



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

Aug 8th, 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 June 2023 Minutes
3. Public Comments
4. Correspondence/Communication
5. Rotary Club Cap Sante Presentation
6. Cemetery Memorial Garden
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*

June 13, 2023

Call to Order at 6pm

Members present: Alex, Brad, Chris

Staff: Dustin, Bob, Jonn

Minutes of May 2023: Approved

Public Comment: zero

Correspondence:

Bob reported on the Forest Board hike with the FoF board to the Whistle Lake dam site. There will not be a FAB meeting in July.

Jonn reported on correspondence with the MJB company regarding the skate park and construction issues. Parks and the city legal staff have also been working with outside legal counsel on draft leases for the Mt. Erie cell tower and a proposed tower at Ace of Hearts Park. Both leases, if completed to city standards, will go to City Council for approval. Staff has also been working with the Recreation and Conservation Office on our planning grant for the Thompson Trail Trestle.

Budget Discussion:

This year the budget will be worked through the Council Sub-Committees to allow for their feedback through the process. Staff is starting by bringing Capital Facilities Projects to the Committee. The letter from the Parks and Recreation Commissioners will be a useful tool in this process.

Department Reports:

Dustin reported on the events he and Travis are doing this summer. The Kids Fishing Day and Bark in the Park are this month. Kids R Best Fest and the Pirate Run are in July. Adult softball starts in July, Youth soccer in August and the summer is full of day camps run by Travis and our seasonal rec assistant Bridger Wakely.

Bob – June 27 – 3:30 pm ground breaking ceremony at the skate park. The actual construction is likely to start right after the Fourth of July holiday. We are ordering the pre-fab unit for the new Washington Park restroom. There was a small wildfire on Cap Sante on June 4. Brad asked when the solar lights are going on the trestle.

Jonn: We are researching a new grant being offered by the RCO for delayed maintenance. It is a one time program with no matching funds required. Grant parameters are forthcoming from the state. Staff met with the regional permit staff from the US Army Corp of Engineers about the SHIP trail. Thanks to the park staff and recreational staff as we hit our busy time.

No July Parks Board meeting.

Adjourn 6:20pm

Parks and Recreation Update August 2023

Assistant Director's Report: Bob Vaux

June 29th

NEIGHBOR'S TREES: met with Libby in Planning on the way to working with some possible hazard trees neighbors have been asking about. Scheduling site visits with Arborist Steve.

Ben Root Skate Park IMPROVEMENT PROJECT: Engineering Justin and I have been working on the mobilization details with Michael from Janicki. Equipment should start rolling in any day.

June 30th

BLOWING UP GARBAGE CANS: For any SCTV fans out there, "those cans blowed up good!!" Sadly, we lost 2 or 3 at Heart Lake leading up to the 4th. The costly hijinx of celebrating this nation's birthday. On a more positive note, seasonal staffers Henry and Lucy were able to run off some commercial sword fern harvesters along Ray Auld Drive. Managed to get a license plate to police. We're all pitching in on fireworks patrol at a variety of locations.

Week of July 3rd

FIREWORKS PATROL: Spending time making the rounds, along with Steve, Henry and Lucy. Parking in the Whistle Lake Fire Lane has become an all-too-common occurrence this summer. APD doing a nice job responding.

While the 4th of July was certainly a busy day in the woods, most folks were just looking to have some family fun. Heart Lake facilities did take a bit of a beating leading up to the day, while the rest of our facilities hung tough. We were out all day and long into the evening, and happy to report all the same trees standing from the 4th to the 5th.

I did the early morning watch rounds on the 5th, starting with unlocking the gates at Heart Lake parking lot, and at the bottom of the Mt. Erie Summit Road. Very helpful having each closed overnight. I was pleased to find the busiest areas of the woods looking really good, including the Whistle cliffs.

BEN ROOT SKATE PARK IMPROVEMENT PROJECT: We have officially moved on from golden shovel photo op to actual demolition. Parks and Public Works crews handled the in-house parking lot demo. Starting to look like a project. Janicki crews arrive the next day. Mostly construction fencing and prep work.

TAILGATE SAFETY MEETING: Attended the Parks Crews' regular monthly safety meeting.

NO FOREST ADVISORY BOARD MEETING: The FAB enjoyed their annual July vacation.

MORE WL PATROL SUPPORT: Filled in some patrol gaps. Happy to find most activity very family friendly.

WASHINGTON PARK RESTROOM PROJECT: Good meeting with Rob Frisinger, COA Building Official. We are proceeding with permitting and final site design.

SAN JUAN PASSAGE VIEW CORRIDORS: Providing some assistance to Planning staff on this required work.

BRSP: Justin and I continue our regular site visits and work with Janicki.

Week of July 24

BRSP: demolition phase going very well. Working through some electrical and water questions. Will be able to salvage existing lights and poles, as they are not very old. Water pressure looks great for irrigation system.

Enjoyed another standing meeting with FoF Asa. Always a pleasure to get caught up on the good work he and the Friends are doing.

Attended regular ABPAC meeting. Open Streets all set for Aug 27th. If you or someone you know would like to participate, please contact me directly.

Parks Maintenance Report: Nicole Johnston

Skatepark Parking Lot Demo- Park crew did the demo of the Skatepark Parking lot. Thanks to Street Department for helping. The demo was complete in just one day.

Little League State Tournament: We were super happy with how well Storvik and MDD ballfield held up for the Little League State Baseball Tournament that Anacortes Little League hosted July 22-July 31st. They hosted all games on Storvik and MDD field. They used Daniels, Volunteer and Ace of Hearts for practice fields during the week-long tournament. Hosting this tournament on our fields took extra time from Parks Staff to have the fields ready, restrooms clean and re-stocked when needed.

Tommy Thompson Parking Paving Project- Worked again with the Street Department on paving parts of the TTP this last week of July. The Paving was done in one day and looks really good. Thanks to Streets and to Parks Foundation for helping cover the cost of this paving project.

Parks Staff Update- Sky Guthrie who has worked for the Anacortes Parks Department for 4 years had his last day with Parks on June 15th. Sky has decided to switch departments and has started working for Facilities. We are sad to see him leave as he brought many skills, positive can-do attitude and single handily made Washington Park better. We do wish him all the luck in his new job. Steve Phillips who has overseen the ACFL these past 4 years has decided to move out of that role and become a Parks Maintenance Technician. We are still working on the job description for the new ACFL posting, but we are eager to fill that position sooner rather than later.

Parks crew continues to mow, weed, trim, pick up garbage, clean restrooms and trouble shoot irrigation on a daily basis!

Recreation Staff Report:

Pee Wee Baseball: Program for 4–6-year-olds was held in June. There were 66 participants registered between two sessions. Some baseball skills were taught. But a more importantly the kids had a lot of fun.

Kids Fishing Day: Traditionally the first Saturday in June boasts the annual event. 2023 was no different. Thanks to Puget Sound Anglers for providing volunteers to help the kids with rigging their fishing gear. There was great weather this year. Fewer boats were on the water this year.

Youth Volleyball Camp: Staff coordinates this camp with high school coaches and players to provide a great learning environment for the youth in the community. Camp was held for kids in grades 3rd – 8th and had 66 participants. Thank you to all the high school players and coaches for helping provide this recreational opportunity.

Bark in the Park: The annual event was held on June 10. Weather was a little soggy but that did not deter the four-legged canines and their owners. Several dog friendly businesses/organizations provided booths and contests were held for the participants.

Ballroom Dance: Class numbers dipped slightly during the month of June. Mainly because there are a lot of other things going on that keep people busy. We had our second Community Dance on Saturday, June 17 with about 20-30 participants in attendance. The next dance will be held on Saturday, July 29 and will feature live music. Participants can come try dancing or just sit and listen to the music. The plan is to hold the July and August dances outside on the Depot Plaza if the weather cooperates.

Seahawk Youth Soccer Camp: High school girls soccer team provided an opportunity for kids in grades K-5th to hone their soccer skills. Camp was held the week after school let out for the summer. The weather was not ideal the first couple of days but finished with lots of sunshine. There were 110 registered participants, some who were trying soccer for the first time. Each player received a soccer ball as part of their registration fee.

Skyhawks Multi-Sport/Mini Hawk Camp: Our first in a series of summer sport camps this summer. Multi-Sport camp provided kids the opportunity to play three different sports during the week-long camp. The Mini-Hawk half day camp was geared towards kids ages 4-6 and provided an opportunity for them to have fun and social with other participants their age. Both camps had about 20 participants registered.

Dino Camp: The first of a series of camps this summer. Takes place at WA Park from Monday through Thursday, from 9 am – 12pm. As the name implies the camp is all about the prehistoric creatures. Kids have fun learning which is the name of the camp with enrichment camps such as these. These are some of our more popular camps which filled shortly after registration took place in Summer. For the June camp we had 20 participants, ages 5-12.

4th of July Celebration: Staff assisted with clearing the street for the parade, taking the traditional town photo, patriotic program, and making sure the parade and fireworks went off without a hitch. This is a multi-departmental event and really something the community enjoys.

Skyhawks STEM Soccer: This was a new camp offered this year. Kids learned how the science of soccer works and were able to apply what they learned on the field. The camp was held during the short week of July 5-7 at Mt. Erie Elementary School. They had 22 total participants.

Night Out at the Park: Took place for kids out at Washington Park July 7th. The program planned an evening of outdoor fun for the participants including activities and snacks centered around everything the park has to offer.

Kids R Best Fest: Another event that has returned after a two-year layoff. Saturday, July 8th was filled with a variety of fun filled kid/family friendly activities, games, and entertainment. Staff was able to find a new pony ride vendor to once again supply this very popular activity. Thanks to the Parks Maintenance crew for helping get the park ready for the event. We also would like to thank all the organization and groups who made the event possible. It could not have been done without their involvement. The 2024 event will be held on Saturday, July 13.

Youth Water Sports Classes: Our continued partnership with Anacortes Waterfront Alliance allowed the city to offer Introductory Water Sports Class to the community. These classes not only gave kids the opportunity to try sailing, but they could learn the basics of Paddle Boarding and kayaking as well. Outside of our program AWA offers further opportunities for youth to continue whichever water vessel they most enjoyed. The main mission of AWA is providing water recreation to the Anacortes Community through a variety of means.

Adult Sailing Classes: Again, through our partnership with the Anacortes Waterfront Alliance we were able to offer Beginner Learn to Sail Classes for adults. Once registration opened classes filled more quickly than they have in the past. The adult used the 14' Lido sailboats during these classes.

Youth Enrichment Camps: Our series of 9 themed summer camps (Survivor, Dino, and Pirate) started at the end of the month of June and continued through July. All of them filled within a matter of weeks. We hired a new seasonal Recreational Leader, Bridger Wakley, and he has done a great job of leading these programs throughout the summer. This is a great position for a college student who is thinking about a career in Parks and Recreation or teaching. These camps continue to be one of our most popular programs of the summer.

Dog Obedience Classes: Staff was contact by instructor Lorena Perez who is a local dog obedience instructor. She wanted to teach group dog obedience classes in the park. We worked out of the logistics and contract details and offered the first class on July 15th. She is holding class at Storvik Park (in the vacant area in the NW part of the park) on Saturday mornings. The July class filled and there is another class scheduled for August.

Youth Wrestling Camp: Hawkeye Wrestling Club provides beginner wrestling camp for kids the week of July 17-19. This gave kids the opportunity to try out wrestling for the first time. Basic skills and techniques were taught to the participants.

Pee Wee Sports Camp: This FUNdamental sports camp offered a different sport each week and allows kids ages 4-6 years old the opportunity to try a variety of athletics. We had about 65 kids participating in this summer program.

Adult Co-ed Softball: We had a total of 8 teams registered for the 2023 season. Games are usually played on Sundays, starting the weekend after 4th of July, and concluding the weekend before Labor Day. We continue to offer this league as a "wood bat" league for the male hitters. We work with the Skagit Valley Softball Umpire Association to provide umpires for all the games. Several of the adults who play in the league have played for years and becomes a tradition for them every summer.

Youth Art Camps: We are back to offering opportunities for kids to express their creativeness through Arts and Crafts. We have a new instructor this year after our long-time instructor decided to hang up her paint brush. Lana Hickman is the new instructor and has several weeks of classes offered in July and August. We are looking into offering some classes throughout the school year also.

Skyhawks Tennis Camps: The first day of this camp saw drizzly Monday. However, the weather improved quickly and the 22 registered participants had a great time. Several of our Skyhawks camps, including this one, have had great coaches who were engaging with the participants and made it fun for them.

Skyhawks Track and Field Camp: The first day of this camp saw the first measurable precipitation we have seen in awhile. We were able to host this camp down at Rice Field and use their “all weather” track and field surfaces. The covered bleachers were also nice for campers to be able to get out of the rain.

Pirate Run: Staff continues its partnership with the Anacortes Arts Festival Organization to offer a fitness/recreational opportunity for the community while making a fun family orientated event. This year’s event had a pirate theme and featured a new route. Participant numbers were down from last year. The event took place on Saturday, July 29th, the weekend before the Arts Festival. Although sometimes not as competitive as other runs, “themed” running events have grown in popularity and can entice runners to participate who might not otherwise.

Community Dance Event: Another of our monthly community free dance events took place on Saturday evening, July 29 at the depot. Live music was played by Crazy Like a Fox band. The next community dance will be a two-day event Saturday and Sunday, August 12 and 13, with each day starting at 6 pm. Live music is being secured for both of those evenings as well. If attendees don’t feel like dancing, they can just sit and listen to the music.

Challenger Soccer Camp: Recreation staff continue to work with Challenger Sports to provide soccer development program during a week in the summer. This unique camp brings coaches from overseas and is a great opportunity for kids to learn how to play soccer with an international flavor. Challenger does a great job with the camps, keeping the drills fun and engaging for the participants. There are about 60 kids signed up for this year’s camp.

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). We plan to resume Pickle Ball in the October. To see the latest on the drop-in sports schedule visit: <https://www.anacorteswa.gov/971/Drop-In-Programs>

Other items of interest: The Anacortes Parks Foundation has approved helping fund replacement basketball hoop height adjusters for the Anacortes Middle School Gym. The height adjusters are crucial for the use of the gym by our youth basketball programs. We hope in the future we can get the high school gym done as well since the height adjusters were not put back in that gym after the remodel was complete. Additionally, staff met with ASD staff about facility usage for the 2023-24 school year. Sounds like the school district will be charging us custodial time for cleaning after we use the facilities outside the normal custodial hours, i.e. evenings and weekends. They have a new person in charge of facility scheduling district wide. The person is not new to facility usage with the district and so far we are having a smooth transition throughout the process.

Staff is continuing to work on the Fall A-town publication which we are hoping to get out to the public around mid-September.

Youth Soccer League registration has ended in July. County Soccer Teams are being formed with City League teams starting to be formed in the coming weeks. Things should be getting into full gear for fall soccer by the end of August.

Total Volunteers Hours for June/July

	Drop-in Sports	3	X	20 hrs.	= 60
	Kids Fishing Day	8	X	4 hrs.	= 32
	Bark in the Park	2	X	5 hrs.	= 10
Kids	 R Best Fest	2	X	6 hrs.	= 12
				Total for Month	114

Respectfully Submitted by,

Dustin South, Recreation Manager

Travis Anderson, Recreation Coordinator

Ship Harbor Boardwalk Repair: Staff is working with a designer and geo-technical engineers on what is feasible to replace the section of the boardwalk damaged last December. We will hopefully have a preliminary cost estimate by the end of August. This cost would cover the fabrication of the replacement section. Actual installation would be an additional cost for this project. We will need a light weight structure that can be carried in via the beach and then put in place by construction teams. Significant permitting will be necessary for all of this to take place.

Thompson Trail Trestle: City Council recently approved an interlocal with Samish Indian Nation to help fund a grant from the state to study the best way to replace the trestle. The study will look at a feasible replacement for the rock base and creosote pilings that support the current trail and trestle from Weaverling Spit to March Point. The City is partnering with the Samish Indian Nation and the Washington State Department of Natural Resources on this project. Funding also comes from the Recreation and Conservation Office of Washington State.