



ANACORTES PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT
P.O. BOX 547, ANACORTES, WA 98221
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Parks & Recreation Advisory Commission

August 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 May 2024 Minutes **(No quorum in June, so minutes not approved)**
3. Public Comments
4. Correspondence/Communication
5. 2025 Budget Discussion
6. Department Reports
7. Other Business

If reasonable accommodation due to a disability are needed, please contact Brandon Krause at least 48 hours prior to the meeting date (360-299-1961).

May 14th, 2024 (No quorum in June, so minutes not approved)

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.

Jonn 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- Jonn 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 programmed. Amanda is working on an intergenerational event in July.

Nicole shared 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.

Jon 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. Jon is going to a budget retreat in June.

Jon 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: August 2024

Nicole Johnston – Parks Manager

It feels like the parks crew and seasonal staff have been busy just doing the basic park duties of mowing, trimming, cleaning, fixing and watering.

Below are just a few highlights on what has been happening in Parks this past July.

- **Ace of Hearts Dog Park-** Thanks to Darby for working on the new Dog Park sign that was installed earlier in the month. Still no update on the fence line irrigation that is going to be installed by our dog park volunteers.
- **Trail 108 Bridge Repair Work Party-** Thanks to everyone on the crew for working on the repair to bridge on trail 108. See attachment #2.

- **Washington Park Care Taker House Chimney Repair**- Thanks to Bryan Elliott who put together the Washington Park caretaker house chimney. We appreciate Bryan's work and time to improve the look of the chimney.
- **Washington Park Loop Road Mile Marker Project**- Thanks to Anthony Halverson for taking on the improvement of the Washington Park Loop Road mile maker's as his Eagle Scout Project. He and his friends cleaned up the mile markers and installed new numbers on the markers. They look great.
- **Storvik Sand Volleyball Court Project**- Brian Tottenham and I met and we chalked out a potential layout of where the sand court could possibly go. I am planning to meet with a few local volleyball enthusiasts at the end of August to show them our layout. Still moving forward on this project with the goal of having a court installed by next summer.
- **Grand View Cemetery Office**- Thanks to Brandon Krause in the Facility Department for his perseverance with PSE and working with Veca Electric Co. to install the power at the new cemetery office. For a few weeks in July we were using a gas generator to run our irrigation controller so that we could turn on irrigation at the cemetery.
- **4th of July**- Thanks to everyone in Parks who worked on the 4th of July to help provide a safe holiday for the community.
- **Irrigation Repairs**- Loads of irrigation fixes at various parks, roundabouts and at the cemetery this past month. Not the most exciting thing to report on, but the staff has spent a great deal of time this past month working on irrigation.
- **Various Work Parties**- Community Garden work party on 7/13, Washington Trails Association (WTA) work party on 7/13, had a trash pick-up work party on the Tommy Thompson Parkway lead by Ian Larsen and his volunteer group from his church and we have the ongoing work party at Causland Park by the VFW group on 7/6.
- **Adult Softball League Started**- AJ and crew worked to get Rotary Field ready for the APRD Adult Softball League. Special thanks to seasonal staff Gabe Eilertsen who had to pull a double duty on two Sunday's of doing the sanitation route and filling in to prep ballfields.
- **Art Installs**- Parks crew working with the local artist this past month to install the Art in the Madrona Grove and on the Depot Plaza.
- **Washington Park Speed Bumps**- Myles and Steve installed new rubber speed bumps around the loop road. They look great and hopefully slow the people down driving the loop.
- **SHIP HARBOR Boardwalk Repair Update**- Jonn and I met with Fionna McNair from Geo Engineers about the SHIP Harbor Boardwalk Repair project. She recommended that we invite Kristen Murray who is a Biologist with the US Army Corps of Engineers to the site to discuss

permits and to get her thoughts. Setting this meeting up will be important to have before we give Gray & Osborne the green light to give us options for 15% construction cost/ plans for this project. Summertime is a busy time for all, but hopefully we can get someone on the books and a meeting set up before the end of summer.

Recreation Staff Report: Dustin South, Recreation Manager & Eli Moore, Recreation Coordinator.

Pee Wee Baseball: The popular program for 4–6-year-olds, held at Storvik Park on Wednesday afternoons, finished up in June. There were 50 participants registered between two sessions.

Youth Volleyball Camp: Staff coordinates this camp with high school coaches and players to provide a great learning environment for the youth in the community. The camp was held for kids in grades 3rd – 8th and had 36 participants. Thank you to all the high school players and coaches for helping provide this recreational opportunity.

Kids Fishing Event: The event was held at Heart Lake on Saturday, June 8. The weather was spectacular and a record number of kids came out to fish. Thanks to Puget Sound Anglers for providing volunteers to help the kids with rigging their fishing gear. Also, a big thank you to the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife for continuing to stock the lake prior to this event. Catching fish is much more fun than not catching fish, especially for the kids.

Bark in the Park: The annual event was held on Saturday, June 15 at Storvik Park. This was Eli's first big event to plan and he did a great job. Several dog friendly businesses/organizations provided booths and contests were held for the participants. Zabrina Nybo, from the Police Dept., was instrumental in helping with planning for the event. Also, a very large "Thank You" to community member Brian Geer for continuing to be our MC for the event. His humor and attention to detail fits very nicely with the event.

Seahawk Youth Soccer Camp: High school girls soccer team provided an opportunity for kids in grades K-5th to hone their soccer skills. Camp was held the week after school let out for the summer. The weather was not ideal the first couple of days but finished with lots of sunshine. There were 103 registered participants, some who were trying soccer for the first time. Each player received a soccer ball as part of their registration fee.

Dino, Pirate, & Survivor Camps: These popular themed camps are took place at WA Park from Monday through Thursday, from 9 am – 12pm in June and July. Activities and games are scheduled around the theme of each week. These are some of our more popular camps which filled shortly after registration took place in Summer. The camps are geared towards kids ages 5-12. This year our Seasonal Recreation Leader in charge of these camps is former AHS student, Thomas Harris.

Skyhawks Sport Camps: Multi-Sport camp, Mini-Hawk, Tennis and Track & Field were the sports provided kids the opportunity to play different sports during the week-long camp. Camps range in ages from 4 – 12 and provided an opportunity for them to have fun and social with other participants their age. Camp participation numbers varied, but most were well attended.

Dog Training Classes: The fourth class in our Spring/Summer series of classes for the K-9's and their owners started in July. The classes have all been held outdoors in the evening time. It is difficult to find an indoor location that will allow dogs. The classes have all been full.

Youth Water Sports Classes: Our continued partnership with Anacortes Waterfront Alliance allowed the city to offer Learn to introductory Water Sports Class to the community. These classes not only gave kids the opportunity to try sailing, but they could learn the basics of Paddle Boarding and kayaking as well. Outside of our program AWA offers further opportunities for youth to continue whichever water vessel they most enjoyed. The main mission of AWA is providing water recreation to the Anacortes Community through a variety of means.

Community Dances: Had one dance scheduled for June 29 and one scheduled for July 20. The later had to be moved from the Depot to the Senior Center due to the Arts Festival using the Depot. 40-50 participants in attendance for each dance. Participants can come try dancing or just sit and listen to the music.

Kids R Best Fest: Saturday, July 13th was filled with a variety of fun filled kid/family friendly activities, games, and entertainment. This was one of our top 3 busiest events. Crowds tend to arrive early and stay for a couple hours. Unfortunately we were not able to have ponies this year as the business was sold to a new vendor. Entertainment was provided by Anacortes' own Wren "The Juggler" Schultz. The 2025 event will be held on Saturday, July 12.

Youth Wrestling Camp: Hawkeye Wrestling Club provides beginner wrestling camp for kids the week of July 15-17. This gave kids the opportunity to try out wrestling for the first time. Basic skills and techniques were taught to the participants.

Adult Co-ed Softball: We had a total of 9 teams register for the 2024 season. Games are usually played on Sundays, starting the weekend after 4th of July, and concluding the weekend before Labor Day. We continue to offer this league as a "wood bat" league for the male hitters. We work with the Skagit Valley Softball Umpire Association to provide umpires for all the games. Several of the adults who play in the league have played for years and becomes a tradition for them every summer.

Youth Arts & Crafts: We are back to offering opportunities for kids to express their creativeness through Arts and Crafts. Instructor Lana Hickman was eager to offer this program again this summer. All the classes were full. We did have to take a couple weeks off in the middle of July because the Depot was not available due to the Arts Festival using the facility. We are looking into offering some classes throughout the school year during early release days. We did this last year, and it was successful.

Challenger Soccer Camp: Recreation staff continue to work with Challenger Sports to provide soccer development program during a week in the summer. This unique camp brings coaches from overseas and is a great opportunity for kids to learn how to play soccer with an international flavor. Challenger does a great job with the camps, keeping the drills fun and engaging for the participants. There are about 60 kids signed up for this year's camp. Numbers were down a little bit.

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>

Fall/Winter A-Town Publication: Staff is currently working on our Fall and Winter recreation programs and then put them together for the next edition of the A-town which will be distributed to community members mailboxes around the week of September 23rd.

Upcoming Events: Youth Soccer registration completed this month. Teams are being formed, coaches recruited and equipment being prepared for the upcoming season. The first Saturday of games will be September 7. Practices from some teams will start the week of August 19 and the rest of the teams the week after. Recreation Coordinator, Eli Moore, is currently working on a biology camp for kids and a few Pokémon Go events next month. Mt. Erie Road & Trail Run is scheduled for Saturday, October 19. Haunted Forest is taking place in Saturday, October 26. Wonderland Walk, Friday & Saturday, December 13 & 14.

Total Volunteers Hours for June/July



Drop-in Sports

3 X 25 hrs. = 75



Kids Fishing Day

	5	X	5 hrs.	= 25
	Bark in the Park			
	2	X	5 hrs.	= 10
	Kids R Best Fest			
	2	X	6 hrs.	= 12
Total for Month				122

Assistant Director Report: Bob Vaux

BEAVER RETURN TO WHISTLE LAKE

You may have noticed the water level a bit high at WL over the last few weeks. We are excited to announce the beaver have returned! Based upon the best oral history we can find, they were trapped out of there in the '70's (though there has been sign of activity in Toot Swamp the last few years). I have been on site with WDFW, and we are working with them on a plan to care for our human-made dam along with the beaver's version.

FOREST PLAN

We continue to work on the first draft of the 2026 Update.

EMERGENCY CALL OUT'S

Parks Mgr Johnston and I were requested by APD to help search for a missing child on Sugarloaf 6/24. On the way there the call came in the child was found and safe. We then received a call from a concerned citizen about fireworks at Whistle Lake. By the time we got up there we found some remnants along trail #204 but did not make any successful contacts.

WUI: THE WILD URBAN INTERFACE

There is more discussion in the community about protecting private property from the possibility of wildfire. Various City Departments are also discussing options for public education and action items for one's property. Look for the Fire Department to be taking the lead on this.

SAN JUAN PASSAGE VIEW WINDOWING

PM Johnston and I are working with Planning on this somewhat complex project. This is mandated every three years by the plat language.

FECAL COLIFORM TESTING

Storm Water Aaron and his two interns will be handling this for the ACFL this summer: Whistle, Heart and Little Cranberry. Testing is scheduled to commence the week of the 8th. Special thanks to Corrin at the Wastewater Treatment Plant for processing the samples.

In other lake testing news, we asked Skagit County Health to come and sample Little Cranberry for blue green algae the week of the 8th. There were detectable levels of microcystin toxin at 1 microgram/liter, the actionable level at which they would recommend limiting access and recreation is 8 micrograms/liter. They sampled right

along trail 102 and collected the teal globules of algae directly so this was a concentrated sample of algae. We have posted the appropriate signage.

BEAVER DAM TAMPERING

The trail #106 dams are once again attracting some nuisance attention. We have a camera in place, along with some pretty good images, and our summertime Park & Woods Police Officer Kellington is conducting an investigation. WDFW has also been notified.

Ofc. Kellington was able to identify and contact the suspects. This issue should be resolved for now.

4TH OF JULY

ACFL staff, along with Ofc. Kellington were in the ACFL almost 17 hours from start to finish on this annual forest-threatening holiday. I am happy to report that our efforts paid off. As of July 5th, the woods are still standing. We did lock the Mt. Erie and Heart Lake gates at 10PM this year, and that made a positive difference. A very family friendly day in the woods for the most part. Special thanks to FAB member Brian Wetcher for taking on his annual firewatch commitment at Little Cranberry.

SUNSHINE AND HIGH TEMP'S ARE THE EVENT

Often when we are on parking duty at Whistle Lake, like we were over the weekend of July 6 & 7, people ask what event is going on? I see the amazement in the faces of locals and am still surprised by how many first-time visitors there always are. Folks drive a long way to enjoy our woods. Special thanks to Director Lunsford for coming out on Sunday the 7th to help manage the influx of visitors. I did a couple more hours of this the afternoon of the 8th.

HEART LAKE MASTER PLAN

Director Lunsford received unanimous Council support (7/8 meeting) to pursue a grant from the Recreation & Conservation Office re: implementing our 2009-10 HL Master Plan.

OPEN STREETS

Working with long-time organizer Warren Tessler as he hands this title over to Josh Gates as part of this year's August 25 event. Really appreciate Josh stepping up and taking this on.

#108 BRIDGE REPLACEMENT

Thanks so much to all the Parks Crew who worked on and finished the new 108 bridge. It looks and is working great. ACFL Jamie did a great job prepping for the one-day construction project. Special thanks to the Fidalgo Trail Riders for assisting with the prep work.

AND...

Took personal leave June 25-27, July 12

Had a really positive experience doing an informational presentation on the ACFL for the Anacortes Newcomer's Club. Great questions and feedback.

Robbie Andrus stopped by the office on the 10th. Canopy study going well thus far.

Denise and I handled the monthly Samish/COA ACFL outing. We covered #'s 25, 213 & 212. Took a good look at an equestrian challenge along the south end of 212. We will pursue an official repair in the fall.

Serving on a committee at the Friends of the Forest new HQ. Our job is to help staff with the interpretive display, short term and long term.

Director's Report: Jonn Lunsford

This is our busiest time of year. Thanks to everyone on our staff for keeping everything looking great and making our all of our recreational programs and the campground run smoothly. We also appreciate having Student Resource Officer Jordan Kellington helping us with enforcement this summer.

Depot Plaza Extension Grant: The City was awarded a \$250,000 grant from Skagit County to replicate the Depot Plaza east of the WT Preston. We presented the grant to the Commissioners in late June and were notified of the award last month. (Hats off to Darby Jordan on our staff who makes sure all of our presentations look sharp). Our goal is to expand the Plaza with pavers and underground utilities to allow the Farmers Market to grow and for the City and/or Chamber to host more community events along the waterfront. While we are grateful for the grant, it was half of what we estimated it would take to complete the job. We are looking at creative ways to extend grant funding while talking to our stormwater and engineering team on what is reasonable. Our current goal is to have this built by spring 2026.

Thompson Trestle Update: Crews have completed the initial geo-technical work on the causeway and are compiling data for delivery in October. We are trying to understand the composition of the rip rap causeway, how deep we need to go to find soils that can support a structure and what, if any, toxins are buried under the rock. Our contractor will use some of this data to create a modeling program to help us understand flows in the bay and how we can protect against transporting any toxins when it comes time to remove the rip rap.

Senior Center Update: The Annual Senior Activity Center picnic will be on Thursday, August 29th at Washington Park @ 11am. If you would like to attend and have lunch, please let Karl at the Center know so we can get a meal for you. If you just want to stop by and say hello to everyone, please consider this your invitation.

Fidalgo Bay Days /Congressman Larsen: We have been invited to Fidalgo Bay Days on August 24 where we will have a booth (together with Planning Manager Libby Grage promoting the City's Comprehensive Plan). For our part, we will be discussing the reasons for the Trestle research we are currently undertaking and what we have learned to date.

On August 27 Congressman Larsen's Office will be at the Fidalgo RV Park discussing Skagit Marine Resources Committee's (MRC) projects and the NW Straights Initiative. We have been invited to join in with MRC members to discuss the current trestle project.