

Meeting Minutes for Anacortes Parks Commission

June 14, 2022

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

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

Meeting held by Zoom and in person at City Hall

Called to order at 6:00pm

Minutes: May minutes were unanimously approved as submitted.

Public Comments: none

Correspondence and Communication:

Jonn reported that the Parks Foundation did not meet.

JoAnn reported that the Forest Advisory Board held their last meeting as a hike in the ACFL. They visited the property line with Predators of the Heart. They also hiked to the site of the recent work party and viewed the trail repairs. There will be no July meeting for the Forest Board.

Cemetery Fees and Policies:

Nicole, Jonn and Darby are going to City Council on Tuesday. Darby will present the interactive map and online tools. Nicole will present the expansion and policies we are looking to update. The last update being in the late 1980's and we are looking to add columbariums and green burials. Jonn will present council with the request to raise rates of a full burial plot to match the average of the area. This will help recover the costs of the expansion and build a reserve. This is about a 40% increase to the cost of a full plot. The other request of council is to move all cemetery fees to the Unified Fee Schedule which will keep them in line with inflation.

Staff Reports:

Nicole reported that we have a full staff of seasonals! This will allow the team to keep up with the mowing. The crew is getting ready for Bark in the Park and the 4th of July as the next two big events.

Dustin spoke about Bark in the Park, to be held on Saturday at Storvik Park. Anacortes High school just finished up their partnership with the flag football program. Upcoming events include Kids R Best Fest on July 9th and adult softball will be starting in July. The softball has a change to the rules with the men being required to use wood bats. This is for safety purposes. Matt Rutz is our seasonal recreation leader this summer, and we also have an intern from WSU, Carlos that has been helping the recreation programs. At the Senior Center, numbers are still

increasing. The staff, and several volunteers, attended the National Council on Aging conference. It was very informative and helpful to all who attended.

Bob reported that the ribbon cutting at the Rotary Trail went great. There were several speakers and many guests utilizing the new trail. The Parks staff did a LOT of work on this project along with over 400 volunteer hours.

Jonn reported that the City Council expressed support of authorizing \$100,000 for the new skate park project, for a total of \$735,000 raised so far. There will be an official vote in July.

Jonn also met with the Kiwanians regarding the Puget Sound Energy cell tower that they donated to the City back in the 1950's. Both the City and the Kiwanians receive compensation from this lease.

The skate park is close to its final design. There has been an increased interest in a pump track. There will be a focus group of trail riders and Grindline to discuss this option. It may be a phase two project as support is growing. The goal for fundraising for phase one is \$850,000-\$900,000 due to the increased cost of materials from Covid. There will be an opportunity for sponsorship or naming rights on parts of the park to help with the fundraising.

Other Business:

Jonn asked if the Board would like to have a July meeting or skip until August. The Parks department has no pressing issues. The Board decided to have a July meeting.

Christine asked about the remote-control cars. Bob and Jonn have reached out to the local representatives to meet and find some understanding and common ground. Alex asked about the damage the cars are causing. Jonn responded that parking for their large groups is an issue, and damage to meadows and other fragile areas from the cars and increased off trail traffic.

Sarah asked about the problems at the beaver dam. Bob explained that someone has been destroying it and then someone else has been rebuilding it. No one has been seen at this time doing the damage. There are no permits to do any work on the area. Bob is hoping to get the word out and create a community awareness, and asking anyone that sees something to contact the police.

Meeting adjourned at 6:38pm