



ANACORTES PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT
P.O. BOX 547, ANACORTES, WA 98221
(360) 293-1918 / (360) 293-1928

Parks & Recreation Advisory Commission

September 10, 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 August Minutes
3. Public Comments
4. Correspondence/Communication
5. Department Reports
6. 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).

August 13th, 2024

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

Parks Commission in Attendance: Brad, JoAnn, Alex, Chris and Sarah

6pm Call to order

August minutes passed unanimously with no changes.

Public Comments:

Sally Turner was in attendance to speak about the Ace of Hearts Dog Park. She was inquiring about the possibility of another park in the west end of town. Linda Zelinski was in attendance to also speak about the dog park. Discussion was had about irrigation and grass seed and fencing off a section as a trial patch. The discussion ended with staff letting the Board and guests know that the west end property and port property do not belong to the City, so the plan is unknown at this time.

Correspondence and Communication:

Forest Board Notes- JoAnn shared that the most current information is in the report. Jonn was in attendance at the FAB meeting and gave a budget update.

2025 Budget Discussion: Jonn gave an overview of the 2025 budget for the Parks & Recreation department. Costs are going up and revenue is going down so the City has asked for a reduction in the 2025 budget. Staff is looking into how they can hold the line or ways to cut costs. Parks will be going into reserves for the third year in a row to prevent staffing cuts. The process will continue with the Mayor and council in October through December.

Department Reports:

Eli shared that the Haunted Forest is on October 26th and we are always looking for volunteers. Soccer is getting ready to launch in September with teams forming. And summer camps have been a huge success. He is looking to do a basketball camp partnered with the school district and also getting toddler programs back up and running with Messy Me and Tots in the Park.

Nicole announced that we will be losing seasonals starting this week. She is meeting some volleyball enthusiasts at Storvik Park on August 23rd to chat about the sand volleyball court. She will meet with Burlington Parks and Rec about their courts and maintenance required. The noise complaints at Clearridge Pickleball courts continue. Nicole has researched sound dampeners, the cost is about \$27,000 for just two sides of the courts. Staff is looking to do indoor gym time downstairs at city hall during the week days to give another option. Jonn is also in talks with the school district about redesigning and fixing the tennis courts to allow for pickle ball there.

Bob shared that there are beavers back at Whistle lake. This is a great indication of how healthy our forest lands are and how well habitat and resources are being protected. There has been more vandalism in the ACFL, the latest being a fire nearby. It was quickly contained by AFD and DNR.

Karl shared that the Center was involved with Kids are Best Fest in July and that was followed by a Family Music Jubilee at the Center. Council has approved the HVAC and AC upgrades to the Center. It is shaping up to be a busy fall at the Center with new programs and another round of Aging Mastery Class. They held a talk about Social Isolation and had 31 people in attendance, showing this is a predominant issue in the community. The Picnic at Washington Park will be on August 29th and all are invited.

Other Business:

Brad asked about the Heart Lake Master Plan, Jonn shared that staff is going out for a grant from the State with a presentation on the 28th. However, even if we are at the top of the ranking, it still has to go through the legislative process and then have a match of City funds.

Questions were asked about the Cap Sante Rotary park project. It is currently in process and close to sending out for bids.

Adjourned at 6:59pm

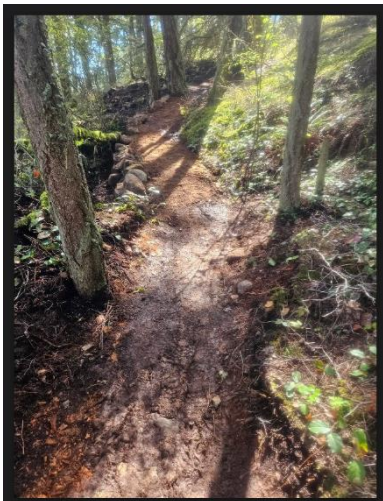
Respectfully submitted by Darby Jordan

September 2024 Parks Board Report

Nicole Johnston-Parks Manager

Below are a few highlights from the month of August.

- **Washington Park-** This past month every weekend the campground has been full. Providence Hospital filmed a commercial using Green Point and various areas around the loop road. Thanks to Darby for designing the new Welcome to Washington Park signs that we have posted on the kiosk that is located at the entrance of the park. We said goodbye to seasonal staff Lucca and Cam. We appreciated all of their hard work this summer. We are happy to keep Riley, Owen and Reilly onboard until the end of September. The WTA (Washington Trails Association) returned to the park to finish up the re-



route of trail 501/502 connector on Saturday, August 24th. When they arrived to the site they had found that someone had completely decommissioned the new trail and opened up the old trail. They made the repairs and removed the debris (mostly rock and large branches) and also made the decision to leave both trail routes open. When I arrived to the site on Tuesday, August 27th someone had decommissioned the new re-route again. So we have posted signs informing the public that the approved work was done by the WTA and please use the new trail and we also put up a camera. This vandalism has been reported to the Police Department.



- **Survived watering the hanging baskets over Arts Festival weekend!**
- **Cemetery-** We have had a few more irrigation leaks then we have wanted this past month at the cemetery. The crew installed a curtain drain near the GVW urn garden section to help with

another water situation. We also had to troubleshoot a few other areas in the upright section. Appreciate Nichola and Myles for their hard work to stay on top of this and doing what is needed to make the repairs. The DAR (Daughters of the American Revolution) group install the Never Forget Garden. It looks nice and they are also agreed to help weeding the flower bed near the GVA urn garden.

- **Adult Softball League & Soccer Field Prep-** Dustin has shared how good Island View field looked this summer and appreciated AJ's hard work on prepping the field for the games. Soccer Saturday is almost here. Thank to the entire crew for helping get all the soccer field lines painted and nets up on the goals.
- **Storvik Sand Court-** Met with a few local volleyball people and City Council members Bruce McDougal and Amanda Hubik at Storvik Park to share our ideas on the sand court. My apologies for neglecting to forward that invitation to the Park Board. I am available anytime to show you in person the location and plan. Parks staff was surprised to hear the feedback that this volleyball focus group had on the courts. The recommendation is that we plan to do two courts and not just the one. I am developing a letter to send to the neighbors of the park to inform them of our plan and will also meet with Rob Hoxie, GIS specialist to layout an updated image of what two courts would look like. This could potentially mean we wait a little longer to install two courts, so we have more time to save up money, fundraise, etc.
- **Graffiti at the Skatepark-** On Wednesday, Aug. 28th we arrived to work with reports of some significant graffiti that was done at the Skatepark. Thanks to Steve and Braydn for spending 4 hours to clean up the graffiti. The elephant snot product actually works. We did report this graffiti to the police department. Also, according to social media a few local skaters also tried to clean up some of the graffiti on that Wednesday night.
- **Special Event Requests-** On November 2nd from 1-6pm we have a women who wants to organize a walkathon at Washington Park. The event will be called Choosing Life Walkathon. She envisions that people will gather at the park, tell testimonies, listen to music, family fun activities all in support of mothers who choose life, including those who may have lost their children. I am meeting with the event organizer in early September and will have more details. On Sept. 15th HF Sinclair is taking over Washington Park again for the Anacortes Schools Foundation Fun Run that they do each year.
- **Ace of Hearts Dog Park-** Thanks to Linda & Sally for attending the July Parks Board meeting. I am working with Brian on an area we feel could use more grass seed. We will pick a location and when the time is right this fall we can put seed down and fence off the area to the dogs. We will make sure to let the public know and also keep the dog park users in the loop on our plans.
- **Memorial Bench-** We are installing a memorial bench at MDD field for Mr. Breckenridge. This bench will go next to the other two memorial benches that we have at the park.

This Fall the Parks Crew will be focused on a few projects. Improvement to the Altair Park, removing the concrete at Storvik Park in preparation for the sand court, remove the rest of the juniper at the cemetery, Cap Sante trail/step improvements and finish up the various things on the cemetery office that we have had to put on hold this summer.

August 2024 Assistant Director's Highlights

Submitted: August 27, 2024

Bob Vaux

EAST WHISTLE LAKE SHORELINE VANDALISM

>You have probably seen on social media that someone(s) did a lot of damage to the WL shoreline, just north of Madrona Beach. Trees were chopped/hacked down and all understory was cleared. Report was made to APD. It is now an active case.

SEASONAL SWITCH

>August 4 will be the farewell shift for Ruben, who has done a fantastic job for us. He is headed back to WSU, and we know he will continue to find success there. We did find another local young man, Gibson, who started July 31. Gibson will take over for Ruben and get us through Labor Day. Welcome aboard Gibson!

Shout out to Ruben and Tenzin for finishing all 50 miles of trail trimming.

AUGUST FOREST ADVISORY BOARD

>Thank you to our friends at the Public Library for the “new” FAB meeting space. Meeting was highlighted by thanking Geri Rubin for her years of service on our trail committee, welcoming Trisha Sutton aboard as her replacement and Director Lunsford's budget update.

FOREST VANDALS

>There are some instances of folks adding their own red tape to our trail user signage. Please remember, every trail user impacts the woods. Do your best to represent the “C” in the ACFL.

ACFL RECON

>Spent some time 8/7 on 107/108/124/123/113/125/137. Looking at a variety of issues raised by various forest users and neighbors. We do have some on-going motorcycle poaching of closed trails. I continue to work with John Meehan and APD on this front. I was reminded of the social trail impact along the eastern shores of Big Beaver Pond. Unless folks are willing to stop walking around in there, it is almost impossible to rehab. I was happy to see all dogs I encountered on leash and did help one turned around hiker find her way back to Little Cranberry.

>Staff and I keeping an eye on the Whistle Lake beaver activity while we await response on our Hydraulic Project Approval application to Ecology. Our goal is to manage with hand tools as we do at a variety of spots throughout the woods.

ANOTHER SMALL WILDFIRE

>On 8/7 a regular ACFL mountain biker reported a heavy smoke smell near the south end of 250. We deployed staff into the various Heart Lake trails, as well as Police and Fire personnel operating a drone from a Mt. Erie viewpoint. One of our seasonals spotted the smoke from up there, and a DNR helo was able

to pinpoint what turned out to be less than an acre burn on private land near Lakeside Industries. Mt. Erie FD and DNR put the fire out.

SAN JUAN PASSAGE VIEW WINDOWING

>This every 3-year project, as laid out in the City Council approved plat conditions, requires significant staff time and periodic closure of the Guemes Channel Trail. Signature Tree Service working hard to operate within the approved guidelines. One of the increasing challenges of this work is the upgraded Critical Areas Ordinance and Shoreline Master Program since the original SJP plat conditions. Both the SJP HOA and our Planning Department are hoping to sit down and review this process going forward.

Project wrapped up on Aug 13. Now, we are moving on to similar work at Channel Landing.

OPEN STREETS 2024

>Working with the usual suspects on this year's event; Aug 25. Special thanks to Josh Gates for taking the lead baton from Warren Tessler. And thank you so much Warren for working so hard to create and nurture this fun event for the past several years.

Attended final pre-event ABPAC meeting. Good turn-out. All the volunteers ready to make it all happen.

Shout Out to the COA Engineering team for putting out the street closure warnings Fri 8/23.

The Event was a great success. Solid attendance, lots of family-based smiles. Thank you Steve Lange as well as the Fidalgo Trail Riders for all the help with set up and take down.

FTR VOLUNTEER WORK FORCE

>Jamie and I had a great meeting with Josh Gates of the Fidalgo Trail Riders. He and his teams are ready to deepen their trail maintenance skills and take on more projects. We are stoked to continue to work with them.

An interesting note, we held this meeting at Little Cranberry. **While there was no sign of geese, including no goose poop on the dam, there were four fresh piles of dog poop instead.** These are coming from regular users of the ACFL. It's really hard to understand why...

AND...

>took some personal leave July 24, 25, 26, Aug 5

>Director Lunsford took a couple of days off July 29, 30. I stayed pretty close to the office these days with admin coverage.

>started a Zoom series sponsored by the Society for Outdoor Recreational Professionals (SORP); An Integrated Approach to Recreation and Fire Resiliency and Recovery. A couple of the early points made were how much commitment is required to start the prescribed burn process. Once you start that process there is a very high level of on-going maintenance required, and it's expensive. Large scale land managers are working to improve recreational opportunities as surveillance is often the most effective in preventing and spotting wildfire. Land managers also finding that improved accessibility typically improves situations like illegal dumping, vandalism and rogue recreators. User groups holding each other accountable is the most effective management tool. Along with full-time Park Rangers, of course.

>Pano AI Advance Wildfire Detection: AFD Chief Harris, Director Lunsford and I enjoyed a Zoom presentation from this company. Very interesting technology. We are following up with some questions and listing options for how it may be utilized on Fidalgo Island.

>Ellie/FoF lead a second meeting of the new office's interpretive center design committee. A solid coming together of concepts and goals. Looking forward to what the Friends pull off.

>August Parks Commission: provided update on recent ACFL vandalism.

>Aug 15-22: Parks Manager Johnston taking a well-deserved vacation. Doing my best to help fill in.
>Aug 15: good Council Parks Committee meeting. Discussed a wide array of projects and programs. Dug into the current COA Trespass rules. Parks staff hoping to work back toward the old way.
>Aug 16: Samish/COA ACFL hike with Denise Crowe. Showed her Whistle Lake / Toot Swamp beaver activity and covered the 205/206/22 loop. Beautiful. Quiet.
>As we approach Labor Day, have been able to get back to the Forest Plan update.

Recreation Staff Report:

Youth Enrichment Camps: (Survivor, Dino, and Pirate) continued through this month. The last camp finished on the 9th. Everything went well for the summer program. The weather cooperated for the most part with only a day or two of rain throughout the entire summer. Seasonal staff did a great job providing this program to kids in our community.

Youth Art & Crafts Camps: The arts and crafts classes continue through the month and concluded on the 29th. It was a successful summer providing these programs once again. Definitely helped to fill a need. We are looking to continue through the school year with our Early Release Arts & Crafts Classes that provide kids opportunities on the Wednesdays after school.

Skyhawks Basketball & Lacrosse: The traditional Skyhawks camp taught kids basic introductory skills for each sports. Camp were held at Mt. Erie Elementary School from Monday through Friday.

Skyhawks Multi-Sport/Mini-Hawk: Multi-Sport camp provided kids the opportunity to play three different sports during the week-long camp. The Mini-Hawk half day camp was geared towards kids ages 4-6 and provided an opportunity for them to have fun and social with other participants their age.

Youth Water Sports Classes: Classes concluded for the season this month with 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.

Adult Sailing Classes: Again, through our partnership with the Anacortes Waterfront Alliance we were able to offer Beginner Learn to Sail Classes for adults. Classes were held on 2nd & 3rd as well as the 9th & 10th. Both sessions were filled and continue to be popular.

Community Dances: Had one dance scheduled for the 11th. These free dances continue to be popular and draw between 40-50 participants. Dances are normally held at the Depot.

Adult Co-ed Softball: We had a total of 9 teams register for the 2024 season. The season concluded with end of season tournament on Sunday, August 25. Champions were, "ATown & Down." Thank you to our umpires John Carney and Steve Meuller who officiated most of games this season. Thanks to Parks Maint. crew member AJ Yost for getting the field ready for play every weekend. Especially a wet tournament weekend.

Dog Obedience Classes: Final session was completed on the 8th. The has been popular with most sessions reaching capacity. Staff is continuing to look for a possible indoor venue so they could potentially held inside during the winter months.

Poke'man Go Event: Recreation Coordinator Eli, created an event that was held on three Sundays, 11th, 18th, & 25th, where participants could collect items related to the game. All of this is done with a network enabled device and the designated app. Special collection points were established at key Anacortes landmarks; the Depot, Seafarer's, and Causland Park. The event hosted about 160 total participants between the three Sundays.

Youth Soccer: Staff spent a lot of time this month getting ready for the upcoming season. Tasks included forming teams, recruiting coaches, coaches meetings, and taking care of late registrations. Practices started

towards the end of the month and getting teams going. Games start on September 7 and held most Saturdays through October. Thanks to all our volunteer coaches for dedicating time to teaching kids the game.

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: Mt. Erie Road & Trail Run is scheduled for Saturday, October 19. Haunted Forest is taking place on Saturday, October 26. Wonderland Walk, Friday & Saturday, December 13 & 14.

Total Volunteers Hours for August



Drop-in Sports

4	X	16 hrs.	= 64
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Youth Soccer

33	X	1.5 hrs.	= 50
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20	X	3 hrs.	= 60
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5	X	8 hrs.	= 40
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Total for Month	214
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Respectfully Submitted by,
Dustin South, Recreation Manager & Eli Moore, Recreation Coordinator.