



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

December 10th, 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 November Minutes
3. Public Comments
4. Correspondence/Communication
5. Pickleball Meeting 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).

November 14th, 2024

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

Staff in Attendance: Jonn, Bob, Nicole, Dustin and Darby

6pm Call to order

October minutes passed unanimously with no changes.

Public Comments:

Linda Martin spoke regarding the lot at W 6th and Minnesota. She stated that she attended the City Council meeting on Tuesday and presented a petition with over 140 signatures from neighbors asking for a park to be built on that lot. She presented the same petition to the Parks Commission and asked that the west end park be reprioritized over any Storvik Park changes. The neighborhood has expressed willingness to work with volunteers and organizations to get the park built.

Kelly List also spoke on the W 6th street lot. She is in favor of the park as she has witnessed a number of children in the neighborhood who would benefit from the park. She feels that there are many young families in the neighborhood, and it would be a uniting factor.

Another community member spoke in support of the long-awaited park.

Correspondence and Communication:

Forest Board Notes- JoAnn shared that the most current information is in the report.

She mentioned that survey work has started at the Whistle Lake dam. The ACFL team has been working on cleaning up storm damage from recent windstorms.

Pickleball Discussion:

Jonn presented the PowerPoint, sharing information about the history of Pickleball in Anacortes, the issues that have come to staff attention and possible solutions. Dustin spoke in detail about the indoor opportunities to play, Nicole shared about the possibility of noise dampening curtains on two sides of the fence. Jonn spoke about the possible change to parking, moving it to the back of the area and off the neighborhood street. Another potential option is working with the school district to retrofit a few of the tennis courts above the middle school. The floor was then opened for comments from the public.

Ed shared that he is new to town and the most welcoming thing has been pickleball. He suggested moving the courts to the back area and use the front for parking.

Colleen stated her concerns of no restroom as well as the vandalism to the nets and wind screens.

Kelly spoke about her empathy for the neighbors, sharing that it is a loud activity for the neighborhood.

Steve shared that he lives near the courts and can hear the play. He is in favor of the sound barrier and adding another location that is not near any homes.

Delores is a neighbor that stated she can see and hear everything at the court. She can appreciate the exercise, but the noise is too much. She would like to see the courts closed at 5pm, suggested 10am-5pm and closed on Sundays. The neighbors have been advised to call the police but that has not resolved anything.

Mary shared that she is a new player and feels there are too few courts in town and would like to see some covered courts.

PK loves the idea of working with the school district as most of the time the courts are full. She suggested adding pickleball courts on the handball side of the school property.

Nancy feels that it would be a better return on investment to relocate the courts instead of retrofitting the current courts.

Mike has been playing for about a year, mostly at Mt Erie school and likes the diverse age and ability of the players. He feels the sport provides opportunities for all citizens and would like to see the opportunities expanded.

Wendy spoke at the request of Delores who is frustrated with the noise level and states that it falls into the nuisance decibel category. She is glad to see the sympathy and empathy from the players for the neighbors but wondered why the neighbors were not consulted when the courts were first retrofitted for pickleball.

A citizen says they have made lots of friends and has fun playing. They do not want to be part of the problem and would like to see more courts in town. They use courts in Burlington and Mt Vernon.

Dave is a resident and sees the enormous demand for the courts in the non-stop play, but feels the courts are too close to the homes. He would like to see the courts relocated and the hours restricted until then.

Kelly expressed surprise and concern about people breaking rules on the hours of play and would like to see the recreation department be the voice of the rules.

Debbie gave her opinion that there are not enough courts and sympathizes with neighbors. She feels that Fidalgo school would be an option. Her concern with moving the parking to the back is the possibility of vandalism.

Delores spoke again and asked if there was a feasibility study regarding the noise prior to changing the courts from tennis to pickleball.

Jean inquired about the different type of ball that is supposed to be quieter. She also asked about the timeline for the fence to be replaced. Staff is looking into getting this taken care of.

Jon expressed his thanks for the comments and questions. Staff is looking at other options and creative ways to add courts away from homes and neighborhoods.

Department Reports:

Nicole shared that staff is just working on maintaining projects and tasks with the hiring freeze and being down one team member. The major projects happening are the Altaire/Americus pavers and path and the Cemetery office building.

Dustin shared that soccer season is complete and basketball is starting. There will be a puzzle competition next week and the Wonderland Walk on December 13th and 14th. The Commission asked about gym space with pickleball and now basketball, but staff has been able to work all requests out with all user groups.

Bob reported that he and Jamie went and did the annual inspections on the dams and all is looking good. The beavers have slowed down at the spillway. The projects on the list include the restroom move and parking lot near the skatepark.

Jon announced that staff is working on the budget process with council and that will be discussed for the next couple of weeks at their regular meetings. He stated that he expected to have discussion at those meetings on the West end park and pickleball.

Other Business:

Chris asked about the Guemes Channel Trail and funding in 2025. Jon responded that there is no funding for that but there are funds allocated for the design to rebuild the SHIP boardwalk.

Sarah stated that the West end park has been on the plan for quite awhile but is a large budget item. Discussion was had about having a community meeting, designing the space and making sure it is ADA accessible. The original plan was to sell the W 5th property and use those funds to create the W 6th park.

Adjourned at 7:12pm

Respectfully submitted by Darby Jordan

Parks and Recreation Update: December 2024

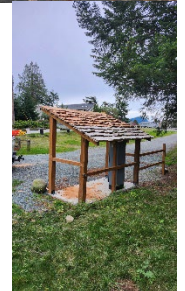
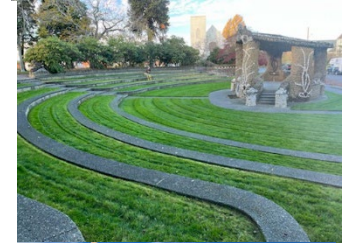
Nicole Johnston – Parks Manager:

Below are a few details from the month of November-

- We had a work party at Anacortes Senior Activity Center picking up leaves. Special thanks to the Rotary Club volunteers for helping out.
- Nichola is almost moved into the new cemetery office. Special thanks to the Facility crew for helping with painting, trim and floors this past month.
- Veteran's Day Prep at Grand View Cemetery and at Causland Park. Crew worked hard to get both locations mowed and leaves cleaned up in time for the observed holiday.
- Brian and Braydn finished the paver project at Altair Americus Park. Appreciate their hard work and dedication to see that project through. It looks really great and saved our department some money by doing this project in-house.
- Crew yearly evaluations are finished, now I wait to meet with each member of the team in early December.
- More wood chips were delivered to the Ace of Hearts Dog Park. Thanks to the 20+ volunteers who worked to spread the wood chips into the muddy areas.
- Giant tree down at the cemetery in one of our wind storms that required significant clean up. We were lucky that no headstones were damaged.
- Steve finished installing the roof to the Lot B pay station. Looks nice and is another example of the Parks being crafty and handy with doing the project in-house.
- Brian, Nichola, Jonn, and I recently met with Dustin from NW Playground to discuss ideas for the potential new park at West 6th & Minnesota. Although the City currently does not have the funding for this park, it was valuable to collaborate with a playground equipment expert to explore options.

We brainstormed a few ideas, including:

- An inclusive playground designed for a wide range of abilities
- Using safety tiles instead of wood chips as the ground surface
- Keeping open green space for children to play freely
- Installing a covered pavilion



- Ensuring playground equipment caters to kids aged 2-12

NW Playground will provide us with a few renderings for review. We all agreed that it will be important to gather community input to understand what residents want for this space.

- With the help of ACFL Jamie I was able to submit the Tree City USA Application. This year we have planted trees at the Ben Root Skatepark, Grand View Cemetery, Washington Park, 28th Street Playground, Altair Americus Park and the San Juan Passage roundabout.
- Myron with Gray & Osborne communicated that the surveyors were able to collect all the info they were looking for in one day at SHIP Harbor boardwalk. Now he is waiting for the surveyors to process the raw data into a background drawing that he can start working with. The goal with G & O is to get to 15% complete construction drawings so we can start permit processing and preparing for grant applications.
- The discussion regarding Clearidge Pickleball at our most recent Park Board meeting was productive, and I would like to move forward with requesting funding from the Anacortes Parks Foundation. Specifically, I am seeking funds to cover the installation of PickleBlok Vertical Noise Curtains on the north and west fences to mitigate noise concerns. Additionally, I would like to request funding to repair the fence that was damaged during the recent windstorm. I am also open to relocating the garbage can to the outside of the courts to improve the overall environment. Finally, I strongly believe that maintaining the current court hours of 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. is crucial, as it ensures access for individuals who wish to use the facility after traditional work hours.

There's a lot of appreciation for the hardworking team, who continue to manage routine tasks while also tackling bigger projects, such as leaf clean-up, winterizing irrigation, and preparing for the Wonderland Walk event at Washington Park.

Bob Vaux: Assistant Director

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.

Dustin South, Recreation Manager and Eli Moore, Recreation Coordinator

Recreation Staff Report:

Boys Youth Basketball: The season is going well. Always is a challenging time of year with extremely high demands on gym space. Especially with all the other youth basketball programs starting in November. Staff is looking into possibly switching boys and girls basketball season back to having the girls season first and the boys season after the first of the year to help ease gym demand. Thanks to all of our volunteer coaches for their efforts and our teenage staff for helping make this season successful.

Puzzle Competition: Our second fall competition was held on Tuesday, the 19th. We had 12 four-person teams signed up. With the winning team completing their 500-piece puzzle in just under 40 minutes. The puzzle, which had no two pieces cut into the same pattern, did not prove to be too challenging for the teams. The next competition will be an individual one and will take place on Wednesday, December 11. There are still a few spots available.

Messy Me: Another class scheduled for toddlers (with parents) work on a variety of activities that get them creative and messy. This time around we have 9 participants signed up. The class takes place at the Senior Center during weekday mornings.

Adult Drop-ins: Adult Volleyball takes place at Fidalgo Elementary on Wednesday (8-10 pm) and Friday (7-9 pm) evenings. (We adjust their times slightly to accommodate AAU basketball practices at Fidalgo Elementary.) 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 November



Drop-in Sports

3	X	16 hrs.	= 48
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Boys Youth Basketball

6	X	10.5 hrs.	= 63
12	X	16.5 hrs.	= 198

Total for Month			309
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