



ANACORTES PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT
P.O. BOX 547, ANACORTES, WA 98221
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Parks & Recreation Advisory Commission

June 10, 2025 at 6pm

**This meeting will be held BOTH virtually and
in person at the Parks Conference Room
(904 6th Street)**

Access to the meeting via Zoom through this link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85776295672>

Preliminary Agenda

1. Call to Order
2. Approve May Minutes
3. Public Comments
4. Correspondence/Communication
5. Parks Comprehensive Plan
6. Department Reports
7. Other Business

If reasonable accommodation due to a disability are needed, please contact Brandon Krause at least 48 hours prior to the meeting date (360-299-1961).

May 13th, 2025

Parks Commission in Attendance: JoAnn, Sarah, Alex and Chris

Staff in Attendance: Jonn, Bob, Dustin, and Nicole

Call to order: 6:00pm

April minutes passed unanimously.

Public Comments:

None

Correspondence and Communication:

Forest Board Notes- JoAnn shared that the Forest Board was given a budget overview and project update by Jonn at the last meeting. Staff is still waiting to hear about the Heart Lake grant. Staff has done a review of the Little Cranberry project and are looking to the east side for more erosion prevention. There is ongoing discussion about a ranger with the police department with an informal orientation and tour given to all new hires at the APD.

JoAnn reported on the Friends of the ACFL, they have a new executive director-Josie Henderson. The forest center will be opening for the summer season and training for the trail ambassadors will be starting soon.

Jonn reported on the Anacortes Parks Foundation stating that they are interested in the Heart Lake plan with the timeline of June or July to hear from the state about the grant. Ryan Walters spoke at the meeting about the Community Center and the homes to raise \$2-5 million in pledges to keep the major donors at the table.

Park Comprehensive Plan:

Staff has been working on the Parks Comprehensive Plan, part of the City wide Comp plan. Staff will go to the Planning Commission tomorrow to present. There are no major changes in the plan with the policies and goals being similar to the last 20 years. Staff have been working on the "Level of Service" which will guide the Capital Facilities Plan and the Impact Fees collected. The presentation of this in the plan will include both a chart and narrative, including the NRPA average for communities our size.

The State Legislature has passed a new law and requires an update of the Level of Service and Impact Fees. Staff is looking to work with Burk Consultants to update this report.

The job of the Board is to identify the needs in the Parks and the Public will offer suggestions. Dustin and Eli are working on the recreation section and Karl is working on the Senior Activity Center section.

Parks Budget Overview:

The Parks department is down one FTE maintenance position and are paying the ACFL tech out of the quarry funds.

The land slide at Washington Park five years ago is a FEMA qualified event and the City could receive up to 2.5 million. Parks would hope to be first in line for these funds in order to get the maintenance person back.

2026 will be another "hold the line" budget year, same as 2025.

Money has been identified for the Heart lake project; Rick Harvey has committed to donating funds for turfing Volunteer field but the City does not have matching funds; there is about \$700k for the skate park restroom and parking lot project; the Depot plaza is being funded by a grant from the county and there is approximately \$50k for the Storvik volleyball courts.

The Storvik area is hoped to be demo'd this summer. With the changes at the school district, city staff is unsure of the AMS tennis court project.

Staff asked the Board for their list of priorities for the 2026 budget. Discussion will continue next month.

Department Reports:

Nicole shared that Bill Turner complimented parks staff and Brian Tottenham specifically with “the grass plan worked” at the Ace dog park. Staff have been working on R Ave as this is a park. Lights are being installed at WA park near the base of the boat lot.

Bob reported that May 22nd will be a presentation by Robbie Andrus on the ACFL to be held at the library at 6pm. Bob expressed thanks that Nicole handled the last of the seasonal staff onboarding with the ACFL staff starting on Thursday. At the W 6th meeting, it was requested that there be a timeline and next steps, staff is working on that at this time. Concern was expressed by neighbors about the traffic safety in the area. Staff is also working on the Forest Plan.

Dustin shared that Track & Field has finished with another large group enjoying this program. Staff is preparing for summer programs and events with the next event being the Fishing Day on May 31st. Staff is also looking into sponsorships for t-shirts to help offset the costs of some programs or leagues.

Jonn that there will be a Kia commercial on 5/20 at Washington Park but the public will still be able to access the loop. The TTP survey is almost done and the next steps will be evaluated. Jonn expressed thanks to the staff as we are down a person and the crew is working hard to make up for this loss during this busy time.

Other Business:

Nicole announced that Samish is holding an event at Storvik on Saturday. Baseball regionals are being held at our ball fields. The graduation parade is being held on June 10th at 4pm and City staff will be helping to close streets during this brief period.

Adjourned at 6:52pm

Respectfully submitted by Darby Jordan

Parks and Recreation Update: May 2025

Parks Manager Report: Nicole Johnston



Birding Class w/ Steve- Steve led a special birding class and walk with the Anacortes Senior Center, focusing on accessibility for those with low vision. The hike started near Trail 10. Great job, Steve!

Loaded Gun- Parks staff member Dean discovered a loaded firearm in one of the units at Washington Park. Dean responded quickly and responsibly by securing the area, calling 911, and waiting for law enforcement to arrive. The police were able to identify the gun's owner. We commend Dean for his calm and professional handling of a serious situation

District Baseball Tournament and Regional State Game – Parks hosted the district baseball tournament and several regional state games at Volunteer Park. The park looked fantastic—huge thanks to the crew for their hard work getting the grounds ready for players and visitors alike.

Mother’s Day and Memorial Day Prep- A big thank you to the team for trimming markers and mowing in preparation for Mother’s Day and Memorial Day. Parks also staffed the cemetery office during the holiday weekend to assist visitors. Special thanks to Nichola, Jamie, and Darby for working the holiday!

Hanging Baskets & Planter Boxes- The hanging baskets and planter boxes are up and looking beautiful. Staff will continue watering and tending to the flowers throughout the season.

More Seasonal Staff- More seasonal staff has started since our last meeting. We have Erin at Washington Park, Staely at the Cemetery and Cathy on water/ sanitation. So far so good! Come Mid June we will be fully loaded with the seasonal staff.

MDD Scoreboard Malfunction- Thanks to our facilities crew for troubleshooting and repairing the MDD scoreboard. The field is in use every night, so we’re glad to have the issue resolved quickly.

Spray Pad is on. The spray pad is officially on! Always an exciting milestone. The crew still plans to re-stain the surface when time allows.

VFW Work Party at Causland Park- Thanks to the VFW for doing the “Day of Service” at Causland Park. They picked weeds, planted flowers, and did edging.

PPP Work Party- A volunteer group made up of ladies who like to have coffee at the PPP have been weeding the PPP over the past month and plan to replant a few plants on Saturday, May 31st.

General Parks Maintenance- Crew has been busy mowing, trimming, cleaning up graffiti, conducting playground safety inspections, and preparing for the summer rush. Thanks to everyone for their continued dedication!



Assistant Director’s Report: Bob Vaux

BEN ROOT SKATE PARK PH II: submitted the Civil Engineering contract request with Mackay Sposito on April 17th. They were also the PH I Civil for Grindline so already have much of the needed baseline data as well as a positive work history with the COA.

At their May 5th meeting the City Council asked staff to look at the Portland Loo restroom unit, rather than the CXT unit we gained permission to install from the Recreation and Conservation Office. This will postpone our design contract while we answer some questions for the Council.

Working the phones with a variety of municipalities on their experience with and recommendations for the Loo units. Also, able to get some information from very helpful staff at the Portland Loo Company.

I did meet with Skate Park Czar Rachel, to discuss some fundraising sign requests. Rachel maintains her commitment to the long-term care of the park, much appreciated.

SEASONAL STAFF: we had one of our ACFL hires rescind acceptance of the position at the end of April, so have reposted and are looking. Same circumstance for our cemetery position.

Good news a week or so later, one of our ACFL seasonal alumni reached out and would like to return for this summer. We are currently making that happen.

On May 15 Lucy S. and Ginny S. reported for ACFL seasonal duty. Great to have them on board. Spending some time with them, as well as Jamie, as we prepare for another ACFL summer.

Nicole was able to find another cemetery worker as well.

WHISTLE LAKE DAM: due to some administrative challenges at both Skagit County and FEMA, our grant funds are currently inaccessible. Public Works leadership have reached out to Skagit County seeking clarification.

FOREST PLAN UPDATE: continuing to work with staff on the next draft of the document.

Good Meeting with Robbie Andrus, re: his canopy study and other Transition Fidalgo related topics, along with contributions to the Plan.

APD PARKS AND WOODS SUMMER ENFORCEMENT: had a good meeting with Capt. Fuller regarding the availability of his patrol staff for the parks and woods this summer. Despite a variety of staffing challenges, he has committed to working with us and providing support when possible.

WEST 6TH PARK: held our second community-based planning meeting, exploring a variety of park designs based upon the input from the first meeting. Almost 20 park neighbors showed up to voice their support for the project. Staff now working on next steps.

DISC GOLF COURSE: Director Lunsford and I met on site with DGC President Aaron B. Good discussion of next tee pad and long-term course goals.

AB also showed us what looks like an active homeless camp along the course. I eventually met with an APD Officer on site, but the site was unoccupied at the time.

PARKS & RECREATION COMPREHENSIVE PLAN: attended the May 14 Planning Commission meeting with Director Lunsford. Good Q & A session with the PC on P&R goals, policies, etc.

FRIENDS OF THE ACFL TRAIL AMBASSADOR PROGRAM: Joined the Friends and their many T.A. volunteers for annual training sessions. This is a great program that gets better every year. One of the most powerful ways our locals show support for the woods as well as educate visitors, new and old.

PARKS & REC COUNCIL COMMITTEE: had a great session with staff and Council on the 15th. Much appreciated.

NORTH HEART LAKE HOMELESS SHELTER: right off Heart Lake Road, utilizing an illegal brush dump. Parks Tottenham found it, I confirmed its illegality on site and Jamie & the ACFL summer team cleaned it up.

MONITORING FOREST ECOSYSTEMS IN THE ACFL: another great presentation by Dr. Robbie Andrus, and the work he has been doing in the ACFL with all the great volunteers at Transition Fidalgo. Thank You TF! This work will eventually be made public and will hopefully continue long into the future.

ACFL “PATROL”: I have been helping out Jamie and the summer team when our staff numbers are slim.

THANK YOU:

- Director Lunsford for joining the May Forest Advisory Board meeting and providing a briefing on the 2026 City Budget process.
- Parks Maintenance Tech Braydn Krueger, for managing an LDS Youth Group ACFL work party on trail 210.
- Denise Crowe, the Samish Nation’s Education Program Manager, for another great Samish/COA hike. Wildflower recon on south 215 was beautiful.

TREE CONCERNS:

- Working on a plan for a very mature alder leaning from an ACFL wetland over a neighbor’s patio on 26th Street.

Recreation Staff Report: Dustin South, Recreation Manager & Eli Moore Recreation Coordinator

Youth Volleyball League: Our annual recreational league for 3rd-6th graders concluded this month. Thank you to all our volunteers for helping make this season a success.

Youth Track and Field Program: Our track meet on the 12th concluded this annual program with several kids earning ribbons in a variety of events. The weather cooperated for the entirety of the program and again thanks to the AHS Track and Field teams for their assistance with this year’s program.

Pee Wee Baseball: Approximately 40 kids signed up for the annual spring program. Participants learn the very basic fundamentals of the games in a safe and fun atmosphere. Our Student Recreational Assistants help coach the kids and participants look up to their leadership. For many of the participants this is their first exposure to organized sports.

Explore Biology: On Saturday, May 10, Eli held an inaugural program. Kids had an opportunity to learn about science and how it affects the world around them. There were about a handful of kids signed up, however due to some late cancelation only one participant showed up. But they had a great time and hopefully this will build momentum for future programs.

Youth Volleyball Clinic: From the 27th to 29th staff coordinated this camp with high school coaches and players to provide a great learning environment for the youth in the community. The camp was held for kids in grades 3rd – 8th and had about 50 participants. Thank you to all the high school players and coaches for helping provide this recreational opportunity.

Toddler Music Time: Staff started a new program. It is an opportunity for toddlers to express their creative side with music. A variety of music instruments are provided and kids get to experiment with each.

Kids Fishing Event: The annual event was held on Saturday, May 31 at Heart Lake. Kids started fishing at 7 am. A big THANK YOU to Puget Sound Anglers for their help with getting kids to catch fish.

Drop-in Youth Soccer: The free program with about 35 kids registered and moved to Sunday from 4-6pm at Rice Field at Anacortes High School. The program concluded this month. The program will resume later in June and will go for about 6-weeks through the summer. One unforeseen benefit of the program-it has reminded parents to register for the fall soccer season early.

Drop-in Youth Basketball: Another free program started up by a parent volunteer and provides youth the opportunity to practice their hoop skills for a couple more months in the gym. After May the program will take a break during the summer months.

Mom & Tots Workout: An ongoing program to benefit moms and toddlers looking to burn some energy through physical activity. While developing social opportunities outside the home. This is a new twist on a consistent popular past program. The program is open to toddlers ages 1-3.

Adult Drop-ins: Adult Volleyball takes place at Fidalgo Elementary on Wednesday and Friday (7-9 pm) evenings. Adult drop-in Basketball takes place on Sunday evenings in the High School and Tuesday evenings at Fidalgo Elementary, 5-7 pm (Sundays) and 7-9 pm (Tuesdays). Pickle Ball goes from M, W, F from 7-9 pm. To see the latest on the drop-in sports schedule visit: <https://www.anacorteswa.gov/971/Drop-In-Programs> (times may shift throughout the winter months due to facility demands.)

Other Items of Interest/Upcoming Events:

Bark in the Park-June 14, from 10am-2pm at Storvik. Kids R Best Fest-July 12, 10am-2pm at Storvik. Youth Soccer Registration is currently open for the fall recreation season.

Total Volunteers Hours for May



Drop-in Sports

1	X	26 hrs. = 26
1	X	16 hrs. = 16
2	X	10 hrs. = 20
1	X	4 hrs. = 4
1	X	7 hrs. = 7



Youth Volleyball

7	X	1.5 hrs. = 10.5
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Youth Track and Field

30	X	4 hrs. = 120
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Total for Month 204