



ANACORTES PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT
P.O. BOX 547, ANACORTES, WA 98221
(360) 293-1918 / (360) 293-1928

Parks & Recreation Advisory Commission

October 14, 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 Sept Minutes
3. Public Comments
4. Correspondence/Communication
5. Department Reports
6. 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).

September 9, 2025

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

Staff in Attendance: Jonn, Bob, Dustin and Karl

Call to order: 6:01pm

August minutes passed unanimously.

Public Comments:

None.

Correspondence and Communication:

JoAnn reported on the last Forest Board meeting, with the Forest Plan being reviewed and minor updates made. The Board voted to move it to Council.

The Friends of the ACFL have had a busy summer and will have their fundraiser on September 27th.

Jonn reported that the Parks Foundation met today and there was discussion about many projects. The Heart Lake grant has been approved and the Foundation may contribute some funds. The W 6th park is in the CFP and there have been some locals that would like to step up and support. The small dog park users are asking for a shelter and may go to the Foundation for funds. The Rotary and Foundation are looking at the stairs on the east side of Cap Sante and finishing that project. And lastly, the Haunted Forest is looking to hire the police make up artist and the Foundation may help with this cost.

Pickleball Court Discussion

Jonn recapped that there were lots of comments heard at the meeting and the written comments sent along to the Board since then. Some of the neighbors are wanting to reduce the hours due to the noise. City staff have gone out with the decibel reader to try and gather information on levels during play. For the City decibel reader, the sound is too sharp and quick for the meter to register accurately. The City reader and the app on the phones, measure the ambient noise similarly, but because the City reader does not pick up the pickleball play, they used the phone devices to get an estimate of the sounds. Those estimates are a peak of 95 decibels on the south end of the courts, and peak of 75 approximately 100 feet to the north and to the west. The noise ordinance has been brought up by several people but the state law is written in an unclear manner in regards to parks. The City attorney has advised to continue having conversations and find a compromise.

The Board provided the following feedback:

Chris wanted to acknowledge the neighbors' request for shorter hours and suggested 10-8 M-F and 8-6 on the weekend. She wants to aggressively look for other opportunities as the pressure on Clearidge for the only court is not acceptable.

Brad shared that this was originally a tennis court and there were no complaints about the noise. The noise complaints are strictly about the pickleball noise, not any other neighborhood noise, including the airport. He advocated for shorter hours on certain days as well as prohibiting tournaments.

Alex stated that he was thinking along the same lines, it started as tennis and is now pickleball which is unfair to neighbors. It is always noisy and busy. He feels that it should be turned into something more permanent, being indoor or having walls. He suggested completely redoing the layout and moving the courts to the back where the basketball court is. He did agree that if you were to cut hours, who would enforce that.

JoAnn agrees with all that has been said. It is different than tennis, and there is a much larger population now. Changing hours has to reconcile with staff availability. She stated that pickleball players are passionate and should look at fundraising opportunities as the skatepark people did. She acknowledged that this will not be a simple or cheap solution but agreed on the shorter hours on the weekend and no tournaments.

Sarah would like a strong message sent to City Council that another location and funding solution needs to be found. She is cautious about reducing or limiting hours as weather and opportunities already limit the amount of time available to play. She feels it is a slippery slope to start closing parks and shortening hours. It opens the door to other requests. Sarah spoke about the San Juan passage open space and park and that it should be for all public use and not just the neighborhood, showing that this is a fundamental issue.

Jonh shared that he wanted to hear the Board comments after they had listened to all of the public comments. Staff will look at what they can do to help relieve the noise. Jonh will speak to Council about the CFP and the next step of creating pickleball away from homes. Staff are actively searching for land and areas and just need the funds to make it happen.

Jonh will come back to the Board in 2-3 months with some ideas and possible solutions.

Department Reports:

Karl reported that with the approach of fall, instructors are back after their summer break. Programs are starting back up. The Resource Fair is this Saturday and will have music, a bake sale and lots of vendors. October 7th will be a Center update presentation. Volunteer celebration will be on October 8th with Wren Schults and ice cream! Fall Prevention week will be starting on October 20th. Several volunteers joined Karl today and went to the Skagit County Commissioners meeting, speaking about the impact of the Center. The County is looking at the meals program and the fact that there will be a gap in funding. Currently, Meals on Wheels serves 100 meals a day to people at home, and about 50 in person at the Center.

Dustin shared that we are kicking off soccer with about 550 kids playing this season. The Dallas Kloke run is on October 18th, next puzzle event is October 21st, and Haunted Forest on October 25th.

Bob stated again that the Forest Plan has been passed by the Forest Board, the culmination of lots of work and time. Now it will go before Council for more public comment and edits.

The skate park restroom is in process, with looking at electricity demand at the site. The W 6th park is in the preliminary design phase and may have community help and support. The Heart Lake project saw an onsite visit with Bob and Jonh and a design firm. Staff made it through Labor Day, the official end of summer. There was a fire on Whistle Lake island. The fire department was able to put it out without too much damage. Staff is waiting on the investigation. The team has interviewed 7 people for the maintenance tech position and will be interviewing the final three with the crew on Thursday. The team has been down the largest piece of equipment-the bat wing mower, and this has made for delays and gaps in mowing. The team has done a great job of making it all work.

Darby announced that staff is looking at the process to get columbariums installed at the cemetery this spring. This has been a highly requested option for the community.

Jonh issued a big thank you to the crew for all of their hard work this summer season. The City is going into budget season and Parks has been asked to cut 5% so staff is looking at ways to get even more creative. The Depot Plaza project is waiting on the shoreline permit and then the bid pack will go out. The park at 2nd and U is the last step in the sewer outfall project. Staff will take public comment after the first of the year about this park.

Other Business:

None

Adjourned at 6:46pm

Respectfully submitted by Darby Jordan