



ANACORTES PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT

P.O. BOX 547, ANACORTES, WA 98221

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

Parks & Recreation Advisory Commission

February 13th, 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 January 2024 Minutes
3. Public Comments
4. Correspondence/Communication
5. Storvik Park Planning 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

January 9th, 2024

Staff in Attendance: Karl, Jonn, Bob, Nicole & Dustin

Parks Commission in Attendance: Brad, Joann, Sarah & Alex

6pm Call to order

No edits to December minutes

Joann motion to approve minutes and Brad second the motion.

No public comments

Correspondence/ Communication:

Jonn shared that the Parks Foundation met and they are excited about GCT and the Little Cranberry project and will continue to be primary supporters of that project.

JoAnn shared that the Forest Board is excited to hear Jonn come and talk to them in February about the Little Cranberry Project. The Forest Board is working on the next steps for updating the Forest Plan. In March the board will revisit the plan.

2024 Projects:

Jonn updated that the City Council wants an EIS (Environment Impact Statement) for the GCT project. This will cost the City \$400,000 to have this impact statement done. The focus of this study will be from the Washington State Ferry to town. Bob shared that the EIS gets all the science on the table to help move along on the project. The EIS will be the gateway to the GCT project moving along. The Planning Department is the Project Manager on the GCT. Council and Mayor strongly support moving forward with the project.

Another project is Storvik Park and what to do in the unutilized area of the park where the horse shoe pits were. Parks will have to come up with a plan for that space, have a public meeting and follow all the steps required. The hope is to start planning for the Storvik Project this winter.

Jonn will be going to City Council for the Skatepark Project and ask to use \$360,000 in REET to cover the cost of the project.

This is a grant year with RCO (Recreation and Conservation Office) and we are looking to go for grants for the West Side Park and the Heart Lake Master Plan.

Department Reports:

Dustin shared that Boys Basketball wrapped up. Girls is starting this week. Travis has left and the Recreation Coordinator job has been posted and will be open for 3 weeks or so. Next week Dustin has more puzzle competitions and is starting to think about summer planning. Dustin gave a recap of the Wonderland Walk event and thanked all Parks people who were involved. Great turn out on Friday night. Joann was super excited about the cookies used for the smores. Blue Santa event was a success with a total of 75 people . Dustin thanked Karl for the recommendation.

Bob shared that the Washington Park restroom project is happening and all is going well. They had to take down 18 to 20 trees to make room for the sewer line. First flush will be at the end of January. Bob shared that Jamie Burroughs the new ACFL Parks Maintenance crew member is doing great. Bob will be spending time working on the Forest Plan. The Skatepark lights have still not arrived and our legal department is involved now helping move the process along to get those lights, nonetheless the community is loving the skatepark and we have received a lot of positive reviews.

Karl shared that he was happy with the number of people who were at the center today, despite the weather. The center is offering a CPR class for the volunteers tomorrow. He is keeping an eye on the weather and will do what is needed to keep the center open or close if not safe for volunteers and visitors to attend. Karl is getting used to having Lea gone and learning new parts of her job. He really appreciated Darby doing the newsletter this last month. The Senior Center Coordinator job has been posted. Looking to fill this position ASAP. The Senior Center has a retreat coming up and Eric Johnson is the new President of the Foundation. Karl is looking forward to working with him.

Nicole shared the parks crew has spent time cleaning up behind the Preston. The crew is working to winterize that space. Future plans for that area are still up in the air, but we would like to prep the ground and throw grass seed down this spring. The cemetery office project is at the top of Nicole's list. Looking to replace the office with a Heritage Portable Building. Planning for seasonal staff already. The goal is to post the summer jobs in early February.

Jonn is working on the Trestle research that is going to happen. Jonn shared that PSE is still needing to install the camera. The Rotary Club went to City Council for the View Point Project and the city council pulled them off the funding they were hoping to receive from LTAC. The City Council is wanting more information on the project and Rotary and Jonn will plan to go back to Council. Jonn shared that he would also like to include a trail on the East Side of Cap and to do this project in house. The Depot Plaza project also got pulled from the LTAC funding and they also needing more time and information on plans for that south side area. The idea to add more pavers, a stage and temporary tent. Jonn's focus will be hiring the new Recreation Coordinator and the new Senior Center Coordinator.

Questions? No questions were asked.

Alex and Chris will both need to go to council to renew their position on the commission.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:48pm.

Submitted by Nicole Johnston

Parks and Recreation Update: February 2024

Parks Update: Nicole Johnston, Parks Manager

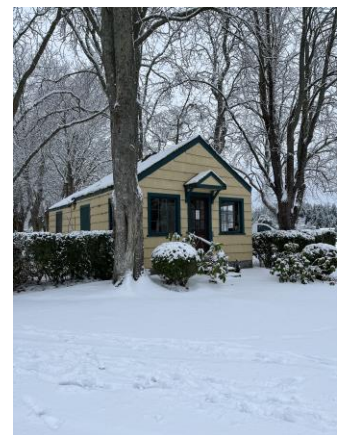
Washington Park- Washington Park has been quiet this past month with campers/ boaters. However it has been very busy with the contractors working on the new restroom building. We had to push pause on the install of the pay machines and wait for our Ventek Rep to be onsite to make sure everything switches over correctly. We are now planning to install the new pay machines in early February. We do have a group who reached out to me about boring 6 trees in the Green Point area. The group is looking to know the age of the trees from the eastern edge of the former meadow to the western edge. Once they have their recordings they will share with the Parks Department. The Salish Sea School is also reaching out about planting camas at Green Point. We are waiting to receive a few more details from them before we consider their planting event. Jonn and I met with our facilities department about adding some light poles near the boat lot pay machine. Also, we are going to try something new with the dumpster location at the park. Looking to move it away from the entrance to the park and have it placed near the office.

Snow Days- Parks crew survived the snow days and freezing temps and found that the plow attachment on our new cemetery mower to be super helpful. Mt. Erie Road, Little Cranberry Road and the Washington Park loop road all remained closed during the snow days. No major incident happened during the big cold spell at any of our parks or facilities so that is exciting.



Grand View Cemetery Office Demo- I am in the process of submitting the demo permit with the City Building department. Part of that permit is contacting the NW Clean Air Agency and submitting details about the existing cemetery office that was built in 1948. That building is 78 years old and the NW Clean Air Agency is asking to have the building surveyed for asbestos. So once that survey is complete on Feb. 5th I will know

more on what direction I need to move next on the project. This is what the new office building is going to look like. I will make plans to work with Darby to do a social media post before we start the demo.



Baseball Field Prep- AJ has created his to do list for the various ball fields and we are making plans to have Ewing outdoor supplier come over to Anacortes to do a field day on the Volunteer Baseball mound. The plan is to invite a few local agencies to come over and learn from the experts at Ewing on how to build a pitcher's mound. Anacortes High School Baseball season starts Feb. 26th. The first set of games is the week of March 11th. AJ is having a high school work party on Saturday, Feb. 24th. High school players, parents and coaches will help weed, wash signs, pressure wash and help clean up the concession stands. SABA is taking over the concession stand at Volunteer Park. I am working out the details and the agreement with them. AJ and I have our Youth Field users meeting on Feb. 1st with Anacortes Little League, Blackhawk and the Lady Blackhawks. New Creations finished the new steps and flooring in the Don Daniels Press Box. Last but not least we have also ordered a new field painter for the crew.

Ship Harbor Trail Repair- The City has \$250K in REET money to use towards this project right now. Jonn has heard back from Dan from Transpac Marinas, he helped us with the Washington Park dock project. We are looking forward to seeing what ideas he has for developing a plan for what we can build. On my to do list is to reach out to Beth Tate who is a Habitat Biologist with WDFL and to Kristin Murray who is a Biologist for the Army Corps of Engineers to follow up on what we are able to build and what permits are going to be needed.

Assistant Director's Report: Bob Vaux, Assistant Director

WASHINGTON PARK RESTROOM PROJECT

Work fired up January 2nd, with Lisser doing the surveying for the CXT unit site and the sewer line.

Engineering Tech/Inspectors Justin Symonds & Kristen Hannon working with me on this project, and we met with Blackfish Civil Infrastructure job site supervisor and company VP, Mike Reid on site. 18-20 trees were cleared over the next couple of days, logging company working diligently to stay within the project boundaries and minimize impact.

The week of Jan. 8th sewer line digging and connection work begins. Weather impacts progress a bit, but work moves forward. As of Friday afternoon, the contractor has crossed the park entrance road and is on their way to the park shop.

Work continues on the holiday shortened week of the 15th. Also, a snow day on the 17th kept the site quiet.

The pace picks back up the week of the 22nd. The sewer and water lines are both installed, tested and ready to connect. The vast majority of my time this week spent on site at Wa Pk.

On the 24th the new CXT unit was put into place. This step proved to be quite a challenge for our contractor, but the CXT team took on a leadership role and made it happen. Successfully!

ACFL

Doing my best to get into the woods with Jamie and expand his new employee training regimen. We have spent time in the 300's, done some hazard tree evals at a private residence adjacent to the North Heart Unit, and spent some time on the northwest end of 247 as well as 248. Here we were able to review Mt. Erie rock climbing protocol.

Early reviews from Jamie's new co-workers are very positive.

BEN ROOT SKATE PARK

Director Lunsford, Parks Mgr Johnston and I met with Skate Park Rachel. We discussed the on-going fundraising work that Rachel's non-profit is doing and explored some options on how to publicly acknowledge the pledge a ledge program. We are looking at a variety of plaques and painted signs.

We still don't have lights, nor a firm commitment from Janicki when they might show up. The major breakdown seems to be with the manufacturer.

FAREWELL TRAVIS / DARBY ON VACATION

It was tough to say goodbye to our Rec Coordinator and erstwhile high school football coach. Travis received lots of well-deserved press for his team's achievements on the football field, but I really enjoyed having him as a co-worker, sharing a wall with him during his brief but positive time in A-town.

Darby took off on vacation shortly after we lost Travis, and somehow became "stuck in Mexico." You hear about these things happening, but...anyway, Jonn, Nicole, Dustin and I have been doing our best to keep the front desk staffed and the phones answered in their absence. Ultimately, happy for both of them.

And thank goodness for Darby's return!

Recreation Report: Dustin South, Recreation Manager

Girls Youth Basketball League: The league started with practices earlier this month. Games began on Saturday, January 20th. The snow during the middle of the month canceled practices for a couple days. We have 14 teams this year, with several volunteer coaches. Our student recreational assistants continue to do a great job as officials and scorekeepers for the programs. Picture day was on January 27th and always adds another element to team/player/coach coordination.

Pee Wee Basketball: The popular early childhood sports program started on Saturday, January 20 at the middle school gym. The program focuses on kids getting to participate in the sport of basketball, participants are coached by our awesome teenage staff and best of all the 4-6 year olds get to burn off some energy with their friends. This year we had 70 kids registered between two sessions, which is about average for this program.

Puzzle Competition: The original date for our January competition was canceled due to the snow. So we postponed to the following week. Ten teams registered and participated in this month's competition with the winning team posting a time of 41 minutes. Our next competition will be Wednesday, February 21 and spaces are filling up fast.

Mom & Tots Workout: An ongoing 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: Recreation Coordinator position closed on Monday, January 29th. Staff is currently reviewing applicant information and proceeding through the interview phases. Daddy Daughter Dance will be held on Saturday, February 24 at the Anacortes Senior Center. Once again in coordination with our ballroom dance instructor, Taylor, we can offer some dance lessons for Dads and Daughters to get some instruction in the weeks leading up to the event.

Total Volunteers Hours for January

	Drop-in Sports			
2	X	18 hrs.	=	36

	Girls Youth Basketball			
13	X	7 hrs.	=	91

Total for Month	127
-----------------	-----

Director's Report: Jonn Lunsford

Staffing Update – Thanks to Dustin and Karl for working a little extra these past couple of months to fill our programs needs in Recreation and the Senior Activity Center. Thanks also to Darby for lending a hand in both divisions to help them with programs.