

Meeting Minutes for Anacortes Parks Commission

May 10, 2022

Board members present: JoAnn York-Gilmore, Christine Hansen, Sarah Nichols, Alex Hernandez, Brad Adams

Staff present: Bob Vaux, Jonn Lunsford, Nicole Johnston, Dustin South

Meeting held by Zoom and in person at City Hall

Called to order at 6:03pm

Minutes: April minutes were unanimously approved as submitted.

Public Comments: none

Correspondence and Communication:

JoAnn reported that all items are included in the agenda packet, except the topic of remote control cars. However, the Forest Board did not take any action at this time. Jonn reported on the Parks Foundation. They are in talks about the restrooms at WA Park. Funds are being gathered from various sources. This project is waiting for a bid to come in and then it will go out for drawings. The project is about \$80,000 short at this time. Once the bid comes in from the engineer, we will have a better idea of total cost.

Cap Sante Trail:

June 11th is the ribbon cutting ceremony for this trail. There is no current trail use policy on Cap Sante or Rotary Park. Bob suggests that the trail should be hiker only, but bikes allowed on the asphalt trail. The Board moved to approve the motion of hikers only. Approved unanimously.

Cemetery Fees and Policies:

Nicole, Jonn and Darby are working on gathering information and cost comparisons for area cemeteries. They are hoping to adjust costs to be about average of other local cemeteries. We will need to go to council with any price increase, green burial policy, and columbariums. Nicole added that the need and cost for maintenance and supplies has doubled, and that we are not raising prices to make a profit, but to cover costs. The average for a burial lot would be \$1300. Jonn spoke about Fern Hill with 88% of their budget coming from taxes, and 12% are fees. Ours are 80/20. Brad suggested that out of city residents would pay a higher amount due to not paying property taxes. JoAnn agreed with Brad. Staff will investigate this option.

eBikes:

The ebike discussion in the ACFL has been settled, but no policy for the Tommy Thompson Parkway, Guemes Channel Trail, or WA Park loop road has been set. It was not expected that the Board have an answer tonight, but we hope to make a decision within the next few months.

Parks staff is suggesting Class 1 ebikes only. Brad commented about TTP being a safer route than the highway, and this is a good reason to allow ebikes. But he feels there should be a speed limit. Jonn will look into a code that would enforce a speed limit for all users. Chris spoke about how in Canada they have some trails that have cameras to monitor speed. Jo Ann spoke about WA Park and thought bikes are supposed to follow the vehicle rules. The question was brought up about the pre-10am use and allowing bikes. Another example was about campers and children and allowing them at all times. Jo Ann asked that we clarify if bikes are vehicles or if they are allowed before 10am? Parks staff will look at signs and policies to clarify user groups. Christine asked about a bike lane, something single file and narrow. Dustin spoke about the speed of the bikes needing to be the same speed limit as cars. Discussion will continue at the next several meetings

Staff Reports:

Dustin spoke about the kickoff of the summer recreation season. Sailing registration filled within 8 minutes! Staff has expanded several camps to allow for more student opportunities. Adult softball league is back this year! The youth track program held this spring served about 130 kids. Ed Gegan is in talks with the department about incorporating some special Olympics programs with a potential start in the fall. Dustin gave the report for ASAC: They are resuming rentals with a soft start in June. They held a vaccination clinic last week with another this summer. The Aging Mastery Program is full and going well!

Nicole said the grass is growing everywhere! The team is trying to keep up. Baseball is in full swing, school teams and little league. The Parks team has been helped by AHS baseball with some maintenance. Fire rings have been ordered and will be set soon at Washington Park. Hanging baskets will be delivered next week. The department is still in need of a water/sanitation person and a cemetery mower.

Bob spoke about opening day at Heart Lake that went great. It was much calmer than in years past, much more family friendly.

Jonn mentioned that the Daniels family wants to turf the last grass field at volunteer park. Hoping for 1/3 of cost to be fundraised or covered by community. Would be a great year round field for many user groups.

Other Business:

Bob spoke about the RC trucks that has been brought to the attention of the Parks department. Cap Sante and Mt Erie are perfect places for the terrain they desire. He brought this to the attention of the Forest Board. The ACFL has a strict no off trail use policy. It was mentioned that possible additional signs would help. Darby researched the social media pages of these groups as they have not responded to previous attempts to contact. Jonn is looking at municipal codes that these groups are breaking and trying to get them to submit a permit to facilitate discussion.

Meeting adjourned at 6:57pm