

Meeting Minutes for Anacortes Parks Commission

September 12th, 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

Meeting held by Zoom and in person at City Hall

Called to order at 6:00pm

Minutes: August minutes were unanimously approved as submitted.

Public Comments:

None

Correspondence and Communication:

JoAnn gave an update from the Forest Board meeting. It was a fairly short meeting to review the Forest Plan process for updates. There will be three special meetings held in October, November and December to take public comment on any changes to the Forest Plan. JoAnn also reported that the e-bikes monitoring has been completed and the report is in process. Jonn reported on the Parks Foundation. Nancy Chapman left a gift to the Parks and Recreation department and the Parks Foundation is going to hold these funds as staff and the family work together to find projects in her honor.

The Parks Foundation is also looking at extending the W 2nd trail as well as working with engineering to have access in a new area of the Guemes Channel Trail.

Recreation Conservation Office Grant Opportunities:

Jonn shared that City staff are working on the 2024 budget and exploring opportunities for future RCO grants. The small courts at Storvik are a space that is high on the priority list for the Board and staff. Concern was raised about adding another playground there as the need for that age group has already been met. It was suggested to have something to appeal to teens or adults. Another project is the Jim Rice Civic Park and the A-Boat memorial. This update and any changes will be made along with the families of those lost.

City staff are looking at the Shannon Point Marine Center and putting a trail through their property. Also, repairs to the SHIP trail are being considered. The Q'elech'ilhch Park is another priority for 2024.

The Rotary club is working on options for the Cap Sante lookout. This project would be funded by donations.

City staff are also looking at options for a tent on the Depot plaza as the Transit Shed is closing at the end of the year.

The next round of RCO grant applications will be in 2025 with grants awarded in 2026. The projects that could be completed with these grants are Heart Lake and a west end park. The budget and CFP will go to Council in early October and will be completed before December 20th.

Staff Reports:

Bob had nothing to add to his written report.

Karl extended the invitation to the Senior Center 50th anniversary celebration on September 30th. There will be a ribbon cutting for the Pavilion. He reported that they are getting ready for various Halloween and holiday events. The annual picnic at Washington park went well and everyone had a great time.

Dustin shared that summer activities have wrapped up with lots of programs offered. Now it is all soccer! There are over 500 participants playing in the City and County leagues this season. The next addition of the A-Town will be out soon with winter programs.

Jonn reported on the collaboration with the Samish, City and the department of transportation to replace the trestle and causeway. They are looking at removal of the riprap and replacement of the trestle, cost and timeline. Jonn is also working with the Samish on the Q'elech'ilhch Park on signs to give information about the Samish history and villages that were originally there. Jonn is working on the budget for 2024. He also met with Allison from the Recreation Conservation Office and Bob to look at what projects would qualify for their various grant programs. Currently there is a "maintenance backlog" grant that would help to repair existing projects.

Other Business:

Questions were asked about the west end lots and what was happening with them. Jonn responded that Council is still in talks with Habitat for Humanity about a long-term lease on one of the lots.

It was asked what are grants that would be applicable to park projects, what match money is out there and what is most likely to get funded. Jonn responded that all of those questions are taken into consideration when looking at upcoming projects.

Meeting adjourned at 6:39pm

Respectfully Submitted by: Darby Jordan