

Meeting Minutes for Anacortes Parks Commission

Sept 13th, 2022

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

Staff present: Bob Vaux, Jonn Lunsford, Dustin South, Karl Wolfswinkle

Guests: Aaron Bryant, Ron Litzinger, Jack Darton

Meeting held by Zoom and in person at City Hall

Called to order at 6:03pm

Minutes: August minutes were unanimously approved as submitted.

Public Comments: none

Correspondence and Communication:

Jonn reported on Parks Foundation meeting. They spoke about a variety of topics including the trestle fire, skate park project, the new restroom planned for Washington park, the cell tower and lease on Mt Erie and the W 2nd trail project.

JoAnn reported on the Forest Advisory Board meeting. They spoke about the dams, staff is still waiting for the DOE report, the water quality of the lake in the forest lands are all at safe recreational levels, Heart lake was treated for the milfoil and yellow flag iris, and trail #118 had some work and improvements done.

Disc Golf Tournament:

Aaron Bryant was in attendance to speak about a tournament being held in November, the Saturday before Thanksgiving. This is the third year of the event and is quite popular. The disc golf community is asking for exclusive use of the course for the tournament. There will be a maximum of 36 players. The event will have advertising and signage in the area, additional signage was suggested to warn walkers on the trail about the increase in flying discs. The staff and Board expressed support of the exclusive use. Cap Sante trails will remain open during this event.

Rotary Club Presentation:

Ron and Jack were in attendance to present ideas for adding a viewpoint to Cap Sante. This is the second phase of their Centennial Celebration as a club. The first phase is the trail just completed that leads from the park at the bottom of Cap Sante to the top parking lot. The goal of the viewpoint is to create more usable public space and add to the variety of what the park offers. This project would also add ADA accessibility. They presented three unique designs that highlight the views of Mt Baker and meet the suggestions of park staff. The next steps are

to present this to city staff and council members, then open for public comment and then a final design. The estimate created by the landscape architects and club was approximately \$550,000. They currently have \$200,000 towards the project as well as a \$100,000 matching challenge presented. They plan to ask for community fundraising, apply for grants and corporate gifting.

Concerns were raised about the current minimal amount of parking at the top. Suggestions were made to increase signage at 4th and T, work with the port to allow for more parking near the park, encourage parking at the bottom and using the trail to access the top. The Rotary has plans to print brochures for the Chamber and Marina to distribute to help minimize drivers and encourage walking. It was brought up that this is not the only place that has minimal parking. Others include Mt Erie, Burrows lookout on the loop, and the disc golf course.

The Board expressed support for the stone and soil options presented.

Staff Reports:

There were no questions on the staff written reports.

Jonh gave an update on the Tommy Thompson trestle fire. It burned on August 30th, destroying about 77 linear feet. Structural engineers will come this week to determine the extent of the damage. He expects Council to declare an emergency which legally allows for the elimination of the bidding process. Some of the same contractors and builders that helped with the previous fire have already reached out to volunteer again. Donations are being accepted through the Parks Foundation.

Dustin mentioned that the A-Town publication should be hitting mailboxes this week!

Other Business:

Next month, Brian Wetcher will be a guest and would like to discuss the possibility of sand volleyball at Storvik park.

Meeting adjourned at 7:04pm