

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