



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

February 10, 2026 at 6pm

**This meeting will be held BOTH virtually and
in person at the City Hall 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 January Minutes
3. Public Comments
4. Correspondence/Communication
5. Upcoming Project Open House-March meeting
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).

January 13, 2026

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

Staff in Attendance: Jonn, Nicole, Karl and Dustin

Call to order: 6:00pm

December minutes passed unanimously.

Public Comments:

None.

Correspondence and Communication:

JoAnn reported on the last Forest Board meeting, speaking about the Heart Lake project. Staff is looking at the scope of this project and getting appropriate documents in order. It has been a season of beaver dam monitoring and blow down clearing. The second draft of the SEPA permit for the Forest Plan has been submitted. The Plan is with the Mayor at this time and Staff hope it will go to Council soon.

Jonn met with the Parks Foundation today and they spoke about the City budget and ways the Foundation can help with larger projects. Jonn has asked the Foundation for 100,000 for the Heart Lake project and 50,000-75,000 for the W 6th Park.

The PSE lease is signed and finalized.

2026 Outlook

Jonn shared about the upcoming projects for 2026 in the Parks and Recreation department. The skate park restroom project is being funded by the sale of the old restroom. The Maritime Plaza project is being funded in majority by a County grant. The W 6th Park will need to have fundraising from multiple sources as well as community partnerships. The U Ave park, part of the outfall project, is on hold with FEMA at this time. And the Heart Lake project is in process.

Alex asked about the sand volleyball court at Storvik. This project has been pulled back due to lack of funding. The original donors and organizers of this project wanted two courts but the funding was never acquired. The opportunity for City funds has passed.

Sarah asked about the Anacortes American article mentioning further cuts possible. Staff is looking at ways to run slim on Seasonals, possibly fertilize less, irrigate fewer areas, and look at every way to save money. There was a 25% cut to the operations and maintenance budget for Parks.

There will need to be community funding for any small projects and requests, such as the small dog park. There is a group of users that requested a covered area and fundraised for this shelter themselves.

Nicole stated that the crew has always been very frugal with spending, but will be even more aware. Normally there is a new year list as funds become available with a new budget cycle, but that is not the case this year. She is also looking at cutting down to just one WA park seasonal and finding a "super seasonal" that can cover multiple areas for a bit longer than the usual time. The goal is to not let the public notice the lack in funds and team. Sarah responded that if the public does not feel any of the pain, they will have no realization of the extent. Jonn also shared that the entire City is making sacrifices. Mayor Walters is requesting that we advertise about any project about how it is being funded and that those funds could not have been used for staffing.

The Downtown Anacortes Alliance has taken over the planting of the boxes and the tree lights. They are learning what the public expects and how to work on a small budget. But their help is appreciated in keeping the City looking good.

Brad mentioned that the Parks and Rec department is fortunate to be able to take advantage of volunteers, as many others in the City can not.

Staff will be using Foundation money for appropriate projects such as Storvik park or the Thompson Trestle.

Nicole shared that she is preparing to start the ALEA grant process for the SHIP replacement and improvement. This will need a \$500,00 match so she is speaking with the Port, Samish, looking at other grant opportunities. A RCO grant manager was onsite today to look at the area and she provided some feedback about the process. If the grant is won and the legislature funds it, that funding would come through in July 2027. Staff is looking at the February Parks Commission meeting to advertise the project to the public. Sarah asked if there was any anticipated pushback. Staff does not anticipate that as this is replacing something that was there already and narrowing the access to the wetland from locals as well as all of the ferry visitors. If the full project was done with the upgraded materials, it would be a cost of 2.4 million at today's cost. So the project will most likely be done in phases.

Department Reports:

Dustin spoke about the need for more gym and fields in town. Staff is hoping to turn Volunteer field and the Daniels family is supportive of this, donating \$500,000 already. Dustin is looking to apply for the Youth Athletic Facilities grant, which if won would also be funded in 2027. He has served on the grant review committee so knows what they look for and what to include. This project would include a baseball field but also lines for soccer, lacrosse, softball and many other groups. This is at least a \$1 million project, depending on drainage. Darby spoke about the cemetery and changes coming there. Staff has done a study of comparable fees to other local city owned cemeteries and Anacortes comes in significantly below all of them. Jonn has presented a proposed fee increase to the Mayor and he is in support of taking it to Council. This increase would cover just actual staff costs for the services provided. Also coming to the cemetery in March will be columbariums, above ground granite niches. There is a demand for these, staff hearing from the community as well as local funeral homes that they will sell quickly. Cemetery policies are currently being reviewed and updated by the legal department and once complete, the cemetery will offer green burials.

Karl spoke about the main issue at the Senior Center-the Meals on Wheels program. The county will no longer run the program as of July 1, so the NW Regional Council has a request for proposals out for a new group to take over. Karl is meeting with Facilities to explore the option of replacing the carpet in several rooms, including the pool room. This comes as two new tables are being moved in, one donated and another fundraised for. Jim Smart will be teaching his final class at the Center before moving closer to family. This class will cover the Civil War.

Nicole also shared that the crew will be installing the shelter at the small dog park as well as adding gravel and wood chips. The team will work on bracing the Clearidge fence so the noise dampening curtains can be reinstalled and kept up year round. The Kiwanian want to do a Centennial project and are looking to put in a shelter at WA park near the playground and improve the landscaping.

Other Business:

A question was asked about recreation participation numbers. Dustin shared that they are holding steady with many kids participating, despite having so many options for activities in town.

Adjourned at 6:50pm

Respectfully submitted by Darby Jordan

Parks and Recreation Update: February 2026

Assistant Director's Report: Bob Vaux

FOREST PLAN

- State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA): Darby and I reviewed Forest Plan changes with Planning Manager Libby G. Shout out to Libby for all her efforts working with us on this required step in the Plan update.

HEART LAKE PARKING LOT IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

- Received final drafts of proposals from both Engineering and Environmental consultants. Worked through one last question and submitted contracts into the City queue on 1/23. Working now with our WA ST Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) Grant Manager on final prep before liftoff.

BEN ROOT SKATE PARK IMPROVEMENT PROJECT PHASE II

- Waiting for RCO approval of our Cultural Resources Study and MacKay Sposito to finish design. Am in active contact on both fronts.

ACFL TRAIL "PATROL"

- Parks Maint. Tech Braydn was out on an early January Saturday, attempted to make contact with a mountain biker riding with a dog off leash. The rider refused to stop.

WHISTLE LAKE AREA BEAVER ACTIVITY

- Our beaver population has been busy in the Toot Swamp area. Jamie and I visited the swamp's outflow and the dam there has been fortified significantly. Have requested a site visit with WDFW.

TREES

- Jamie and I were able to help a Rotary Park neighbor with a hazard tree limb. It is down and hauled away.
- Thanks to the Parks Crew for doing a great job cleaning up the hazard tree job that Precision Tree Service handled for us last month. We saved thousands of dollars by finishing the work in house.
- Anna D. from Planning and I visited the Highlands NGPE to deal with a couple of hazard trees and the appropriate mitigation for their removal.

WASHINGTON TRAILS ASSOCIATION BIG ROCK PROJECT

- Finally, was able to take Richard M. up on his generous offer to tour the WTA job site at Skagit County's Big Rock Park - one of my favorite places. The crew there doing some great work, and very inspiring for some possible improvements in the ACFL.

COUNCIL MEETINGS

- Attended the 1/20 meeting. Mayor Walters doing some housekeeping regarding Boards and Commissions. Also working on codifying them. Council voted in support of minor changes made to Forest Advisory Board membership language. Essentially, terms will now be four years instead of five, and a member of the Planning Commission is no longer required. Current terms are not impacted by these changes.

DOWNTOWN STREETScape

- Joined Director Lunsford for a focus group on this project, lead by consultant First Forty Feet and the Downtown Alliance. We focused on connecting the Tommy Thompson Parkway with the Guemes Channel Trail, as well as connecting the downtown corridor more directly with the Depot.

W. 6TH PARK

- Have been meeting with Legal/contracting staff, exploring public/private partnership options.

THANK YOU...

- COA GIS staff for helping me out with a recent surge in Geocache activity.

ROGUE MOTORIZED USE CONTINUES

Concerned and frustrated trail users continue to report motorized use of the trails on trails that are both closed for the season and often not available for motorized use anyway. The Emotos (basically, electronic motorcycles) are spotted and reported. The age range of many of these reports is younger teen, so the problem is very much a local one.

Parks Manager Report: Nicole Johnston

January was a busy month for us here are a few highlights:

-The crew took advantage of a quite morning at Washington Park and fell a few hazard trees in the park on the sunset beach road and in the campground.

-Christmas Tree Pick Up Day was a success. Thanks to AJ for working the event and helping the Anacortes High School Key Club.

-Parks crew finished cleaning up the leaves at Grand View Cemetery, Senior Activity Center and Causland Park.

-Braydn and crew have been keeping busy installing markers at the cemetery.

-We have added more signs at Washington Park on trails for keeping dogs on leash. We have also submitted a request to the Police Department for increased foot patrols to help enforce this law.



-Jamie has been working fast on clearing downed trees in the ACFL and even Steve jumped in on helping Jamie with a large tree on trail 210.



-AJ has been spending time on Volunteer Park getting the infield ready for baseball season. Season starts for the high school teams March 2nd. We are hopeful to hire our baseball seasonal by the end of February.

-The Kiwanis Club is looking to do their Centennial project on installing a picnic shelter on a slab of concrete near the Lot A parking lot at Washington Park. That project is going to be completely funded by the Kiwanis Club and it has now been postponed until 2027. They need more time to fundraise for the project. Once I have plans for the picnic shelter I will share with you all, waiting on the plans from New Creations Building Company, LLC.

-We have had some unfortunate vandalism at Washington Park lower restroom. We had someone completely cut out the coin machine from shower Unit #5. We guess they stole about \$15 dollars in quarters. We then put up a Sky Point game camera on the restroom building and then that got stolen a few days later. I have ordered a replacement coin machine.

-Crew has been replacing more ship harbor board walk boards when time allows.

-We have had two unauthorized plaques go up on the Guemes Channel Trail on rocks. We have posted a sign asking the owners of the plaque to contact parks. I've heard from one of them and they understand the reason we are asking them to take the plaques off the rocks.

-Although the ground was frosty R Ave was ready for the first mow of the year.

February will be a busy and productive month! We'll be gearing up for baseball season, hosting several AHS fieldwork parties, beginning the pavers around the columbarium pad, and getting started on the small dog park shelter.



Director's Report: Jonn Lunsford

We are planning on hosting an "Open House" of sorts on **Tuesday, March 10th** at our regularly scheduled Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting. Our goal is to engage the community regarding the five projects we are working on in 2026. Here they are:

Depot Plaza Expansion: The two possible contracts for this project are on the City Council agenda for February 2. Thanks to the contracts team for putting together the Agenda Bill. One contract is for a

new plaza constructed with concrete, the other contract option is to build it with pavers. I will be at the meeting to go over the bids with you and answer any questions. This project is in the 2026 CFP and is currently budgeted at \$300,000, with \$250,000 in County economic development funds and \$50,000 in REET.

Skate Park Restroom and Parking: We are ready to put out the bid as soon as we hear back from the State approving the cultural resource survey that was completed by Samish staff. We are in the comment period regarding the survey. Because we are relocating a state grant funded project, we need to go through this process. The new parking lot and restroom will be located on city property just south of the existing skate bowl. Funding this project comes out of the sale of the land of the current Thompson Trail restroom. The price estimate is approximately \$640,000 for construction.

Heart Lake Shoreline Restoration: We have a scope of work and proposals from an engineering firm and a biologist that we are preparing for review. We are also working on a contractor for a cultural resource survey. This project will follow the basic outline of the Heart Lake Master Plan that came out of a community planning process in 2010. The total estimate is approximately \$1.1M. Funding for this will come out of a grant from the State of Washington's Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account (\$470,000), our own Conservation Easement Program (\$400,000), Impact Fees (\$130,000) and private donations (\$100,000).

West 6th Street Park: We have made a design for this park based on several meetings with the community. The current funding we have is \$75,000 from Impact Fees with other possible private donations. We are collaborating with Nels Strandberg on ideas to build the first stages of a park (accessible sidewalks and green space) and possibly phasing in a playground and picnic shelter as other funding becomes available.

"U" Avenue Park: This future park will be where the sewer outfall project enters the Guemes Channel at the north end of "U" Avenue on Cap Sante. It will be a nice addition to the neighborhood in an area historically known as Rose Point. We are collaborating with our partners at the Port of Anacortes and Samish Nation on this project.

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

Puzzle Competition: Our third team competition in the Fall/Winter Series took place on Tuesday, January 15th. We had great participation with 10 teams. The next competition in February will feature two person teams.

Girls Youth Basketball: Practices and games started this month and Recreation Coordinator, Eli, is doing a good job facilitating the league. The season is going well due in large part to Eli's leadership and our volunteer coaches. The league will run through the end of February.

Tots Open Gym: Another early childhood program that is increasing in popularity. Staff opens the gym in the basement of City Hall for about an hour on Tuesdays. Toys and other items for kids to play with and make noise are provided. Parents like the large open space and opportunity for your little one to socialize with others the same age.

Pee Wee Basketball: This program focuses on FUNdamentals of the sport on basketball. The program is open to kids 4-6 years of age and our teenage staff are the coaches/instructors. Again another opportunity for youth to expend some energy and socialize with participants their own age.



Youth Workforce Development: At the end of last year staff applied for and received a grant to develop our youth workforce. The grant was provided by National Recreation and Parks Association and the Department

of Labor. The goal is to increase work skill for young workers by providing additional training, real work experience, and mentorship with a professional in the field. The recreation manager and recreation coordinator and facilitating opportunities for our youth workforce to get additional experience in the workplace.

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: Dad Daughter Dance Event is Saturday, February 21st. Staff is continuing to work on planning and promoting programs for the upcoming late winter early spring season. A flyer for those programs is attached.

Total Volunteers Hours for January

	Drop-in Sports			
	4	X	16 hrs.	= 64
	Girls Youth Basketball			
	28	X	10 hrs.	= 240
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	Total for Month			304

Anacortes Parks & Recreation

Recreation Programs/Events



YOUTH CO-ED VOLLEYBALL LEAGUE

Recreational league for kids in 3rd-6th grades. Focus on skill development, sportsmanship, and fun.

DAYS: Tues & Thurs

DATES: March 24 - May 5

TIMES: 4:00-6:00 pm

FEE: \$45

LOCATION: Middle School Gym



BADMINTON PROGRAM

Come play badminton, very basic instruction and rules will be covered. Come try this sport.

DAYS: Wednesdays

DATES: March 25 - April 29

TIMES: 5:30-7:00 pm

FEE: \$20

LOCATION: Middle School Gym



YOUTH TRACK & FIELD

Kids in 1st - 6th grades can come participate in running, jumping, and throwing events.

DAYS: Mondays

DATES: April 27 - May 18

TIMES: 5:45-7:00 pm

FEE: \$30

LOCATION: Rice Field (AHS)



YOUTH DRAMA CAMP

Kids will have their opportunity to express their inner dramatic selves. Explore your creativeness in a fun environment.

DAYS: Mon - Thurs

DATES: April 6-9

TIMES: 9:00 am-1:00 pm

FEE: \$60



Register Online



PUZZLE COMPETITIONS

Assemble your team of up to FOUR people and see who can assemble their 500-piece puzzle the fastest.

DAYS: Wednesday

DATES: March 25

TIMES: 6:00 pm

FEE: \$35 per team

DAD & DAUGHTER DANCE

A special evening with dancing, snacks, photos, and lots of fun with that special someone!

AGES: All

DATE: Saturday, February 21

TIMES: 6:00-8:30 pm

FEE: \$30 per couple



FAMILY TRIVIA NIGHT

Do you have what it takes to become the champions of trivia? Form your team, up to 5 max. Questions will come from various genres. *Registration required in advance.*

AGES: All

DATE: Thursday, March 5

TIMES: 6:00 pm

FEE: \$35 per team



recreation@anacorteswa.gov



www.anacorteswa.gov

Anacortes Parks & Recreation

Recreation Programs/Events

EGG DASH

Thousands of eggs spread across the park. DON'T BE LATE! Or you will miss the hunt.

AGES: 12 and younger
DATE: Friday, April 3
TIMES: 6:00 pm
FEE: FREE
LOCATION: Storvik Park



KIDS FISHING DAY

Come try fishing and get some help from the Puget Sound Anglers.

AGES: under 15
DATE: Saturday, May 30
TIMES: 7:00 am-12noon
FEE: FREE
LOCATION: Heart Lake



KIDS NIGHT OUT

Parents are you looking for something for your kids to do in May. Need to get some time to run errand or time with your spouse/partner.

DAYS: Thursday
DATES: May 21
TIMES: 5:30-8:00 pm
FEE: \$5
LOCATION: Senior Activity Center



PEE WEE BASEBALL

Kids ages 4-6 have the opportunity to learn the FUNdamentals of baseball, batting, throwing, and running.

DAYS: Wednesdays
DATES: May 6 - 27
TIMES: 4:00-4:45 pm - session 1
5:00-5:45 pm - session 2
FEE: \$35
LOCATION: Storvik Park



ADULT DROP-IN SPORTS

We are continuing the popular drop-in adult sports programs including Co-ed Volleyball, Pickle Ball, and Basketball. To view the schedule for these upcoming activities please visit our website at:
<https://www.anacorteswa.gov/971/Drop-In-Programs>.

BARK IN THE PARK

This event is all about the dogs, bring your canine friend for a "tail-wagging" good time.

AGES: All
DATE: Saturday, June 13
TIMES: 10:00 am-2:00 pm
FEE: FREE
LOCATION: Storvik Park



Register Online



recreation@anacorteswa.gov



www.anacorteswa.gov