

Meeting Minutes for Anacortes Parks Commission

November 8th, 2022

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

Staff present: Bob Vaux, Karl Wolfswinkle

Guests: Sarah Hollahan

Meeting held by Zoom and in person at City Hall

Called to order at 6:05pm

Minutes: October minutes were unanimously approved as submitted.

Public Comments:

Sarah Hollahan was present and expressed her thanks for the community garden at 29th Street. There is a small waitlist of new and hopeful gardeners. They are hoping to have more space at a future time. Sarah also mentioned pickleball and how quickly it is growing. She expressed that it is difficult to know when the courts are available. Staff shared that there is the potential for a gym monitor one day a week in the near future, and more help is always needed.

Correspondence and Communication:

JoAnn shared an update from the Forest Board. Representatives from the Pacific Northwest Trail met with staff about putting signs at trailheads to guide hikers through the section of the ACFL that is part of the larger trail system. An update on the Whistle Lake dam was given, the City is eligible to apply for a DOE grant and staff is working with the Public Works department to keep this project moving forward. Friends of the Forest will have their annual benefit on Saturday. The Little Cranberry boat launch is still in the works with Travis Anderson as the contact for this project. There are plans for habitat restoration along with the new boat ramp. Parks staff are trying to contact the remote control cars groups and invite them to come to both the Forest and Parks Boards meetings. Transition Fidalgo will be coming to the December Forest Board meeting to present their report on the ACFL tree survey.

Trestle Update:

Bob reported that the City is estimating it will cost approximately \$250,000 to repair the damage. The contractors who helped with the rebuild last time-Nels Strandberg and Andy Culbertson, are ready to help again. Michelle Pope and the Parks Foundation are handling the fundraising. The permits are in process with local, state and federal agencies. Materials are being ordered and there are not many delays at this time.

West End Park:

Bob reported that the City owns 2 pieces of property near Anacopper and Little Cranberry. The previous plan for these lots was to sell one in order to finance the building of a park on the other lot. There has been some interest from Habitat for Humanity on the land in order to build homes. The discussion will continue at a future Council meeting.

Staff Reports:

Karl reported for Dustin that soccer had a great season with record numbers. There is a gym monitor in place for one night per week for pickle ball. The Haunted Forest went fantastic! The recreation department is gearing up for basketball season.

Karl reported on his own activities. The Senior Center is preparing for a busy holiday season. They hosted the middle school challenge classes, providing a panel for question and answer about life lessons. Island View students will be at the center to help decorate. After the new year, there will be a class offered for fiction writers.

Bob reported for Jonn that the main project continues to be the trestle.

Bob reported for Nicole that the team is spending time at the cemetery in preparation for Veteran's Day. They are also working on winterizing all irrigation and doing some upgrades to the Washington Park shop so there will be heat this winter.

Bob gave his own report about the restroom project at Washington Park. With the budget and timeline, the option chosen is a CXT building like what is at the Depot and Storvik Park. This will be financed through LTAC and REET funds as well as the Parks Foundation. There are hopes to have the unit open by July 1st. Grindline is working on completing the drawings for the skate park and staff is hoping to get this out to bid after the first of the year.

The City budget is still in process for 2023.

Other Business:

None

Meeting adjourned at 7:05pm