



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

October 8, 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 September Minutes
3. Public Comments
4. Correspondence/Communication
5. Fall Projects Update
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).

September 10, 2024

Staff in Attendance: Karl, Bob, Jonn, Braydn and Darby

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

6pm Call to order

August minutes passed unanimously with no changes.

Public Comments:

None

Correspondence/ Communication:

Jonn shared that he had met with the Parks Foundation and they spoke about the Mt Erie PSE lease. This is with PSE and there is some pressure to get a response as no sub-leases can be renewed until the lease is signed. Conversation was had about the support for pickleball sound dampening, research is being done on the options for this. Sand volleyball is the popular vote at Storvik park and City staff will be meeting with neighbors about this option. The Foundation is in support of this project as well.

JoAnn spoke about the Forest Board, sharing that the written reports are most up to date with information. Bob shared at the meeting that there are 2 dams at Whistle Lake, one man made and one that the beavers have recently created. Staff have gotten the permits to remove the beaver dam as it is blocking the spillway and putting more pressure on the dam. The human dam study permit is in process.

A question was asked about the shoreline damage, this is an open case with the APD.

Department Reports:

Jonn reported that the Heart Lake master plan grant was presented to the state. Staff is waiting to hear about the ranking and then it will go through the legislative process and hopefully be funded.

A question was asked about the R Avenue landscaping. Grass is about to be put down and get growing as we are approaching the rainy season. This is a Public Works job that Parks staff have been asked to help with.

Jonn gave an update on the Tommy Thompson Parkway restroom. There has been an agreement between the City and MJB to rebuild the restroom and demolish the old one. As this was an RCO project, there will need to be approval from the public and state. The Board will advocate for the funds from this deal to come to the Parks department.

Jonn and Nicole met with sand volleyball users at Storvik. Staff was advocating for one court in the space but the users are requesting two courts. Staff is preparing a letter to go out to neighbors for public comment on this process. This is also double the cost, so community fundraising will be necessary.

The pickleball conversation and issues are heating up with the neighbors. The biggest issues are parking, noise and hours. Staff has already reduced the hours from 8am to 8pm. However, neighbors are requesting and 8am to 6pm during the week, and 10am to 8pm on the weekends. The November meeting will be a pickleball focused meeting with an invite out to neighbors and players.

Braydn shared all of the things that the trim crew does in their job, listing the dozens of places that are mowed or trimmed each week. They also help with sanitation and irrigation, and any needs that the crew has. He was born and raised here, so takes pride in keeping town looking its best.

Karl shared that the ASAC has been in front of Council for the past two weeks. The first was for approval of the funding for the AC unit, the second for approval of the funding for the community assessment done by a

consulting company. The assessment will guide the Center in providing for the needs of the community and their involvement in the Comprehensive plan.

The Center is finishing out summer programs and headed for fall. They just hosted their volunteer thank you with an ice cream social. The annual Washington Park picnic was held last month with lunch and music.

A new program that was started recently was the Veteran's Hangout. Typically the Veteran's resources are done as a one to one meeting with the County VA rep. But this new program brought in a great turn out.

Another new program was the Estate and Retirement planning seminar and brought in 44 people, a huge success.

Bob spoke about the Whistle Lake dam, the consultants will be meeting with staff tomorrow on site to kick off the grant evaluation process. Then the studies will be done and sent to DOE. This will be a significant project no matter what comes of the studies.

Other Business:

None

The meeting was adjourned at 6:35pm.

Respectfully submitted by Darby Jordan

Parks and Recreation Update: October 2024

Parks Update: Parks Manager, Nicole Johnston



Radishes and More on R Ave: The parks crew was asked to help out Public Works with some grass reseeding on R Ave in the median areas. Crew member Braydn did some harvesting earlier in the month and found radishes and tomatoes.

Ace of Hearts Dog Park: To promote grass growth, we've fenced off a specific area in the dog park and have spread grass seed. Wood chips from the Port of Anacortes will be arriving in early October, which we will put in the dog park as well.



The **Altair/Americus Park** project has started. Parks crew cleared out the rhododendrons and the dead trees in the park. We have created a slope where we are intending to grow grass. This fall we will also plant a few Japanese maples and fill in the flower bed with spirea and/or lavender. We will also break up the concrete pads that exist behind the memorial and prepare the area for a walkway connecting people from the memorial to the marina.



Special Event Request: The Salish Sea School is going to be doing a Winter Solstice Luminaria Walk in Honor of endangered Southern Resident orcas. This event creates a magical atmosphere as community members meet at WA Park to illuminate the night on the shortest night of the year. Participants of all ages join in a short 0.5 mile procession (out and back) on the paved loop path, honoring the Southern Resident Orcas. The evening culminates in a cozy bonfire, where attendees can enjoy s'mores together. The date of this event at Washington Park will be on December 21st.

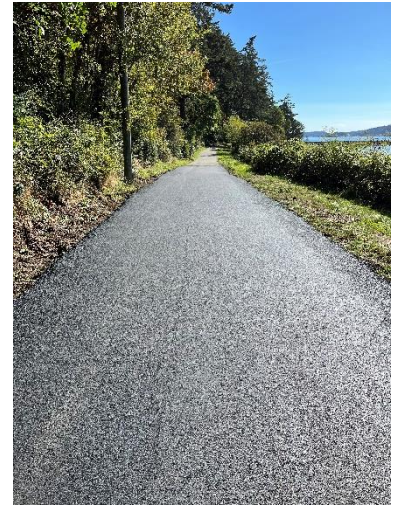
Soccer Saturday has been awesome to watch. AJ and crew have done a great job keeping the fields mowed and soccer lines painted.

Pickleball Court Noise Reducing Curtain update is that I met with pickleball enthusiast and Parks Foundation member John Pope. We went to the Clearidge courts and took more measurements on what would be needed for ordering noise reducing curtains. We also took a field trip to the Skyline courts to see how they are set up and how they brace the fence around the courts. This is something we would potentially have to do to our courts if we were to install the noise curtains. I am going to reach out to Guyline Fence and see about meeting a rep on-site to talk through what it would take to brace the north side of the fence at the Clearidge courts. Once I have the cost estimates for both the noise curtains and the fence I will bring to Jonn so that we can potentially ask the Parks Foundation for funding.

Ship Harbor Boardwalk Repair Update- Gray & Osborne the engineering firm we are working with has signed the contract and has officially started working on developing a 15% level of plans for repair options for rebuilding the ship boardwalk. Once we have the options we will be reviewing with city staff and Fiona McNair who is our environmental Biologist.

Rotary Path Improvements- Thanks to the Street Department for overlaying asphalt on the section of Rotary Path leading to the gazebo.

Washington Park: We survived the summer and made it through the Labor Day weekend. Special thanks to the seasonal staff who did such a fantastic job this summer working at the park. Overall it was a great summer at the Park and we look forward to a slightly slower pace to focus on a some projects at the park.



Graffiti- Graffiti remains an ongoing issue, requiring considerable staff time. Recent incidents were reported in multiple park locations.

Crew update: Myles Farrell has left Parks Department and now works for Facilities. His last day with Parks was on Sept. 24th. We are sad and miss him, but wish him all the best. We plan to open up the Parks Maintenance position at the end of October with the goal to have someone hired on by December.

Sand Volleyball Court Update: I've communicated with nearby residents about our plans for the sand volleyball courts, encouraging feedback. We aim to begin the project in the fall/winter by removing existing concrete.

The **Spray Pad** is CLOSED for the season.

Practice EOC drill was on September 19th. Parks was in charge of the logistics. We worked with SKAT to secure transportation for 50 seniors from Chandler Square Living and brought them to the "shelter" at the United Methodist Church. We served them lunch and ran them extra pizza. We also had a water filling station set up in the B lot at Washington Park.

Parks crew continues to big mow and small mow and we all know the leaves are up next.



Assistant Director Update: Bob Vaux, Assistant Director

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.

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

Youth Soccer: Both County and City League teams kicked off the season the Saturday after Labor Day. A bulk of games are held at Kiwanis Meadows, with games also being held at Smiley's bottom, Storvik Park, and Rice Field at Anacortes High School. Youth soccer continues to be the largest youth sport in the community with over 550 kids participating. The weather has been cooperating so far this season and helping to keep fields in "playable" shape. Thank you to all our volunteer coaches for helping make this season a success.

Pee Wee Soccer: Another popular pee wee sport program geared towards 4-6 year olds. The program was held on Wednesday afternoons during the month. Basic soccer skills are taught to the kids. A large part of the success of the program is the coaching provided by our teenage staff and leader Eli Moore.

Messy Me: Class was offered this month with our average of about 10 participants. Toddler age participants get be messy and creative in the same class.

Fall Youth Basketball Camp: New AHS Boys Basketball coach, AJ Yost. Held a camp the week of September 16-18. About 36 refined their skills at the camp. Thanks to coach Yost and Seahawk Boys BBall team for their coordination of the program.

Fall A-Town Publication: The Fall/Winter A-Town Publication was distributed to the community at the end of the month. <https://www.anacorteswa.gov/743/A-Town-Magazine> The next issue, Spring/Summer, should be distributed around the end of April 2025.

Adult Drop-ins: Adult Volleyball takes place at Fidalgo Elementary on Wednesday and Friday evenings from 6-9 pm. Adult drop-in Basketball takes place on Sunday evenings in the Middle School and Tuesday evenings at Fidalgo Elementary, 5-7 pm (Sundays) and 6-8 pm (Tuesdays). Pickle Ball goes from M, W, F from 7-9 pm. To see the latest on the drop-in sports schedule visit: <https://www.anacorteswa.gov/971/Drop-In-Programs>

Other Items of Interest:

Recreation staff is currently working on preparations for the upcoming basketball season. By securing gym space at the school, opening up registration, and recruiting coaches. The boys season will be held in November and December with the girls season taking place in January and February.

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. If you would like to volunteer for any of these events, please let Dustin know. Especially if you would like to be a greeter with Wonderland Walk.

Total Volunteers Hours for September



Drop-in Sports

3	X	16 hrs.	= 48
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Youth Soccer

33	X	10 hrs.	= 330
20	X	14 hrs.	= 280
5	X	20 hrs.	= 100

Total for Month	758
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Director's Update: Jonn Lunsford

Cap Sante Lookout Construction: Construction is expected to start later this month. Strandberg Construction was the winning bidder and we are having a pre-construction meeting next week. We

expect the project to be completed in January, weather permitting. Many thanks to the Rotary Club for their long-time dedication to this effort.

Depot Plaza Expansion: We expect to go to City Council on October 21 with a contract to hire an engineering firm to create bid ready construction drawings for the plaza project. Our goal is to start construction in late summer 2025 to be ready for the Farmers Market season in 2026.