



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

November 18, 2025 at 6pm

**This meeting will be held BOTH virtually and
in person at the City Hall Council Chambers
(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 Oct Minutes
3. Public Comments
4. Correspondence/Communication
5. West Side Park
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).

Park Board Meeting 10/14/25

Park Board In Attendance: Joann, Chris, Brad and Sara

Parks Staff In Attendance: Jonn, Dustin & Nicole

Meeting started at 6pm.

Approved Minutes- Chris made the motion and Joann 2nd

Public Comment- none

Forest Board update by Joanne was that it was a short meeting. A motorcyclist was in attendance and thanked the parks department/ board for caring for the Forest lands. The SEPA check list was submitted. Heart Lake parking plan is in the works. Question was asked if there was going to be a public process for reviewing the plans and Jonn confirmed that there will be. If everything goes well then, the project should be completed by the end of 2027.

Parks Foundation updated by Jonn and he shared that they did not meet. He shared that \$250,000 check was delivered by Rick Harvey to be put towards the turfing project of Volunteer field. Dustin and Jonn investigating working with an engineer to get a 15% drawing of what the turf project will look like. The City is wanting to apply for a RCO Youth Athletic and Field Grant. It would be a matching grant. We feel like it will be a strong match.

Jonn also shared that he had a meeting with the Samish Indian Nation and the Port of Anacortes on the MTCA clean up at Q'elech'ilhch Park. They are putting in wells (pvc pipe). Jonn is also working with Samish to develop new signs for the top of Mt. Erie. A private donor will be funding the new sign project.

Department Reports

Jonn shared on behalf of Karl that the resource fair was a success. We are all aware of the struggle that the county is having for funding the Meals on Wheels program. The senior center foundation is helping fund the program so that meals and the needs of the seniors can be met.

Dustin shared that Eli Moore did a fantastic job running the city league soccer. County soccer has a few more weeks. Next up for the recreation department is the youth basketball program. Haunted Forest Event is coming up on Oct. 25th. Eli also running a successful bingo night with 50 people in attendance. Dustin has the Mt. Erie Road and Trail event coming on up Oct. 18th. Pre- registration is low with 10 people, but Dustin is hopeful to get to 20 to 30 people to sign up the day of. We also put together that Brad first ran the race back in high school!

Nicole updated that Michaela Chase had her first day on Monday, Oct. 13th. She is the newest parks employee hired on as a Parks Maintenance Technician. She moved from Colorado for the job and is happy to be here. Crew will be replacing some boards on the existing Ship Harbor board walk by the end of October. Also, the batwing mower that we thought was fixed had to be returned to the dealership for more repairs. We appreciate that the Water Treatment Plant was so kind and let us borrow their mower in our time of need.

Jonn shared that Nels Strandberg is generously offering to help the city with the West 6th project. We are still researching next steps and appreciate Nels lending us his expertise to design some options based on community input. A fence, irrigation, playground, shelter, and a green space are all part of the plan for the playground. By the next Parks Board meeting Bob Vaux, the Project Manger on the West 6th park project will have a park plan to

review. Tom Decker with the Rotary Club is proposing a walking event around town and will be coming to the Park Board to share his ideas about this event. The City is seeking to improve the budget situation. All city departments are making cuts to their budgets. Parks have been asked to cut \$350,000. Jonn has been working with Finance to shift things around. On October 27, 2025 the Mayor will update the city on the budget at the City Council meeting.

Additional questions that came up at the meeting:

R Avenue Restroom: There was an adjustment to the building footprint, which shifted about one foot. Bob is working with RCO and CXT to come up with a plan.

Storvik Park Sand Courts: Project remains on hold.

Community Center: No new updates at this time.

PSE Cell Tower Lease: The City is working with a consultant to review and negotiate new lease terms.

Opioid Settlement Funds: The City is applying for funds from the opioid settlement, intended to support parks, the museum, and the library.

Meeting adjourned at 6:37pm

Parks and Recreation Update: November 2025

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

Youth Soccer: The City League concluded this month. Season went very well and Eli did a great job recruiting/training volunteer coaches and forming teams for this popular recreational sport league. Also under Eli's leadership our Student Recreational Assistants did a great job officiating the youth soccer games. The county soccer league also concluded on November 1st with the season ending championship tournament. Four of the seven Anacortes teams made it to the tournament and did well. Thanks to all our volunteer county league coaches for their efforts this year.

Youth Basketball Mini-Camp: AHS Boys Basketball Coach AJ Yost worked with staff to host a fall two-basketball camp this month. The camp numbers were down a little bit from the prior year. But the kids that attended got a chance to hone their basketball skills.

Kids Art Studio: Staff worked with art instructor Vickie Corley to offer more after school art classes on Wednesday early release days. For 6-weeks kids could express their creativity while making a variety of arts and crafts projects.

Fall Family Bingo Night: Staff created the first ever Family Bingo Night on the 14th. It was very well attended with about 50 people signing up. A few different BINGO games were held and winners collected prizes. Participants were very positive, and folks would like to see more non-traditional events like this for families to participate in. Especially during the winter months.

Youth Basketball Clinic: AHS Girls Basketball Coach Nate Dunham held second annual clinic for youth on Saturday, October 18 at the Middle School Gym. Participation was about the same as the year prior. This was a great opportunity for players to improve basic skills before the start of the youth basketball leagues.

Mt. Erie Road & Trail Run: Staff organized and facilitated the 49th annual event on Saturday, October 18. The run, named after its creator Dallas Kloke, offers two different routes, a 3.6-mile road run or 2.5-mile trail route up the mountain. The race challenges runner's endurance and stamina. Some people consider the fall run a tradition to cap off their fall running season. The unique race draws participants from all over the region. A big "Thanks" to Troop 4081 for helping along the trail route once again this year. Next year we will be celebrating the 50th year of holding this event.

Boys Youth Basketball: Registration was open starting in early September and closing the middle part of this month. Staff spent time recruiting coaches, forming teams, and securing gym space. A coaches meeting was held towards the end of the month and around the same time. Girls Basketball registration, for the season starting after the first of the year, started this month.



Puzzle Competition: First in the Fall/Winter Series. 12 teams of 4 people. Fastest time was about 34 minutes. 2nd and 3rd place were within a minute of that time. Everyone had a great time. We have another coming up on November 18th.

Haunted Forest: This was Eli’s second time through with the annual event. Set-up and take down takes a large amount of time, which needs to happen during the daylight hours and requires closing the Sunset Loop Road. The event itself took place on Saturday evening the 25th. The loop road at Washington Park is used for the staging of “scares”. Overall participant numbers are good. Thanks to all our volunteers who helped with the event.

Drop-in Sports: Adult Volleyball takes place at Fidalgo Elementary on Wednesday and Friday evenings. Adult drop-in Basketball takes place on Sunday evenings in the Middle School and Tuesday evenings at Fidalgo Elementary. Pickle Ball is on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Friday at Mt. Erie Elementary. To see the latest on the drop-in sports schedule visit: <https://www.anacorteswa.gov/971/Drop-In-Programs>

Other Items of Interest/Upcoming Events: Wonderland Walk, Friday & Saturday, December 12 & 13. If you would like to be a greeter at this year’s event, please let Dustin know. Dad and Daughter Dance Event is Saturday, February 21st.

Total Volunteers Hours for October

	Drop-in Sports	4	X	16 hrs.	= 64
	Youth Soccer	56	X	8 hrs.	= 448
		14	X	26 hrs.	= 364
	Haunted Forest	59	X	4 hrs.	= 236
	Boys Youth Basketball	28	X	4.5 hrs.	= 126
	Family Bingo Night	1	X	3 hrs.	= 3

Total for Month	1,241
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Parks Manager Report: Nicole Johnston

- A unique collaboration happening between *Northwest Career and Technical Academy* and Parks. Students from the local Marine Technology Center who are taking a Career and Tech education course are working on building two picnic tables for Washington

Park and three new trash racks for the park as well. The Anacortes Parks Foundation Washington Park fund is covering the expenses for the project.

- Archaeologist Katie Lewis with the Samish Indian Nation conducted a cultural resource assessment in the area where the proposed expansion of the Ship Harbor boardwalk will be located. Katie's cultural resource assessment is intended to minimize the impact on archaeological sites that may be disturbed during construction of the proposed project and to determine the potential for any unrecorded cultural resources. Shell middens were found between the surface and 40cm deep in three of the seven probes. We do not have the final assessment from Katie's research and findings, but we are all very much aware that there is likely for intact archaeological materials to be present in the project area. So we will then be requested, and we also recommend having archaeological monitor during all ground disturbance activities associated with the project. Jonn and I had a productive meeting with the Samish to review the project concept. They expressed strong interest and look forward to supporting the City as the project moves forward. The ALEA (Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account) grant application is due on April 30, 2026. The grant provides up to \$500,000 in matching funds, and the City will pursue funding partnerships to meet the required match.



- The crew has been hard at work at the cemetery with chestnut cleanup, leaf collection, installing markers, irrigation winterization, and ongoing mowing. In other cemetery news, Jonn, Nichola, Braydn, and I recently met with Marshall from Ness Crane Company to finalize plans for installing the new columbarium in the southwest corner of Grand View West. We've determined that a 90-foot crane will be used for the placement. The Parks crew is scheduled to pour the concrete pad by the end of November, with the columbarium units expected to arrive in February or March. Once complete, the site will feature two 80-niche columbarium units.
- Crew spent time down at the Police Department removing ivy and brush along the fence line.



- Braydn completed all the Playground Safety inspections.
- Steve helped Street Department do the downtown street pruning and the “Q” Ave pruning.
- Turned off and winterized the Spray pad.
- Turned off all irrigation.
- Wrapped up soccer season- all goals will be put away by Oct. 31st.
- Steve replaced a broken Memorial Bench on green point.
- On October 16, Steve and Jamie participated in an Emergency Operations Center (EOC) drill at Washington Park. The exercise simulated a mock “landslide” cleanup, giving the team a chance to practice emergency response procedures.
- Michaela started on October 13th and has been a wonderful addition to the crew. She’s a great fit and brings positive energy to the team.
- Crew helped Eli get set for the Haunted Forest event at Washington Park. Shout out to Braydn for taking on extra hours day of the event to help Eli get ready.
- Steve has begun replacing worn boards along the Ship Harbor Trail. We plan to repurpose some of the existing yellow cedar boards from sections of the split-rail fence that are no longer needed. Additionally, we’re looking to order a pallet of new yellow cedar using funds from the Anacortes Parks Foundation’s Ship Harbor Fund.
- Nichola installed the sponsor signs at the Skatepark, but unfortunately, they were torn down and vandalized over the weekend. We’ll wait for Bob’s return to decide whether to order new signs or explore other options for recognizing our sponsors.
- Once we wrapped up the City Soccer season AJ and Nichola thatched Kiwanis Meadow field. This improves the root growth, improves turf appearance and enhances fertilizing and overseeding.
- Jamie and Steve removed a dead tree in the Storvik Park 32nd Street parking lot, as well as a tree near Parkside that bordered the ACFL.
- Fields with lights continue to be in high demand this time of year. We’ve been able to accommodate the following groups on the turf or in the outfield of Volunteer Field: AHS Football, AHS Soccer, Youth Football teams, Adult Soccer, Adult Ultimate Frisbee, and Fall Ball Baseball.
- Jamie and Braydn used cold mix to fill some of the many potholes on the Mt. Erie Road. We will make plans to work with Streets next year to overlay another section of the road.



What is next for Parks? As we head into November, staff will prepare for the end of daylight savings time, continue with increased leaf cleanup, and begin winterizing all irrigation systems. We’ll also be prepping the cemetery for Veterans Day and pouring a concrete pad for the columbarium project.

Senior Center Administrator Report: Karl Wolfswinkel

October Highlights:

The average daily attendance at the Center was 205 in September and 190 in October.

The Wellness Committee offered their annual Falls Prevention Week from the 20th-24th. Retired Physical Therapist Paul Sherman offered a class on safe walking with the objective of helping participants adjust their walking gait to reduce their fall risk. One participant stated that the class helped them to change their posture and keep their feet aligned, two adjustments that they plan to put into practice for safer walking.

According to feedback we received from our community partners during the Senior Needs Assessment work we did earlier this year, many seniors struggle with healthcare needs and caregiving support is limited. We are grateful to host Powerful Tools for Caregivers (PTC), an evidence-based program that helps unpaid caregivers gain self-confidence, manage time, and set goals for themselves. On the 29th, Program Coordinator Amanda Miller and volunteer co-instructors Don Campbell and Pat Buckley completed the fall session of PTC. This session of PTC was offered fully on Zoom to accommodate the caregivers' schedules. One participant shared that the class readings and action plans helped her and she now feels like she can still do the things she wants to "in spite of being the caregiver at home." Another asserted that the class was "perfect!" and they, their family, and their neighbor will benefit from the knowledge they learned.

Halloween was a fun-filled day at the Center with our usual midday luncheon that included a 25-minute dance presentation by the Skagit Line Dancers. The group danced to many spooky tunes including "Thriller" and the *Ghostbusters* theme song. Additional entertainment was provided by a group of 12 brave souls who performed at the afternoon open mic presentation. In another room, regular participant and volunteer Nancy "Artemis" Wright, a former volunteer researcher and tour guide for Laurel Hill Cemetery in Philadelphia, shared a presentation on this historic landmark to a packed room of excited students.



What's coming in November?

On the 4th, retired Neurologist Virginia Simnad, an Alzheimer's Association volunteer educator, will offer a presentation to explore often-overlooked neurological challenges such as brain fog and fatigue. Dr. Simnad will discuss the stressors associated with these symptoms and offer strategies to maintain physical and emotional health.

For the first time, the Skagit County Historical Museum in La Conner is partnering with the Center to offer an in-person presentation on the 3rd and a tour of the museum on the 10th. For \$5, participants can ride the bus from the Center and receive a tour of the facility. A regular Center participant responsible for designing part of the museum will be joining the tour and will provide insights into the building design based on personal experience.

Assistant Director's Report: Bob Vaux

FALL VACATIONS

- Continued to help cover for Director Lunsford. But now (9/29) the real challenge, getting by without Darby for two weeks!!
- I am taking much of the month of October off as well.

BEN ROOT SKATE PARK

- 9/26: PF Nichola and I met on site with Rachel, working on sign installation plan, pending warranty work from Grindline and future skate classes at the park.
- Ph II improvement project planning and design work continues.

ANACORTES COMMUNITY FOREST LANDS

- 9/27: joined many others celebrating another year of Friends of the ACFL education programming at their annual fundraiser. Well done, Friends.
- Continuing with off-season trail patrol.
- Enjoyed another evening with the Friends at their 10/16 volunteer appreciation pizza feed at Village. Celebrated so many great accomplishments with folks giving their time to the Trail Ambassador, Citizen Scientist and Forest Discovery Center docent programs.

W. 6TH PARK PLAN

- Nels Strandberg has taken an interest in the project and we are exploring a potential partnership. Some more specific design work taking place as well. Director Lunsford and I have had some preliminary permitting discussions with Building and Storm Water.

HEART LAKE PARKING LOT IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

- Director Lunsford and I reviewing first planning and design proposal to be submitted.

FOREST PLAN

- Working on 2nd draft of SEPA checklist. Plan not yet scheduled for Council review.