



ANACORTES PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT

P.O. BOX 547, ANACORTES, WA 98221
(360) 293-1918

Anacortes Community Forest Lands Advisory Board

December 5, 2024
6pm

In person and virtual meeting options.

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

Zoom Meeting Link:

<https://uso2web.zoom.us/j/88308344363>

Preliminary Agenda

1. Call to Order
2. Approve November '24 Minutes
3. Public Comments *for any item not on the agenda*
4. Transition Fidalgo: annual report
5. Friends of the Forest Update
6. Staff Reports
7. Parks Commission Update
8. 2025 Board Chair: discussion
9. Other Business

Adjourn

Minutes of the Meeting: November 7, 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 called to order at 6:00PM

Minutes: October minutes were unanimously approved.

Public Comments:

None

Friends of the Forest Update:

Katie was in attendance and reported that the Forest Discovery Center is open to the public. This space features education, history of the forest lands and guides for exploration. There will also be community member docents to help answer questions and assist people.

Staff Reports:

Bob reported that nothing much has changed with the Whistle Lake dam. Survey work is being done, with the next step being that information sent to the engineers. There should not be much disturbance or many changes at this time, and the lack of questions from the public supports this.

The beaver have slowed their work as the spillway is not being blocked as quickly or thoroughly.

Staff have been dealing with downed trees in the aftermath of the several wind storms we have had recently.

Bob and Jamie both reported that the #105 bridge is needing to be replaced as there is damage to a plank and supporting structure. This will require both a City and WDFW permit. #115 also needs to be replaced, and staff is looking at a way to stay ahead of the repairs instead of chasing them.

Bob shared that the Parks team has lost one member of their staff to the facilities department. There is a hiring freeze within the City for an unknown amount of time. The impact this has on the ACFL is that Jamie does not have as much time in the woods as he is helping the team with other tasks. The good news is that fall is here and winter is approaching, this leads to slower grass growing and park use.

The next council meetings on November 18 and 25 will be focused on the budget with an adoption hopefully on December 2nd.

Bob reported that the Heart Lake restroom has been demolished and Rainbow will pump out the tank.

Discussion ensued regarding the Heart Lake grant, other funding options and potential long term ACFL bridge ideas.

Parks Commission Report:

JoAnn reported on the Parks Board meeting, sharing that the most up to date information is in the packet. Parks staff is having success growing grass at the dog park and the Port donated some wood chips to spruce up the park. There will be a meeting on Thursday, November 14th to discuss pickleball with players and neighbors invited to come and share.

Other Business:

Kit verified the timeline for the next several meetings with Jonn coming in January to go over the budget and other plans. The Forest plan update is on track with proofreading and will be presented in the next 2-3 meetings. Brian reminded everyone that the motorized season in the ACFL is closed until April.

Adjourn at 6:25pm

Respectfully Submitted by Darby Jordan

NOVEMBER 2024**Assistant Director's Highlights**

Submitted: November 25, 2024

Bob Vaux

FRIENDS OF THE FOREST GRAND OPENING

Congratulations to the FoF and their new Forest Discovery Center at 4th and Commercial. The space is very welcoming and full of history and current educational opportunities.

TREES

Looked at a dead tree in the Forest Ridge NGPE with a concerned neighbor. There is no immediate threat.

#100E has a stand of north leaning alder, a mixture of living and dead. Will work with Parks Tottenham and Crew to clean that up.

BEN ROOT SKATE PARK

Working with Janicki Construction on replacing three newly planted pine trees that did not survive.

ACFL TRAIL COMMITTEE

Bruce (mtn bikes), Denise (naturalist) and I took a look at an equestrian issue on trail #212. Have asked the other committee members to weigh in on the potential project as they were not able to join us.

DISC GOLF COURSE AT ROTARY PARK

Local Disc Golf Club leader Aaron Bryant and I met on site to review the recent volunteer work and to prep for the next work party. The tee pad upgrades look great and have been well received. The amount of play on the course is impressive. Looking forward to the next steps, which include the improvement of another couple of tee pads and beginning work on some native growth rehabilitation areas.

ANNUAL DAM INSPECTIONS

Jamie and I conducted the annual dam inspections at Little Cranberry and Whistle, as required by the DOE. Both still holding their own, no visible changes. Reports were submitted and approved to meet the 2024 requirements.

TRANSITION FIDALGO DATA STORAGE

Shout out to COA GIS Manager Rob Hoxie. We met with some of the key TF players to discuss future of their data storage, and making sure it's accessible to the public. Mr. Hoxie will work with TF to make this happen.

TRAILS

Jamie and I did some recon on the lower reaches of 215 and 320. Assessing water, both flowing and standing, on the trails and coming up with some options for improvement.

AND...

Took personal leave: 11/5, 15.

Attended November Parks Maintenance Crew safety meeting. Staff always takes these seriously, generate good discussion.

November Forest Advisory Board meeting a quick one, with just the basic agenda. We apologize for the on-going tech issues impacting our remote meeting service. We are continuing our work on it.

November Parks Commission focused on the current status and possible future of pickleball. The sport's popularity has created some challenges for neighbors and City staff as well. We hope to keep working on community-based solutions.

Attended monthly ABPAC meeting. Discussion focused on annual bike repair and donations by local service clubs and other generous types.

Very good quarterly meeting with the Council Parks & Rec Committee. Some helpful Q & A regarding the 2025 budget.

James Burroughs
ACFL Maintenance technician
November 25th, 2024

ACFL Maintenance Report: November – 2024

November has gone by fast and with it another successful ACFL work party in the books. The work party was on November 2nd, we focused on pulling holly across from the Heart Lake parking lot. We had a turnout of 6 volunteers for the work party and they all worked hard! This month the ACFL has received lots of volunteer help. Between our new volunteer trail crew team tackling trail tread issues and multiple other ACFL users who have helped with clearing downed debris on trails.



This month I have had a couple bridges that have needed some new planks, one being the 105 bridge south of little cranberry lake. I was able to replace the broken board on it, however the bridge is due for a replacement and to be safe we have closed the bridge to equestrian use until we are able to get the permit to replace the bridge. I have already finished milling the decking for the bridge so once the permit is a go, we should be able to construct the bridge quickly. This has brought to our attention a must for a more formal yearly inspection of ACFL bridges as many of these bridges are contenders for replacement due to age.

The stormy weather has brought down quite a few trees this month and I have been chipping away at my list to get all the trails cleared of downed trees. I am also working on getting another work party with the Fidalgo trail riders to hopefully work on the 104 railing. A reminder for all, that motorbikes are out of season currently and I had my first opportunity this year to educate a trail user on their out of season motorbike use, who to their credit was pleasant and understanding of this

rule and preceded out of the forest lands so no other actions were warranted. I will be keeping my ears to the ground and will continue my efforts in educating ACFL users on the issue. Until next time, may the forest be with you!

Maintenance Activities

- ACFL sanitation (Garbage collection and restrooms)
- Hazardous and Downed tree removals
- Bridge maintenance
- Beaver rounds (notching of 32nd, Ace of hearts, Little cranberry spillway, mitten pond)
- Supplied gravel to volunteer trail crew project (trail tread)
- Cleared drains on trails
- Trail tread work
- Milled Cedar decking for bridge projects
- Dam inspections with bob
- Cut boards for ACFL sign projects
- Met with transition Fidalgo to discuss plot research
- Helped Parks crew in town projects and sanitation
- Installed Trail cam at 32nd st. swamp to monitor beaver activity, another trail cam will be added to little round top to monitor prohibited motorbike activity in the area



