



ANACORTES PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT

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Anacortes Community Forest Lands Advisory Board

January 4, 2024
6pm

In person and virtual meeting options.
In Person: City Hall, Council Chambers
Zoom Meeting Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88308344363>

Preliminary Agenda

1. Call to Order
2. Introduce new ACFL Maintenance Technician, Jamie Burroughs
3. Annual Board Chair Election
4. Approve December '23 Minutes
5. Public Comments *for any item not on the agenda*
6. 2026 Forest Plan Update Discussion
 - a. Public comment review schedule
7. Friends of the Forest Update
8. Staff Report
9. Parks Commission Update
10. Other Business

Adjourn

Minutes of the Meeting: December 7th, 2023

Board members present: Brian Wetcher, JoAnn York-Gilmore, Tabb Stringer, Nathan Schwarck

Staff present: Bob Vaux, Darby Jordan

Meeting held in person and via Zoom and called to order at 6:00PM

Minutes: November minutes were unanimously approved.

Public Comments:

None

2026 Forest Plan Update Discussion:

The third special meeting for public comment on the Forest Plan was held on Tuesday. Written comments will be taken through January 3rd, 2024 to be complete before the next regular Forest Board meeting. All written comments received to date are posted on the Parks website. New comments are collected and typically added each week. Anyone can sign up for notification when new comments are posted with the “Notify Me” feature on the City website. The Parks staff will gather all comments and put into a matrix to sort and organize. Then the Board will give their feedback as the next step in the process.

Friends of the Forest Update:

Ellie was in attendance and reported that they have completed their kindergarten and 3rd grade programs in the district. They are preparing for the next session of their Naturalist program that will begin the end of January.

Staff Reports:

Bob announced that the new ACFL tech starts on Monday and will be at the January meeting to be introduced to the Board.

The Board asked about how often staff come across off-leash dogs in the ACFL. Bob responded that it is one of the biggest and most ongoing issues. There is a City ordinance that prohibits off leash dogs.

Parks Commission Report:

JoAnn reported on the Parks Board meeting. There is a proposal in the 2024 budget for Storvik park restoration in the northwest corner of the park. There has been some community interest in a sand volleyball court. This weekend is the Winter Wonderland Walk at Washington park, Friday and Saturday evenings from 5-8pm. The Skate Park ribbon cutting was today and was well attended with excitement from kids and adults alike. The Washington park

restroom project will be started in January and will require some trees to come down to allow for the sewer line. There will be trees planted as replacements.

Other Business:

Bob thanked the Board for their attendance and help with the additional meetings over the last few months for the Forest Plan.

Adjourn at 6:20pm

Respectfully Submitted by Darby Jordan

December 2023
Assistant Director's Report
Bob Vaux
Submitted: Dec 22, 2023

BEN ROOT SKATE PARK IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

Parks Team leadership Johnston and Tottenham joined myself and Janicki Team leadership for a punch list walk thru on 11/29. Very little left to do prior to the ribbon cutting. A little more sod and hydro seed will be put down. Light standards are still due on Dec 9th, so we will open without them. Janicki will install as soon as they are delivered.

Sadly, the light vendor is only sending bad news. Janicki has informed us that the 12/9 delivery date is now a pipe dream. We are looking at a variety of options at this time.

Happily, we cut the ribbon on Dec. 7, and the park was immediately flooded with lots of smiles and daring deeds! So many thank you's for the multitude of folks involved in getting this project (almost) done. Stay tuned on the lights front.

WASHINGTON PARK RESTROOM PROJECT

Site work bid winner Blackfish Civil Infrastructure finally got their insurance paperwork updated and submitted. The work has been given the go ahead from Legal as of 11/29. Justin Symonds from Engineering is the assigned inspector.

Held the Pre-Con on 11/30. Good discussion. Looks like the project will be lined out for Jan 3-31.

Notice to Proceed issued on Dec 14th. Jan. 3 still the start date.

NEW ACFL MAINT. TECH. JOINS THE TEAM

Stoked to welcome Jamie Burroughs to the team on Dec. 11. Looking forward to working with him over the next few months as he gets to know his ACFL job. Please give him a hearty handshake when you see him on the trails.

TRANSITION FIDALGO

Great meeting with Eric Shen, Robbie from the WSU Extension Office and Nick from the Conservation District.

Reviewed a grant submission for work on the baseline forest health study we are hoping to put together for the ACFL.

ACFL RECON

11/29 Denise Crowe and I conducted our monthly Samish/COA visit. Covered the 114/108/123/106/10 loop. A beautiful walk with only one dog off leash (hiker). We happened onto Ellie, Hannah and the FoF after school nature club at the trailhead. Kids were happy.

5 Parks Tottenham and I met at the 32nd Street Swamp. We reviewed the new HPA from WDFW allowing us to do hand work on beaver dams. We will continue with low impact notching as we have over the years, protecting the adjacent homeowners and creating jobs for the beaver population.

14 Parks Tottenham, ACFL Jamie and I conducted the annual dam inspections required by DOE. Both structures are in-tact and doing their jobs.

WONDERLAND WALK DEC 8 & 9

Perfect night #1. Served on the parking team. No rain or wind. Folks really enjoying themselves.

Night #2 rather windy and rainy. Parking team went home early as we never exceeded the capacity of the boat lot.

TREES

19 Site visit with ACFL neighbor at 37th and "A", along with Olsen Tree Service. Some ACFL edge alder are reaching far over the private property line. Dan will take them down and leave them in the woods.

SOME TOUGH NEWS...

19 Learned that Travis Anderson will be leaving us to be closer to his parents. He has had a very positive impact upon our department (not to mention his work on the high school football field). Thank you Travis for being a good guy and working so hard on behalf of Anacortes Parks & Recreation.

...ON A HAPPIER NOTE

21 Attended Lea DeVere's retirement open house at the Anacortes Senior Activity Center. She has been such a critical element in the services provided up there for a long, long time. All the best to Lea!

MEETINGS

11/30 Final Wonderland Walk staff prep meeting. All hands getting ready for this annual holiday shindig at Washington Park.

1 BRSP walk through with Gary Robinson, who lit the original fire on skate parks in this town. He loves the new design.

5 Forest Advisory Board 2026 Forest Plan Update Public Input Special Meeting: the FAB held its 5th meeting in 3 months, and it was another quick one. Two folks got up to speak.

7 Parks Crew Safety Meeting. Focus on winter conditions.

7 Great regular discussion with FoF Ex. Dir. Katie Early. Friends very interested in helping educate their membership on the '26 Forest Plan update.

7 Regular Forest Advisory Board meeting: another quick one. Big announcement that on Monday 12/11, James Burroughs, our new ACFL Maint. Tech., will be starting his new job. He will be joining us at the January FAB meeting.

12 Parks Commission discussion focused on reviews of this year's Wonderland Walk. PC asking about a No Dogs policy at the event.

18 Council passes the 2024 budget, and Director Lunsford provides update on the skate park improvement project. We still need about \$330K to complete the funding. Donations still being accepted!

20 regular ACFL work group meeting with Jamie and Steve. Focused on beaver rounds. Jamie eager to learn and do the job.

VACATION/HOLIDAY LEAVE

Taking Dec 23 – Jan 1 off.