



ANACORTES PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT

P.O. BOX 547, ANACORTES, WA 98221
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Anacortes Community Forest Lands Advisory Board

April 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. Approve March '24 Minutes
3. Public Comments *for any item not on the agenda*
4. 2026 Forest Plan Update
 - a. FAB Discussion of Public Comments and Next Steps
5. Friends of the Forest Update
6. Staff Report
7. Parks Commission Update
8. Other Business

Adjourn

Minutes of the Meeting: March 7, 2024

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

Staff present: Bob Vaux, Jamie Burroughs, Darby Jordan

Meeting held in person and via Zoom and called to order at 6:01PM

Minutes: February minutes were unanimously approved.

Public Comments:

Mark Nihart asked about the timeline for the Board to review the ACFL budget and project list. Bob responded that the budget is about \$1600 per year for supplies. The budget goes through the council approval process which is all open for public review and comment. Mark feels that if the budget had been reviewed, there would not have been the questioning and speculation about the Little Cranberry project. Mark requested that the budget be reviewed quarterly and give the public opportunities to fundraise for projects. Mark also asked about the Heart Lake master plan and why there has been no movement on this project. Bob shared that for that project to get started there needs to be grants and available matching funds. At this time, the parks department are using reserve funds just to keep staff employed. There are no excess funds available.

Brian shared that there was no taxpayer money used for the Little Cranberry project and that had been shared by staff and the Board numerous times previously.

Marlene Finely shared a handout (attached) with her suggestions for organizing the new Forest Plan as well as a proposed structure for the Forest Board meetings going forward. She suggested that the Board review other existing plans for other local municipalities.

2026 Forest Plan Update Discussion:

Bob shared that staff has reviewed all comments received and moved all plan based information to a matrix. This matrix was shared with the Board and the public in attendance. It is posted to the Parks website under "What's Happening".

The Board expressed thanks for the presentation and then discussed the next steps needed. It was decided that the Board will each review the comments and come to the April meeting with thoughts and concerns. Bob will come to the April meeting with options for the next steps in the process as well.

Friends of the Forest Update:

Katie shared that they completed their second stewardship hike with an invasive species pull. The next work party will be on March 23rd from 9-noon with Parks staff. The Naturalist Club just started and has 18 people enrolled. They are also starting the Forest Camp for kids.

Staff Reports:

Bob had nothing to add to his report. He mentioned that the upcoming work parties are March 9th with the Fidalgo Trail Riders, and then the 23rd with the Friends of the Forest. There were no questions for Jamie.

Parks Commission Report:

JoAnn reported on the Parks Board meeting. She shared that the agenda packet has the most up to date information. The March Parks Board will be taking public comment on the NW corner of Storvik park.

Other Business:

None

Adjourn at 8:06pm

Respectfully Submitted by Darby Jordan

March 2024
Assistant Director's Highlights

Bob Vaux

Submitted: March 25, 2024

BEN ROOT SKATE PARK

Janicki has been unable to get their lights sub-contractor to commit to a delivery date. We are exploring a variety of options.

March 19th and still no lights. The good news is "R" Ave is open so visual contact between the park and the community improves dramatically. Justin/Kristen from Engineering and I working on a retaining wall plan for the NW corner of the pump track. Parks Tottenham the main consultant.

WASHINGTON PARK RESTROOM PROJECT

As of March 1st we are still waiting for metal railings installation. Contractor explains they are working with their sub.

Spent most of the afternoon of Mar 7th at the park, as our contractor was installing the railings. Ever so close to an opening... Installation went well. We are now working on the finishing touches required for safe ADA access.

Parks Crew did a nice job of installing a fence around the restroom site. Soft opening happened March 21st. Ribbon cutting will most likely be late April.

ACFL EBIKE STUDY

Former FoF E.D. Asa Deane and the staffer formerly known as ACFL Steve and I met to review the year's worth of monitoring and documentation those two did Sept. '22 – Aug. '23. We will spend some time preparing the information for the Forest Advisory Board. Will work it into an agenda that is not too heavy with '26 Forest Plan update material.

ACFL

Spending a fair amount of time working with Darby to prepare public comments for FAB consideration. March meeting was a long one, but comments shared and a plan for April meeting set.

Parks Tottenham and I did some Mar 8 recon along 208, 209, 221, 222 and just off Heart Lake Road, east side south of 304 trailhead. More forts and needles, unrelated. Clean up plan in place.

Working with a Vista Lane resident whose 32nd Street Swamp shoreline home is seeing a fair amount of beaver activity. While assisting this resident, a neighbor adds some questions/concerns to the list.

Forest Jamie and I spent some time on a private FPA recon between Heart and Erie. Property lines still well flagged and no action close to the ACFL.

Staff is finding evidence of down trees along Heart Lake Road being bucked up and most likely taken for firewood. We are working with APD on this front.

Put the finishing touches on an ACFL neighbor's hazard alder removal plan. Work should be done by the 22nd.

Working with DOE on our dam management compliance. Catching up on some paperwork requirements. Need to do some upgrades to the LC spillway.

Met with an Orchards resident, interested in enhancing the NGPE. Plat allows for some consideration. In process.

Did some N. Heart Unit recon while I was out that way. Fresh horse tracks. Beautiful day.

Denise, Jamie and I enjoyed our monthly Samish Nation / COA hike. We covered some #100 recent repairs by the Fidalgo Trail Riders, as well as #119.

Met with another concerned ACFL neighbor, re: tall trees near his Lake Erie home. Will be scheduling a hazard risk assessment with Arborist Steve.

Good meeting with FAB members Tabb and JoAnne, re: Forest Plan '26 Update next steps.

DISC GOLF COURSE

Site recon with Director Lunsford. Reviewed some proposed course maintenance that our local club would like to take care of. Appreciate the efforts of these folks. Working on a plan.

STORVIK PARK

Good breakout session at March Parks Commission, re: what to do in the NW corner of the park. Solid citizen participation and input.

Leave taken: Mar 14, 15, 21

James Burroughs
ACFL Maintenance technician
March 25th, 2024

ACFL Maintenance Report: March – 2024

Introduction

Spring is here! March has been a busy month for me, we had two work parties this month. One with the Fidalgo Trail Riders and another with The Friends of the Forest. The F.T.R work party was on Trail 100 doing some trail maintenance work. We brought in over 3 yards of gravel and about a yard of railroad ballast to build up some problem areas on the trail, also installing turnpikes in the process. Over 30 volunteers showed up and worked hard bringing in material. The F.o.F work party was located on Trail 304, where off trail there was an area that had been taken over with invasive plants. Ivy, holly and evergreen daphne were the targets to remove in this area. We had 8 volunteers and they all worked very hard to remove these invasives, getting extremely muddy in the process! I hope to get some more of these work parties scheduled soon, as I already have some projects in mind.



Maintenance Activities

ACFL garbage and Bathrooms rounds

Trail Clearing: 313, 11, 22, 10, 217, 113, 100, Mt. Erie Rd

Signage: Replaced signs on 11, 105, 307 and installed no access to ACFL signs on W. 11th

Drainage: 212, 20

Gravel work: Brought in gravel to Whistle Lake Rd. and used gravel on trail 20.

Stewardship hike: Attended stewardship hike put on by Friends of the forest, pulling invasives in Morrison meadows area.

Fort Removals: 215 and 221

Beaver rounds: notching water ways such as 32nd st. and Ace of Hearts creek

Projects: Replaced turnstile on trail 243(hiker only)



Violations in the ACFL

Illegal dumping: Heart lake lower parking lot very common dumping spot.

Off-leash dogs: Continuation of educating ACFL rules to these individuals.

Off-Trail forts: Removal of forts being made once identified.

Social trails made by people: Blocking these trails with brush to prevent further establishment of them.

Cars suspected of overnight camping in ACFL: Continuation of monitoring these vehicles and reporting if necessary.

Trail 100 Work party with F.T.R



Trail 304 Work party With F.oF

