

## Meeting Minutes for Anacortes Parks Commission

February 13, 2024

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

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

Meeting held by Zoom and in person at City Hall

Called to order at 6:00pm

**Minutes:** January minutes were unanimously approved as submitted.

### **Public Comments:**

Patrick Gallagher was in attendance and spoke about the Guemes Channel Trail expansion near the Washington State Ferry terminal. His home looks toward the proposed trail area and the woodland space. Patrick states that this area should be a protected habitat and restricted from development. Discussion was had about the numerous permits that will be required by all agencies and protections for the habitat.

### **Correspondence and Communication:**

JoAnn gave an update from the Forest Board meeting. Jonn presented information about Little Cranberry lake and answered questions from the public. The March meeting will bring a matrix of the comments received about the Forest Plan update.

### **Storvik Park Planning Update:**

Jonn shared that there is money in the 2024 budget to update the “small courts” area of Storvik Park, the northwest corner of the Park. The March meeting will be advertised to encourage the public to come and share ideas of what they would like to have there. There will be several sessions to take comments and find the best use of the space and budget.

### **Staff Reports:**

Karl reported that the Senior Center is quite busy. The Senior Center Foundation held their retreat today which brought lots of planning for the future. The Valentine lunch will be held tomorrow. Interviews are being held this week with 5 candidates on Thursday. The program for Caregivers is half complete and has been well received. Staff is looking at offering more tools and opportunities through new programs.

Dustin shared that basketball season is finishing up. The Daddy Daughter Dance is set for February 24<sup>th</sup> at 6pm at the Senior Center. Interviews are also being held for the Recreation Coordinator. There were 22 applicants and staff will be interviewing 5 people. Spring programs will be starting soon with volleyball and track.

Nicole stated that the beach fire rings have been replaced. There was some damage to the grass as it was very wet but as we head into spring the grass will grow back. The restroom project at Washington Park is nearly complete, just waiting on railings. The Cemetery demolition permit is on hold due to the finding of asbestos. The Cemetery will also have some spring cleaning of the markers and decorations. This will be posted on site as well as on our social media platforms.

Jonh shared that there is a contract in process for the Trestle replacement feasibility study. Jonh also spoke about the Port and City partnership for an event center. The Port is asking for a large portion of Jim Rice Civic park for a road and storm pond. This would set a precedent of giving away publicly owned land. Staff would rather see a long term lease as is in place with the National Guard armory. Another topic currently with City Council is the two plots on W 5<sup>th</sup> and W 6<sup>th</sup>, one of which was originally purchased for the construction of a park. Council is looking at leasing the lot on W 5<sup>th</sup> to Habitat for Humanity. Staff is asking for \$300,000 in REET funds in exchange for that lot which would allow for building a west end park. Staff is also looking into various grants for park projects.

The Cap Sante Rotary project LTAC request was rejected by City Council. Rotary members will be meeting with the Parks Council sub-committee for guidance. Rotary has met the requirements for permits and the planning department is reviewing.

Jonh provided an update on the Skate Park. The lights have not been delivered yet due to manufacture delay. Staff is working with the City attorney on a letter to the contractor regarding this delay and being out of compliance with the contract.

The Mt Erie cell tower lease update has been drafted and will be sent to the Kiwanians for review, then on to PSE for negotiations.

#### **Other Business:**

Questions were asked about the graffiti at the Skate Park and what will be done to prevent further damage. Staff responded that once the lights are in place and R Avenue is back open, the increase in traffic will help.

Meeting adjourned at 6:41pm

Respectfully Submitted by: Darby Jordan