

Meeting Minutes for Anacortes Parks Commission

December 12th, 2023

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

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

Meeting held by Zoom and in person at City Hall

Called to order at 6:04pm

Minutes: November minutes were unanimously approved as submitted.

Public Comments:

None

Correspondence and Communication:

JoAnn gave an update from the Forest Board. They held their last Forest Plan special meeting on December 5th. The Board will continue to take written comments until January 3rd and then staff will review all comments to create a matrix of trends to present to the Board at the February meeting. Jamie is the new ACFL tech and started yesterday. He has five seasons of experience at Deception Pass State Park as a seasonal. The team is excited to welcome him to the crew.

Jonn reported on the 2024 budget. The City Council did not pass the budget last night as many council members were absent. However, the Depot rental prices did get adopted into the unified fee schedule to better keep up with costs associated with running it. Washington Park revenue continues to rise each year. 2024 will bring a slight fee increase as these costs are also on the unified fee schedule and are adjusted each year. Lot B at Washington Park, the overnight vehicle parking, will get an automated pay station in early January. Discussion continued about park projects and funding sources.

Staff Reports:

Karl reported that the Senior Center's biggest news is the retirement of Lea, the current Administrative Assistant. She has been with the Center for nearly 20 years. There will be an open house on December 21st to celebrate. Karl will be taking on her duties at this time and staff is looking to hire a replacement in the new year.

Nicole shared that the Washington Park fee increase takes effect on January 1st, 2024 with reservations for 2024 opening on December 15th at 8am. The new year will also bring an upgrade to the boat lot parking and a new pay station for Lot B. The campground machine will be the only machine that will take cash once the new machines are installed. The team is thankful to have the Wonderland Walk completed. It was a very busy Friday night and Saturday ended up quite wet, so much less attendance.

Bob shared that the skate park is complete and the ribbon was cut today! It was a great event and the park is very popular already. The lights are delayed from the manufacturer but Janicki is working on a solution. The next project to kick off is the Washington Park restroom. This work is scheduled for January 3-31.

Other Business:

None

Meeting adjourned at 6:45pm

Respectfully Submitted by: Darby Jordan