



ANACORTES PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT
P.O. BOX 547, ANACORTES, WA 98221
(360) 293-1918 / (360) 293-1928

Parks & Recreation Advisory Commission

November 14th, 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 October 2023 Minutes
3. Public Comments
4. Correspondence/Communication
5. Park Projects
6. Wonderland Walk
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

October 10th, 2023

Board members present: JoAnn York-Gilmore, Brad Adams, Sarah Nichols

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: September minutes were unanimously approved as submitted.

Public Comments:

Sally Turner was in attendance to speak about the Ace of Hearts Dog Park. She shared that she and her husband Bill started the dog park 20 years ago. She stated that the park is used every day of the year, sometimes two or three times a day by the same person/dog. Since Covid and the building of higher density homes without yards, there has been an increase in use. Sally shared that the more dogs using the park, she feels there should be more money allocated in the budget. Bill and Sally would like to see the park expanded in order to serve more dogs. They are looking at grants and fundraising and have raised almost \$3,000.

Jonn shared that the baseball field can not be converted as it was built with a youth athletic grant. The other options that Parks staff has discussed with dog park users are altering the parking lot, paving the parking area, irrigation, adding gravel to the path around the park or expanding in the other direction. City staff are looking at the options as the budget is being reviewed and capital projects are being considered.

Correspondence and Communication:

Bob brought a request from the Disc Golf community. They are hoping to host their 3rd annual competition November 17th & 18th. This event has national recognition and has gone great in the past. The Board expressed support for the event.

JoAnn gave an update from the Forest Board meeting. It was a fairly short meeting with very few members of the public in attendance. The FAB is also holding meetings for the Forest Plan update. There will be two more special meetings held in 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. They are looking forward to supporting progress on the Guemes Channel Trail and other 2024 projects.

ACFL Plan Update:

Bob reported that the Forest Board and staff were surprised to see so few members of the public at the meeting. Written comments that have been submitted are being posted weekly. The goal is to have the approved plan complete prior to 2026.

Recreation Events Update:

Dustin gave an update on all of the upcoming events for the recreation department. The Mt Erie run is on October 14th followed by the Haunted Forest on October 28th. Tickets are sold out for the Haunted Forest. There will be a downtown Trick or Treat for the little kids, hosted by the Chamber and local businesses. There are team puzzle events happening each month, with the December event being an individual competition. The Winter Wonderland walk is December 8th & 9th from 5-8pm. This is a very popular event! Breakfast with Santa has been replaced with Visit the North Pole, this year held on December 12th featuring a professional blue Santa. Boys basketball will run in November and December with girls to follow.

Staff Reports:

Karl reported that the Senior Center is having a busy fall with the highlight being the fantastic 50th anniversary celebration. The Anniversary team had a meeting to organize more frequent celebrations. Next week is Fall Prevention week. Staff and volunteers are looking forward to the holidays and having some of the local school kids in to decorate. There will be new classes offered after the new year, but the hula and ballet for seniors classes are happening now and are very popular.

Nicole had nothing new to add to her report. The team is dealing with leaves and chestnuts! The ACFL maintenance job has been posted and is open until October 23rd. The small tracks behind the depot are being pulled up as part of a larger project to spruce up the area of the Depot and Jim Rice Civic park.

Bob shared that there is a volunteer work party on October 14th at A Ave and Fircrest to help pull scotch broom. There has been no work on the new Friends of the Forest executive director. The skate park is going great with the Grindline site supervisor suggesting ways to make the park even better. The builders have so much pride in the project as they are skaters themselves.

Jonn reported that he has been working on the budget for 2024, going to Council with it on October 16th. Parks will be pulling from reserves again for operational costs. Staff is looking forward to fiber finishing and funds coming back to other departments. Washington park is doing great financially, nearly doubling revenue from 2021 to 2023. Some improvements happening before the end of the year are a new pay station for the B lot parking, paving at the upper restrooms, and new signs in the campground.

Other Business:

Questions were asked about homeless camp that was dealt with, is this a unique situation? That “bunker” was the work of a father/son team that staff have been dealing with all over town for years. It was off trail #239, far enough to be hidden. It took several hours just to peel off the branches and such that made the roof, then 1700 pounds of trash were hauled out by the team. A summons has been issued by the police department to appear in court. Bob and Brian have found other forts in the ACFL and are working to disassemble them.

The Rotary has continued to help and keep up on the Centennial Trail.

There has been an increase in graffiti at all parks, mainly Tursi, Storvik and Volunteer. It is the same tag and police are aware and are contacting the schools to see if it is recognized.

The high school volleyball team may come to a future meeting to speak about having sand courts at Storvik.

The potential of having an ACFL ranger is off the table for now. It would require negotiation between two unions and a complete change to the job. It has been agreed that the school resource officer will spend the summer in the ACFL and parks. This will set the tone as tickets are issued for off leash dogs, alcohol, fires, etc, then people will take notice and obey the rules. This is great as over 40% of the City is trails or parks.

Meeting adjourned at 6:50pm

Respectfully Submitted by: Darby Jordan

Parks and Recreation Update November 2023

Bob Vaux: Assistant Director

Ben Root Skate Park Improvement Project

Like previous dispatches from the skater/pump track front, the Janicki/Grindline teamwork continues to impress and move forward in a smooth and efficient manner. The shotcrete team (former Grindline staff) have been exceptional. There is a great amount of pride being taken in this work, and the final product will reflect this. Thanks again to Engineering Justin Symonds for making the daily inspection trips with me and keeping an eye on the technicalities of the plans and the execution of same.

The first week of October brings shotcrete to the pump track. The pros from Dover are rocking it! Shout out to the shotcrete team for the impromptu site tour for our Parks Maintenance staff.

Justin and I review some creative ideas with Grindline site supervisor Mike. He and his team will do some streetscape upgrades at little or no cost to the COA. Really appreciate the thoughtfulness, along with the full support of BRSP Improvement Project Inspiration Rachel.

Shout out to Fidalgo Trail Riders Kevin Foss and Seth Kiser. We had a great site visit and preliminary test of the pump track. Their on-going support of the project has been important...not to mention the design work and construction consultations directly from Kevin.

Skagit Valley College's construction school visited the site, enjoying the insights into this unique project.

As of 10/24 the pump track is in place, and all involved are very happy. Should be quite an attraction.

Joined a meeting with the Landscape sub and Parks Tottenham. They should be on site early November, putting the finishing touches on the project.

ACFL Forest Plan Update

Written comments are coming in. I am forwarding to the Forest Advisory Board, and Darby will be posting them on the Parks & Recreation website. She is typically doing this on Thursday's.

The Oct 3rd Forest Plan update meeting was brief. Always good to hear from the community. There will be at least two more of these: Nov. 7 and Dec. 5.

Regular Oct. Forest Board meeting took 20 minutes. Appreciate FoF Ellie's plan for a holiday holly eradication forest walk.

Washington Park Restroom Project

Engineering Lead Steve Lange has finalized the civil plans from HLN Engineering, and he and Contract Specialist Tiffany Matson have the project out to bid. Bid opening is scheduled for Oct 24.

Eleven bids received, which Tiffany tells me is a big number for a COA project. She is vetting the low bidder. The contract should go to City Council on Monday, November 6th for their approval.

Heart Lake Master Plan

Director Lunsford, Parks Manager Johnston and I met on site with Beth from WA Dept of Fish and Wildlife (DFW). We reviewed the '09 Master Plan, DFW likes the options. The project is currently unfunded, but we are looking at grant options.

We also visited the 32nd Street swamp beaver deceiver and surrounding wetlands. We are exploring the possibility of removing a culvert and creating a healthier wetland. Next steps will be working with DFW on an Hydraulic Project Approval (HPA).

COA / Samish Nation Hike

Denise Crowe and I had a beautiful old growth stroll and discussion along 210 & 212.

Friends of the Forest

Continuing to meet regularly with FoF staff. Their focus now being on the fast-approaching annual auction: Saturday, November 4th. We've also got our fall volunteer work party to put the final planning touches on.

Conversations with FoF staff Ashleigh and Ellie finish this up. Special thanks to (Former ACFL) Steve for leading this work party, along with Nichola from our staff.

Director Lunsford and I met with new Executive Director Katie Early. Very positive initial discussion of the FoF / COA relationship in the woods.

ACFL Maintenance Position

Director Lunsford has been working hard with our Police and Human Resources leadership to add a law enforcement qualification to our vacant forest lands position. While all involved have done their best, the timeline for making this change has proven unmanageable, and we need to get the position filled. A required in-house only posting went out in late September.

No in-house applicants, so job now posted externally until 10/23.

We are currently reviewing the 21 applications for the job and hope to schedule interviews soon.

COUNCIL PARKS COMMITTEE

Good meeting with our three council members, along with Finance Director Steve Hoglund. Discussed a variety of capital projects and potential funding sources.

Dams

Working on Department of Ecology dam safety requirements at Little Cranberry. This is mostly updating inspection documentation and safety planning.

Farewell Tim Hohmann

As we prepare for the 10/13 departure of City Engineer Tim, Director Lunsford and I meeting with he and remaining Public Works leadership on a variety of project topics. While we are sad to see such a valuable member of the team leave, we are excited for him and his new challenges at the City of Bellingham.

Oct Parks Commission

Long time dog park volunteer gave an update on fundraising and request for support for future projects. Most of the meeting spent reviewing staff reports via Q & A.

ACFL Reconnaissance

10/3: 32nd Street Swamp + 107 off trail activity with Parks Tottenham. Putting our annual beaver deceiver plan together and checking on areas that have been neighborhood "playgrounds" over the years. We've got some clean-up to do.

10/4: #100 off of 24th motorcycle activity. Collecting photos for APD.

#241: double checking property line issue. Looks ok but will dig into some paperwork.

10/5: took Planning Sara out to the #220 bridge repair sites. She approved our emergency measures, and we will get all the paperwork in soon. Steve, Braydn and Myles doing a great job.

10/10: Arborist Steve and I met at Marine Heights residence I have been working with on some tree evaluations. Steve now doing an official hazard assessment on three struggling cedar in the adjacent ACFL.

10/13: working on some parking potential with a 29th Street neighbor.

A new residential tree concern on the east side of the Cranberry unit. Small stand of dead alder that we need to drop in the woods.

10/16: shout out to Streets Division Supervisor Brandon Lowry. We met on site at the end of 29th Street, and his team will put the finishing touches on some newly available trailhead parking up there. Special thanks to the neighbor for cleaning the space in preparation for this work.

ABPAC

Attended this monthly meeting of good folks focused on non-motorized transportation and recreation, and blending the two for the health and enjoyment of the community and many of its visitors.

More Off Trail Clean Up on Mt. Erie

Sadly, we found more shelter construction and the associated garbage near the previous site, cleaned up last month. Thanks to the Parks Crew for making another solid clean-up effort on Oct 19.

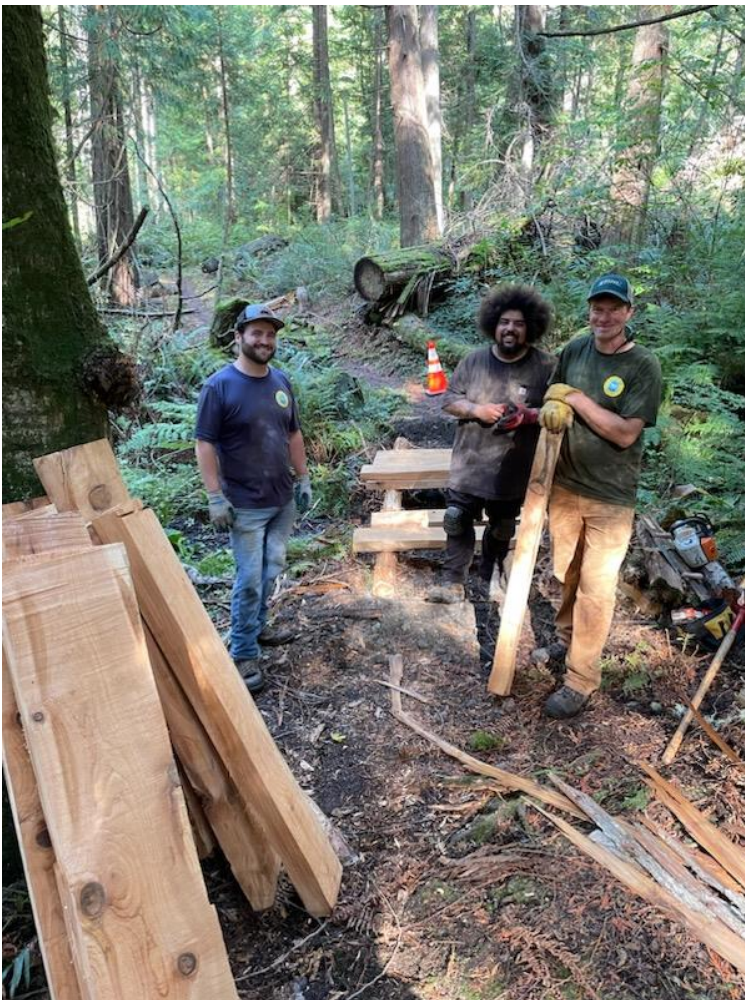
City Council

Attended 10/16 meeting. Director Lunsford did a great job of presenting our Capital Facilities Plan and answered several questions. Council members very supportive of and wanting to see action on the Guemes Channel Trail.

32nd Street Improvement Project

Attended the pre-con meeting lead by Project Manager Steve Lange. The timing is working out great so that this project and the BRSP improvement project do not get in each other's way.

Nicole Johnston: Parks Manager



- **All Hands on Deck Trail 220 Bridge Repair**
– Everyone from the crew worked on the trail 220 bridge repair. Thanks to Steve's leadership and expertise in building this bridge.
- **That's a wrap on Soccer Saturday-**
October 28th was the last Saturday for County Games on Storvik and on Oct. 21st was the last day of City games on Kiwanis Meadow/ Outfield of Volunteer. All the fields have held up, however Storvik has seen better days after all the soccer love it received this season. We will do our best to limit play on Storvik this last week of October. The AHS Football team and AHS Soccer team continued to hold practices on the outfield of Daniel's field and the Youth Football League is getting some field time on MDD and Daniels field for a few practices as well. Access to a turf field with lights is in high demand.
- **Daniels Field Press Box Project-** Working with New Creations Building to replace the flooring in the Daniels Field Press Box. This will be a fall/winter project. We are using Parks Foundation funds to cover this cost.



- **Washington Park Upper Restroom Building-** The uppers received a nice face lift with a newly paved path around the restroom building. Thanks to the Street Department for fitting this paving job into their busy schedule. In other exciting news we have purchased two new wireless pay stations to replace the current pay station in the boat lot and to add a new pay station to lot B. The two new pay stations will only take cards, the campground pay station will still take cash or card. The goal is to have these two pay stations installed before the end of the year. The Facilities Department organized the contract to have the roof replaced on the caretakers house and the Washington Park office. Next month the new restroom building, thanks to Bob for all his hard work to get the details of that project will be installed.

- **Narcan Training-** Skagit County Health Department gave the Parks Department and Human Resource Department a training on how to issue Narcan and general information on this medication that is used for the emergency treatment of known or suspected opioid overdose. Those that attended found this training to be super helpful and educational.
- **Spray Pad Closed-** Spray pad was finally turned off in early October. All irrigation at parks and facilities has been blown out. Bring on the cold weather.
- **ACFL- Major Encampment Clean Up Round Two-** Another team effort to clean up a camp in the ACFL this month. Nothing brings a team together like having to dig deep and clean up garbage and other miscellaneous things. Appreciative of the crew's positive attitude and effort to get the job done.
- **Chestnuts-** Chestnuts are all cleaned up at the cemetery and soon to be at the library. Despite the crew's effort to find a better solution to picking up the chestnuts, the backpack blowers are still the way to go!

Ace of Hearts Dog Park- Thanks to Bill & Sally Turner and a handful of dog park volunteers for having two work parties this month. They purchased gravel and created a nice walking path around the dog park.

Dustin South: Recreation Manager

Travis Anderson: Recreation Coordinator

Youth Soccer: City League soccer season wrapped up this month. County League has a couple more weeks of games, ending with a season ending tournament on November 4th. Thank you to all our volunteer coaches and teenage referees. The success of the season could not be possible without your assistance!

Boys Youth Basketball League Registration: Recreation Division is currently taking registration for the upcoming boys basketball season scheduled to start next month. Girls' basketball league registration is also open, however that season is not scheduled to start until after the first of the year. Volunteer coaches are needed for both leagues. Additionally, anyone interested in officiated games should contact the parks and recreation department.

Dallas Klope Mt. Erie Road & Trail Run: Staff organized and facilitated the 48th annual event on Saturday, October 14. The run, named after its creator Dallas Klope, offers two different routes, a 3.6-mile road run or 2.5-mile trail route up the mountain. The race challenges runner's endurance and stamina. Some people consider the fall run a tradition to cap off their fall running season. The unique race draws participants from all over the region. There were about 30 participants at this year's event. A big "Thanks" to Troop 4081 for helping along the trail route once again this year.

Puzzle Competition: The first in our fall/winter series of puzzle competitions was held on Tuesday, October 24. Most of the events are team competitions where 4 or fewer people comprise a team. Whomever assembles their 500-piece puzzle the fastest is the winner. The fastest time for this first event was a blistering 32 minutes!

Mom & Tots Workout: A new program to benefit moms and toddlers looking to burn some energy through physical activity, while developing social opportunities outside the home. This is a new twist on a consistent popular past program.

Esports Rocket League Camp: Staff offered kids in grades 3rd – 5th the opportunity to hone their Rocket League skills during the week of early release (Oct. 17-20) for elementary students. For those not familiar, Rocket League is a popular esport where kids are on teams and play soccer with cars in an arena. The camp provided participants the opportunity to learn new strategies from highly trained Vanta esport coaches.

Haunted Forest: Annual event was held on Saturday evening, October 28th, at Washington Park Loop Road. The event was popular and sold out very quickly soon after social media advertisements were posted. Many volunteers from the community make the event possible with several "scare stations" set-up along the route. The event, created by Recreation Coordinator Travis Anderson, has steadily grown in popularity each year and participants like the uniqueness of wooded area where the event is held.

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 from 8-9 pm. To see the latest on the drop-in sports schedule visit: <https://www.anacorteswa.gov/971/Drop-In-Programs>

Other items of interest: Preparation for the Wonderland Walk is currently taking place. The event will be held on Friday & Saturday, December 8 & 9 from 5-8 pm at Washington Park. If you'd like to volunteer for the event or decorate a campsite with a light display, please email: dustins@cityofanacortes.org.

Visit the North Pole (Santa) replaced Breakfast with Santa event and will take place on Tuesday, December 12 from 4-6 pm at the Anacortes Senior Activity Center. Kids and Families can sign-up for a time to visit "Blue Santa" and take a picture with the jolly fella'. Visit our website at: <https://www.anacorteswa.gov/1490/Visit-The-North-Pole>

Total Volunteers Hours for October



Drop-in Sports

1	X	20 hrs.	= 20
1	X	6 hrs.	= 6



Mt. Erie Road and Trail Run

Troop 4081

12	X	2 hrs.	= 24
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Youth Soccer

9	X	20 hrs.	= 180
51	X	12 hrs.	= 612



Haunted Forest

30	X	4 hrs.	= 160
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Total for Month

1,002

Jonn Lunsford: Director

Budget Preparation for 2024: Parks and Recreation staff will go before City Council in November, likely on Monday night the 13th to discuss our budget proposal for the coming year. Our Capital Facilities Plan will also be considered by City Council before the budget is finalized this year. No specific date has been set for that discussion.

Request for Qualifications for Thompson Trail Planning Project: The City has been working with our partners at the Samish Indian Nation and the Department of Natural Resources to get this out for review. We should have final proposals back by the end of the month and select a proposal by early December.