

ANACORTES PARKS & RECREATION

Advisory Commission

Meeting Minutes

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

Meeting Minutes for Anacortes Parks Commission

August 9, 2022

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

Staff present: Bob Vaux, Jonn Lunsford

Meeting held by Zoom and in person at City Hall

Called to order at 6:03pm

Minutes: June minutes were unanimously approved as submitted.

Public Comments: none

Correspondence and Communication:

JoAnn reported on the Forest Advisory Board meeting. Staff reported that the Little Cranberry Lake boat launch project is in process. The Friends of the Forest requested additional signs for the area to protect sensitive areas. Bob reported that the Department of Ecology had been out for a site visit to Little Cranberry and Heart Lake dams. Their report will be delivered soon. The water issues at Little Cranberry Lake have improved, and the restrictions were lifted. JoAnn reported that the Forest Board is in support of a program by Skagit System to harvest seeds in the ACFL to help support plant diversity in the Skagit River Valley. The Friends of the Forest have had a great trail program this summer and it will continue through Labor Day. Dr. Reem Hajjar joined the Forest Board meeting. She is a forestry professor at Oregon State University and is doing a nationwide case study on community forests. She will be here mid-August to interview a number of people about the ACFL.

Jonn shared that the Parks Foundation did not meet.

Community Youth Center:

Jonn reported that this is still in the beginning stages of the process. The City is working together with the landowner and various community groups, including the Boys and Girls Club, on the best way to make this happen. . The restroom at 22nd would potentially be moved. The City and MJB are looking at a trade but due to it being built with state grant funds, it would have to be an in-kind trade.

Sarah asked about the name of a community center vs a youth center. Jonn responded that it would be both.

Skate Park Update:

Bob shared some of the designs and concepts for the new skate park. The new park fits within the footprint of the old park. There was a design charrette with the Fidalgo Trail Riders and Grind Line to discuss a pump track that would be located just north of the new skate park. The City is looking at the parking lot and the possibility of it being shared by the skate park and community center. Bob also shared about the moving of the restroom to south of the skate park and that would require approval from the Recreation Conservation Office.

Staff Reports:

Jonn asked if there were any questions on the submitted reports as both Dustin and Nicole were not in attendance.

Chris asked about an update to the Cap Sante look out now that the Rotary Trail is complete. Jonn just met with the Rotarians this week and they will attend the September meeting to present their ideas to the Board.

Chris then asked about the Guemes Channel Trail and if this is still in process. Bob and Jonn responded that there have been no updates or changes but it is still on the priority list.

Chris reported that she had attended the Public Safety meeting held last week with several council members and the police chief. They spoke about the homeless issues facing the City as well as the drug problems they are dealing with. Chris asked if the Parks department is in sync with these policies and aware of the issues. Jonn stated that the department works with both the police and Anacortes Family Center to offer services to the homeless that are in our parks. If they refuse services and continue to break rules in the park they may be trespassed by the police. Chris' final question had to do with motorized vehicles on the trails in town, specifically the Tommy Thompson trail. She mentioned there has been an increase in ebikes and electric skateboards, the majority of which are traveling at very high rates of speed. She asked if there would be the possibility of making the trail a pedestrian only and moving all wheels to the street. Jonn responded that at this time, there is no plan to make the trail pedestrian only and the focus is more on enforcement of the speed.

Other Business:

Bob mentioned that Open Streets will be held again this year on Sunday, August 28th.

Jonn let the Board know that there is a run being organized by an outside group, the same group that hosts the Santa run. It is a fundraiser with an expected turnout of about 250. The Board expressed support for this event.

Brad asked about the Heart Lake master plan and what the next steps are. Jonn let him know the next state grant cycle will open in 2024.

Sarah asked about the projects that have been done and the possibility of ensuring that state grants are applied for every two years to keep projects moving forward. Discussion ensued. Jonn spoke about the projects that have been completed and why some move up the priority list

faster than others. He suggested that the Board be part of the discussion about the Capital Facilities Plan for 2023 and give input about their goals.

Jonn mentioned that some Board members will be up for reappointment in October and we can visit that issue next month.

Meeting adjourned at 7:00pm

Respectfully submitted by Darby Jordan