



ANACORTES PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT

P.O. BOX 547, ANACORTES, WA 98221

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Parks & Recreation Advisory Commission

Sept 12th, 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 August 2023 Minutes
3. Public Comments
4. Correspondence/Communication
5. Recreation Conservation Office Grant Opportunities
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*

PARKS COMMISSION MINUTES

August 8th, 2023

Call to Order: 6:03PM

Members Present: Sarah, Brad, Chris, JoAnne

Staff Present: Jonn, Bob, Nicole, Karl

June minutes unanimously approved as submitted.

Public Comments: none

Correspondence/Communication: moved to later on the agenda

Rotary Club Cap Sante Presentation: Jonn introduces Tom Decker, Project Lead for Rotary Club Decker discusses history of Cap Sante East Side lookout proposal. Club has narrowed options down to two.

Current Rotary President Lindy _____ discusses club's Centennial and celebrating that through the work of this project.

Cap Sante resident, Parks Foundation Board Member and Kiwanian Cynthia Richardson expresses support for the project.

Decker continues with update. PreCon with City staff went well. GeoEngineers working on the biological study. Working on a survey to make sure project staying out of Shoreline jurisdiction. Parking and traffic study to follow. Final two options presented (attached here). Rotary hoping for Parks Commission support.

Q & A with the Commission ensues:

- COA will be the permitting lead

- solar lights being considered

- Rotary will provide volunteers to assist City with long term maintenance.

- Sarah would like to see improvements on the east Cap Sante amphitheater trail to complement this project

- Rotary wants to provide some seating but does not want it to be too comfortable. Hoping to keep the visitors moving.

All Board members support the project and both options going forward.

Everyone leaves. Staff and Commission remain.

Cemetery Memorial Garden: Nicole discusses an assertive request from the local Daughters of the American Revolution Chapter for a garden at GVC. They have been doing some good work at the Depot

and would like to expand their operation. Parks staff is supportive of their plans to put in a memorial near the Viet Nam Veterans memorial at GVC.

Karl's report: summer attendance numbers at the ASAC are good. Helping Fidalgo Pool with some exercise space during their summer closure. Looking forward to celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the ASAC at the Sept 30 pavilion dedication.

Bob's report: had fun taking Rachel Muntean, head of the Anacortes Skate Park Improvement project, to the job site today. Progress is solid, Rachel is happy. Wash Park RR project is coming together. Engineering submittal should be in any minute.

Nicole's report: Little League state tourney went well. Starting to lose seasonal staff to various colleges.

Jon's report: Rec staff busy with end of summer programming, and soccer firing up. We will be paying ASD janitors to assist with our after hours needs. Thanks to the Parks Foundation for the support of the Anacortes Middle School adjustable backboards purchase and installation. We are looking at options for an RCO deferred maintenance grant, no match required. Partnering with the Samish on long term removal of creosote from Fidalgo Bay. Will be many years toward that goal. Nothing new on the Youth Center. We are looking into in-house options for the Storvik small courts.

Sarah asked about the sand volleyball courts proposal the Commission received some time ago. The proposing group is no longer interested.

Jon continued that he is continuing discussions with Habitat for Humanity regarding the west end park property that group is taking over.

JoAnn gave a thorough update of the Aug 3 Forest Advisory Board meeting. That group's minutes are available via the City's website.

Sarah asked for a budget update. Jon continues his work with Finance Director Steve Hoglund, as well as working with the Council on creative funding ideas for Parks projects.

Meeting Adjourns at 7:13PM.

Parks and Recreation Update September 2023



Nicole Johnston: Parks Manager

Anacortes Community Garden-

The Community Garden has had a very busy summer. Harvesting is picking up in the Food Bank plot. The community group has worked hard to make some improvements to the perimeter and have repainted the tool shed in the garden.



Soccer Field Prep- Crew has been working hard to get all fields ready for county and city soccer leagues. Travis has communicated with me that registration is high (close to 500 kids) and that the following fields will

be used for practice and/or games this fall: Storvik, Smiley's, Volunteer, Daniels, Kiwanis Meadow, MDD and Ace of Hearts.

Washington Park-Washington Park continues to be the main attraction for the locals and many park visitors this summer. The campground has been full every weekend this past month and despite the crazy hornet season we are having, the reservable picnic pavilion has been full most days. The burn ban ended just in time for the Labor Day Holiday.



Memorial Picnic Table- This past month Myles has worked to build two memorial picnic tables at Washington Park.

Crew Update- Crew has been working hard this summer while also trying to sneak in vacation days here and there. It always feels like we should take a victory lap once we get through Labor Day. The crew has stepped up and helped the team most Sunday's in the ACFL this summer by signing up to work an overtime shift in the woods. I know that the seasonal staff is super appreciative of having the crew helping in the woods on the busy weekends.

Hanging Baskets- This has been an awesome summer for the hanging baskets. Super proud of our seasonal staff Reilly Nation Pearson who has done a fantastic job keeping the flowers alive. We typically cannot wait to take down the baskets, but this year we are going to keep them up just a bit longer!!

Bob Vaux: Assistant Director:

July: We posted algae signs at Little Cranberry Lake in coordination with the Skagit Valley Health Department. Steve also documented a large area of disturbance in the Forest Lands created by a neighbor apparently clearing a trail. Staff is investigating.

BEN ROOT SKATE PARK (BRSP) IMPROVEMENT PROJECT: Janicki continuing their good work on this project. Very close to completing the demolition phase.

New Environmental Planner Sara Williams and I visited the trail incursion site previously reported by Steve. She was able to document several code violations, not the least of which being no prior contact/permission requested with/from the COA. Next step will be a review with our Legal Department.

ACFL Steve and I visited three neighbors (two ACFL, 1 Wash Park), looking at some tree issues. Mostly publicly owned trees growing over the private property lines. Next step: Steve will do a formal hazard tree assessment at each site.

Forest Advisory Board: big news at the August meeting was Asa's announcement of his departure from the Friends of the Forest. It has been an absolute pleasure working with Asa, and his numerous accomplishments and FoF legacy will be enjoyed for years to come. We wish him all the best in his new role at Whatcom County Parks. Also, thanks to Kit and the Board for the updated public input schedule for the Forest Plan.

WEEK OF AUGUST 7

Daily visits to the BRSP Improvement Project continue. Janicki is doing the finishing touches on the site demo and prep. Should see significant Grindline team mobilization next week.

ACFL Steve and I reviewed some trees along #22 that would prevent emergency vehicle access. He will go ahead and take down the four or so trees crowding that forest road.

Attended our quarterly Council Parks Committee meeting. Good discussion of Capital Facilities Plan priorities.

Accompanied Officer Wilson to the trail incursion. She was able to investigate the site.

Director Lunsford and I toured a few possible park project sites with our RCO project manager, Allison. She particularly liked the potential for the West 6th & Minnesota property.

Fri 11th we bade Lucy farewell from her ACFL summer gig. She did a great job, and we thank her very much. We celebrated the traditional completion of the trimming of the trails a little late, but managed a nice staff luncheon a few hours before Lucy's departure.

On Sun 13th Henry completed his summer run, and we thank him as well. Super dependable, both of them. I helped out with some Whistle Lake trail patrol on this hot summer afternoon.

WEEK OF AUGUST 14

BRSP improvement project really taking shape. Pump track elevations done, and Grindline team arriving and beginning to build. Skate park forming work happening and working through lighting and other electrical specifics.

Attended a Chamber of Commerce meeting on Director Lunsford's behalf, discussing the potential loss of the Port's Transit Shed and what options our community might have going forward.

Enjoyed (well, not exactly enjoyed) a farewell lunch with FoF Asa. I look forward to having him on the Global Parks Team.

Joined a meeting of Mayor Miller and Rotarian Tom Decker, re: the proposed Cap Sante east view project. The next phase of the Summit Trail work. The concept has recently received unanimous support from the Parks Commission.

On Friday 18th we implemented a full Burn Ban at Washington Park. Spent much of the morning on site working with staff on signage.

WEEK OF AUGUST 21

BRSP progress remains solid. Grindline team transforming the demo site into what will be a world class skate park. The ship is beginning to take shape.

Attended monthly ABPAC meeting, last one prior to Open Streets. All set and ready to launch. Special thanks to Steve Lange from COA Engineering for attending. His streets project updates were greatly appreciated.

And on Aug 27 Open Streets happened for the 10th Annual time and was a really enjoyable non-motorized community-based experience. Thanks to all, from merchants and buskers to the many volunteers staffing a variety of info booths. Great day. Lots of smiles on tiny faces, and grown-up ones as well.

WEEK OF AUGUST 28

BRSP Improvement Project progress still solid on a daily basis. The skate features are emerging, and optimism runs high. Rebar installation for shotcrete happening.

A true highlight of the week: Tracy Powell stopped in the office to say hi. Always an absolute pleasure catching up with my woods mentor.

ACFL Steve mentioned in his report the on-going theft of metal trail directional signage. We now have lost our 'Road Closed' sign from the gate at the bottom of the Mt. Erie Summit Road. I did make an official report to APD. Please keep an eye out for any sign tampering you might stumble onto.

Dustin South, Recreation Manager
Travis Anderson, Recreation Coordinator

Ballroom Dance: We had two free community dances in August on the 12th & 13th. There were about 30-40 participants who attended and had a great time. One Saturday the 12th we had live music from Kellen Murphy trio. Funds were graciously provided by the Maineri Endowment to fund the music provided.

Youth Enrichment Camps: (Survivor, Dino, and Pirate) continued through the end of the month. The last camp finished on the 24th. Everything went well for the summer program. The weather cooperated for the most part with only a day or two of rain throughout the entire summer. Seasonal staff did a great job providing this program to kids in our community.

Youth Art Camps: The new arts and crafts classes continue through the month and concluded on the 24th. Staff received some feedback from parents on the program and we will debrief with the instructor in the next couple of weeks on changes that we could make for next summer. Also, looking into ways we could offer some programs related to this throughout the school year.

Skyhawks Basketball & Lacrosse: The basketball camp was our largest attended Skyhawks camp of the summer with over 30 kids participating. Lacrosse had about 15 kids. Both went well and kids seemed to have a good time participating in each camp.

Skyhawks Multi-Sport: 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.

Youth Water Sports Classes: Classes concluded for the season this month with 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.

Dog Obedience Classes: First session was completed on the 12th and a second session was started on the 19th. The new classes and instructor have been well received by the community. Staff is continuing to look for a possible indoor venue so they could potentially be held inside during the winter months.

Adult Co-ed Softball: The league finished this month with the season ending tournament. From the comments I heard from players. Several of them had a great time. This year's end of season tournament Champions was "A Town & Down." Overall comments from participants were very positive about the season. Thank you to our awesome umpires, John Carney and Steve Meuller who officiated most of the games this season and the past several seasons.

Youth Soccer: Staff spent a lot of time this month getting ready for the upcoming season. Tasks included forming teams, recruiting coaches, coaches meetings, and taking care of late registrations. Practices started towards the end of the month and getting teams going. Games start in September and held most Saturdays through October. Thanks to all our volunteer coaches for dedicating time to teaching kids the game.

Adult Drop-in Sports: Most of our drop-in programs are resuming next month, Adult Volleyball takes 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 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: Staff are currently putting the finishing touches on the Fall A-Town Publication and getting ready to send to the printers early in September. The publication will have recreation programs for the fall and winter months as well as other City information. Collaboration between multiple City Departments makes this publication possible.

Total Volunteers Hours for June/July

	Drop-in Sports			
	1	X	20 hrs.	= 20
Youth Soccer				
	9	X	7 hrs.	= 63
	51	X	2 hrs.	= 102
Total for Month				185

Jonn Lunsford: Director

2024 Budget: This past month we have been working on our operating budget and capital facilities budgets. Our operating budget pays for staff and maintenance costs throughout the year, capital costs are larger projects such as major park improvements or new parks. We will also be able to apply for more state grant opportunities in 2024 with the Recreation and Conservation Office.