their registration fee. During the spring, field space can be a challenge, so the kids did have to rotate around a few times. Thanks to all our staff for helping coach and officiate games.

Ballroom Dance: This month we had the following classes offered. Night Club 2 Step, Rhythm Line Dancing, Country 2 Step, and Hustle. Also, we are continuing to offer 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. On the 27th of the month we hosted our first Community Dance of the summer at the Depot. We had about 40 participants and hope to build on the success as we offer more one on June 17th, and August 12th & 13th. Attendees at the community dances can either participate in dancing or just watch.

Youth Track & Field: This popular program was offered again during the month. Numbers were hovering near pre-pandemic registrations with over 180 participants. This is close to the maximum number of participants we can handle with just one session and looking to break up the 1st-6th graders into two sessions for next year’s program. Track and Field was held one day a week (Mondays) which allowed kids to participate in other sports throughout the spring as well. Thanks to all our high school track and field athletes and adult volunteers who helped coach kids during the program.

Girls Basketball Camp: AHS Girls Varsity Basketball Coach Nate Dunham ran three Girls Youth Basketball Camps for us during the month. Each one focused on a different skill element. We had a total of 50 hoopsters participate, with each player receiving their own basketball to continue practicing with as part of their registration fee. Thanks to Coach Dunham and the high school girl’s players for providing youth in the community the opportunity hone their skills.

Tots in the Park: The toddler play group resumed this month, with the weather being nicer they moved outside to park facilities. We have about 30 participants registered for the May/June session.

Adult Drop-in Sports: Drop-in Adult Volleyball continues to take place at Fidalgo Elementary on Wednesday and Friday evenings from 6-9 pm. Adult drop-in Basketball takes place on Sunday evenings in the Middle School and Tuesday evenings at Fidalgo Elementary, 5-7 pm (Sundays) and 6-8 pm (Tuesdays). As of May 24th Drop-in Pickle Ball will not be using Mt. Erie Elementary for indoor play as participation number drop off with the nicer weather. They plan to resume later in September. To see the latest on the drop-in sports schedule visit: <https://www.anacorteswa.gov/971/Drop-In-Programs>

Other items of interest: June kicks off our special event season with Kids Fishing Day and Bark in the Park. Kids R Best Fest is in July along with the Pirate Run. Adult Softball Team Registrations are due at the beginning of June as well. After the last day of school, June 16, camp season will be underway with numerous enrichment and sport camps for kids to participate in. Several are already full.

Total Volunteers Hours for May



Drop-in Sports

3 X 18 hrs. = 54



Youth Volleyball League

7 X 6 hrs. = 42



Youth Track & Field League

4 X 8 hrs. = 32



Youth Flag Football

5 X 16 hrs. = 80

Total for Month 208

Respectfully Submitted by,

Dustin South, Recreation Manager

Travis Anderson, Recreation Coordinator