



ANACORTES PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT

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

October 3, 2024
6pm

In person and virtual meeting options.

In Person: **Anacortes Library Community Meeting Room**

Zoom Meeting Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88308344363>

Preliminary Agenda

1. Call to Order
2. Approve September '24 Minutes
3. Public Comments *for any item not on the agenda*
4. ACFL Ebike Impact Study Presentation
5. Friends of the Forest Update
6. Staff Report
7. Parks Commission Update
8. Other Business

Adjourn

Minutes of the Meeting: September 5, 2024

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

Staff present: Bob Vaux, Jamie Burroughs, Darby Jordan

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

Minutes: August minutes were unanimously approved.

Public Comments:

None

Friends of the Forest Update-Wetlands Monitoring Update:

Ellie was in attendance and reported on Wetlands monitoring that they have been conducting for the past couple of years. Please see her attached report.

Discussion was had about the need for more volunteers which would allow for more testing sites. Further questions and discussion was had about what equipment is used, budget for different equipment, and what additional types of testing could be had with additional help.

Katie reminded everyone that the benefit gala is on September 28th. The last weekend of the Trail Ambassador program was Labor Day weekend. Their numbers and reports will be presented at a future meeting.

Staff Reports:

Bob reported that staff made it through the end of the summer season! The seasonals did an amazing job trimming all 50 miles of trail.

There are beaver back at Whistle Lake. Staff have gotten the permitting to remove the beaver dam and keep the water moving through the system.

Bob shared that the DOE study is getting closer to starting on the Whistle Lake dam.

Bob also reviewed the Forest Plan timeline of the hopeful intention of having a draft to present to the Board at the December meeting with an approved draft from the Board by May. The October meeting will include the e-bike study and findings from Asa and Steve.

Parks Commission Report:

JoAnn reported on the Parks Board meeting, sharing that the most up to date information is in the packet. The last Park Board meeting involved a discussion on the small courts area at Storvik and what the community would like to see. The proponents of sand volleyball are requesting to have two courts in that area.

Other Business:

None

Adjourn at 7:13pm

Respectfully Submitted by Darby Jordan

September 2024 Assistant Director's Highlights

Submitted: September 26, 2024

Bob Vaux

WHISTLE LAKE BEAVER DAM REMOVAL PERMIT

>We received the necessary HPA from WDFW on 8/30. We will gradually remove the small dam on the human built earthen dam spillway. I have no doubt that the beaver will continue their best efforts up there.

WL EARTHEN DAM

>City Engineer Logan Lee and I conducted a site visit with our consultant and their sub-contractor team on 9/11. Work will commence immediately on various hydrological and structural testing on and around the dam and spillway. The information is being gathered to help inform DOE on what the long-term solution to dam safety might be out there.

SEASONAL EXITS

>conducted the annual exit interviews with the ACFL seasonal staff 8/30. Really a great team this summer. We all shook hands and hoped to see each other soon. They worked through the holiday weekend and then bade us farewell.

TREES

>25th Street residence site visit. Adjacent to ACFL. Hazard alder identified. Parks Tottenham will oversee the in-house felling of this one.

>visited two homes in Rockridge, discussing fire risk reduction, hazard trees and property lines.

>Grand View Cemetery: there is cemetery property on the east side of Whistle Lake Road that reaches across and down to several homes. We have identified some hazard trees there, and most are beyond our in-house capabilities. Will be reaching out for some bids...

INTERPRETIVE SIGNAGE

>Director Lunsford is working with the Samish Nation and Museum staff on new interpretive signage for Mt. Erie. This group approach has already produced some high quality and informative work in other parks. Looking forward to this project.

SENIOR ACTIVITY CENTER

>Enjoyed being a part of the volunteer appreciation ice cream social at the ASAC on 9/5. Joined elected officials and Karl W thanking so many for so much work.

CHANNEL LANDING VIEW WINDOWING

>Another view project as dictated by the plat conditions. Worked with Planning Libby and Parks Nicole, along with contractor Dan Rawls and his Precision Tree Service. Dan and crew did a fantastic job. 9/23 walk thru with Nicole makes this very clear.

LAND VANDALS

>visited a previously reported old growth doug fir with climbing hardware and ropes installed 50+ feet up. ACFL Jamie and I met on site with a local tree climber. We are awaiting his bid.
>9/11: regular hiker reports contact with motorcycles (3) on 300 trails, where they are prohibited. I had two dogs off leash contacts on trail 21 that same day. Tough interactions all the way around.
>a regular hiker attempted to stop some local kids from building a rogue mtn bike trail in the South Cranberry unit. Director Lunsford responded that same Sunday, kids had already left. ACFL Jamie able to clean up the site within 24 hours or so. I visited the site with him on 9/25, and he did a great job. Photos of the kids have been shared with authorities and we are currently working the necessary channels.

AND...

>took personal leave Aug 28, 29
>forced to take sick leave 9/16-20.
>Director Lunsford took a Sept 3-6 vacation. Did my best to cover for him.
>great water quality study presentation from FoF Ellie at the Sept FAB meeting.
>on 9/10 this month's Samish Nation / COA hike took Denise, Jamie and I through the 218/219/28 loop. Trails in good condition, property lines intact.
>efficient Sept. Parks Commission meeting. Thank you Braydn K for attending and sharing insights into the work of the Trim Crew and our Parks Maintenance team in general.
>nice presentation from Safe Transportation consultants at the monthly ABPAC meeting.

James Burroughs

ACFL Maintenance technician

September 24th, 2024

ACFL Maintenance Report: September – 2024

Hello again, I have survived my first summer in the forest lands! Special thanks to my seasonals who were rockstars this summer and to Bob whose words of wisdom helped prepare me for all the things we would encounter this summer. I am now back to normal hours with the rest of the park maintenance crew. I have helped the in-town crew on a few different tasks this month, It's been great to get back with the crew. I've began to compile a list of potential winter projects in the forest lands and discussed these with Bob as some require permitting. Some of these include culvert installation on trail 204 and a new bridge for trail 115. I've also started some prep work for this fall/winter checking/cleaning some culverts in the forest lands. I'm excited to get some rain and start improving drainage on some trails. I feel prepared for this offseason now that I have a good grasp on our trail system. May the forest be with you!

Maintenance Activities

ACFL garbage and restrooms

Hazardous/downed tree removals: 316, 249, 210

Installed trail cams: Whistle Lake parking lot, Trail 129

Graffiti removed: Whistle Lake Restroom, gate and trashcan

304 Trailhead revamp: Installed new post and rocks

Work proposals: Wrote up a work proposal for 204 culvert install and for 115 bridge
ACFL lake sampling: Collected samples at Whistle, Little cranberry and Heart Lake
Existing drain work: Removed 2 crushed culverts on 219, one culvert still intact in the area, further evaluation of the area is needed to decide whether the two that were removed are necessary for the area. Replaced two turnpikes covering culverts on 304 that were rotten. Cleared various drains across ACFL.
Future ACFL projects: I'm hopeful on getting the 104 rail system replaced, My plan is for this to be a future work party potentially.

Violations in the ACFL

Graffiti at whistle lake: I've had to remove graffiti off of the gate, trash can and bathroom. The bathroom door had to be sanded to remove the graffiti and will have to be stained.
Trail 129 off trail vandalism: We got a report on 9/22 of 3 teenage boys with mountain bikes tearing up a rock face to create a bike jump, they removed a large area of moss and ferns off this rockface. We are currently working with the Police and the Fidalgo trail riders to ID these kids. In the meantime, I have attempted to rehab the affected area and cover up the trails that were used to enter the area, I've also placed a trail cam in the area.