



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

November 14th, 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 October Minutes
3. Public Comments
4. Correspondence/Communication
5. Pickleball 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).

October 8th, 2024

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

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

6pm Call to order

September minutes passed unanimously with no changes.

Public Comments:

None

Correspondence and Communication:

Forest Board Notes- JoAnn shared that the most current information is in the report. Asa and Steve were in attendance to give the report on the Ebike study. The conclusion is that there was no difference made to the trails by allowing class 1 (pedal assist) bikes on the bicycle trails. The Board recommended that the current policy of class 1 (pedal assist) ebikes be classified as bicycles on the allowed trails and class 2 & 3 (throttle) ebikes be classified as motor vehicles and only allowed during the open season on motor bike trails. This follows the guidelines of other local municipalities as well as state and federal guidelines. There will be a section in the updated Forest Plan to reflect this policy.

There will be work starting on the Whistle Lake dam, beginning with survey work regarding the structural integrity of the dam.

Bob reported that he had received communication from a citizen concerned about the speed of scooters and dog waste on various trails throughout town.

Discussion was had about putting up signs on the TTP about speed limit and motorized vehicles.

Staff reported that there was a trespass of a citizen at the dog park. The citizen was repeatedly entering a closed construction area and misrepresenting himself as a person of authority.

Jonn reported that the Parks Foundation did not meet.

Fall Projects Update:

Staff reported on the following projects-

Storvik Park: A letter was sent to all neighbors within 300 feet from the park regarding the possibility of sand volleyball courts being installed in the northwest corner. There was a small response with some neighbors for and against this project. The quote for three poles and sand is \$53,000-\$63,000. Staff will demo the concrete this fall in preparation for this project.

Altair Americus Park: Trees have been planted in this area, pavers will be placed next week. Staff will be switching out some tables and adding grass.

Depot Landscaping: Staff will be sprucing up the Depot landscaping this fall.

Rotary/Cap Sante: Strandburg construction is leading this project and construction will be starting soon with a construction window of 90 days.

Depot Plaza: Work is being started to design the Depot/Maritime plaza area. City staff will work with the Port to create a nice connection to the future event center.

Department Reports:

Dustin shared that soccer season is winding down. The weather has held and been rain free for all games. A huge thank you to all the volunteer coaches. This was the first big league for Eli and it went great. Boys basketball is next and then girls. He shared that the Parks Foundation donated funds to purchase height

adjusters for the high school which will be installed soon and open up the high school gym for youth basketball. Upcoming events include the Mt Erie run on October 19th, the Haunted Forest on October 26th and the Wonderland Walk on December 13 and 14.

Karl announced that October has been busy with programs and the consultants have been on site. They met with various groups to come up with a plan and the steps to continue the process. Amanda has completed training to teach the Powerful Tools for Caregivers class, she will be teaching next week. The Mayor was onsite to deliver and Agism Proclamation as tomorrow is Agism Awareness Day. Staff is in talks with the Foundation about the budget with their year end appeal being donations for facility moves.

Nicole spoke about the upgrades to the Ace of Hearts dog park. Staff has fenced off a portion and is trying to grow grass. The Port took down some trees and brought the wood chips to the dog park for staff use. Nicole shared that she and John Pope had met regarding pickleball noise and solutions. Staff is looking at sound dampening curtains and exploring the Parks Foundation to cover part of the cost. Staff have received many requests as the days get shorter for teams to use the lighted turf fields. Future plans hope to have Volunteer field turfed with the help and support of Rick Harvey.

Bob shared that there will be a staff and Friends of the Forest work party on November 2nd with the location to be determined. At the council meeting on Monday, a lifetime achievement award will be given to Bruce Rustad for all of his years of service in the forest lands.

Bob gave an update that the new restroom for the skate park should start construction in early spring pending RCO approval and public comment.

Staff was on site as 14 hazard trees were removed today on the east side of the cemetery and Whistle Lake road.

The team has lost Myles Farrel to the facilities team, a huge loss for the Parks team, but thankful he is still with the City team. The job will be posted near the end of October and hope to have someone on board in January.

Jonn announced the November 14th meeting for the Board, a shift of a couple of days from the regular meeting due to the Council schedule. This meeting will focus on pickleball, inviting both neighbors and players to come and speak.

He shared that the budget process is moving forward with the Parks department dipping into reserves in order to retain staffing levels.

Jonn shared about the Heart Lake grant. This will most likely be funded through the legislature based on the rank and scoring. It will require a match that will come from the CEP and Parks Foundation.

Other Business:

None

Adjourned at 7:00pm

Respectfully submitted by Darby Jordan

Parks and Recreation Update: November 2024

Parks Manager Update: Nicole Johnston

Here is a list of updates from a variety of our parks.

- **Altair Americus Park**

Curb and Pavers: Brian and the team are making progress with forms and pouring the curb for the memorial area. The crew will work on placing the pavers early November.

New Additions: Two Japanese maple trees have been planted, and grass is growing well. Once the pavers are laid, the project will wrap up for winter, with plans to enhance the landscape in spring.



- **Ace of Hearts Dog Park**

Wood Chips: Thanks to the Port of Anacortes for delivering three loads of wood chips!

Grass Growth: Grass is thriving inside the fenced area, which will remain up during winter.

- **Washington Park**

Recognition: Voted Skagit's 2024 Best Park—kudos to the Parks Department!

Tree Removal: Steve led the team in safely taking down two hazardous trees in the campground.

Events: The park successfully hosted the Haunted Forest event with over 400 attendees, and camping has slowed down but the boat lot remains steady.



- **Clearidge Courts**

Wind Damage: A section of the fence blew over during a recent storm, with several poles damaged.

Acousticblok Inquiry: The material is rated for high winds, but the structural integrity of the current fence needs to be assessed before proceeding with a purchase.



- **Parks Maintenance Technician Job Update**

Delaying: The opening for the Parks Maintenance Technician position has been put on hold for now due to the budget. We were hoping to have that posted on Oct. 28. Seasonal staff member Miles continues to assist the crew on a four-day schedule. He is planning to work through the month of November for now.

- **Chestnuts, Leaves & Winterizing Irrigation**

Cemetery Cleanup: The team is tackling chestnut cleanup at the cemetery, a challenging but necessary task. Starting to clean up leaves at the various locations and winterizing the irrigation.

Cemetery Office

Renovations: Nichola and the facilities team are working on interior improvements. Below is what still needs to get done on this project:

INSIDE

Another 1 or 2 overhead can lights installed.

Frame the drop ceiling.

Drywall the ceiling.

Mud and tape all drywall.

Paint walls and ceiling.

Install flooring.

Baseboards and window trim.

Heater installation?

Assistant Director Report: Bob Vaux

ACFL LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

On 10/7 the Mayor and City Council bestowed this first ever award upon Bruce Rustad. Included here is the text of the presentation. It was a fun night and well-deserved recognition...

In the late 1980's Bruce Rustad decided to turn his sites on, and point his mountain bike toward, the Anacortes Community Forest Lands. Over the next three and a half decades, Bruce, along with many hard-working cohorts, would transform our beloved trail system and the way folks would be able to enjoy it. While the cast of volunteer helpers has been many, special mention must be made of Dick Kohler. Bruce and Dick have never been short on advice for me, and many a parks staffer has benefitted from this wisdom over the years. Bruce's first decade in the woods culminated in working with city staff on a new edition of the ACFL trails map. That first edition of the new map has not changed much to this day. Bruce's drafting skills and first-hand knowledge of the trails added a lot of value to the maps, as well as making them more user friendly.

In 2001 Bruce joined the ACFL trail committee as the mountain bike representative. In those days the committee was meeting fairly regularly as adjacent development forced a lot of use and access decisions. If there was a question about a trail, Bruce was ready for a site visit, and typically very ready to share his opinion on whatever the situation might be.

Parks & Recreation Director Jonn Lunsford says of Bruce, "When I took over for Bob in the woods, he mentioned the importance of reaching out to Bruce Rustad. Both as an avid volunteer, and to keep an eye on him." Bruce has never shied away from a trail project. Much of his work stands strong to this day, used happily by bikers, hikers, horses and motorbikes. Bruce may still be found logging mile after mile in the ACFL, still clearing down trees, fixing surface issues and sharing observations with Parks staff. He is the definition of a local trail user, and on behalf of the City of Anacortes staff, residents, and countless visitors, I congratulate Bruce Rustad on receiving the Anacortes Community Forest Lands Lifetime Achievement Award....

MT ERIE SUMMIT ROAD

Working with Brandon Lowry and his Streets Crew on some improved safety signage for pedestrians along one of our busiest tourist routes.

GRANDVIEW CEMETERY EAST HAZARD TREES

Job prep continues. Working with Dan Rawls/Precision Tree Service on an affordable and still safe plan. Finding more aspects of the job we can do in house to cut costs. With 14 trees identified as hazardous, it's a bigger job than usual.

Parks Crew was able to touch up an old access that comes down COA property from near the Whistle Lake Road water tank. This will allow for Precision's bucket truck to get on site.

On 10/8 Dan and Crew got in there and put all 14 hazard trees on the ground. Careful work with their bucket truck, tree climbing and cabling made for a very safe, efficient and successful job.

HEART LAKE PARKING LOT RESTROOM DEMOLITION

We have received the permit to demo the north unit, which was essentially blown-up last summer. Met on site 10/8 with Stormwater Aaron. Minimal impacts expected as we will take appropriate measures with straw. ACFL Jamie and the excavator made short work of the demo project on 10/10. We will fly with one unit hoping the improved restroom facilities will come with the Heart Lake parking lot improvement grant in the next couple of years. Special thanks to COA Sanitation Division for their assistance.

FRIENDS OF THE FOREST INTERPRETIVE CENTER

>AFD Chief Harris and I met with FoF Ellie to fine tune the wildfire safety element of the new interpretive space being developed for the Friends' HQ. The AFD 'Preventing Wildland Fires in the ACFL' write up in the Spring/Summer 2024 A-Town Is Our Town publication is a very helpful resource.

SAN JUAN PASSAGE EROSION CONTROL

>The San Juan Passage HOA has been working with our Planning Dept. on erosion controls after their recent view windowing work above the Guemes Channel Trail. A rye-based hydro-seed (same mix previously used on a slide further east of SJP) was applied on 10/14. It should work as a quick stabilizer, then eventually give way to native plants and trees.

TRAIL IMPACT EDUCATION

>We recently found some young local mountain bikers doing some rogue trail building. We reached out to the families and were able to meet with the kids. They came to city hall and offered their sincere apologies for what they had done. We had a very constructive discussion about the various impacts of trails and their many users. I am confident that these local kids will emerge as trail etiquette leaders and inspire their friends to do good things.

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

Youth Soccer: Our annual youth soccer season finished this year. Thank you to all our volunteer coaches who coached this past season. It could not be possible without your help. Eli did a great job coordinating this league and I heard several positive comments about the season. Congratulations to our County Boys U-13/14 Dynamo team for winning the SkVYSA Sportsmanship award for the fall season.

Boys Youth Basketball: Registration was open starting in early September and closing the middle part of this month. Staff spent time recruiting coaches, forming teams, and securing gym space. A coaches meeting was held at the end of the month and practices start at the beginning of November.

Dallas Klope Mt. Erie Road and Trail Run: Staff was scheduled to hold the 49th annual event on Saturday, October 19. However, the windstorm that came through town that weekend squashed those plans. The event was canceled in the interest of safety to the participants and volunteers that help with the event. We will try again next year. This is only the second time in the past 23 years the event was canceled due to weather.

Youth Basketball Clinic: AHS Girls Basketball Coach Nate Dunham help this first ever clinic for youth on Saturday, October 19 at the Middle School Gym. We had over 30 kids participate. This was a great opportunity for players to hone skills before the start of the youth basketball leagues.

Puzzle Competition: First in the Fall/Winter Series. 12 teams of 4 people. Fasted time was 34 minutes. 2nd and 3rd place were within a minute of that time. Everyone had a great time.

Haunted Forest: Eli did a great job coordinating this event for the first time. Set-up and take down take a large amount of time, which needs to happen during the daylight hours. The event itself took place on Saturday evening the 26th. The loop road at Washington Park is used for the staging of “scares”. Overall the participant numbers were down slightly. However, staff focused more on local advertising for the event this year. Many of the participants commented this was their first time attending. Thanks to all our volunteers who helped with the event. If you are interested in participating next year. Let Eli know.

Adult Drop-ins: Adult Volleyball takes place at Fidalgo Elementary on Wednesday and Friday evenings from 7-9 pm. Adult drop-in Basketball takes place on Sunday evenings in the High School and Tuesday evenings at Fidalgo Elementary, 5-7 pm (Sundays) and 7-9 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> (times may shift throughout the winter months due to facility demands.)

Other Items of Interest/Upcoming Events:

Girls Youth Basketball registration is currently open. 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 October



Drop-in Sports

3	X	16 hrs.	= 48
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Youth Soccer

33	X	6 hrs.	= 198
20	X	10 hrs.	= 200
5	X	20 hrs.	= 100

Total for Month			546
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