

Meeting Minutes for Anacortes Parks Commission

May 9th, 2023

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

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

Meeting held by Zoom and in person at City Hall

Called to order at 6:00pm

Minutes: April minutes were unanimously approved as submitted.

Public Comments:

None

Correspondence and Communication:

JoAnn will give an update from the Forest Board with the next agenda item.

Jonn reported that the Parks Foundation is going to hold the funds for the Skate Park Improvement Project.

Jonn also shared that he met with representatives from FEMA regarding various programs and assistance. Their programs are not available for rebuilding but could be used for other Samish projects.

ACFL Plan Update:

JoAnn shared the latest on the Forest Plan update as the Forest Advisory Board met last week. The original plan laid out to go through the plan section by section does not seem to be the best approach. The Board is going to take a break with the joint June hike with the Friends of the Forest, and a July vacation, and then revisit the approach and public comments in August. The Board feels specifics are good, but they don't want to discourage public comments on any area of the Plan. There was also some trouble hearing as the meeting was held in the Council Chambers and utilized the audio equipment there.

There is a November 2026 deadline for the update, so plenty of time to sort through all the information being shared.

Staff Reports:

Dustin reported that City Hall experienced a water leak originating on the third floor and impacting the IT department on the second floor as well as the basement Boys and Girls Club and storage. In better news, spring and summer programs opened up on April 21st and many filled right away. There are wait lists started for the most popular classes. The upcoming events for the summer are: Kids Fishing Day, Bark in the Park, Kids are Best Fest and the Pirate Run.

Karl shared that the Shelter Bay Chorus gave a concert at the Senior Center and was well attended. May brings the National Council on Aging conference. Karl and Lea will attend the virtual conference. Anacortes High School has a news program run by students called The Rock. A recent episode (#22) included a segment of Seniors to Seniors where high school seniors interviewed several visitors at the Senior Center for their wisdom and advice on life. The Senior Center Foundation is holding their fundraiser on May 20th and is sold out. The goal is to raise \$100,000.

Bob reported that the skate park project is holding its first preconstruction meeting. There is still fundraising to do, but the project is moving ahead. This will go to the Council for approval on May 22nd. Janiki will be the general contractor with Grindline as the subcontractor. The estimated timeline for this project is about three months with the parking lot demo being done in house. Bob also shared that the Washington Park restroom project is moving along with talks between staff in Parks and Wastewater. The need for a sewer pump station is being incorporated in the plan.

Nicole announced that we still need seasonal help in the ACFL, two people, and one person for cemetery mowing. The Parks staff is currently hosting the school district tournament for baseball and will host the Little League state tournament later this summer. Other interesting facts include the first upright headstone in the new section of the cemetery.

Jon shared that the City Directors and Council members will have their retreat next week. He is going to take the letter written by the Parks Board and present it to the Council. (This letter can be seen below in full.) The staff is preparing for higher temperatures this weekend and the crowds that can bring to the lakes.

Other Business:

Brad asked about electric motors on the lakes if the combustible engine is covered. This is allowed per City policy. Sarah asked about the school district change in policy with their field use fees. Dustin and Jon responded that this will not impact the partnership with the City and School District.

Meeting adjourned at 6:36pm

Respectfully Submitted by: Darby Jordan