



ANACORTES PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT

P.O. BOX 547, ANACORTES, WA 98221

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Parks & Recreation Advisory Commission

May 14th, 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 April 2024 Minutes
3. Public Comments
4. Correspondence/Communication
5. Storvik Park Discussion
6. 2025 Budget Discussion
7. Department Reports
8. 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

April 9th, 2024

Staff in Attendance: Karl, Bob, Nicole, Dustin, Amanda and Darby

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

6pm Call to order

March minutes passed unanimously with no changes.

Public Comments:

None

Correspondence/ Communication:

JoAnn spoke about the Forest Board, sharing that the Board gave their feedback and guidance to Staff to proceed with the edits and minor changes to the Forest Plan.

Bob shared a letter from an anonymous citizen, concerned about motorized users on the Guemes Channel Trail. One user in particular is on an electronic skateboard with a dog, traveling at excessive speeds. This anonymous citizen is voicing a request for the City to enforce the public safety issue, speed, and regulation of motorized vehicles. In the past, Staff and the Board have discussed motorized vehicles (ebikes and the like) on the Tommy Thompson, GCT and the loop. The Board suggested monitoring the situation and reporting back with any other comments from the community.

Staff visited the dog park today to assess the conditions. As the weather is improving, grass is growing but to fully correct the soil and lay grass seed, top soil would need to be brought in, mixed, seed spread and the park closed for an extended time to allow for the grass to take root and grow. The ballfield that is adjacent to the dog park is used for little league games in the spring and soccer in the summer and fall, mostly in the afternoon and evenings. Staff stated that the walking path done by volunteers looks great and is helpful. Board members asked if other dog parks were kept to a "ballfield level" of maintenance and grooming. Staff shared that they know of no dog parks that are able to maintain that standard. There is an Eagle Scout that is going to be fixing up the kiosk, making things look a bit better. Staff will then add new signs.

Storvik Park Recap:

The Board reviewed the suggestions taken at the last Parks Board meeting. It was agreed that the most organized suggestion is for sand volleyball. It was also clear that pickleball is a very popular request. Storvik is not an appropriate place for this activity due to the close proximity to homes and the noise of the game. The Board stated that it is clear a space needs to be found for this activity. Staff shared that Clear Ridge community members are requesting that the City correct the issues with the current courts before adding any others.

The next step is for the Board to give their suggestions and recommendations at the May meeting. The Board cautioned against trying to fit too many things into one space as that runs the risk of doing none of the options correctly. Discussion continued.

Department Reports:

Karl shared that Amanda started yesterday at the ASAC. She is working full-time as the Program Coordinator, a new position.

There are two new classes beginning soon, Tai Chi and Volcanoes & Earthquakes of the Pacific Northwest.

The first session of the Volcano talk drew a large crowd.

The website and newsletter are being updated, with more detailed information available online.

Staff at ASAC are coordinating with the museum, library and the high school for some fun new programs.

Nicole stated that Spring is definitely here! Interviews are scheduled for seasonal parks jobs, hoping to get those positions filled soon. The Cemetery office has been torn down and the new office should be in place by the end of May. Mid-April will bring a volunteer to pressure wash the playground at Storvik park.

Dustin shared that volleyball is up and running with games starting next week. Track and Field will be starting soon with the high school track team helping coach this program. Dustin has been reviewing grant applications for the RCO youth grants. This grant is for the outdoor athletic field grant, and this grant is allowing for school districts to apply which is helping smaller communities.

The A-town is in process with the magazine hitting mailboxes in early May.

The new Recreation Coordinator, Eli Moore, starts next week.

Bob spoke about the Mt Erie clean up happening soon. He also shared that Staff will be hiring 12 seasonals for the summer season to help the Parks crew.

The lights for the Skate park have arrived and are installed.

The Storvik swing set is being replaced thanks to a grant from HF Sinclair refinery. This was a grant to repair or replace existing playground equipment.

Other Business:

None

The meeting was adjourned at 6:58pm.

Respectfully submitted by Darby Jordan

Parks and Recreation Update: May 2024

Recreation Staff Report:

Dustin South, Recreation Manager & Eli Moore, Recreation Coordinator.

Youth Volleyball League: Our annual recreational league for 3rd-6th graders concluded this month. Thank you to all our volunteers for helping make this season a success.

After School Arts Program: Due to the popularity of the first session we have added a second session that started at the end of the month. This program fills a need during early release school days that occur on Wednesday afternoons.

Youth Track and Field Program: The popular program was back this spring. Taking place on Mondays. AHS Track and Field team helped run the camp this year. 160 participants signed up for the program, they learn all the basic FUNdamentals of track and field events. The event concludes with a track meet where athletes get to compete against each other.

Dog Training Classes: We are currently offering some dog obedience training classes on Thursdays at Whitney Elementary School in the evenings. There are a handful of sessions offered this spring. We have contracted with Lorena Perez to teach these classes. Registration is available on our online portal.

Drop-in Sports: Adult Volleyball takes place at Fidalgo Elementary on Wednesday and Friday evenings. Adult drop-in Basketball takes place on Sunday evenings in the Middle School and Tuesday evenings at Fidalgo Elementary Pickle Ball is on Mondays and Wednesdays at Mt. Erie Elementary. We have just added Youth Drop-in Basketball on Sunday afternoons at the middle school from 2-4 pm that will take place through the spring. This program has seen great success with as many as 60 kids signing up to participate. We are hoping to continue the program through summer. To see the latest on the drop-in sports schedule visit:

<https://www.anacorteswa.gov/971/Drop-In-Programs>

Spring & Summer A-Town Publication: Scheduled to be mailed out to the community around May 9th & 10th. This issue will be packed with lots of information, including all our summer recreation programs and general information about the city projects. The community appreciates having some much information in one publication.

Other items of interest: Staff has been very busy getting ready for what expects to be a busy summer. Some key events coming up, Kids Fishing Day-June 8, Bark in the Park-June 15, Kids R Best Fest-July 13. Also, youth soccer registration will open in May.

Total Volunteers Hours for April

 Drop-in Sports
3 X 14 hrs. = 42

 Youth Volleyball
3 X 8 hrs. = 24

 Youth Track and Field
30 X 4.5 hrs. = 135

Total for Month 201

Parks Manager Update: Nicole Johnston

Cemetery Update: The crew has successfully poured the concrete pad for the new office building. The office is set to be delivered on Friday, May 17th. The crew is working hard to get all markers trimmed before Mother's day weekend. New this year both Nichola and Darby will be on-site on Mother's Day to help families find their loved ones. We thank them both for being moms and being willing to help others out on such a special day. This month we have had a total of 4 services and 4 lot sales. Grass is also successfully growing where we recently removed the juniper. We are planning to remove the rest of the juniper in the fall.





Washington Park Update: We finally had the T.P cutting ceremony at the new Sunset Beach Restrooms and no joke when Jonn and I went to prep for the exiting moment we could hardly get access to the units, because of the frequent use of the park visitors. Campground reservations are picking up and we are set to have a few seasonals to start Mid- May, just in time for Memorial Day Weekend.

Spinach on R Ave: The spinach growing on “R” Ave has been the talk of the town this past month. Public works is working with the contractor from the “R” Ave road project to remove the spinach as soon as possible. The most recent plan is that the contractor will have to remove the spinach by hand. Once grass is established Parks crew will continue to mow the grass growing on R Ave and we have high hopes that the Street Department will help us out to make sure we can safely do the job.



Volunteers: Can’t do it without them.

Rotary Club- Cap Sante Trail Head Work Party

Fidalgo Island Rotary Club- Tommy Thompson Parkway (Phil Case Bench Area Clean Up)

Group of Ladies who like to Bike- Pickett Pocket Park Weeding

Group of Soroptimist Ladies- Weeded the 4th & O Ave flower bed near the Anacortes Cinema

Tommy Thompson Trail Sweepers continue to sweep the trestle

Anacortes Dive Shop- Clean Areas at Heart Lake

VFW- Causland Work Party

Scott Sevieri with Pressure Washing Pros- Pressure washed the Our Town Our Park Playground

Community Garden- Had a work party on Saturday, April 27th at the Community Garden



SHIP Harbor Boardwalk Repair: Jonn and I met with Myron Basden who works for Gray & Osborne, Inc. He is an engineer who we met onsite at SHIP and we are working with him to come up with a designs for re-building the SHIP boardwalk where it was destroyed. We also touched base on another phase of building a trail that connects people from the Washington State Ferry terminal safely down to the beach and boardwalk.

WTA Permit Submitted: I submitted a Critical Area Exemption permit for the WTA (Washington Trails Association) for the trail project they are doing at Washington Park where trail 501/ 502 connect. The

current trail climbs over a section of roots and exposed bedrock. The WTA is going to create an alternate alignment on the southwest (downslope) side of the trail. The work is set to take place over 2 days in June.

Seasonal Staff Update: We are still looking for 2 people to join the trim crew and 1 ACFL person to join the team.

Storvik Park Swing Install Update: NW Playground Equipment started the install of the new Storvik swing set on Friday, April 26th. They are set to finish the install by the first week of May. Unfortunately while digging the holes for the new poles they backed into the fence near the tot lot and broke about 8 pickets that had names engraved on both sides. NW Playground is going to cover the cost involved to replace the pickets that were broke.

Arbor Day Tree Planting: On Friday, April 26th the City celebrated Arbor Day with the help of the students from Fiddlehead Montessori School. Steve, Jamie, Mayor Miller and former City Council member Erica Pickett helped plant the Tupelo Tower Sourgum tree at the 28th Street Playground.

Baseball Season: AJ and Gabe have been working to keep the little league fields playable. We are preparing to host the first round of the District 2A Baseball Tournament starting May 2nd.



Assistant Director Report: Bob Vaux EARTH DAY CLEAN UP THANK YOU'S

Thanks so much for the following...Rotary Club work on Cap Sante/Rotary Parks / Friends of the Forest on Rotary Park beach / Anacortes Diving and Supply on and under Heart Lake. All three of these projects were filled with volunteers making our community better for all of us.

BEN ROOT SKATE PARK

On March 25th Janicki's electrical sub is on site prepping for tomorrow's light pole and fixture delivery. The 26th does indeed bring the installation of the working lights. There was some ground impact, but Janicki crew did a pretty good job of repairing.

Engineering Kristen and I did meet on site with Ferndale Public Works staff, as they are embarking on a Janicki/Grindline skate park project very soon. Good talk. Told them to enjoy.

COMMUNITY FOREST LANDS

With Ashleigh moving on, Ellie will be taking over the Friends of the Forest Trail Ambassador program. We had a good discussion about some future options. Looking forward to the TA program's continued expansion.

A fond farewell to Ashleigh. It has been a pleasure working with her these last few years. Her contributions to the ACFL will long be appreciated.

Good to hear Forest Plan thoughts from the Forest Advisory Board at the April FAB meeting. Time to start updating the document. It will be shared with another public comment process via the FAB, most likely in early 2025.

Have programmed focus time on the Forest Plan update into my daily routine. Jonn and Darby are also engaged in the process.

Expanding trail patrol hours with Jamie. We covered 226/230/207/21, responding to a report of a bicycle jump in the area. Jamie has since repaired the jump area. We also looked at a property line question in the North Heart Unit. All seems fine on the public side of the line.

SPECIAL THANKS to all the climbers that showed up on April 13th for the annual Dallas Kloke clean up. Two main groups covered the summit parking area and several of the rock-climbing sites.

DOE held an informational meeting on the “A” Avenue landfill process. Public input continues.

Jamie and I spent a beautiful morning doing recon on the Pacific Northwest Trail section in the ACFL, as well as some forest boundary observation: 23/211/210/224/241/250/210S. Doing some inventory along with some scouting for a National Trails Day project.

OPEN STREETS

Council unanimously passed the street closure for this annual event. Being held August 25th.

PARKS COMMISSION

Spent most of the April meeting discussing the public’s input on the northwest corner of Storvik. Director Lunsford will have more to say about that at the May meeting.

DISC GOLF COURSE

Working with Parks Tottenham and Disc Golf Club leader Aaron Bryant on some understory rehab and basic course maintenance planning.

SEASONAL STAFF

Parks Manager Johnston and I spent a day interviewing seasonal job candidates. Nice to see a few more applications flowing in than in recent years. Nicole now working on making some offers via Human Resources.

TREES

Spent an afternoon with Arborist Steve, visiting three different ACFL neighbors and working through tree questions with each.

Parks and Recreation Director Report: Jonn Lunsford

Heart Lake Grant Application: Staff has submitted a preliminary application to fund the Heart Lake Master Plan that was created in 2010. The grant estimates an approximately \$950,000 project to restore the shoreline at the parking lot, add better drainage control by paving a section of the lower lot and treating run off in a bio-swale, moving the boat launch and planting nearly 16,000 square feet that is currently gravel. The grant was submitted to the Recreation and Conservation Office.

Thompson Trail Trestle: Work has begun feasibility study to remove the rip rap causeway and rebuild the Trestle. This is funded by the Recreation Conservation Office with matching funds from the Samish Nation. This entire project is a partnership between the City, Samish Nation and State DNR. Crews will be on site intermittently through the summer to complete their research work.