



ANACORTES PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT
P.O. BOX 547, ANACORTES, WA 98221
(360) 293-1918 / (360) 293-1928

Parks & Recreation Advisory Commission

January 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 December Minutes
3. Public Comments
4. Correspondence/Communication
5. Pickleball Meeting Discussion
6. W Side Park
7. Department Reports
8. 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).

December 10th, 2024

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

Staff in Attendance: Jonn, Dustin, Karl and Darby

6pm Call to order

November minutes passed with some changes. Chris submitted two additional comments made by community members regarding the pickle ball issue. Colleen spoke about the lack of restrooms and Steve commented his support of a restroom and sound barrier as well as relocation.

Public Comments:

None

Correspondence and Communication:

Forest Board Notes- JoAnn shared that the Forest Board met on the 5th and the annual report from Transition Fidalgo was presented. They now have 5 years of data and are working on a public facing dashboard in coordination with WSU. Overall, they are seeing a healthy ecosystem in the ACFL.

Bob is working on consolidating permits for beaver dams, also for replacing and repairing bridges in the ACFL. This will save time and money each year.

Jamie is working with the Fidalgo Trail Riders to train them on various trail work and projects.

Pickleball Discussion:

This was a chance for the Board to discuss what was shared at the last meeting. It was agreed that the neighbors are very close to the courts and this creates issues. Discussion was had about the various issues and concerns raised at the meeting by the public.

Staff has suggested moving parking to behind the courts, to be off the streets, put up the sound dampening barrier and bring in a portable restroom. These items would be the first step in helping to alleviate some of the neighborhood issues.

Discussion ensued.

Some Board members suggested shortening the hours that the park is open. Discussion was had about these hours.

No final recommendation was made to staff at this time.

Department Reports:

Karl shared that he went before council last night with the update for the Senior Center and their programming. It went well. Tomorrow the consultants will be at the Center to gather information, get feedback and increase engagement. Holiday programs are in full swing with "Take a Bite out of Grandpa" being hosted tomorrow and the holiday lunch on December 19th.

The New Year will bring new programming and classes, including geology, art and the brain, and a Shakespeare class.

Dustin shared that the third puzzle event is tomorrow, with this being an individual competition. There is talk amongst the other Cities in the Valley to host a regional puzzle competition. The Wonderland Walk is this weekend, Friday and Saturday from 5pm to 8pm.

Jonn shared that Nicole and Bob are both out with birthdays for their kids. He announced that the Altair Americus park phase 1 is done, with the pavers being placed and complete. The Rotary/Cap Sante park project is going well. Staff held a presentation last week on the Tommy Thompson Trestle project. The 2025 budget has been approved. Parks will be using their reserves again in 2025. The team is down a maintenance position until at least June. There is a hiring freeze for some City positions at this time.

Other Business:

None

Adjourned at 7:01pm

Respectfully submitted by Darby Jordan

December has been a busy one. Below are a few highlights from the month.

- Preparations for the Wonderland Walk went underway, and Dustin, along with the recreation team, did a fantastic job organizing another successful community event enjoyed by many. The parking lot operated smoothly, and we didn't need to use the overflow at the Skyline Beach Club.



- Jamie Burroughs celebrated his one year in service and & AJ Yost celebrated his five years. Congratulation to the both of them for all of their hard work.

use his own mini excavator for some unapproved work in the park. However, Brian has successfully troubleshooted and resolved the issues. He brought in crushed rock, worked on the grading, and added more hog fuel to improve the drainage. Bill has agreed to communicate with Parks before performing any future work within the park. While it's not the ideal time to bring heavy equipment into the park due to the wet conditions, Brian has worked diligently to make the best of the situation and enhance the drainage. Brian also has a plan for when the ground dries out—he will strip the area again and lay down a larger base rock to allow water to drain properly rather than sitting on the surface.

- East Cap Trail Improvement Project will start soon. The crew will spend time widening the already existing trail and improving the steps near the Cap Sante amphitheater. Jonn took Brian, Jamie and I on a field trip to walk the trail and talk about ways to make it more user friendly with signs and eliminating some of the hazards along the way.



- Cemetery office is complete and Nichola is all moved in. Special thanks to the entire Facility Department for working on this office.
- 2025 Washington Park Reservations opened up on Dec. 16th and within the first three hours we had 800 reservations. It is looking like it is going to be another busy year at Washington Park.
- I've completed this year's evaluations, and I'm excited to share that everyone continues to enjoy working here! While I know you're already aware of this, I remain deeply impressed by the dedication and hard work of the entire crew.
- As we look ahead to 2025, we are aware that we will be down one full-time person. We will need to come together and find ways to continue managing the many tasks we are responsible for. I'm confident that with ongoing teamwork, adaptability, and commitment, we'll navigate this change the best that we can.



Bring on 2025!

DECEMBER 2024

Assistant Director's Highlights

Submitted: December 20, 2024

Bob Vaux

APD NEW OFFICER ORIENTATION

Parks Manager Johnston and I met with new Officer Jeremy Carter and worked through our Parks & ACFL basics, in the office and field. As Jeremy is a longtime resident and former Council member, we were able to skip to the best parts. Looking forward to having Officer Carter on the team.

2026 FOREST PLAN UPDATE

Our in-house process of completing a draft to review with the Forest Advisory Board should be ready for distribution a week or two prior to the Feb. 6th, 2025 FAB meeting.

BEN ROOT SKATE PARK RESTROOM AND PARKING LOT

This project is picking up steam. Working now with the Civil Engineer (same crew from the skate park improvement project), the CXT restroom folks and COA staff to get the bid package put together. Shout out to City Engineer Logan Lee and Contract Specialist Tiffany Matson for the on-going professional and generous support.

TREES

Did another Grandview East recon trip with Arborist Steve. He will evaluate a stand of mature maple near our east property line.

Met with a Forest Ridge resident who is curious about wildfire protection and living next to tall trees.

Met with Storvik Park Condo HOA re: some nearby trees they would like to work with us on (possible hazard removal and some trimming). Working on a plan.

VOLUNTEERS

ACFL Jamie and I met with some long-time local mountain bikers who put a lot of volunteer hours in on our trails and want to continue to do so. We reviewed the current regulatory requirements as well as volunteer protocol. Really appreciate folks interested in truly selfless work.

BEAVER DAMS

Spent most of an afternoon (+ much of the next morning) with WDFW Area Biologist J. Pyle, reviewing our various beaver dams, beaver deceivers and spillways. She is working with us on making the various HPA processes more efficient.

SAMISH/COA IN THE ACFL

Monthly Samish/COA hike with Denise. Enjoyed a beautiful Morrison Meadow / Big Beaver Dam trip with Denise.

WONDERLAND WALK

The Community pitched in with the Parks & Rec team and put together another free holiday treat for anyone interested. Thanks to all who gave their time.

CAP SANTE VIEWPOINT PROJECT

Filled in for Director Lunsford for a few days, joining Engineering Tech Kristen for daily site visits. Project taking shape and looking good. It will enhance the Cap Sante experience for many.

Recreation Staff Report:

Boys Youth Basketball: The boys basketball season concluded on Saturday the 21st. A big thank you to all of our volunteer coaches. From what I witnessed all of our coaches did a great job. Participation numbers for these league continue to remain constant. The format of the league continues to work well and staff will

continue to look for tweaks that could be made to make it better. The girls season starts after the first of the year. Eli is busy getting those teams ready to start practicing after kids get back from break.

Wonderland Walk: The event was held on Friday and Saturday, December 13 & 14 from 5:00 – 8:00 p.m. Attendance was great on Friday with a slow arriving crowd on Saturday. According to our calculations Saturday ended up being the busier day. Once again windstorm battered the park in between the two nights of the event. A few light vendor booths fell victim to the wind. Vendors decorated their sites well, we had school choirs which added to the ambiance, and parking did become challenging at certain points of the night. Light vendor participation was down a little bit from last year. The comments I heard from those who chose not to participate was the unpredictability of the weather. Thanks to the Parks Maintenance Crew for their help setting up the week prior and for helping parks cars and light campfires on both nights of the event. Other City departments that were involved this year included Senior Center, Street Department, Sanitation Department, Police Department, and the Arts Commission. Thanks to Council member Carolyn Moulton and Parks and Recreation Commission member JoAnn York-Gilmore for volunteering as greeters at the event.

Puzzle Competition: We held our one and only scheduled individual puzzle competition on December 11th. We had 10 people registered and the fast puzzle assembler was crowned the “Ultimate Puzzler.” The team competitions resume next month and will continue, one per month, through the spring.

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:

Recreation Staff took some well-deserved time off around the holidays. Also, catching up on year-end wrap up of programs. Also, starting to plan out a schedule for 2025’s programs and events.

Total Volunteers Hours for December



Drop-in Sports

3	X	14 hrs. = 42
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Wonderland Walk

42	X	6 hrs. = 252
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Boys Youth Basketball

6	X	6 hrs. = 36
12	X	9 hrs. = 108

Total for Month	438
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Respectfully Submitted by,
Dustin South, Recreation Manager & Eli Moore, Recreation Coordinator.