



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

Parks & Recreation Advisory Commission

January 9th, 2024 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 December 2023 Minutes
3. Public Comments
4. Correspondence/Communication
5. 2024 Projects
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

December 12th, 2023

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

Staff present: Jonn Lunsford, Bob Vaux, Karl Wolfswinkle, Nicole Johnston

Meeting held by Zoom and in person at City Hall

Called to order at 6:04pm

Minutes: November minutes were unanimously approved as submitted.

Public Comments:

None

Correspondence and Communication:

JoAnn gave an update from the Forest Board. They held their last Forest Plan special meeting on December 5th. The Board will continue to take written comments until January 3rd and then staff will review all comments to create a matrix of trends to present to the Board at the February meeting. Jamie is the new ACFL tech and started yesterday. He has five seasons of experience at Deception Pass State Park as a seasonal. The team is excited to welcome him to the crew.

Jonn reported on the 2024 budget. The City Council did not pass the budget last night as many council members were absent. However, the Depot rental prices did get adopted into the unified fee schedule to better keep up with costs associated with running it. Washington Park revenue continues to rise each year. 2024 will bring a slight fee increase as these costs are also on the unified fee schedule and are adjusted each year. Lot B at Washington Park, the overnight vehicle parking, will get an automated pay station in early January. Discussion continued about park projects and funding sources.

Staff Reports:

Karl reported that the Senior Center's biggest news is the retirement of Lea, the current Administrative Assistant. She has been with the Center for nearly 20 years. There will be an open house on December 21st to celebrate. Karl will be taking on her duties at this time and staff is looking to hire a replacement in the new year.

Nicole shared that the Washington Park fee increase takes effect on January 1st, 2024 with reservations for 2024 opening on December 15th at 8am. The new year will also bring an upgrade to the boat lot parking and a new pay station for Lot B. The campground machine will be the only machine that will take cash once the new

machines are installed. The team is thankful to have the Wonderland Walk completed. It was a very busy Friday night and Saturday ended up quite wet, so much less attendance.

Bob shared that the skate park is complete and the ribbon was cut today! It was a great event and the park is very popular already. The lights are delayed from the manufacturer but Janicki is working on a solution. The next project to kick off is the Washington Park restroom. This work is scheduled for January 3-31.

Other Business:

None

Meeting adjourned at 6:45pm

Respectfully Submitted by: Darby Jordan

Parks and Recreation Update January 2024:

Recreation Update: Dustin South, Recreation Manager & Travis Anderson Recreation Coordinator

Boys Youth Basketball League: Games and practices took place throughout the month. Games on Saturday, December 2nd were postponed to Saturday, January 6th so that people could cheer on the AHS Football team at the State Championship Game in Seattle. Thank you to our Student Recreational Assistants and volunteer coaches for all their efforts this season. We are getting ready to begin the girls basketball season after the first of the year.

Wonderland Walk: The event was held on Friday and Saturday, December 8 & 9 from 5:00 – 8:00 p.m. Attendance was the busiest we've seen on Friday night and very slow on Saturday. A handful of booth vendors opted to not attend on Saturday due to the weather. Vendors decorated their sites well, we had school choirs which added to the ambiance, and parking did become challenging at certain points of the night. Thanks to the Parks Maintenance Crew for their help setting up the week prior and for helping parks cars and light campfires on both nights of the event. Other City departments that were involved this year included Senior Center, Street Department, Sanitation Department, Fire Department, and the Arts Commission. Thanks to Council member Christine Cleland-McGrath, Parks and Recreation Commission member JoAnn York-Gilmore, and ASD board member Heather Brennan for volunteering as greeters at the event.

Visit North Pole: Blue Santa visited Anacortes from the north pole. About 65 people (roughly 30 families) stopped by the Senior Center on Tuesday, December 12, from 4-6pm to say hello and get their picture with the big guy himself. This was a new Santa for the event, and he did a great job. Kids were given a stuffed animal thanks to the Forgotten Children's Fund. Parents appreciated having scheduled times to visit so they didn't have to stand in a line.

Puzzle Competition: We had an individual competition on Thursday, December 14. Nine people registered and participated in the event. Our next event, team competition, is Wednesday, January 17.

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 can 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: Travis Anderson, Recreation Coordinator, for the Parks and Recreation Department will leave employment with the City of Anacortes on January 3rd. Travis has been a huge asset to the community. His enthusiasm and energy has helped our recreation programs flourish to their full potential. Staff is working on getting the position posted so we can someone on board in time for spring/summer preparation.

Total Volunteers Hours for December

	Drop-in Sports				
	2	X	16 hrs.	=	32

	Boys Youth Basketball				
	24	X	9 hrs.	=	216

	Visit North Pole				
	2	X	2 hrs.	=	4

	Wonderland Walk				
	50	X	6 hrs.	=	300

	Total for Month				552

Bob Vaux: Assistant Director:

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.

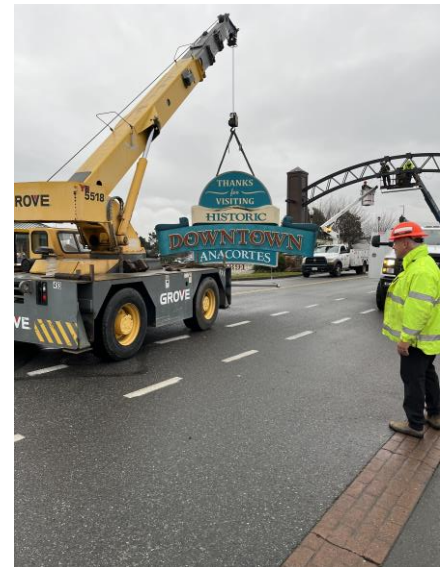
Parks Manager Nicole Johnston:

Below are a few highlights from the month of December.

Downtown Arch Removal- Parks crew worked with Streets and Facility Departments to take down the Welcome to Anacortes sign across commercial. Downtown Alliance is working to improve the sign.



Washington Park- Opened Up 2024 Camping reservations on Dec. 15th and within two weeks we have \$50,561 in camping venue already. Record breaking numbers. As you know we hosted the Wonderland Walk at Washington Park. Friday night was fantastic, so many people and cars.



Tommy Thompson Parkway- Below is the details of the TTP use for the 2023 year. Total user for the 2023 year is 136,163 with the peak day for the year being Saturday, Sept. 9th with a high of 1,535.

Period	January 1, 2023 → December 21, 2023
Time	Tommy Thompson Trail
January	3,900
February	2,402
March	10,803
April	9,165
May	15,178
June	17,029

July	20,955
August	18,203
September	15,169
October	10,350
November	7,064
December	5,945

Community Garden-Currently there is one 1/2 plot available. If anyone is interested in gardening about the ACG please reach out to Darby.



City Holiday Christmas Party- Thanks to the City for hosting all city employees for a holiday lunch. Obviously the Parks crew brought the most holiday spirit.

New Staff Member- Jamie Burroughs started on Dec.11th. He is doing a great job and we are so happy to have him on board.

Looking forward to the New Year, building a new cemetery office and spending more time in the parks is top on my list for 2024!

Director's Report: Jonn Lunsford

Thanks to Lea DeVere and Travis Anderson: We are able to do the work in the city thanks to our staff and volunteers. We are sad to say farewell to our Senior Activity Center Assistant Lea DeVere and our Recreation Coordinator Travis Anderson. Both have given generously of their time and talents to the community and improved what we do. We wish them both the very best.

We are working with our partners at the Samish Nation and the Department of Natural Resources on our planning grant for the Thompson Trail Trestle replacement project. It is essentially a feasibility study of what it would take to replace the trestle and causeway and what would be the benefits to the health of Fidalgo Bay. We will bring this study to City Council once we have completed the data collection.