

April 12, 2022

Members Present: Sarah Nichols, Jo Ann York-Gilmore, and Alex Hernandez

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

Called to Order: 6:02 PM

Minutes: March minutes were unanimously approved as submitted.

Public Comments: None

Correspondence/Communication:

Jo Ann gave an update from the Forest Advisory Board, reviewing the plan for the ebikes trial period in conjunction with Friends of the Forest. A blind study will be conducted in several locations on trails that allow bikes to determine any impact that ebikes have. After that trial period a recommendation will be made and included in the review and revision of the Forest Plan. Sarah asked about a decision on the other trails, such as Tommy Thompson, Loop Road and Guemes Channel Trail, and ebikes. Jonn stated that there are no rules at this time about ebikes in these locations but a recommendation could be made. He is working on an ordinance for the TTP to place a 15mph limit to help with some user group conflicts that have come up.

JoAnn also spoke about a donation to Friends of the Forest for shore improvement and a small boat launch at Little Cranberry Lake. The Forest Advisory Board has expressed support for this project. Jonn spoke about the Parks Foundation that will be meeting next month. There is a donor interested in redoing Volunteer Field as a turf field hopefully next year. This will need to go through the budget process as the donor is hoping for some community involvement and support, probably 30% of the cost coming from other groups and community support.

Cap Sante Trail Discussion:

The Rotary Club has been working alongside the Parks crew to fix up the Centennial Trail at Rotary Park, going up to the top of Cap Sante. Bob Vaux submitted that he feels this trail should be classified as hiker only as it is not designed to be multi-user. There will be a more formal discussion in next month's meeting. The board is in agreement with the hiker only designation.

Department Reports:

Nicole Johnston had just a couple things to add to her written report. There will be a tree planting in honor of Arbor Day on April 13th at the 28th Street Playground. The mayor will be present as well as children from Fiddlehead Montessori school. The Public Works department has gotten a remote-controlled mower and has been helping in some of the Parks in the hard to reach areas and slopes as well as the middle of "R" Avenue making it safer for the team.

Dustin South added just a few things to his written report. He and Darby spoke with a Single Mom's group in March. It was very well received, and they would like to volunteer to help somehow with our parks. The Egg Dash is this Friday and is the fastest event put on by the Recreation Department! Summer programs are getting ready to kick off and announcements for this are moving to more electronic based and less dependent on the A-Town publication.

Dustin South reported in Karl Wolfswinkel's absence about the Anacortes Senior Activity Center. They held a Birding class recently with ACFL Steve presenting. This was very well received, and they hope to offer this again. The Bake Sale is on April 15th from 9am to 1pm and is a fundraiser for the ASAC

Foundation. Their Easter lunch will be held on the 14th and will include a bonnet contest. The ASAC team is working to get organized and offer facility rentals again, hopefully by June.

Jonn Lunsford spoke about the next skatepark meeting being held on April 21st at 6pm. Sarah Nichols asked about funding sources for this project and if any State funding or grants are available. Jonn responded that this year no State funding was available. Jonn also spoke about the cemetery expansion. The fees and policies will be going to City Council on April 25th and there will be more discussion in the May meeting for the Parks Board.

Other Business:

A community member in attendance asked about the possible cell tower by Ace of Hearts Park, inquiring about placement and size. Jonn responded that details have not been decided yet as it is still in the early stages of the process. The City has to agree to work with Dish Network and then it will go through the full public permitting process.

Meeting adjourned at 6:32pm.

Respectfully submitted by Darby Jordan.