



ANACORTES PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT

P.O. BOX 547, ANACORTES, WA 98221

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

Parks & Recreation Advisory Commission

June 11th, 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 May 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

May 14th, 2024

Staff in Attendance: Karl, Jonn Bob, Nicole, Dustin, and Eli

Parks Commission in Attendance: Brad, JoAnn, and Sarah

6pm Call to order

April minutes passed unanimously with no changes.

Public Comments:

None

Correspondence and Communication:

Forest Board Notes- JoAnn shared news about a Canopy assessment grant program for Western Red Cedars that the board is looking into. Friends of the Forest have moved their office location to 4th & Commercial Ave and on the 18th of May they start their trail ambassador program and all the Friends camps are full for the summer.

Storvik Park Discussion:

Nicole had a dynamic visual to share with the board on what one court would look like on the measured area of 135' x 110. There was discussion about what two courts would look like in that space with the playable area requirements per Volleyball USA being 50' x 80' .

200 tons of **Sand** (Recommendation for 1 court) **\$23,718**

Poles/ Net/ Pads/ Boundary Lines **\$2,624**

9' Tall Perimeter Enclosure **\$3,303**

Total Cost: \$29,645 + \$6,992 Tax = **\$36,637**

Other Cost Not Included:

-Demo of the exsisting site

-Drain Pipes& Pea Gravel

Details of the Court:

-The playing area consists of the court and a safety space around it measuring 10 feet in each direction. (50' x 80')

-Dimensions of the actual court are 29'6" feet by 59' feet

-Site Prep-The court area should be excavated to a 1-1/2 to 3 foot depth depending on how well your future court site drains. You will need to install a single (or multiple)drainage ditch(s) leading away from the lowest point of the court. Perforated drainage pipe should be laid across the court with a clean out on the high side and the other open to the drainage ditch. (Do not use corrugated drain pipe. It tends to collapse under the weight of

the sand) Proper drainage is extremely important! You could find yourself playing in a giant mud puddle without it. (Even if the court is built above ground, sand will still retain water!)

-Court Drainage PVC & Gravel: Depending on how well your soil drains overlay the court area with a few inches to a one-foot thickness of pea gravel.

Jonh recommended that are next move would be to invite the public to the June Park Board Meeting to show the sand court idea to the public and their input.

2025 Budget Discussion- Jonh asked that the board think about any budget request or questions and bring to the next meeting or to email him. Already submitted for the Heart Lake Master Plan ore- liminary grant. Will know how that grant was scored come mid-July/ August. In REET we have \$300K for West End Park Project.

Department Reports:

Eli Moore introduced himself. Talked about finishing up Track and Field Program that had a total of 165 participants. Dustin shared that the A- Town is out. Summer programs are rolling right along. He shared that the Kids Fishing Derby is June 8, Bark in the Park is June 15 and that Pee Wee Baseball starts May 15

Bob shared that he is getting ready for ACFL seasonal staff to start. He is working on the Forest Plan update. He and Brian met at the Skatepark to talk about the Bell Memorial area and that he and Nicole gave one of the new PD officers a tour of the ACFL and WP.

Karl shared that he met with the Samish tribe earlier that day and that they had an interesting conversation about what the age requirements are for coming to the senior center. The Gala is this coming weekend and he is looking forward to this event. If you were not able to come to the event you can come to the senior center on June 6 for lunch and watch the runway show at the center. The Senior center will be open for a June 19th event that is already programed. Amanda is working on an intergenerational event in July.

Nicole shard that Dean survived the Northern Lights at Washington Park and all the 200+ people that came to the park after hours to view the show. Nicole is looking to fill one more trim seasonal staff position and hopes to have that figured out by the end of the week.

Jonh shared that the TTP research project is starting with boring along the causeway this July. Also that a grant and the tribe have covered the cost of this research. He shared that the city is going for a grant to extend the pavers behind the depot on the plaza. Council and the Port of Anacortes are discussing the plans for the South end of that Park. Jonh is going to a budget retreat in June.

Jonh shared some fun stuff about the Art Commission and a few things that they are doing. He shared about the music map idea, there being a paint your grandma event at the library, pianocortes is returning this summer and that this June the murals are returning to the Madrona Grove.

Adjourned at 6:44pm

Respectfully submitted by Nicole Johnston

Parks and Recreation Update: June 2024

Assistant Director Report: Bob Vaux
COMMUNITY FOREST LANDS

Whistle Lake Dam: DOE tells us grant funding for dam structural study is very close. Working with our consultant to make sure we have our various subs in place and ready for action.

Met with the City Engineer. We are working on a plan to install DOE mandated water level gauges at both dams.

Trail Committee: working on a replacement for long time equestrian rep Geri Ruben. Geri has given a lot of time to ACFL trails and has been our main line to communicating with that user group.

On May 16 lifelong local Trisha Sutton agreed to be our new equestrian rep. Trisha and her family grew up on our trails as active members of all four user groups. I couldn't be more delighted to have her join the team. She and Geri go back a long way, and Trisha will do an excellent job filling the significant void created by Geri's departure.

#108 Bridge: we had to close this to equestrian use on April 23rd, due to an aged bridge. We are working on material sourcing now for our in-house new bridge project.

2026 Forest Plan Draft: staff is working on this daily. Had a good meeting with AFD Chief Bill Harris. We will work with him to clarify our wildland fire response plan language and will be featuring him as future guest speaker at a Forest Advisory Board meeting.

Samish / COA Hike: Jamie and I enjoyed another outing with Denise Crowe, focusing on trail #101 and the Big Rock meadow. Beautiful abundance of wildflowers. Made contact with some off leash dog owners plus one too far away on trail #102.

Friends of the Forest: continue to prep for Trail Ambassadors (TA) and plan for National Trails Day event.

Joined a great TA training session at Heart Lake on the 18th. These volunteers are truly committed to the ACFL and a pleasure to work with.

Transition Fidalgo: working on Forest Plan inclusion strategy and ramping up for Forest Canopy DNR Grant work.

Forest Advisory Board: thanks again to Robbie Andrus for his presentation on Western Red Cedar dieback and the aforementioned grant.

New Police Personnel Training: Parks Mgr Johnston and I spent a half day or so with a new APD Officer, showing him the routes to and locations of our most pressing needs for help. This is a new element in the on-boarding of APD staff, and we are happy to be able to contribute.

Working with a Parkside neighborhood resident on some drainage questions; ground water flowing from private property into the ACFL. The COA Stormwater Manager is also reaching out.

Trail Patrol

Focusing more on this with Jamie as we get ever closer to the fun season. Had a solid session along 20/204/246/28/219/200 on 5/16.

The next day we enjoyed some more mid-May sunshine, spending most of our time at Little Cranberry and up on the Morrison Ridge. We met with a detachment from the Skagit Whatcom Island Trail Maintenance Organization (formerly the Pacific Northwest Trail crew). We've done some great projects with them over the years. They were hoping to join the COA and the Friends of the Forest for the June 1st National Trails Day project, but have been called away to a PNT project.

Jamie and I finished the day cruising the Heart Lake corridor. Found a couple of roosters running around the HL parking lot. They kept their distance. Sadly, another drop off.

AFD in the ACFL

The Fire Department has been conducting a series of training in the ACFL, including wildland fire response and rescue operations. We have been able to include some Parks staff as well. Lots of positive feedback.

SEASONAL STAFF

After our first round of interviews, Parks Mgr Johnston was able to fill 10 of our 12 positions. We are still looking for an ACFL & trim crew worker. We have a couple of interviews scheduled for early May.

Found our second ACFL staffer, while Nicole continues the search for one more trimmer. Hoping to get the ACFL seasonals started May 22/23.

We did in fact get our ACFL seasonals rolling on May 22. Jamie will get them trained up on trail trimming and the weather will dictate their progress.

BEN ROOT SKATE PARK

The Bell Family memorial that was a long-term element of the park was removed prior to the recent upgrade. Parks Tottenham and I are currently working with the family on a replacement plan.

GUEMES CHANNEL TRAIL

We had a one-day closure on May 9th for Planning Dept approved vegetation work on the San Juan Passage Overlook Park.

PARKS COMMISSION

Good discussions ranging from sand volleyball at Storvik to caterpillars everywhere.

ABPAC

Attended monthly meeting. Open Streets is coming together, along with a variety of non-motorized route updates. Glad to have new City Engineer Logan Lee in attendance.

Parks Manager Report: Nicole Johnston



Washington Park- At Washington Park this past month staff has spent time getting the park ready for all the extra visitors that spring and summer brings. We were able to mow at Sunset Beach which is a miracle considering how wet that area gets, we have done a lot of trimming around the entire park to include the boat lot and the crew has spent time cleaning the campground fire rings. Steve has also installed five new campground rings. We are working with public works to install the two light poles near the boat lot pay station. We are anticipating those to go up any day now. Shortly after we install the lights we are going to pave a walking path along that road near the boat lot pay station so that visitors

can safely get off the road and get to where they need to go. We had a slow and rainy Memorial Weekend at the campground this year, however the boat lot was full all weekend long. As we get ready to post the June reservation calendars at the park it is clear that people are ready to camp and just not on the weekends! Jonn has asked that I look into some options for a climbing playground equipment to be installed in that upper area near the already existing playground. So, I will do some research and come up with some options for us to consider.

Storvik Park- Thanks to HF Sinclair we were able to replace the 15-year-old swing set at Storvik Park this past month. We had high hopes to turn on the spray pad by Memorial Day weekend, but when we opened the utility box the week prior we notice that many of the pipes had broken. Brian has been actively working hard to get this repaired and parts ordered so that we can operate the spray pad as soon as possible. Scott the pressure washing pro who volunteered his time last month to pressure wash the playground



has graciously offered to organize a painting work party so that many of the wood features can be re-painted in the playground. He was able to secure a donation from Haven Financial to help offset the cost of the paint and ACE Hardware is offering a discount for the paint. This is set to happen in early June.

Love Your Dog Leash Them Signs- Thanks to the Anacortes Police Department for making signs for us to post at our parks and trail heads. You will see these cute dog signs pop up around your favorite parks. Hopefully the signs are a kind reminder to the many people who have their dogs off leash where they should not.



Baseball Regional State Games & Senior All Star Games-

We hosted many district games on Daniels Field and the first round of the regional state tournament that our very own Anacortes High School Baseball team was a part of. Seasonal staff Gabe and AJ did a great job keeping the grounds looking game day ready and gave their best effort to manage the seeds that like to gather in the bleachers. We also hosted the district Senior All Star games for fastpitch and for baseball. Anacortes Little League is keeping all the other fields busy with games and will continue to play on those fields until mid-June. A few teams from Little League will continue to practice/ play

games until the end of July. We will be ready to host a tournament or two this summer, still waiting on those requests.

Mowing and Trimming- The crew and the seasonal staff have worked hard this past month to get the cemetery ready for Memorial Day and all the markers trimmed. We spent a full day at the Ace of Hearts dog park mowing and feel like the grass is looking good. Braydn shared with me after his day of working at the dog park that many people were super appreciative of the crew's effort. We mowed the new "R" Ave twice this past month and although we are still figuring out the best method and equipment to use we feel it is looking better than it did before. Trim crew has been working hard at the Library , Causland and Police station this past month. The grass is growing like it always does this time of year and we are doing our best to keep up with it.



Tent Caterpillars- They have been a hot topic this past month at City Hall. I shared this article <https://www.sanjuanjournal.com/life/tent-caterpillars-are-bad-this-year-but-dont-panic/> with a few City Council members that I found online from the Journal of the San Juan Islands. Worth a read. I think what caught my eye was the title of the article, "*Tent Caterpillars Are Bad This Year But Don't Panic*".

SHIP Harbor Boardwalk Repair Update- Jonn and I met with Myron from Gray & Osborne, Inc onsite this past month to show him the damage that was done to the SHIP boardwalk back in December of 2022. Myron has sent us a scope of work for what G & O will be able to provide for having a plan to rebuild the boardwalk. In addition, we are asking them to come up with an option to expand the walkway from the end of the boardwalk to the sidewalk at the road by the Washington State Ferry Terminal. We have asked G & O to give us a 15% plan of what we could build to replace the boardwalk. Right now, G & O also share the same envision as Geo Engineers did with the boardwalk being reconstructed in the same location , but supported by open ended steel pipe "pin piles".

Seasonal Staff Update- Happy to report that we have filled all of our positions, and we will be at full strength come the end of June.

Recreation Staff Report:

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

After School Arts/Crafts Program: Second session of the program concluded this month. Took place on Wednesday (early release day) from 2:35-4pm at Island View Elementary. This will be the last session for this school year. Then we will look to resume once school resumes in the fall.

Youth Track and Field Program: Our track meet on the 13th concluded this annual program with several kids earning ribbons in a variety of events. The weather cooperated for the entirety of the program and again thanks to the AHS Track and Field teams for their assistance with this year's program.

Dog Training Classes: Our third session of spring training classes began at the end of the month. With limited class size they fill rather quickly, however the popularity still demonstrates the need for such classes.

Pee Wee Baseball: approximately 50 kids signed up for the annual spring program. Participants get to learn the very basic fundamentals of the games in a safe and fun atmosphere. Our teenage coaches provide "top shelf" instruction. For many of the participants this is their first exposure to organized sports.

Girls Basketball Camps: Anacortes High School Girls Basketball coaches and players held a series of skill development camps throughout the month. Some had specific focus on certain skill development and others were general in nature. Participants had the opportunity to learn new and improve existing skills.

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. Youth Drop-in Basketball on Sunday afternoons at the middle school from 2-4 pm that will take place through the spring/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: Was mailed out this month. Which meant a very heavy surge of registrations for our Spring/Summer Programs. Some filled rather quickly and others still have space.

Upcoming Events: Kids Fishing Day-June 8, 7am-12noon at Heart Lake. Bark in the Park-June 15, from 10am-2pm at Storvik. Kids R Best Fest-July 13, 10am-2pm at Storvik.

Total Volunteers Hours for April

	Drop-in Sports			
3	X	11 hrs.		= 33

	Youth Volleyball			
3	X	2.5 hrs.		= 7.5

	Youth Track and Field			
30	X	6 hrs.		= 180

Total for Month	221
-----------------	-----

Director's Update: Jonn Lunsford

Heart Lake Master Plan: Staff is applying for a grant from the State's Recreation and Conservation Office to provide partial funding for the Master Plan at Heart Lake. The plan was approved in 2010 after a community involvement project to reconfigure the gravel parking lot at the lake.

Depot South Plaza: Staff is applying for an economic development grant from Skagit County to extend the current brick Depot Plaza to the south adjacent to the WT Preston. A similar grant helped us fund the new restroom at the Depot.