



ANACORTES PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT

P.O. BOX 547, ANACORTES, WA 98221

(360) 293-1918 / (360) 293-1928

Parks & Recreation Advisory Commission

October 10th, 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 September 2023 Minutes
3. Public Comments
4. Correspondence/Communication
5. ACFL Plan Update
6. Recreation Events 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

September 12th, 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

Meeting held by Zoom and in person at City Hall

Called to order at 6:00pm

Minutes: August minutes were unanimously approved as submitted.

Public Comments:

None

Correspondence and Communication:

JoAnn gave an update from the Forest Board meeting. It was a fairly short meeting to review the Forest Plan process for updates. There will be three special meetings held in October, November and December to take public comment on any changes to the Forest Plan. JoAnn also reported that the e-bikes monitoring has been completed and the report is in process.

Jonn reported on the Parks Foundation. Nancy Chapman left a gift to the Parks and Recreation department and the Parks Foundation is going to hold these funds as staff and the family work together to find projects in her honor.

The Parks Foundation is also looking at extending the W 2nd trail as well as working with engineering to have access in a new area of the Guemes Channel Trail.

Recreation Conservation Office Grant Opportunities:

Jonn shared that City staff are working on the 2024 budget and exploring opportunities for future RCO grants. The small courts at Storvik are a space that is high on the priority list for the Board and staff. Concern was raised about adding another playground there as the need for that age group has already been met. It was suggested to have something to appeal to teens or adults.

Another project is the Jim Rice Civic Park and the A-Boat memorial. This update and any changes will be made along with the families of those lost.

City staff are looking at the Shannon Point Marine Center and putting a trail through their property. Also, repairs to the SHIP trail are being considered. The Q'elech'ilhch Park is another priority for 2024.

The Rotary club is working on options for the Cap Sante lookout. This project would be funded by donations. City staff are also looking at options for a tent on the Depot plaza as the Transit Shed is closing at the end of the year.

The next round of RCO grant applications will be in 2025 with grants awarded in 2026. The projects that could be completed with these grants are Heart Lake and a west end park.

The budget and CFP will go to Council in early October and will be completed before December 20th.

Staff Reports:

Bob had nothing to add to his written report.

Karl extended the invitation to the Senior Center 50th anniversary celebration on September 30th. There will be a ribbon cutting for the Pavilion. He reported that they are getting ready for various Halloween and holiday events. The annual picnic at Washington park went well and everyone had a great time.

Dustin shared that summer activities have wrapped up with lots of programs offered. Now it is all soccer! There are over 500 participants playing in the City and County leagues this season. The next addition of the A-Town will be out soon with winter programs.

Jonn reported on the collaboration with the Samish, City and the department of transportation to replace the trestle and causeway. They are looking at removal of the riprap and replacement of the trestle, cost and timeline. Jonn is also working with the Samish on the Q'elech'ilhch Park on signs to give information about the Samish history and villages that were originally there.

Jonn is working on the budget for 2024. He also met with Allison from the Recreation Conservation Office and Bob to look at what projects would qualify for their various grant programs. Currently there is a "maintenance backlog" grant that would help to repair existing projects.

Other Business:

Questions were asked about the west end lots and what was happening with them. Jonn responded that Council is still in talks with Habitat for Humanity about a long-term lease on one of the lots.

It was asked what are grants that would be applicable to park projects, what match money is out there and what is most likely to get funded. Jonn responded that all of those questions are taken into consideration when looking at upcoming projects.

Meeting adjourned at 6:39pm

Respectfully Submitted by: Darby Jordan

Parks and Recreation Update October 2023

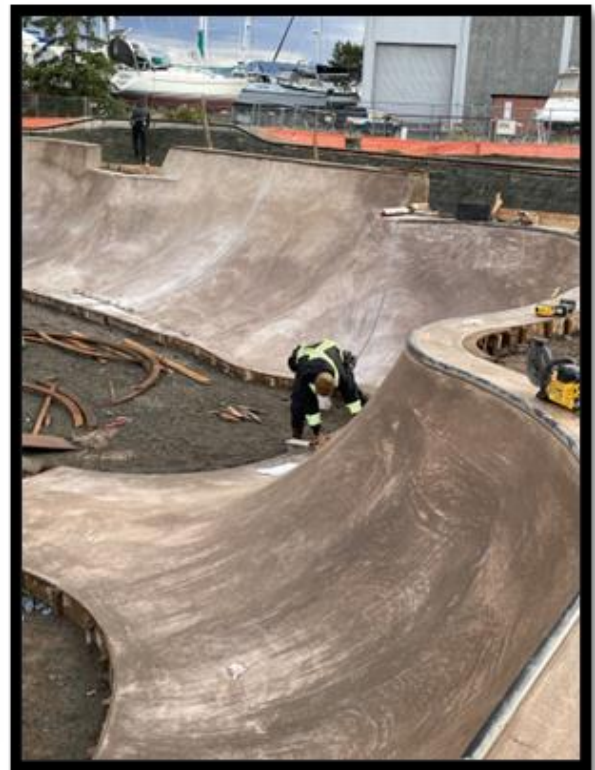
Bob Vaux, Assistant Director:

Ben Root Skate Park (BRSP) daily visits now showing rebar in preparation for shotcrete. Grindline team making great strides. We do have the Janicki folks back on site as the focus begins to shift to the pump track.

While the pump track is proving to be a bit of a challenge to build, both the Janicki and Grindline teams are coming together in the pursuit of this new BRSP element.

On Sept 25 the Shotcrete team arrived on site and began filling in the bowl. Am told these folks are the best in the business, which makes us all feel better about the weather challenges that showed up on this same day. The first 30 yards look great!

Shotcrete work continues and all involved are happy with the results.



Engineering Justin (Justin Symonds has been our Engineering inspector and project management partner on this. Can't say enough good things about him) and I did a site walk-through with the Janicki leadership team, putting some final thoughts together for the eventual wrap up landscape plan. Janicki will have an updated proposal for us soon.

Darby, Jonn and I met with Rachel Muntean and Josh Gates, working on ideas for further Ben Root **Skate Park improvement project fund raising**. We need one final push to get us comfortably to the ribbon cutting.

Samish Nation / COA Hike: Denise Crowe and I bid ACFL Steve "farewell" and thanked him for all of his great work. Our South Cranberry loop on a Thursday afternoon crossed paths with a variety of happy trail users, and all dogs on leash!!

Motorized Trail Committee Rep John Meehan and his daughter demonstrated the sound differences between a 2009 4-stroke and a 2023 2-stroke with stock exhaust. Demo was conducted on Whistle Lake parking lot access road. Bottom line; it's the operator, not the machine. Same theory applies to all user groups. Looking forward to the continued discussion.

Parks Tottenham and I spent some Labor Day weekend time searching for the latest forest residence of a couple of individuals we have been moving along for the past few years. They have made camps in a variety of places from SHIP to the ACFL. Pretty sure we found their recent activity not too far off the Mt. Erie Summit Road, near the upper third. We contacted APD who did not have the staff to join us, so will reach back out in a few days.

We did encounter some rock climbers on #214 and had a good discussion about no climbing on those rocks, as well as current and future climber issues on the mountain, i.e., unnecessary new routes continuing to show up and keeping hardware safe. Also discussed how various landowners/managers use permits to regulate numbers.

Finally, thanked Devanne for coming back this summer and filling key shifts when we had no one else. She finished up in the woods on Sept. 3.



On Sept 15 we were able to **revisit the homeless camp** mentioned above, along with two APD officers. Nobody home, but the bunker structure is one of the most elaborate ever found in the ACFL. Parks Manager Johnston, Myles and Steve from her team, and I spent a couple of hours just pulling the brush off the top of the bunker, along with a complex system of tarps, bungee cords and wire. It is going to be quite a haul moving out of there. Thanks to the Parks Team plus Recreation Travis for making this happen.

Tottenham and I also spent some time on a beautiful #239 morning working on a hazard tree removal plan.

Labor Day! Parks & Rec's favorite holiday 😊

Attended monthly safety meeting with Parks Crew. Good review of summer challenges.

Continued my **regular meetings with the Friends of the Forest**, this time with

Development and Outreach Coordinator Ashleigh Ellsworth-Keller. The Friends had a great summer, educating the masses and doing great work with so many ACFL visitors via their Trail Ambassador program. Much appreciated.

FoF Community Programs Coordinator Ellie Kravets and I met to discuss her upcoming winter hike and activity schedule. She also presented a great idea for holly eradication in the ACFL and will be discussing this further at the next Forest Advisory Board meeting.

Shout Out to Steve Lange in Engineering for working with me on the Washington Park restroom project. His review of the Civil Engineer work and getting us very close to bid documents is greatly appreciated.

Shout Out to COA GIS Manager Rob Hoxie for always being available, and especially working with me on a variety of complicated property line issues involving trees, both private and publicly owned.

September Forest Advisory Board meeting comes and goes in 30 minutes. Thank you Steve Phillips!! It will be a busy next 3 months for the FAB.

Thank you Darby for putting together our public notices for the Oct, Nov and Dec Forest Plan update meetings.

Began work with Planning on **#220 bridge replacement** project. Thank you Steve P for some great introductory documentation.

Parks Tottenham and I did some on-site recon work as well.

Also **working with Planning** on a tree jurisdictional issue in the Marine Heights neighborhood.

September Parks Commission is mostly a discussion of capital projects, and how we might pursue them.

Parks Mgr Johston and I **met at Washington Park with local Washington Trails Association** (WTA) volunteer Richard Mellon and Arlen Bogaards, WTA Northwest Regional Manager. We discussed this winter's trail project. R. and A. will get back to us with their top three choices. The working concept is to continue to improve the "outer loop" trail. You may remember they got off to a great start on this last winter.

Responded to a new Marine Heights homeowner with some tree concerns in the adjacent ACFL. Will return to the site with Arborist Steve.

Thank you Heritage Bank Trail Crew!



Heritage Bank crew: Thanks again for all your expert help in Rotary/Cap Sante Parks yesterday. We covered lots of ground--200 feet of fencing and 2 kiosks weather-proofed, more than a mile of trail pruned, multiple bags of garbage removed and the base area trailhead weeded and spruced up. Pretty good for a single afternoon, I think.

We could not have done all these necessary improvements without your effort and energy. On behalf of Anacortes Rotary and our community of park users, please accept our sincere appreciation. Kindest Regards, Tom Decker, Anacortes Rotary Centennial Project chair.

We must now bid farewell to **City Engineer Tim Hohmann**. He is truly one of our best and brightest and has been a critical link in the success of several recent Parks projects. We wish him all the best and are thankful for all he has done for the City of Anacortes.

Jonn and I are working with the new Public Works Director along with remaining staff on moving forward.

There is no specific ACFL maintenance report this month, as Steve has returned to the main body of the Parks Crew. He and the rest of the team continue to respond to a variety of issues in the woods.

Director Lunsford and I have been working on a replacement plan which has taken more time than we had hoped. There should be some action on this front soon.

Washington Park Update- This dry and warm September has kept the park busy with visitors. This summer June 1- Labor Day weekend we have had a total of 2,902 reservations and \$31,290 in reservation revenue. This September the Park received a thank you from the Washington State Department of Natural Resources for accommodating them at Washington Park this season. They had a trailer at the park that they would use to help facilitate removing over 90,000 pounds of marine debris off the San Juan Islands this summer!

We are working on improving the campsite number signs with the hopes it will help visitors navigate the difference between the first come first serve sites, reservable sites and just give the public more info. I will bring a mockup of the sign to the next meeting. We are getting ready to get new roofs on the caretaker's house and the office this fall. Thanks to Mac and his crew for helping take down the chimney at the caretaker's house in preparation of the new roof. On Sunday, Sept. 17th Washington Park hosted the Fueling Education Fun Run. The group was happy with the turnout and they did a great job taking over the park and also cleaning up after the event. Lower shower restroom hours have changed to 9:30am-8pm. The upper restrooms will be closed for the fall/winter sometime during the week of October 23rd. Special thanks to Liam, Gabe and Devanne all seasonal workers who have stayed on a little longer to work at Washington Park this September. Dean will be

back to working the split shifts at the park on the weekends. Also, Washington Park was voted **2023 Best of the Best Skagit Valley!**



Soccer Season Prep- This soccer season was all hands on deck to get fields ready for County and City Soccer. It has been a nice change to use the outfield of Volunteer baseball field for the U6 and U8 teams. Wish I would have thought of that during my era as the Recreation Coordinator. I know it takes a lot of work to put on a special event seven Saturdays in a row and I think Travis and the Parks crew are doing a great job working together to make sure all things are running smoothly. I highly encourage you to take a stroll through Kiwanis Meadow on a Soccer Saturday (*once you can find parking*) and take in the colorful sites. [#kindnessmatters](#)

Tommy Thompson Parkway- Parks crew finished installing the rest of the light bollards along the trestle! They look awesome. Attached is a photo.



Removal of Tracks- Brian has started to take apart the train tracks located behind Altair Americus Memorial Park. This will be nice to clean up this area in preparation for future plans to improve this park.

ACFL Major Encampment Clean Up- On September 20th it was a team effort to clean up an encampment that was near trail #239. Special thanks to Steve for taking the time to create a path for the crew and the gator to have easier access to the site. After about four hours of hauling the items out we filled up the back of the flatbed truck. The Anacortes Police Department is involved.

Anacortes Senior Center Landscape- A volunteer group from CTK church had a work party on Saturday, Sept. 16th at the Anacortes Senior Center. They did some cleanup of the landscape/ leaves and also stained the existing shelter. Brian also single-handedly was able to bring the grass back to life in front of the building just in time for the big celebration the center is having at the end of the month.

Ballfields- On Saturday, Sept. 23rd we rented MDD field out to the Skagit Valley College Fastpitch team for a double header. Daniel's field still being heavily used this last month by Anacortes Highschool soccer and football teams. They use the outfield for practices when they are being bumped off Rice field.

Vandalism- We have seen some consistent vandalism this past month at Tursi Park, Storvik Park playground, picnic pavilion, press box and inside the Volunteer Restroom. We have reported all of this to the Anacortes Police Department.

It's good to know as the weather starts to change the Anacortes Salvation Army and the Anacortes Family Center are joining efforts to open an Emergency Cold Weather Shelter at the Salvation Army building November- March for in the evening. They are working on finding a location for a daytime emergency cold weather shelter as well. As you know, from time to time we find people at parks or in town restrooms who might want a warm place to go. If anyone is interested in finding out more details or wants to go to the shelter they will need to reach out to the Anacortes Family Center.



Parks Crew -We are transitioning from summer to fall vibes. Turning off irrigation and getting the rain gear ready. The crew all knows what is coming... leaves and more leaves!

Recreation Staff Report:

Dustin South, Recreation Manager

Travis Anderson, Recreation Coordinator

Youth Soccer: Both County and City League teams kicked off the season with a couple weeks of practices before their first game. Games for the County League games started Saturday, September 9 with City League starting the following weekend, September 16. A bulk of games are held at Kiwanis Meadows, with games also being held at Smiley's bottom, Storvik Park, and Rice Field at Anacortes High School. Youth soccer continues to be the largest youth sport in the community with close to 600 kids participating. The early fall rains have made the practice and game fields a little soft. Hopefully the weather pattern for the remainder of the fall will be drier and the field will hold up through the remainder of the season.

Pee Wee Soccer: Another popular pee wee sport program geared towards 4–6-year-olds. The program was held on Wednesday afternoons during the month. Basic soccer skills are taught to the kids.

Ballroom Dance: The following classes were offered this month, Bachata, West Coast Swing, R&B Line Dancing, and Ladies Styling with Olivia. Registration is available for future classes on our website. Additionally, we had one free community dance on Saturday, September 16 from 6-8pm. All the dance offerings are held at the Depot.

All Ages Kick Ball League: The new league started up this fall and brought people together to relive their recess days in grade school. The program was held on Sundays and had about 20 people signed up to participate. The program was held at one of the artificial turf fields at Volunteer Park.

Tots in the Park: Class was offered this month with our average of about 20 participants. We will have more toddler programs in the future. But will most likely move indoors as the weather changes.

Dog Obedience Classes: We completed our second session this month. Both summer sessions were well received by the community. The instructor would like to offer more classes in the future, depending on her availability.

Adult Drop-in Sports: Resuming this 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). Pickle Ball started back up on Monday, September 25 and will go M, W, F from 7-9 pm. To see the latest on the drop-in sports schedule visit: <https://www.anacorteswa.gov/971/Drop-In-Programs>

Other items of interest: The Fall/Winter A-Town Publication was distributed to the community on September 21 & 22. https://issuu.com/cityofanacortes/docs/2023_a-town_fall_winter_-_final The next issue, Spring/Summer, should be distributed around the end of April 2024.

Staff, is planning to flip our Girls and Boys Youth Basketball Seasons. Traditionally, the girls season took place in November/December and the boys season was in January/February. Now the boys season will take place in

November through December and the girls season in January through February. The change will better serve those kids would participant in Dance programs and their big performance is around Christmas time. Staff is working on an agreement with Hawkeye Wrestling organization to utilize the City Hall Basement gym for their practices during the winter months. They plan to be in gym after the Boys & Girls Club closes at 6 pm, Monday through Fridays. The Hawkeyes were in desperate need of a place after they lost facility space with the Anacortes School District.

Total Volunteers Hours for September

	Drop-in Sports				
	1	X	20 hrs.		= 20
	1	X	6 hrs.		= 6
	Youth Soccer				
	9	X	20 hrs.		= 180
	51	X	12 hrs.		= 612
Total for Month				818	