



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

December 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 November 2023 Minutes
3. Public Comments
4. Correspondence/Communication
5. Park 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

November 14th, 2023

Board members present: JoAnn York-Gilmore, Brad Adams, Alex Hernandez, Chris Hansen

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: October minutes were unanimously approved as submitted.

Public Comments:

Brian Wetcher was in attendance to speak about sand volleyball at Storvik Park. He shared that the broken concrete is not safe or usable as is and proposed removing it and replacing with a gravel base and play sand on top. He shared that there is room for two volleyball courts there and the possibility of refurbishing the horseshoe pits. Brian feels this is the lowest maintenance option for the space and feels that there is a group that would be willing to fundraise for poles and nets, as well as performing maintenance at time of use. Two courts could serve up to 24 people at a time. The equipment that Brian has researched is provided by Volleyball USA, a local company with national experience. He would request adjustable nets to allow for men's and women's play and feels there could be a U12 boys and girls team by next year. Brian's ask of the Board was that they commit to recommend the sand volleyball as the suggested use of the area. Jonn shared that Storvik Park is in the budget/CFP for next year with a request from Council to allocate \$100,000 for improvements.

Correspondence and Communication:

JoAnn gave an update from the Forest Board meeting. There have been small numbers at the public comment sessions for the Forest Plan with most comments coming in through written submission. There will be one more in person meeting for this in December. The new executive director for Friends of the Forest was introduced-Katie Earley. Her bio and details are on the website for the Friends.

Jonn reported on the Parks Foundation. They are looking forward to supporting progress on the Guemes Channel Trail and other 2024 projects.

Parks Projects:

There are a number of projects happening at this time:

The Skate Park ribbon cutting will be held on December 7th at 3pm. The lights are delayed but Janiki is working with the supplier to get these in as soon as possible. All other aspects are going great. The landscaping is going in now and the sidewalks are poured. The R Avenue project has been started so parking

and access is a challenge. The Tommy Thompson Parkway restroom may be moving onto skate park property, but this is still in the works.

The Washington Park restroom project contract has been approved by council. This will be placed at the north edge of the shop. The sewer line will go pass the shop and through the trees and hook up near the dumpster. This may require some trees to come down, but they will be replanted. This restroom will look similar to Storvik, just smaller.

Staff Reports:

Dustin reported that gym space is tight right now and Staff are doing their best to accommodate everyone. Boys basketball has started and girls will be held after the first of the year. There will be another puzzle event on Thursday, the 2nd of the season, with 4 person teams and a 500 piece puzzle. There will be an individual competition in December with a 300 piece puzzle. The North Pole event will be held on December 12th at the Senior Center, and the Wonderland Walk on December 8 & 9 from 5-8pm.

Karl reported that Lea will be retiring before Christmas. She will be around the Center as a participant but she will be missed as a staff member. She has been with the Center for over 20 years. The Center is getting ready for holiday events as well as Lea's retirement party. They are offering more classes in the new year as well as looking at adding staff for programs such as "Tools for Caregivers", providing training and support.

Bob shared that Staff is working on getting a new ACFL technician hired soon. There were 21 applicants and it is now down to two finalists. The entire parks crew has helped in the vetting process.

Jonn reported that requests for proposals of feasibility for the Trestle replacement have been posted. This is a study to remove the rip rap and pilings as well as replace the Trestle entirely. This is a joint project between the City, Samish and DNR. There is no funding for the actual project yet but the study is grant funded. Jonn also shared that the budget has been presented to Council and now is in deliberation. The Parks Council Committee expressed concern about coverage for the parks and ACFL in the summer. The Skate park funding is about 350,000 short, but this was a known shortfall. Council is discussing event space around town as the Transit Shed will no longer be available. One of these includes placing a tent on the Depot plaza but there are still many questions and details to sort through.

Other Business:

None

Meeting adjourned at 7:15pm

Respectfully Submitted by: Darby Jordan

Parks and Recreation Update December 2023

Nicole Johnston: Parks Manager

Ace of Hearts Dog Park- Many volunteers have come together over three Saturday's this past month and created a nice walking gravel path around the dog park. We have received positive reviews and every time I go up to the park I see many people enjoying the walking path. This was great that the community reached out to our department and that we were able to work together to improve the space.

Crew Update- We are happy to announce that we have hired a new ACFL Parks Maintenance Technician. His name is James Burroughs, his first day will be Dec. 11th. Other exciting news is that our very own Nichola Mitchell passed her CPSI (Certified Playground Safety Inspection) examination. This is a challenging test and we are very fortunate and happy for her that she passed.

Washington Park- Our new pay stations for Boat Lot and B Lot have arrived. We will work to get those installed ASAP. This was a part of the pre-con meeting for the new restroom project. The contractor has 20 days to complete that project. We talked about putting up a reader board to let the public know about the project. Very few campers at Washington Park, lots of walkers and lot of boaters this past month. Parks crew is ready for the Wonderland Walk Dec. 8 & 9.

Downtown Restroom Hours- With Daylight saving time ending on Nov. 5th the downtown restrooms which are Volunteer Park, Heart of Anacortes, Depot, Tommy Thompson and Storvik have the operating hours of 6am-4pm.

Volunteer Park Update- The Parks Department received another generous \$20,000 donation into the Volunteer Park- Parks Foundation Fund. This is to be used for maintenance needs for the ballfields. We are working with New Creations to fix the flooring inside the Daniels Field Press box and we are thinking of a solid plan to replace or improve the outfield wall on Volunteer Field. We have noticed some serious rot that we need to address.

Skate Park- This is not my project to update the board on, but I was recently onsite, and I am just amazed at how spectacular the pump track and skatepark have turned out. I am still a little worried about mowing the grass inside the pump track, but I am sure we will figure it all out. Nice work Bob. Took a photo this week of the park enjoying how clean everything looks.

Tracks Being Removed- Skagit River Steel was onsite on Nov. 29th to remove the tracks behind the Altair Park. Parks crew will clean up the area, haul away some debris, improve the driveway area behind the W.T. Preston and remove the scotch broom.



Other Misc Park Things- Made sure all irrigation has been winterized, cleaning up leaves at the cemetery, Police Department, the museum and Causland Park. Crew trimmed all the headstone before Veteran's Day weekend and have been busy installing markers at the cemetery.

Recreation Staff Report: Dustin South: Recreation Manager and Travis Anderson: Recreation Coordinator

Boys Youth Basketball League: Staff switched the time of year for the boys and girls leagues to better accommodate participants and their families. The boys season started practices at the beginning of the month and games started on Saturdays soon thereafter. We have seen an increased number of participants due in large part to a switch in the time of year the league is offered. Our teenage staff continue to referee games and they do a great job. We did have to postpone games on Saturday, December 2 due to referee, coach, and player availability. Looking to reschedule those games after Christmas break. Girls basketball season will start once the boys has completed.

Dance Classes: November offered Waltz and Rumba classes on Tuesdays and Ladies Styling Classes on Wednesdays. However, this class was canceled due to the instructor's lack of availability. Next community dance is scheduled for Sunday, December 10 at the Depot. No classes will be offered in December due to the Depot availability. Staff is working with the Port of Anacortes to acquire their portable dance floor at the end of the year so it can be used at a few different community dance events next year.

Puzzle Competition: The second in our fall/winter series of puzzle competitions was held on Thursday, November 16. 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. A little more challenging puzzle this time around slowed teams down and the first team got theirs assembled in a little over one hour. The next event, Dec. 14, will be an Individual Puzzler competition, participants will have a 300-piece challenge.

Messy Me: Another popular toddler program that has a slightly different twist. Participants get to experience playing and interacting with all kinds of messy, squishy, and slimy materials. Kids have the opportunity to be creative and have fun in the process.

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. The program is open to toddlers ages 1-3.

Adult Drop-in Sports: We had to adjust some of the ongoing program times to accommodate some other gym use. Adult Volleyball takes place at Fidalgo Elementary on Wednesday and Friday evenings from 8-9:30 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 8-9:30 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: Staff are making final preparations for the Wonderland Walk event on Friday & Saturday, December 8 & 9, from 5-8 pm. 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 November

 Drop-in Sports
2 X 27 hrs. = 54

 Boys Youth Basketball
24 X 8 hrs. = 192

Total for Month 246

Assistant Director Report: Bob Vaux

Ben Root Skate Park Improvement Project

We are down to the final days of concrete, reflecting on the amazing efforts and creativity of the Grindline construction team. Can't wait for the ribbon cutting.

On Oct 31 we bade farewell to the Grindline fellas, many thanks and hearty handshakes all the way around. Now working with Janicki on the lighting, drainage and top dressing.

Started planning the ribbon cutting with Rachel and Sheri from the skateboard non-profit. A larger scale celebration will happen in the spring.

Some of the current work involves coordination with "R" Ave project contractor SVR on sidewalk work and access. Thanks to SVR for their cooperation.

The ribbon cutting will be happening Thursday, Dec. 7th, 3PM.

Washington Park Restroom Project

Working with Steve in Engineering and Tiffany in Legal on the bid acceptance. Also reviewing Building Permit with Rob in Planning.

Council approved the civil contract with Blackfish Civil Infrastructure on 11/6.

Shout out to Cheri and Aaron in Planning for their assistance on getting the appropriate permitting documents assembled and submitted.

Building Permit approved: 11/20.

ACFL Maintenance Tech Hiring

We had 21 applications for the position made vacant by ACFL Steve. The City now mandates the application review process be anonymous. Six finalists were selected by a Parks & Rec review team without knowing the name of the applicant as well as no reference information.

A team of four conducted our first interview on the 6th, and then five more the following day. Each interview proved to be worthwhile, every candidate bringing different strengths to the process. We decided on two finalists.

Parks Manager Johnston and I, along with our Parks Maintenance Team, interviewed our two finalists, both making a final decision tough.

The job has been offered and accepted. Our new staff member will be starting with us on Monday, December 11th.

Friends of the Forest

Good meeting with Ashleigh. FoF staff very focused on the annual fundraising event. Looking forward to the celebration.

11/4 great annual FoF event. Lots of generous and smiling faces supporting the incredibly important education work the Friends keep expanding each year.

New Exec Dir Katie Early and I getting a regular meeting schedule together. Had a good Forest Plan discussion with she and Ellie K.

Trees

10/30: took a look at a tree in the Orchards neighborhood for Planning. It's dead and a good candidate for a habitat tree.

11/17: another Orchards site visit. Small ACFL tree down on a fence. No damage. Neighbor willing to clean up.
11/27: catching up on hazard tree removal permitting in the ACFL, all neighbor related and supported.

Meetings

11/2 attended Tailgate Safety with Parks Crew.
11/2 new FoF Executive Director Katie Early introduces herself to the Forest Advisory Board.
11/6 Recreation Travis and I traveled to Bellingham for a solid Washington Recreation and Park Association regional gathering. Association leadership working on an updated strategic plan, travelling the state to gather input.
11/7 another relatively quiet and brief Forest Plan public input meeting with the FAB.
11/13 2024 budget review at Council. Director Lunsford did a very nice job presenting our mostly hold the line numbers. No questions were asked.
11/14 Good Parks Commission discussion of sand court volleyball possibility at Storvik, along with other project updates.
11/16 senior staff met with our Parks Council Committee, updating them on various projects and some 2024 budget goals.

ACFL Recon

- new parking on 29th Street works great. Shout out to Brandon Lowry and our Streets Division, along with the adjacent homeowner.
- 32nd Street Swamp Beaver Deceiver rounds. Water level still not up to intake. Parks Tottenham also keeping a close eye on it.
- did some 123/108/107 on and off trail patrol. Mountain biker with off leash dog refused my request to stop. Off trail activity seems to have slowed. Great to see the swan on Big Beaver.
- Director Lunsford was able to update our 32nd Street Swamp HPA with WDFW. This allows us to continue to notch area beaver dams by hand, keeping the adjacent human neighborhood from flooding.

Other Updates: Jonn Lunsford, Director

Wishing Lea a Happy Retirement: Lea Dever is retiring this month after over 20 years serving the Senior Activity Center. Please stop by to wish her the best from 1pm to 3pm on December 21 at the Center. You can see more about this in the Senior Center newsletter.

Thompson Trail Planning Project: City Staff is working with Hanson Professional Services on a Scope of Work and contract for the feasibility study to remove the trestle and causeway and replace it with another overwater structure. The goal of the project is to remove the 700 or more creosote piling and tons of rip rap dumped into the bay to return the healthy ecosystem that once existed there. Project funding is made possible by the State of Washington's Recreation and Conservation Office and other funds secured by the Samish Indian Nation.

Cap Sante Lookout Meeting: The Rotary Club has been planning for a Neighborhood informational meeting on December 12 at 7pm in the City Council Chambers. Parks Staff will be working with them to explain the concept for a new viewpoint on Cap Sante.