



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

February 11th, 2025 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 January Minutes
3. Public Comments
4. Correspondence/Communication
5. Spring Projects and Events 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).

January 14th, 2025

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

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

Call to order: 6:02pm

December minutes passed unanimously.

Public Comments:

None

Correspondence and Communication:

Forest Board Notes- JoAnn shared that the Forest Board met on the 2nd and Kit was reelected as Chair. Bob shared a presentation about the Heart Lake plan and grant. The legislature now needs to vote on funding for all the applications.

Ellie gave an update from the Friends of the Forest. Their new location downtown will open back up in the spring. They are also looking for a new Executive Director.

Pickleball Meeting Discussion:

Jonn reported that he and Nicole had met with the Parks Foundation to present the request for the sound dampening materials as well as fixing the wind damaged fence. The Foundation has voted to fund this project in full. The first step will be to for the parks crew to fix the fence and improve the road and parking. The second step will be to get the sound dampening curtains ordered and installed.

Jonn shared that he had met with the school district about using the middle school courts during off hours for pickle ball.

John Pope has been trying new equipment in the basement of City Hall to see if any work for quieter play.

Staff recommendations are the following: fix Clearridge courts by spring, find alternative spots for play, look at pop up courts during July and August when use is at its peak. The Board was in support of trying these changes for now and then reevaluating.

W Side Park:

Jonn announced that there will be a community meeting on January 30th at 6pm at the Senior Center. This has been advertised to the direct neighbors as well as social media for the general community. There is no funding currently for this project but council has asked staff to start the process.

Department Reports:

Nicole shared that the drainage issues have been resolved at the dog park with staff spending a couple of days working on this.

Nicole met with Grey and Osborn about the SHIP trail and boardwalk repair. The Port and WA state ferry will be a part of this project as it moves forward.

Parks staff have been working on the Marine Stadium trail, on the east side of Cap Sante. There is about one more week of work to do here in restoration of this trail.

Staff is also working on baseball field prep.

Dustin shared that girls basketball is beginning and summer program planning is under way. Several families have requested more indoor recreation opportunities and staff is looking for a way to provide this.

Karl gave a snapshot of the great 2024 that the Center had. There was a 14% increase per day and a 24% increase in programs offered. The Sea Notes Big Band performed yesterday with 75 people coming to enjoy the music and dance. The Center offered a "Newcomer's Tour" with 14 people taking part to learn about the Center and the programs. This tour led to many great conversations. The Center is working on a Community Needs Assessment for community members 55 and greater. This will be open for the next 6 weeks.

Jonn reported that the Trestle study is almost complete and will be reported to Council in March. The demolition of the concrete at Storvik has started but funds are still needed for the sand volleyball courts. The budget is short for 2025 with the Parks department using reserves and holding off on hiring for 4-6 months. Jonn shared that the Depot Plaza plans are in process, Bob is working on the skate park restroom and parking lot, and the Cap lookout is coming along great with the expected finish in late winter.

Other Business:

None

Adjourned at 6:54pm

Respectfully submitted by Darby Jordan

Parks and Recreation Update January 2025:

Recreation Report: Dustin South, Recreation Manager and Eli Moore, Recreation Coordinator:

Girls Youth Basketball: The league started with practices earlier this month. Games began on Saturday, January 18th. We have a good number of teams, with several volunteer coaches. Our student recreational assistants continue to do a great job as officials and scorekeepers for the programs. Picture day was on January 25th.

Pee Wee Basketball: The popular early childhood sports program started on Saturday, January 18 at the middle school gym. The program focuses on kids getting to participate in the sport of basketball, participants are coached by our awesome teenage staff and best of all the 4–6-year-olds get to burn off some energy with their friends. This year we had 54 kids registered between two sessions, which is down a few participants from last year.

Puzzle Competition: We held another team puzzle competition on January 15th. We had 8 teams registered. The puzzlers continue to improve their time. This month's puzzle had 550 pieces and the fastest team completing theirs in about 30 minutes. The 2nd and 3rd place teams were about 2- and 4-minutes behind the winners.

Mom & Tots Workout: An ongoing program to benefit moms and toddlers looking to burn some energy through physical activity. While developing social opportunities outside the home. This is a new twist on a consistent popular past program. The program is open to toddlers ages 1-3.

Messy Me: Class was offered this month with an average of about 8 participants. Toddler age participants get messy and creative in the same class. The class was held at the Anacortes Senior Activity Center which they enjoy seeing the kids come through the building.

Drop-in Youth Soccer: One of our fall youth soccer coaches wanted to start a new program during the winter months to encourage kids to hone their soccer skills. The free program has close to 30 kids registered and

is taking place in the afternoon on Wednesdays at the high school soccer field. They will be able to continue during this day and time until the high school spring sports season starts at the end of February.

Youth Art Club: Staff worked with a local youth art instructor, Vickie Corley, to offer a Kids Art Club after school on Wednesdays at the Depot. The program is offered in two different sessions, 1st-3rd grade and 4th-6th grade. The program is running through mid-March.

Adult Drop-ins: Adult Volleyball takes place at Fidalgo Elementary on Wednesday and Friday (7-9 pm) evenings. 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 is currently working on programs and events for the upcoming Spring/Summer time. Some key dates are Dad and Daughter Dance (Feb. 22), Egg Dash (April 11), Kids Fishing Event (May 17), Bark in the Park (June 14), and Kids R Best Fest (July 14.)

We are also working details for the following programs that will take place this Spring. Youth Volleyball League, All Ages Badminton, Explore Biology for Kids, and Youth Track & Field

Total Volunteers Hours for January



Drop-in Sports

1	X	24 hrs. = 24
1	X	16 hrs. = 16
2	X	8 hrs. = 16



Girls Youth Basketball

18	X	10.5 hrs. = 189
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Total for Month	245
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Assistant Director Report: Bob Vaux, Assistant Director

FOREST PLAN 2026 UPDATE

Working with Director Lunsford and Darby on the updated draft for Forest Advisory Board review. Shout out to Planning Libby for process input, and to Transition Fidalgo for contributing a chapter based upon their years of Citizen Scientist work. We were able to distribute the marked-up draft on Fri, Jan 24th. The plan is now available on the ACFL website as well. The public review will commence at the Feb. 6 FAB meeting.

CAP SANTE VIEW PROJECT

Spent some more time assisting Engineer Tech Kristen on the daily job site inspections. Strandberg crew doing great work. The project blends with the spot more and more.

TREES

ACFL Jamie and I visited a Whistle Lake area neighbor who found a City tree had come down on their side of the line during a recent storm. No damage to people or property. We will schedule a clean up after the first of the year when folks return from holiday leave.

Arborist Steve and I continued working with a Forest Ridge resident on some tree concerns. Steve will evaluate after the first of the year.

Working with a Woods at Sunset Cove NGPE neighbor on a potential hazard tree.

Met with Olsen Tree Service at a private residence job on Parkside Drive, just outside of Washington Park entrance. The hazard tree work will be done exclusively in street right of way.

ACFL RECON

- #247: working on some potential boundary line / private trail activity issues.
- Little Cranberry Dam: working on updating safety and maintenance requirements, as per WDOE.
- #215 tree: a big one came down over the holidays. Jamie did a great job getting the trail back open.
- #102; tricky spot to navigate near the NE corner of LC. Repair requires a comprehensive list of permits. Will put the project in the queue.
- Hiker social trail activity continues near the 29th Street water tank, Morrison Natural Park area. ACFL Jamie has been dealing with this for some time, and he will continue to.
- Great work on the new #104 railing that drops down near the #106 bridge. Thank you Jamie and the Fidalgo Trail Riders.

ROTARY CLUB VOLUNTEERS

I continue to work with and be impressed by Tom Decker and the Rotary Club on the Cap Sante Summit Trail that climbs up the west side of the parks. Thanks to all the club members who consistently volunteer their time to make this trail a great part of our community.

WEST 6TH PARK PROJECT

While there is currently no funding designated for this project, there is significant interest in it from neighbors and elected officials. Director Lunsford and I met with Heike Nelson/HLN Engineering to start the discussion of planning options. We are prepping for a community information meeting to be held Jan. 30th at the Anacortes Senior Activity Center.

DISC GOLF COURSE

Parks Tottenham and I continue to work with DGC Club President Aaron B. on course and park improvements. We will be working next on some green space improvements, focusing on exchanging invasive plants for native stock.

DOGS OFF LEASH

Parks Manager Johnston and I met with Animal Control Officer Z. Nybo, discussed strategies for off leash emphasis patrols in the parks and forest lands. We are hoping to elevate education and voluntary compliance.

ADMIN

This month's administrative focus:

- Ben Root Skate Park: restroom and parking lot project management. Have been reviewing preliminary documents with Engineering.

- **WDFW HPA's: continuing to work on simplifying the beaver dam / beaver deceivers permitting process with J. Pyle, WDFW Area Wildlife Habitat Biologist.**
 - **Working with COA Planning and WDFW on a couple of ACFL bridge replacement projects: 105 and 115.**
 - **Working on the Parks & Rec elements of the COA's Comp Plan update.**
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Parks Report: Nicole Johnston: Parks Manager

Below are a few highlights from the month of January.

SHIP Harbor Boardwalk Repair Update- The City as you already know has been working with Gray and Osborne (the same engineering firm that helped us rebuild the Trestle) to look at how we might rebuild the Ship Harbor Boardwalk and connect it to the State Ferry Terminal. They have provided us with four different 15% preliminary drawings. We are excited about option 3A, which is basically redoing the entire damaged boardwalk while also improving the boardwalk section that will connect to the Washington State Ferry Terminal. I will plan to bring a copy of the preliminary drawings to the meeting in February and we can quickly review them. Jonn and I also met with Jackie Ferry from the Samish Indian Nation onsite and shared with her the concepts for the project. We want to make sure that whatever we create we do so in tandem with Samish.



East Cap Sante Trail-The crew has worked hard to improve the East Cap Sante Trail that we are calling "Marine Stadium Trail". The improvements to the steps is incredible and definitely more user friendly. Crew cleared out dead debris along the road leading up to the lookout and also cleared out a lot of dead brush up top, improving the lookout even more.

Kudos to Nichola for being recognized as the "Safety Star" by the Safety Committee—she is doing a great job prioritizing safety, which is important in any workplace. She leads by example and keeps the crew on track. Nichola was nominated for this award by Steve Phillips, which is also pretty cool that a co worker took the time to do that.

X Mas Tree Pick Up-Thanks to the Anacortes Key Club and to Braydn Krueger for working the Christmas Tree Pick Up Day on Saturday, Jan. 4th.

Washington Park Update- 2025 camping reservation revenue so far is \$76,600 in just 6 weeks. Crew has done some small improvements around the park like adding gravel around the loop road where there has been a bit of a step down, working on trail improvements and also switching out the old parking logs for the new and improved Port of Anacortes donated logs and re-installing the speed bumps around the loop. Not much camping activity in January, but lots of loop road visitors.

Volunteer Park- I have received a quote from North West Colors to paint the Volunteer restroom building and the MDD press box and around the bleachers. We will plan to move forward with this work using donations that were made to the Anacortes Parks Foundation for Volunteer Park improvements. AJ has been working the infield of Volunteer field and is hosting a high school team work party for Daniels Field and the Field House. That is set to take place on Feb. 1.

Up next for the Park Crew is to move forward on removing the juniper from the front of the cemetery, repair the fence at Clearidge Park and get ready for the start of spring sports on Feb. 24. The plan is to post for all the summer seasonal jobs in early February. We are looking to hire a baseball seasonal who will work for three months as soon as possible.

Director's Report: Jonn Lunsford

Thompson Trail Trestle Update: We are hoping to provide the final report to City Council the first week of April. We are just waiting on final reports from our consultants.

The Cap Sante Lookout Project: The lookout is slated to be completed in March. Weather permitting we should be right on time.

Maritime Plaza: This is what we are now calling the Depot Plaza Expansion. We have met with our engineering consultants regarding updates to the plan. Revisions are moving forward with our goal to start construction by September, after the Arts Festival, still on line.