

Minutes of the Meeting: October 13, 2022

Board members present: Brian Wetcher, JoAnn York-Gilmore, Kit Gerwels, Tabb Stringer

Staff present: Bob Vaux, Steve Phillips, Darby Jordan

Guests: Asa Dean

Meeting held in person and via Zoom and called to order at 6:00PM

Minutes: September minutes were unanimously approved as submitted.

Board Member Update:

Bob shared that Nick Stowe has officially resigned from the Forest Board due to his increased travel schedule. There are a few applications in the Talent Bank which the mayor is reviewing. We hope to have a decision in the next month. Bob also shared that JoAnn has been reappointed to both the Forest and Parks Boards.

Public Comments:

None

ACFL Dams Update:

This project is still ongoing, but Bob was just notified that the Dept of Ecology has deemed the City of Anacortes eligible for the FY22 High Hazard Potential Dam (HHPD) Rehabilitation Grant program. This is FEMA money administered by the State. The COA is working with a consultant on a planning grant. We are still waiting on the report on the dam status and recommendations.

Friends of the Forest Update:

Asa shared that the Friends are again hosting fieldtrips out in the woods! This is a first since 2019 and everyone is very excited. These trips are for Kindergarten, 3rd and 7th graders and are done in conjunction with in-classroom activities.

The annual benefit fundraiser will be held on November 12th at the Transit Shed. Tickets are on sale online and at Watermark books.

Asa stated that their after school programs are up and running.

Parks Commission Report:

JoAnn reported on the September meeting of the Parks Commission. There was a guest in attendance to speak about a proposal to convert the unused shuffle board and horse shoe area at Storvik park to a sand volleyball space. The Board expressed support for hearing more details and cost estimates. At the Parks meeting, Jonn reported that he had met with a few contractors who helped with the TTPW trestle rebuild the last time it was set on fire,

including Nels Strandberg and Andy Culbertson, as well as a new fencing company. The permits are in process with local, state and federal agencies. There are many different entities involved-Coast Guard, Army Corp, WDFW and the City. There may be an opportunity to remove some of the unused pilings during demolition. Materials are being ordered as many of them are delayed due to supply chain issues. There was not as much burned as last time according to preliminary evaluations. There is no estimate of cost at this time, but when that cost becomes clear, there are community groups ready to help with fundraising.

Some of the neighbors of the Clearidge pickleball courts have reached out about the noise from the courts. Bob has invited them to come to the Parks Board meeting. There will be a closure of the Guemes Channel Trail next week to do some tree trimming. Community fundraising will start soon for the skatepark and pump track.

ACFL Trail Committee Report:

Bob reported that there has been nothing new since last month. Bob did meet with the WTA team about a project at Washington Park. This will be done hopefully in January or February.

Bob reported on the other trail project in the works at this time, the W 2nd Connector trail. A trail of sorts has been there for years, but the Parks staff is working with Superior Systems on a metal raised path. Staff is hoping that the public will enjoy this new “bridge” and see the benefits of using it in other areas to protect wetlands.

Staff Reports:

Steve had nothing to add to his written report.

Bob spoke about everyone’s hope for rain soon. The trails are very dry at this time. There was a vehicle accident and tree scorch on Mt Erie that was thankfully contained. The trails will seasonally close to motorized vehicles on November 1st.

Other Business:

Kit mentioned that he has been on the board for about a year and has noticed a few things that he would like more information on. He is hoping to have a more open discussion about the budget, how it is set, how the Board can affect change, if there is any way to impact the revenue sources, CEP and Endowment Fund. Bob stated that he would speak with Jonn and see about having Jonn speak at the next board meeting.

Tabb asked about getting some trees trimmed near the Fir Crest neighborhood. When on horseback, they are quite low. Steve will get this taken care of and asked that anytime this is noticed, just send an email and he will take care of the trimming.

Discussion was started about the ACFL plan and the update. This will be a process spanning several months but can be divided and started next year.

Adjourn at 7:30pm

Respectfully Submitted by Darby Jordan