



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

March 11, 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 February Minutes
3. Public Comments
4. Correspondence/Communication
5. Cemetery Policy Update
6. ACFL Draft Plan Update
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).

February 11th, 2025

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

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

Call to order: 6:00pm

January minutes passed unanimously.

Public Comments:

None

Correspondence and Communication:

Forest Board Notes- JoAnn shared that the Forest Board is starting to review the first draft of the Forest Plan. This review will go through spring at the meetings. Public comments will be taken for this round of review until March 2nd at 5pm.

Jonn reported that there was no Parks Foundation meeting this month.

Spring Projects & Events Update:

Staff shared updates on various projects happen now or starting soon.

Nicole spoke about the SHIP boardwalk repair project. She shared a 15% drawing concept of the trail and how it would connect to the ferry holding area. This is the favorite of staff as it will help direct pedestrian traffic and protect the wetlands. This plan would repair the boardwalk and add viewing platforms. This plan will be shared with the Port and Samish as all will collaborate. There is no funding at this time but staff will look into grants through various sources.

Nicole also reported that she has met with the school district about the tennis courts by the middle school. Staff from the district and City are looking into repair of the courts as well as adding lines for pickleball play. This will add value and improve the courts for all users. Staff is waiting on quotes from a court specialist company.

Bob spoke about the West end park, at W 6th and Minnesota. Staff held a neighborhood meeting recently to get input on what features they would like to see at the park. Ideas were shared such as open space, basketball court, climbing toys, and swing set. The City has now allocated \$50,000 for the initial planning for the park.

Bob is working with HLN Engineering to come up with an artist rendering and estimate.

Bob also reported on the Forest Board and the hope to have a draft plan approved by the Board by the May meeting.

Darby shared that Staff is working on updating the Cemetery policies. The biggest change will be the addition of green burials as members of the community are asking for a more eco-friendly burial option.

Dustin announced the upcoming events for the spring and summer: Daddy Daughter Dance, Egg Dash, Kids Fishing Day, Bark in the Park and Kids-R-Best Fest. Staff is also working on the ATown which will have all of the programs and events listed for the community. This will be a smaller publication due to budget constraints.

Jonn reported on the Cap Sante Rotary look out project. This is expected to be complete in about 6 weeks with a ribbon cutting in April. Staff has been working to improve the trail on the east side of Cap Sante, now called the Maritime Stadium trail.

The Depot Plaza expansion project is in process with Staff waiting on construction and storm water plans.

The Tommy Thompson trail study is finishing up and will be presented to Council soon.

Department Reports:

Bob shared that there is no news about the Whistle Lake dam. The skate park restroom and parking lot is looking to be a fall project as Staff is waiting for RCO evaluation and approval. Bob attended a legislative meeting with Amanda Hubik and spoke about the Heart Lake improvement project. He also attended a meeting with a team from WRPA and Rep Ramel.

Nicole reported that the Samish are asking to host an event at Storvik Park on May 17th, focused on mental health and wellness.

Dustin shared that girls basketball is wrapping up. April will be Eli's one year of working for the City and he has brought a fresh perspective to the team.

Other Business:

Brad asked how things were going at Washington park. Nicole shared that things had held up well over the winter.

The snow event did not cause any Parks Staff to be called out as Streets was able to handle the removal.

A question was asked about Storvik and the changes happening there. The courts are on hold due to budget, but the team will be demo-ing the concrete soon. There are several projects that take priority over Storvik.

Laurie Gere will be at the April 12th meeting to speak about the Community Center.

Discussion was had about Q'elech'ilhch Park and the fact that the Port has closed through access in this area. This limits the pedestrian traffic and eyes on the park, a cause for concern for Staff.

Adjourned at 6:43pm

Respectfully submitted by Darby Jordan

Parks and Recreation Report: February 2025

Park Manager Report: Nicole Johnston

Juniper Removal At The Cemetery- This has been on the "to do" list for some time to finish up the removal of the juniper at Grand View cemetery. Parks crew will work on the slope and the plan is to grass it.

Baseball Seasonal Hire & Ballfield Prep- We have rehired Gabe to be the baseball seasonal. The high school season starts March 3 and the youth season starts March 10. Huge thanks to the AHS baseball team for hosting a work party at Don Daniels field on 2/1/25 and thank you to the AHS Fastpitch team for hosting a work party on 3/1/25. We are using Parks Foundation funds to have the siding on the backside of MDD painted and the Volunteer restroom building painted. North West Colors Painting will be doing the work as soon as the contract is approved.



Hazwoper Training- Steve, AJ, Braydn and Jamie joined public works for a 24 hour Hazwoper Training, hosted here at City Hall. The training teaches workers what to do if they need to handle exposure to waste in their daily work or in unintentional incidents. The training focuses on procedures and policies that protect workers while performing response activities. Thanks to Aaron in public works for including parks. We do not deal with hazardous waste daily, but we do from time to time clean up an encampment. The crew that took the training enjoyed it and feel more ready to help out.

RTP Evaluator- I spent little over a week taking time to be a RTP(Recreation Trails Program) grant evaluator for the RCO (Recreation Conservation Office). This grant program invests in all types of trails, including those for riding off-road vehicles, bicycling, cross-country skiing and snowshoeing, hiking, horseback riding, motorcycling, water trails, and more. I got to evaluate 42 general projects and 10 education projects. It is a neat opportunity to see what other agencies are doing and how majority of these grants are request for more funding to maintain what trails they currently have.

Other Updates:

- Playground chips have arrived and parks crew will work to get the chips distributed to the following playgrounds: Storvik, Library, Kiwanis Meadow, Tursi and Washington Park.

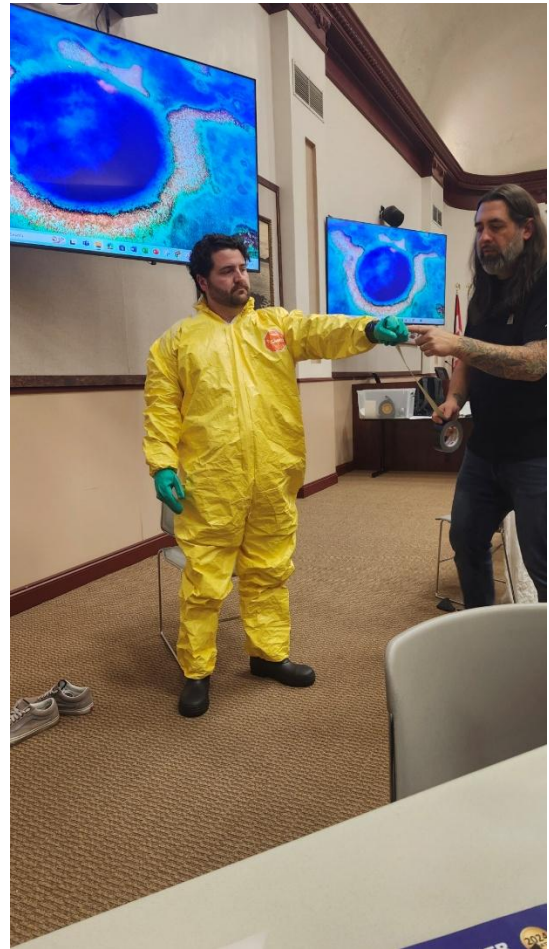
- Parks crew is making plans to improve the water lines within the Community Garden, so that gardeners don't accidentally hit them when doing their work. We will have to tear up the pathways and put the lines in deeper.

- Next Up for parks crew will be to repair the fence at Clearidge park and then make plans to install the noise curtains at the pickleball court before spring.

- Seasonal Staff applications are open.

- I attended the hotel/ motel voucher meeting at the Anacortes Family Center on 2/25/25. I learned that in 2024 the Anacortes Family Center provided 5,147 nights for individuals through the hotel/ motel voucher program. A few of those nights were vouchers for people to camp at Washington Park as well.

Mowing season is almost here.



Assistant Director Report: Bob Vaux

WEST 6TH PARK

Held a community engagement meeting Jan. 30th at the Anacortes Senior Activity Center. Had 20+ citizens, along with Council Member Fantini and two Parks Commissioners. Constructive conversations regarding park planning and the accompanying financial challenges. We will process the information received and bring an update back at a meeting to be scheduled.

Met with HLN Civil Engineering. They are working on a conceptual plan that we will eventually share with the public. This will most likely be an early spring meeting.

2026 FOREST PLAN UPDATE

Draft shared at the February Forest Advisory Board meeting. Some preliminary discussion of the current draft ensued with the public and the Board. Written comments on the current draft are open now through Tuesday, Mar. 4th, 5PM. The March 6th FAB meeting will focus on public comments.

Public comments coming in, both written and in person.

ACFL RECON:

- 1/31: ACFL Jamie and I spent some time in the North Heart Unit, looking at Ace o' Hearts flagging and some off trail activity. Flagging appears to be connected to Public Works Heart Lake Road sidewalk planning (from 41st Street to the ACFL).
- 2/13: ACFL Jamie and I did a Whistle Lake Dam spillway walk thru. Thanks to Parks Tottenham for installing the staff gauge. Spillway fully functional, no recent beaver activity.

BEN ROOT SKATE PARK

Started the permitting process with Planning. They are working on our check list.

Director Lunsford and I met with Skate Park Foundation Director Rachel, discussed potential donor options and some long-term park planning.

ADMIN:

- Attended a very educational American Trails webinar, focusing the on the differences between access and accessibility. A very good discussion on the many barriers so much of our population confronts and how we can help reduce these.
- Continuing to work on DOE and WDFW permit updates.

COA COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

Joined ABPAC for a multi-modal transportation plan focus group. Good back and forth regarding long term non-motorized transportation improvements, sidewalks in particular.

NEW APD STAFF

Nicole and I did our part in the ACFL and Parks with two new members of the Police Department. We greatly appreciate the PD working us into their new employee orientation program. Nicole and I spent time with them, touring key spots in the woods and parks that have typically been the sites of frequent need for law enforcement support.

LEGISLATIVE MEETINGS

Director Lunsford and I had a good discussion of the Heart Lake parking lot improvement ALEA grant that awaits funding in Olympia with Rep. Ramel's Senior Executive Legislative Assistant, our own Amanda Hubik. We always appreciate the access to Rep. Ramel, along with the good work he does in the state legislature.

I joined the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Coalition's Day on the Hill remotely. Had a great group meeting with Rep. Ramel, as well as a panel discussion with Legislators from both sides of the aisle. Most are feeling pretty good about the Capital Budget. It is the Operating budget that comes with the biggest challenges this session.

TREES

- Met on site with a homeowner and landscaper at the Woods at Sunset Cove NGPE. Reviewed Planning Dept. approved hazard abatement plan.
- Arborist Steve and I took a look at a few more hazard trees in the Grandview Cemetery East property, along with Dan Rawls, who did the last job out that way. It's a complicated situation.

ROGUE MOTORCYCLES

We continue to see a small group of motorized trail users ignoring not only the seasonal closure but also using trails prohibiting motorized use at all times. We appreciate the observations shared by regular ACFL visitors. City staff snapped this photo on a recent Saturday but was unable to make contact with the rider.

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

Girls Youth Basketball: The league finished up this month, it was a great season with about 130 participants signed up and numerous volunteer coaches. Our teenage staff did a great job with officiating. Staff would like to "Thank" all of our volunteers for contributing to the success of the program.

Pee Wee Basketball: The popular early childhood sports program concluded on Saturday, February 8. 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 February 12th. We had 10 teams registered. We had a couple teams back out at the last minute due to illness. We continue to see a few new faces with each event, however, several of the "regulars" never miss an event. Staff is working with colleagues from across the valley to hold similar event in the event we could hold a "valley championship" event at sometime in the future.

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.

Kids Open Gym: Staff created an open gym time on Thursdays in the City Hall Basement gym. This program is primarily geared towards toddler aged kids. Participants can burn off some energy in a warm, dry, and safe environment.

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 40 kids registered and is taking place in the afternoon on Wednesdays at the high school soccer field. Due to Spring High School Sport teams starting practices soon Rice Field would not be available during the weekdays for the next couple month. Staff worked with School District to secure Sunday afternoons for the next couple months. The kids are excited that they can continue the program and use the artificial turf field at the high school.

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 first session concluded in the middle of the month. With another session starting up at the end of the month. Staff is working with the instructor to try an offer some type of weeklong program in the summer.

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 which includes getting information together for the Spring/Summer A-Town Publication. We are also working details for the following programs that will take place this Spring. Youth Volleyball League, All Ages Badminton, Rec Hall Explore Biology for Kids, and Youth Track & Field.

Total Volunteers Hours for February



Drop-in Sports

1	X	24 hrs.	= 24
1	X	16 hrs.	= 16
2	X	8 hrs.	= 16
2	X	6 hrs.	= 12



Girls Youth Basketball

18	X	9 hrs.	= 162
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Total for Month 230

Director's Report: Jonn Lunsford

Cemetery Policy Update: We are reviewing our Grandview Cemetery policies to update a few items to bring to the Parks Commission and then to the City Council for discussion and approval. One new item will be green burials. We are discussing a policy to allow these at Grandview. Another item is adding the prohibition on dogs, even on leash, from inside the cemetery. This was passed via ordinance in the 1990's but not added to City Code.

Cap Sante Lookout Opening: The Rotary Club will be hosting a ribbon cutting at the new lookout on the Cap Sante on April 16th @ 1:30pm. The road to the top will be closed, but trails are open and a shuttle bus will leave from the Yacht Club.