



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

Preliminary Agenda

Grand View Cemetery site visit-Thursday Feb 8th 3:30-4pm
(no public comments will be taken)
411 Hillcrest Drive

Regular Meeting on February 8, 2022 at 6:00 PM

Access to the meeting via Zoom through this link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85776295672>

1. Call to Order
2. Approve Minutes
3. Public Comments
4. Department Reports
5. Other Business

If reasonable accommodation due to a disability are needed, please contact Mac Jackson at least 48 hours prior to the meeting date (360-299-1961)

ANACORTES PARKS & RECREATION

Advisory Commission

Meeting Minutes

*Sarah Nichols, Chairperson
Jo Ann York-Gilmore
Brad Adams
Christine Hansen
Alex Hernandez*

January 11, 2022

Members Present: Sarah Nichols, Jo Ann York-Gilmore, Christine Hansen and Brad Adams

Staff Present: Karl Wolfswinkel, Dustin South, Nicole Johnston, and Jonn Lunsford

Other Presenters: Rochelle Kealoha, Shaunie McCloud, Ed Capasso, Mary Harju, Andy Stevens, Pat McCunn, Jim Malson, Gary Follstad and others.

Called to Order: 6:02 PM

Minutes: December minutes were unanimously approved as submitted.

Public Comments: None

Pride Parade: Jonn opened this discussion stating that the parks board is the group who approves use of our parks to large groups. He introduced Rochelle and Shaunie and they spoke about their request for an event permit for a parade and event at Causland Park directly following. Shaunie gave some background on the group- they established about one year ago with a Facebook group for the LGBTQ+ and allies in our community. They would like to hold a parade that is specific to their group and then a community activity following. The group is hoping to coordinate with Anacortes Music project, possibly a food truck, yard games, and family friendly activities. The date is set for June 18th, 2022. The board members expressed support of the event and approved a special events permit. Jonn directed Rochelle and Shaunie to continue coordination with Bob Vaux and Parks staff.

Causland Park Memorial Wall: Jonn opened the floor to any public comments before giving the history of the project. He stated there had been some additional letters received and wanted to continue the discussion as indicated at the last meeting.

Sarah Nichols spoke for the board that they were there to provide a public forum and take comments but they would not be the ones to make any decisions on the memorial. She noted that letters that have come into the Parks and Recreation Department since the December meeting had been forwarded to Commission members. She also noted that staff had provided the Commission with an April 22, 2021 letter to Mr. Capasso from Mayor Gere, Mr. Cappasso's response via email on April 29, 2021 and a follow up letter from Mayor Gere on May 3, 2021. The letters from the Mayor invited Mr. Capasso to design a plaque just like the ones donated by the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) in the 1980's. Once that was done, the proof needed to be approved by the Parks Department and VFW.

At the time of opening this discussion, there were 17 Zoom connections, with Mr. Capasso's connection hosting multiple people representing the group Patriots Corner. Not all participants identified themselves by name or address so it was difficult to attribute each comment to a specific individual.

Several people expressed frustration at the length of time this process has taken. There was a question posed about what action had been taken since the last meeting. Jonn responded that no decisions of substance had been made since the December meeting.

Those commenting supported placing the plaque that was delivered to Mayor Gere in September of 2021, on to the wall. Some questioned why the new plaque needed to match the existing plaques created by the VFW in the 1980's. Staff explained that since the park was on the historic register, and the tradition for the plaques was established by veterans in the 1980's, the city wanted any new plaque to look just like the original plaques. Discussion ensued.

Jonn offered that the Parks foundation would cover the cost for a new plaque if cast just like the existing plaques as specified in letters from Mayor Gere dated April and May 2021.

The Veteran's group presented a new template for the plaque and was invited by both Jonn and the Parks board to submit it for review and to continue the process.

Discussion continued.

Next action steps: Ed Capasso will send the new template to Mayor Miller and Jonn in order to continue the process. Staff was requested to see if the city would reimburse the Patriots Corner group for the plaque that was returned to them by Mayor Gere. The Commission will look at continuing its discussion of how to accept memorial donations for the future.

Department Reports:

- **Senior Activity Center**- Karl reported that despite the snow and holidays there were no major issues. The center will be hosting a vaccination clinic for the community to help with first, second and booster vaccines with another clinic on February 11th. The center is running as much as possible with the current Covid restrictions.
- **Recreation** – Dustin reported that girls' basketball just ended and this week they are starting boys and pee wee basketball. The department is getting a bit more gym time from the schools which has been very helpful. He is hoping to get more kids out recreating and socializing and interacting with other kids.
- **Parks**-Nicole reported on progress at the Grand View Cemetery expansion project. There are a few small repairs to be done by February 1st and then it will be complete. The next step is surveying, with the goal to be selling plots by spring 2022. And get grass growing! The team is staying busy with outside projects and trying to stay healthy.
- **Skate Park Update**: Jonn updated that he was working with the Anacortes Skates organization who is providing a large donation and Grindline as the contractor for engineering and bid documents. Jonn expects to take this to City Council in the near future and hope to send it out to bid in summer 2022.

JoAnn quickly reported that the Forest Board is taking comments on Ebikes.

Meeting adjourned at 7:25pm.

The NEXT MEETING will be held on Tuesday, February 08, 2022, at 6:00 PM, virtually.

Respectfully submitted by: Darby Jordan

Parks and Recreation Update --February 2022

Recreation Staff Report:

Boys Youth Basketball League: League practices and games started this month. We have about 164 boys signed up to play. Which is about average for the number of players we have had the past couple of seasons. We were able to secure a little more space gym space for practices which has helped relieve some pressure. Skagit County Health Department came out with a request to limit the number of people in the gyms, so we abided with the recommendation. Hoping to allow more people back in as the season goes along. Still asking players and parents to wear masks inside the gyms, which continues to be challenging at times.

Pee Wee Basketball: Started on Saturday, January 15 at the middle school gym. For those not familiar this program focuses more on teaching the FUNDamentals of basketball for kids ages 4-6 years old, they participate in age-appropriate basketball drills and skill training. Our student recreational assistants act as the coaches and their enthusiasm are paramount to the success of the program.

Sports Talk at Senior Center: Recreation staff are working with the Anacortes Senior Center staff to provide monthly talks with a topic on sports. We have one scheduled for January, February, and March. This month our topic is going to be the Olympics and non-traditional winter sports like skiing/snowboarding. We are excited about this new opportunity for programming and thank the ASAC for being open to the idea.

Upcoming Events/Programs: Just wanted to let everyone know we are planning to hold the following events in the coming months. Daddy Daughter Dance, on February 19, is currently full. We are looking at hosting the event at the senior center facility utilizing both inside and outside to follow COVID protocols. Egg Dash, April 15, the annual event is back and will be held on the Friday before Easter at Storvik Park. Working with the school district to secure space at Rice Field and in the middle school gym for youth track and field, youth flag football, and youth volleyball leagues this Spring.

Other Items: Staff are in the process of finalizing details of the contract for Anacortes Waterfront Alliance to provide learn to sail classes again this summer. Concurrently we are developing a class schedule with AWA to advertise in the summer A-town publication. Additionally, we are working on scheduling summer events such as Bark in the Park, Kids R Best Fest, Art Dash, for this summer.

Total Volunteers Hours for January



Boys Yth Basketball

1 st /2 nd grade	12	X	7.5 hrs.	= 90
3 rd /4 th grade	10	X	12 hrs.	= 120
5 th /6 th grade	3	X	12 hrs.	= 36

Total for Month

Dustin South, Recreation Manager
Travis Anderson, Recreation Coordinator

Parks Maintenance:

Grand View Cemetery Update- Parks crew had to remove a tree that was leaning and started to upheave the ground. This tree was located within the cemetery near the urn garden intersection. In the SE corner of the existing cemetery Brian put in a gravel pathway and installed more fence along Whistle Lake Road. This looks really nice and will keep people from walking over graves or trying to drive near the fence line. We have had three cemetery services this past month and two of them were on the same day. Thanks to Sky and Myles for working extra hard and long on a Saturday to cover both of those services.

Grand View Cemetery Expansion Update- Grass is slowly started to sprout within the expansion, we will soon add more grass seed and fertilizer. No date has been set with Trinity Contractors to come back to make the repairs to the asphalt road and to stain the good neighbor fence. They have until Feb. 21, 2022. The surveyor still needs to finalize plot/ lot layout for recording. Our goal is to be able to start selling plots this spring/ summer.

Washington Park Update-Parks crew took two days and closed the loop road to vehicle traffic and was able to take the mower and trim along the edge of the loop road. Campground is starting to see a bit more action on the weekends with a few campers coming to visit. We have had a citizen reach out who has interest in raising money for new fire pits along sunset beach. This would be nice to upgrade and replace the fire pits that we currently have. The holiday wreath that is still hanging on the exit road of section B will come down on Feb. 11th when Parks crew helps take down the Commercial Ave holiday wreaths.

Guemes Channel Trail Update- We have rented a large excavator and the crew has been working on moving the rock back along the GCT. We will need to sawcut and asphalt the trail where there has been damage. The trail was closed for this repair during the week of Jan. 24-28, 2022.

X mas Tree Pick Up Day Success- Thanks to Nichola who worked the x- mas tree pick up day on January 8, 2022 with the Boy Scout Troops and the Kiwanis Club.

Graffiti -Parks Crew is consistently removing graffiti from the downtown restrooms (Tommy Thompson, The Heart, Storvik and the Depot). We will continue to report the graffiti and staff time to the police department. This is an unfortunate reality and we all know it is happening in other communities as well. I am grateful that our community does a good job keeping an eye on our facilities so we can quickly clean up the graffiti as needed.

Field Use Update- Baseball season is almost here. Working with AJ to get equipment and supplies needed for baseball season which starts officially on Feb. 28th. AJ and I are having a field users meeting in February with AHS coaching staff, AHS athletic director and representatives from the Anacortes Little League and Blackhawks. Already I've been asked if we are going to allow summer tournaments at our fields this summer. Nothing has been decided on that front. In addition to these local teams we have also been allowing the Skagit College baseball team have access to Daniels field for practices and scrimmages on the weekends.

Seasonal Parks Staff-Parks Department is getting ready to post for the summer seasonal staff positions. I am attending a job fair in early February up in Bellingham that is being organized by WRPA. We will be looking to fill one ballfield position, one water/sanitation position, one cemetery mower position, two

trim crew positions, two ACFL positions and five Washington Park positions. Goal is to have this posted on anacorteswa.gov by the first part of February.

Nicole Johnston, Parks Manager

Anacortes Community Forest Lands and Parks Administration:

E-bikes

Doing my best to collect relevant data and opinions for the Forest Advisory Board process. I am very interested to see just what the width and breadth becomes of this venture into the latest user group to seek out the ACFL.

The January Forest Advisory Board meeting was a good test balloon, with over 25 attendees (in addition to the Board) expressing heart felt opinions why we should and shouldn't roll out the red carpet for these modern modes of transportation and recreation.

New Admin Ass't Darby Jordan

Please stop by the parks & rec hq sometime and meet Darby. She has jumped right into her new gig, and is learning fast. It has been a pleasure getting to know her, and her skill set is a great fit. Again, special thanks to Victoria Alsup, Mary Snyder and Valora Sandstrom for taking the time to help transition Darby successfully into her new parks & rec roll.

ACFL Beaver Activity

Visited a home in the Vista Too neighborhood, where beavers are working on assorted alder rather close to the property line. Thus far their work remains in the 32nd Street swamp, but good to keep an eye out.

ACFL Tree Theft

It's been a long time since I have seen the blatant "stealing" of trees in our woods. On 7 January Brian Tottenham showed me a spot near the southern 220 trailhead. One was standing, one was down. We have not found new evidence of this practice since. The snow and the rain combo have various impacts on peoples' lives.

Guemes Channel Trail Storm Repair

Have been working with our staff, Public Works, our consultant and communicating with various agencies regarding routine storm damage repair on the GCT. We did have to close the trail for a few days to make sure we could safely operate some equipment. The vast majority of the trail regulars showed great patience for this.

Ace of Hearts Park

Spending some time here at both the dog and ballfield sectors, along the bank of AOH Creek. B. Tottenham is developing a volunteer work party plan to improve some of the dog side surfacing, along with volunteer Bill Turner. On the ballfield side, we have enlisted the help of Animal Control Officer Zabrina Nybo. Folks from afar, as well as neighbors, have taken to using this side for dogs as well. We are hoping improving the dog side might slow down this unpleasant and illegal practice.

Rotary Club Cap Sante Trail Project

Continue with various site visits, kiosk design and construction, working with Planning on permitting upland phases. Rotary Club members hard at it, and a pleasure to work with.

Friends of the Forest 2022 Preview

Director Lunsford and I had a good 2022 kick off meeting with FoF Exec Dir Asa Deane. We are looking forward to enhancing our combined volunteer efforts, and generally working hard on the ACFL wellness plan.

Volunteer Park Neighbor

Ballfield lead AJ Yost and I met on site with a frustrated neighbor. She pointed out a handful of legit concerns. Thank you AJ for quickly handling and improving the situation. And I appreciate the neighbor reaching out directly to us rather than wasting a bunch of time on social media.

Storvik Vandalism

Closed out 2021 with a rash of vandalism at Storvik. Thanks so much to the Parks Crew for dealing with this day after day after day. Parks Manager Johnston has been working with APD on the investigation.

Site Visits with Planners

Thanks to Emily and Nathan from Planning. They have been able to join the following; W. 2nd and Baltimore trail discussion with Director Lunsford and I. Stopped by Smiley's for a brief trail options discussion as well.

Joined members of the ACFL Trail Committee, Washington Trails Association staff and volunteer, ACFL Steve and I on trail 311. We explored a very interesting repair plan prepared by WTA at our request. First Trail Committee meeting in a long, long time.

For What It's Worth

Finished out 2021 on vacation, Dec 24 thru Jan 2.

Pandemic hitting work forces everywhere, including ours. Am proud of our staff's ability and willingness to cover for whomever needs to quarantine.

Took care of a hazard tree on trail 25 on MLK Day. Thank you Officer Janet Wilson for reporting this one. Was right in the sweet spot for bicycles on a blind downhill corner.

Took personal leave Jan 20, 21.

Bob Vaux, Assistant Director

Skate Park Update: Thanks to the City Council for approving the acceptance of donations for the park from the Anacortes Skate Park Improvement Project and Anacortes Kiwanis Club via the Parks Foundation totaling \$650,000. City Council also approved the new contract with Grindline Skateparks, Inc., to begin design and community outreach. We have prepared a survey for local residents that we will be preparing soon to help us understand what features people are hoping to see at the rebuilt park. Look for that survey to be released in early February.

Our Thanks to the Anacortes Family Center and Anacortes Police Department: We greatly appreciate the regular assistance we receive from the Anacortes Police and Family Center who help us find solutions for the homeless families and individuals who end up in the parks.

Senior Activity Center: The Center is open and full of in person and virtual options. Visit their website and open their monthly newsletter [here](#).

Anacortes Arts Commission: The Commission members have been busy despite the pandemic trying to get art and arts based opportunities out to the public. The 98221 Gallery at city hall (904 Sixth Street) is open daily from 8am to 5pm for the public to view art created by their neighbors. Many of the Anacortes based artists are showing their work for the first time. You can also say hello to the latest public sculpture “Bobo” at Pickett Pocket Park near 22nd and Commercial Avenue. The piece, created by artist Joe Treat and donated by the Anacortes Arts Foundation and Fidalgo Culture, is a tribute to former Anacortes resident Bobo the gorilla.

-Jonn Lunsford
Parks Director