



ANACORTES PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT

P.O. BOX 547, ANACORTES, WA 98221

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Parks & Recreation Advisory Commission

March 12th, 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 February 2024 Minutes
3. Public Comments
4. Correspondence/Communication
5. Storvik Park Discussion
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

February 13, 2024

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

Staff present: Jonn Lunsford, Karl Wolfswinkle, Dustin South, Nicole Johnston

Meeting held by Zoom and in person at City Hall

Called to order at 6:00pm

Minutes: January minutes were unanimously approved as submitted.

Public Comments:

Patrick Gallagher was in attendance and spoke about the Guemes Channel Trail expansion near the Washington State Ferry terminal. His home looks toward the proposed trail area and the woodland space. Patrick states that this area should be a protected habitat and restricted from development. Discussion was had about the numerous permits that will be required by all agencies and protections for the habitat.

Correspondence and Communication:

JoAnn gave an update from the Forest Board meeting. Jonn presented information about Little Cranberry lake and answered questions from the public. The March meeting will bring a matrix of the comments received about the Forest Plan update.

Storvik Park Planning Update:

Jonn shared that there is money in the 2024 budget to update the “small courts” area of Storvik Park, the northwest corner of the Park. The March meeting will be advertised to encourage the public to come and share ideas of what they would like to have there. There will be several sessions to take comments and find the best use of the space and budget.

Staff Reports:

Karl reported that the Senior Center is quite busy. The Senior Center Foundation held their retreat today which brought lots of planning for the future. The Valentine lunch will be held tomorrow. Interviews are being held this week with 5 candidates on Thursday. The program for Caregivers is half complete and has been well received. Staff is looking at offering more tools and opportunities through new programs.

Dustin shared that basketball season is finishing up. The Daddy Daughter Dance is set for February 24th at 6pm at the Senior Center. Interviews are also being held for the Recreation Coordinator. There were 22 applicants and staff will be interviewing 5 people. Spring programs will be starting soon with volleyball and track.

Nicole stated that the beach fire rings have been replaced. There was some damage to the grass as it was very wet but as we head into spring the grass will grow back. The restroom project at Washington Park is nearly complete, just waiting on railings. The Cemetery demolition permit is on hold due to the finding of asbestos. The Cemetery will also have some spring cleaning of the markers and decorations. This will be posted on site as well as on our social media platforms.

Jonn shared that there is a contract in process for the Trestle replacement feasibility study. Jonn also spoke about the Port and City partnership for an event center. The Port is asking for a large portion of Jim Rice Civic park for a road and storm pond. This would set a precedent of giving away publicly owned land. Staff would rather see a long term lease as is in place with the National Guard armory. Another topic currently with City Council is the two plots on W 5th and W 6th, one of which was originally purchased for the construction of a park. Council is looking at leasing the lot on W 5th to Habitat for Humanity. Staff is asking for \$300,000 in REET funds in exchange for that lot which would allow for building a west end park. Staff is also looking into various grants for park projects.

The Cap Sante Rotary project LTAC request was rejected by City Council. Rotary members will be meeting with the Parks Council sub-committee for guidance. Rotary has met the requirements for permits and the planning department is reviewing.

Jonn provided an update on the Skate Park. The lights have not been delivered yet due to manufacture delay. Staff is working with the City attorney on a letter to the contractor regarding this delay and being out of compliance with the contract.

The Mt Erie cell tower lease update has been drafted and will be sent to the Kiwanians for review, then on to PSE for negotiations.

Other Business:

Questions were asked about the graffiti at the Skate Park and what will be done to prevent further damage. Staff responded that once the lights are in place and R Avenue is back open, the increase in traffic will help.

Meeting adjourned at 6:41pm

Respectfully Submitted by: Darby Jordan

Parks and Recreation Update: March 2024

Parks Report: Nicole Johnston – Parks Manager

Washington Park Updates- The boat lot pay station is up and running. Lot B pay station is planned to be installed March 1st fingers crossed. Both pay stations are card only and you must also enter your vehicle license. The campground pay station will take cash or card. Three fire rings were installed down by the beach. There is room for us to install at least two more as time allows. As you enter the park you will notice the dumpster is not located up front. We have moved the dumpster to be closer to the office and look forward to replanting the area where about 20 trees had to come down for the sewer line to be installed for the new restroom. Our re-planting plan is to plant cedar trees, Douglas fir, maple trees, Indian plum and snowberry.

Work Parties- The Young-McCool Post 12220 VFW have an on-going first Saturday of each month work party at Causland Park. This last month they did some weeding and trimming for us. We had another large work party take place on Feb. 24th at Volunteer Park. Both the Boys & Girls AHS baseball/fastpitch teams came out

and helped clean signs, weed and pressure wash. I am sure Bob will include in his report the details on the Rotary Club who had a work party on Saturday, Feb. 24th helping clean up the trail and stain the fence at Cap Sante.

Baseball Field Prep-Our baseball seasonal staff Reese Vaux started on Feb. 26th. Looking forward to having her help AJ and the crew get all the fields ready for both AHS teams and the youth teams. First day of games is March 11th. Looking forward to the Ewing Field Day on Friday, March 8th. The focus of the Field Day will be re-building the Volunteer Field mound. This field day is open to other agencies in the area as well.

Vandalism- We have seen an uptick in graffiti in a few parks. We had someone paint a large rock at the Mt. Erie lookout and also graffiti a bench up on top. We had sharpie art and other interesting things all over one of the Storvik picnic tables that is located under the pavilion and most recently this last week of February we had someone knock down a portion of the Ship Harbor fence. We have done our best to clean up and remove all of this. Just always a bummer to have staff spend their time cleaning up graffiti.

Cemetery Office Demo Update- We have hired Environmental Abatement Services, Inc to do the work. They will do this work as soon as the contract is signed off by the City. The bid is for removal of 80sq ft of asbestos skirting on three sides of the house and 3ft of roof tar from the vent metal pipe on the roof, 24sq ft of niccolite paper inside on center room between the brick and cabinet, one small piece of heat shield on the floor under the heater in front of the office. The Bid includes NWCAA notice fee, demo permit, air samples and all asbestos disposals. As soon as we get the asbestos removed I will complete my demo permit with COA and then we can seriously make plans to demo the rest of the office.

Seasonal Staff Update- We have had a handful of applications come in and will look forward to having the interviews in early April to fill all the seasonal staff positions.

Boy Scout Projects- I've been in contact with two boy scouts who have different eagle scout projects. The first one is improving the mile markers around the Washington Park loop road and the second project that is still in negotiation stage will be at Ace of Hearts Dog Park. The boy scout wants to either install dog training obstacles or improve the existing kiosk.

Memorial Bench/ Picnic Tables – We have a new memorial picnic table that will be added to Sunset beach as soon as the plaque arrives and two memorial benches that we will be installing this spring down at Kiwanis Meadow playground.

Tommy Thompson Parkway Volunteers- We have had more requests to have the shells cleared off the TTP. I've been reaching out to our volunteer sweepers and looking to fill a few days in the schedule. As needed we send Parks staff out to the TTP to sweep, but we have been so lucky to have year round volunteers help us keep the trail as clean as we can of shells.

Next month the mowing will begin, baseball season will be full on and hopefully the crew is demoing the cemetery office.

Assistant Director Report: Bob Vaux

WASHINGTON PARK RESTROOM PROJECT

The week of Jan 22nd wrapped up with the CXT RR Unit install and hook up on Wed/Thurs, and then the walkway concrete was poured on Friday.

The week of the 29th was mostly occupied by fixing the sewer line road cut, and finishing up the landscaping, along with the last section of the walkway and the steps concrete pour. By midweek we are working on the contractor's exit punch list.

As of Feb. 5th that very punch list is getting finely honed, and working with Blackfish, HLN Engineering and CXT to wrap this project up. Metal railing fabrication in progress and should be installed next week.

Parks Team Leadership Johnston and Tottenham working now on a replanting plan for the area impacted by sewer line installation.

On the routine WP front, conducted the annual residence inspection with Caretaker Chris. He continues doing a great job caring for the house, as well as the park.

Still waiting for our railing for the new restroom steps. Along with this, we are dealing with a needed correction on the water line hook up. Not debilitating challenges but taking time to resolve.

ACFL

Parks Tottenham and I looked at a real soft spot a short distance north of the paved section of the Little Cranberry access road. A major source for this appears to be the deterioration of the ditch along the road's west side. We are reaching out to the COA Streets Team for a consultation.

They responded almost immediately, reminding us that the LC access road from Georgia to the base of the paved section is part of the Public Works storm water control system. They did a great job of improving the road, as well as the storm water infrastructure.

Our DOE grant (FEMA funds distributed by the State) for the structural assessment of the Whistle Lake dam and accompanying safety plan is getting closer to distribution. We should have a confirmed access plan to share very soon.

ACFL Jamie and I spent some time exploring the ridge that parallels "A" Avenue, responding to the report of a rogue toilet placement. Sure enough, we found it on a fragile mossy outcropping. It appeared to be unused but had been placed very deliberately. An explanation would be fascinating, and probably rather sad.

Jamie and I met up with Denise Crowe for our monthly Samish/COA outing. We focused this trip on 210/224/241 and 244. All's well on this particular day.

Jamie escorted WDFW to Whistle Lake with a truck load of trout. I didn't hear the final number, but they do stop by with fish every once in a while.

Parks & Rec staff working with Ellie/FoF on some future volunteer projects, with a focus on invasive removal.

More time in the woods with Jamie, including a photo recon of the WL dam. Also took a trip up #133, as some recent motorbike activity in that area has been reported. Found some tracks. Also found significant hiker-created short cuts and social trails. We will get to work on making those go away.

Jamie and I spent some time with Fidalgo Trail Rider Josh Gates, planning an upcoming FTR work party on #100. Will focus on some much-needed turnpike upgrades.

#221 repair on site precon w/Jamie. He has a good plan and executed it well.

Later that day, J and I joined FoF staff, and put together the spring volunteer work party plan near #304x#302. Based upon a tip from a regular hiker, we will do invasive removal here.

Jamie and I did some social trail recon along #109. We found what seems to be a rather old and little used route. We did some creative landscaping. Jamie will monitor. Walked #129 as well. Quiet Tuesday afternoon.

Attended the annual meeting of the Friends of the Forest. Very interesting presentation on BioDiversity by Jake Verschuyt. FoF legend Phil Burton was also in the house! The Friends continue to do their important and very good work.

Worked in a late February Samish/COA trip. Denise and I spent some time at the 32nd Street swamp, #107 and the Little Cranberry dam. Jamie was busy with Steve tearing down a "fort" structure just off of #215.

SKATE PARK LIGHTS

Janicki General Contracting is still unable to confirm when their lighting sub will have our lights on site. We appreciate everyone's patience and will certainly announce the arrival of light once we have it in hand.

SENATOR LOVELETT, REP. RAMEL

Parks & Rec management team met with the good Senator to advocate for the WWRP program and update her on a variety of projects. The Senator's support of local parks projects goes back to her days on our City Council, and even before.

I had a phone meeting with Rep. Ramel as well, discussing WWRP, some of our bigger projects and potential RCO funds seeking. Really appreciated Rep. Ramel calling me back after a very long week on the Hill.

HIRING

Provided support and analysis for both our Recreation Coordinator and Senior Activity Center Program Coordinator hiring processes.

VOLUNTEERS

Lined out a Boy Scout troop on daphne removal from the Cap Sante Disc Golf course surroundings.

ABPAC

Joined this monthly meeting for folks advocating muscle powered recreation and transportation. The time is now to begin planning for Open Streets 2024: AUG 25TH!

GO ROTARY!

Special thanks to Tom Decker and his Rotary team for continuing their regular volunteer care of the Rotary and Cap Sante parks. Appreciate this citizen positivity.

Recreation Report: Dustin South – Recreation Manager

Girls Youth Basketball League: We wrapped up the basketball season on February 17th. We had a total of 14 teams participate. Thanks to all our volunteer coaches for their efforts. Also, thanks to Russ Pittis for helping with gym supervision on Saturdays. Our awesome teenage workers did a great job with officiating games as well.

Pee Wee Basketball: Teaching kids the basic FUNdamentals of basketball in a fun and safe atmosphere. Teen staff again did a great job keeping kids engaged and excited about learning the game. The program concluded on Saturday, February 10th. We had over 60 kids signed up.

Puzzle Competition: February 21st was our latest competition. The events seem to be growing in popularity and nearing our capacity for the space at the senior center. Every competition seems to have new teams and they are excited to show off their puzzle assembling skills. The winning time was about 42 minutes for a 500- piece puzzle. The second-place team was 20 seconds behind the winners. We plan to offer two more this spring then take a break until fall.

Daddy Daughter Dance: The annual event took place on Saturday, February 24. Our participation number hoover close to 300 total. New this year we provided a couple of opportunities for attendees to learn some basic dance steps from professional instructor Taylor Winningham. The event was held from 6:00 – 8:30 pm. Along with music/dancing, participants are treated to goodies, door prizes, and photos to commemorate the event. Thanks to city staff Sidney Neel, Darby Jordan, and Karl Wolfswinkel for assisting with the event.

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. The parents meet inside at the Volunteer Parks Fieldhouse when the weather is bad or go outside on the field if it is nice. The program is led by a parent, Ashley Haun.

After School Arts Program: Art class instructor Lana Hickman, who also taught some summer art classes with us, is currently holding an after-school arts program for kids in grades 1st through 5th on the school district early release day, Wednesdays. This provides a needed opportunity for families.

Adult Drop-in Sports: Adult Volleyball takes place at Fidalgo Elementary on Wednesday and Friday evenings from 7-9 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 7-9 pm (Tuesdays). Pickle Ball is on Mondays and Wednesdays at Mt. Erie Elementary from 7-9 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 hiring process is progressing and we have a good pool of candidates. Staff hope to wrap up the process in March and get someone on board in time to plan for the summer recreation programs. We are starting to get information together for the Spring/Summer A-Town publication with is expected to be mailed out around May 9th-10th.

Total Volunteers Hours for February

	Drop-in Sports				
	2	X	18 hrs.	=	36

	Girls Youth Basketball				
	13	X	7 hrs.	=	91

	Daddy Daughter Dance				
	2	X	3 hrs.	=	6

Total for Month					133
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Director's Report: Jonn Lunsford

Thompson Trestle Trail Planning: We are in the final stages of approving our contract with Hanson Professional Services on the Trestle Study. The Department of Transportation is reviewing the final contract because they are providing some of the matching funds.

Q'elech'ilhch Park Update: The Anacortes Museum won a planning grant to prepare for work at Q'elech'ilhch Park, located at the northern end of "N" Avenue. We held a meeting last week with Samish Department of Natural Resources staff, Port of Anacortes staff and Museum staff to discuss on site at the park.