

Meeting Minutes for Anacortes Parks Commission

November 14th, 2023

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

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: October minutes were unanimously approved as submitted.

Public Comments:

Brian Wetcher was in attendance to speak about sand volleyball at Storvik Park. He shared that the broken concrete is not safe or usable as is and proposed removing it and replacing with a gravel base and play sand on top. He shared that there is room for two volleyball courts there and the possibility of refurbishing the horseshoe pits. Brian feels this is the lowest maintenance option for the space and feels that there is a group that would be willing to fundraise for poles and nets, as well as performing maintenance at time of use. Two courts could serve up to 24 people at a time. The equipment that Brian has researched is provided by Volleyball USA, a local company with national experience. He would request adjustable nets to allow for men's and women's play and feels there could be a U12 boys and girls team by next year. Brian's ask of the Board was that they commit to recommend the sand volleyball as the suggested use of the area. Jonn shared that Storvik Park is in the budget/CFP for next year with a request from Council to allocate \$100,000 for improvements.

Correspondence and Communication:

JoAnn gave an update from the Forest Board meeting. There have been small numbers at the public comment sessions for the Forest Plan with most comments coming in through written submission. There will be one more in person meeting for this in December. The new executive director for Friends of the Forest was introduced-Katie Earley. Her bio and details are on the website for the Friends.

Jonn reported on the Parks Foundation. They are looking forward to supporting progress on the Guemes Channel Trail and other 2024 projects.

Parks Projects:

There are a number of projects happening at this time:

The Skate Park ribbon cutting will be held on December 7th at 3pm. The lights are delayed but Janiki is working with the supplier to get these in as soon as possible. All other aspects are going great. The landscaping is going in now and the sidewalks are poured. The R Avenue project has been started so parking and access is a challenge. The Tommy Thompson Parkway restroom may be moving onto skate park property, but this is still in the works.

The Washington Park restroom project contract has been approved by council. This will be placed at the north edge of the shop. The sewer line will go pass the shop and through the trees and hook up near the dumpster. This may require some trees to come down, but they will be replanted. This restroom will look similar to Storvik, just smaller.

Staff Reports:

Dustin reported that gym space is tight right now and Staff are doing their best to accommodate everyone. Boys basketball has started and girls will be held after the first of the year. There will be another puzzle event on Thursday, the 2nd of the season, with 4 person teams and a 500 piece puzzle. There will be an individual competition in December with a 300 piece puzzle. The North Pole event will be held on December 12th at the Senior Center, and the Wonderland Walk on December 8 & 9 from 5-8pm.

Karl reported that Lea will be retiring before Christmas. She will be around the Center as a participant but she will be missed as a staff member. She has been with the Center for over 20 years. The Center is getting ready for holiday events as well as Lea's retirement party. They are offering more classes in the new year as well as looking at adding staff for programs such as "Tools for Caregivers", providing training and support.

Bob shared that Staff is working on getting a new ACFL technician hired soon. There were 21 applicants and it is now down to two finalists. The entire parks crew has helped in the vetting process.

Jonn reported that requests for proposals of feasibility for the Trestle replacement have been posted. This is a study to remove the rip rap and pilings as well as replace the Trestle entirely. This is a joint project between the City, Samish and DNR. There is no funding for the actual project yet but the study is grant funded. Jonn also shared that the budget has been presented to Council and now is in deliberation. The Parks Council Committee expressed concern about coverage for the parks and ACFL in the summer. The Skate park funding is about 350,000 short, but this was a known shortfall. Council is discussing event space around town as the Transit Shed will no longer be available. One of these includes placing a tent on the Depot plaza but there are still many questions and details to sort through.

Other Business:

None

Meeting adjourned at 7:15pm

Respectfully Submitted by: Darby Jordan