

Meeting Minutes for Anacortes Parks Commission

January 10, 2023

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

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

Meeting held by Zoom and in person at City Hall

Called to order at 6:01pm

Minutes: December minutes were unanimously approved as submitted.

Public Comments:

None

Correspondence and Communication:

JoAnn shared an update from the Forest Board. The proposed boat launch at Little Cranberry Lake is waiting for the biologist report. The Forest Management Plan update will be starting in February. Also, The Friends of the Forest are working with Transition Fidalgo on various projects. They will make their data available for public viewing soon.

Jonn reported on the Parks Foundation. They are close to meeting the goal of \$250,000 for the trestle repair. Anything over the amount needed will be put into the maintenance fund for the trail. The Foundation is ready and willing to help with the SHIP trail once the weather is done making changes and a plan is made. The W 2nd trail is getting close to completion of the boardwalk between Baltimore and California. This was done in order to keep pedestrians and bicycles off of Oaks Ave. The cell tower leases are in review by staff for renewal.

Trestle Update:

The demolition was completed by Culbertson Marine on the 3rd and 4th of January. The permit for removing the additional pilings was delayed, however, Culbertson will be back to start the repair work and will pull some of the pilings at that time. It is looking like repair work by Strandberg will start the week of the 23rd. There is the potential for volunteers later in the process. Jonn and Chief Floyd are working on security cameras and solar lights.

Staff Reports:

Nicole reported that the porta-potty at the base of Mt Erie was blown up and completely destroyed. The team cleaned up the pieces and United Site Services picked up the remaining bits of the unit. We will not be replacing this unit at this time. The unit at the dog park was also removed after repeated vandalism. It will be gone for a minimum of a month to see about public response.

Due to winter storm damage, about 120 feet of the SHIP boardwalk was broken and has been removed. There is a hard shut at this time.

The new year is full of baseball field needs and new wood chips for the parks.

Dustin reported that work has begun on spring and summer programs. Pickleball is available indoors at Mt Erie elementary on Wednesday evenings. Monday will be added soon. Volleyball is being held at Fidalgo elementary on Wednesday and Friday evenings. The Daddy/Daughter dance will be on February 25th. A new program being offered is the E-sports league. This includes coaching and competition geared toward 10 and older. This is now an official WIAA sport, hoping to reach a new age group and demographic.

Karl reported that the Senior Center had a great December despite the snow and ice. He expressed a huge thank you to the crew for the snow removal. This allowed them to host the holiday lunch on the 22nd. They are not quite back to pre-Covid numbers, but getting there. The Center is also working in Spring and Summer programs, one of which is the Aging Mastery program. The Center received a federal grant for IT to set up more systems and resources for remote learning.

The Center is celebrating its 50th year! They are working with the museum for a rotating display in celebration of this milestone. There will be an open house in the fall to celebrate.

Bob reported on the Skate park-the 100% completion drawings have been received. This project looks to go out to bid soon and staff is optimistic about doing the skate park and pump track at the same time.

Other Business:

Jonn asked the Board what questions they had and what they wanted to see next month as discussion of the budget is started.

A question was asked about any update on the west end parks. These are the two lots purchased for parks some years ago. Council has asked to make them available to Habitat for Humanity. The money used to purchase the lots came from the Mt Erie cell tower lease funds and will need to be repaid in some way. Discussion continued about the balance of affordable housing and parks or green space.

Meeting adjourned at 6:53pm

Respectfully Submitted by: Darby Jordan