



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

March 10, 2026 at 6pm

**This meeting will be held BOTH virtually and
in person at the Anacortes Senior Activity Center
(1701 22nd Street)**

Access to the meeting via Zoom through this link:

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

Preliminary Agenda

1. Call to Order
2. Approve February 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).

February 10, 2026

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

Staff in Attendance: Jonn, Bob and Karl

Call to order: 6:01pm

January minutes passed unanimously.

Public Comments:

None.

Correspondence and Communication:

JoAnn reported on the last Forest Board meeting, with a presentation on invasive American Bullfrog study. This was approved by the Forest Board. The Friends are busy and have lots of activities. The Forest Plan will go to Council on February 23rd or March 2nd.

Jonn shared that the MTCA protocol is requiring additional studying with water and soil samples.

Open House:

Staff is proposing an Open House during the next Parks Commission meeting, March 10th. This will allow the public a chance to ask questions or comment about the various projects happening in the department. This also gives more points to grant applications.

Department Reports:

Karl reported that the Center is busier than ever. The County is holding meetings about Meals on Wheels and their ending involvement July 1st. There are three groups interested in taking over this program and they will be announced April 1st. There has been a lot of discussion and fear spread about the County no longer funding programs but no decisions have been made at this time.

Programs are running as usual at the Center, the bake sale is on Friday. February 18th will feature 4 special programs in addition to regular programs.

Bob shared that he has three projects he is leading-W 6th Street park, Heart Lake restoration, and the skatepark restroom and parking lot. For W 6th par, he has met with legal and there is some room to have a community partnership. For Heart Lake, the engineering contract was approved and is moving forward. The skatepark restroom is just waiting on the final cultural resources survey report to move forward. And the Forest Plan will go to Council soon.

Darby shared that the Cemetery fees are going to Council, the Forest Plan is going to Council and the Columbariums are being delivered March 26th.

Jonn reported that the Depot Plaza will start construction soon, hoping to be completed in May for the Farmers Market. The Daddy Daughter Dance is on February 21st. Other programs starting soon are 4 on 4 basketball, badminton, and drama camp.

The Mayor is working on tidying code and details.

Staff are working hard on projects this winter in addition to regular duties. They are installing a shelter in the small dog park.

Staff are looking at a community event at the new Maritime Plaza, a "plaza warming" in July with possibly food and music.

Other Business:

Alex asked about the new shelter at Washington Park that the Kiwanis group was going to do. That has been pushed to 2027.

Adjourned at 6:37pm

Respectfully submitted by Darby Jordan

Parks and Recreation Update: March 2026

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

Puzzle Competition: We changed this month's competition a little bit. Teams of two competed to assemble their puzzle in the fastest time. We had 14 teams participate in putting together their 350-piece puzzle. Some of the puzzlers really enjoyed only having to find one other person for their team, versus finding 3 other people for the 4-person team competitions. The last puzzle competition for the season will be Wednesday, March 25.

Girls Youth Basketball: The league finished up this month, it was a great season with about 131 participants signed up (1 more participant than last year) and numerous volunteer coaches. Our teenage staff did a great job officiating. Staff would like to "Thank" all our volunteers for contributing to the success of the program.

Messy Me: Another popular toddler program concluded this month. Participants get to experience playing and interacting with all kinds of messy, squishy, and slimy materials. Kids can be creative and have fun in the process.

Pee Wee Basketball: The popular early childhood sports program concluded on Saturday, February 7. The program focuses on kids getting to participate in the sport of basketball, participants are coached by our awesome teenage staff and best of all, the 4–6-year-olds get to burn off some energy with their friends. This year we had 54 kids registered between two sessions, which is down a few participants from last year.

Daddy Daughter Dance: The 15th annual event took place on Saturday, February 21. This was our second largest event with 323 registered participants. The event continues to be very popular and was held from 6:00 – 8:30 pm on Saturday evening. Along with music/dancing, participants are treated to goodies, door prizes, and photos to commemorate the event. Thanks to city staff Sidney Neel, Darby Jordan, and Karl Wolfswinkel for assisting with the event. Karl's daughter, Mara, is also one of our Student Recreational Assistants, provided the DJ'ing for the event. The event has and always will be open to any youth and adult couple that would like to attend.




Kids Art Studio: Staff continue to work with art instructor Vickie Corley to offer after school art classes that concluded in February. We expanded offerings to include a preschool class on Mondays, so between three different age sessions we had 19 total participants.

Adult 4-on-4 Basketball League: Staff restarted the league which was canceled in 2006 due to low team numbers. This season we have 4 teams that will play a 6-week season. Team registration fee is kept low by the self-officiated nature of the league. Team registration fees included providing teams with reversible basketball jerseys. So, far teams seem to be having a great time getting some exercise while hooping it up on Sunday afternoons at the high school. We hope to get a couple more teams next year.

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: Youth Volleyball League Registration closes at the beginning of March with the participants starting practices later in the month. Drop-in Badminton will start in March and registration is currently open for that. Youth Track and Field is open for registration and will start after ASD Spring Break. Staff is continuing to work on planning and promoting programs for the summer months and the best way to advertise those programs and events.

Total Volunteers Hours for February

	Drop-in Sports	4	X	16 hrs.	= 64
	Girls Youth Basketball	25	X	12 hrs.	= 300
	Daddy Daughter Dance	2	X	4 hrs.	= 8
Total for Month					372

Assistant Director's Report: Bob Vaux

HEART LAKE SHORELINE RESTORATION PROJECT

- Working with our WA ST Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) Grant Project Manager on getting initial contracts in place and paper trail started appropriately.
- Met with Jackie and Denise from the Samish Nation staff. We will work with the Samish on our Cultural Resource Survey (CRS) for this project, as we have done at the Ben Root Skate Park phased improvement project.
- 2/9 Council Meeting: our design contract with Gray & Osborne passed unanimously.
- 2/18 Held kickoff meeting for the project with contractors and Saben from Public Works. Next steps are site survey related.
- **HEART LAKE:** worked with Darby to complete last year's management report for WA ST Dept. of Ecology (DOE)

ACFL MAPS

- Thanks to our GIS team for updating our trail maps for the 2026 edition. There were a couple of old bridges indicated that have been removed over the years.

FOREST PLAN

- Darby and I worked with Libby in Planning, and the SEPA DNS was published 2/11. Big THANK YOU to Libby for all of her help.
- Darby and I also working on the Plan presentation that is scheduled for 2/23 Council meeting.
- 2/23 Good discussion with the Mayor and Council while presenting the current plan draft. A formal public hearing will be held by the Council on March 16th.

ACFL: IN THE FIELD

- 2/3: Toot Swamp beaver activity recon with WA ST Fish & Wildlife (WDFW) Area Habitat Biologist, Jess P. Our current practice of hand tool notching of dams continues to have the State's support.
- 2/4: took a look at some outer edge tree concerns in the South Cranberry area. There are a couple of trees that warrant a closer look.
- 2/6: ACFL Jamie and I did some recon in the S. Cranberry woods, along with some west side property line inspection. A little bit of trash to pick up, but all in good condition otherwise.
- 2/11: Anna from Planning and I spent some time with Forest Ridge residents, reviewing the dimensions of and rules for that plat's NGPE. We all pretty much ended up on the same page.
- 2/12: Parks Nicole and I did our part for new APD Officer orientation. I focus on Whistle Lake + and Nicole on Washington Park.
- 2/20 Helped Jamie with a S. Cranberry hazard tree + some N. Heart recon in response to some property line concerns shared with us. Did not find anything troubling.
- 2/24 Visited a Vista Too 32nd Street Swamp neighbor residence, called due to concerns over fresh beaver work. Jamie and I will have to finish the job for them on a young alder that is currently heading for the private property.

W. 6TH PARK PROJECT

- Continuing to explore public/private partnership options with our Legal Department, Contracting Division.

FEBRUARY FOREST ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

- Thank you to Director Lunsford and Darby for staffing the meeting as Jamie and I had some outside commitments to tend to.

BEN ROOT SKATEPARK IMPROVEMENT PROJECT PHASE II

- Saben from Engineering and I met with MacKay Sposito re: 90% design completed and looking good. A couple of small questions to follow up on, but optimistic MS will have the plans ready in the next few weeks.
- 2/23 Our Cultural Resources Survey has made it through the RCO review process. We will get to work on ordering the CXT unit for the site and continue design work with MacKay Sposito.

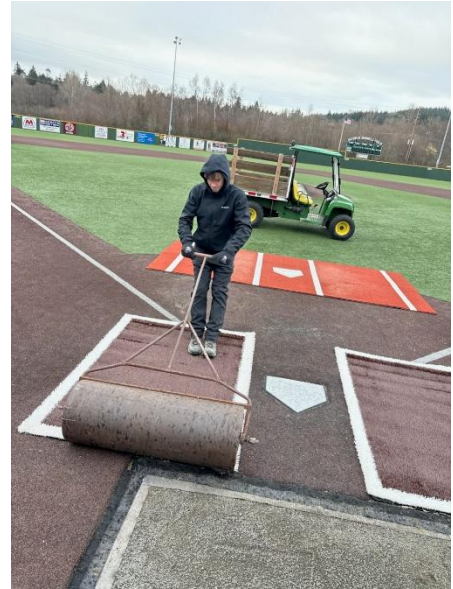
Parks Report: Nicole Johnston, Parks Manager

-Small Dog Park Gazebo pad area is prepped and ready. Crew had to pour four concrete footings in preparation of the gazebo. We are planning to build and install the gazebo in the month of March. We moved the bench that was already inside the small dog park area to a new location at park and we will plan to move the picnic table under the gazebo. Crew had many requests from the various dog park visitors while they were working



onsite. A few of those included a wind screen for the gazebo and a paved patio. We will add both of those to the wish list for the small dog park.

-AHS Baseball team had a work party on Feb. 22nd with 40 people in attendance. The AHS fastpitch team is having their work party on Sat. Feb. 28th. First week of March we have Veca Electric doing all the work to replace a few lamps (light bulbs) on the light poles on Daniels Field and MDD. We are using Parks Foundation funds to cover this cost. Special thanks to Sky and Myles in Facilities who helped Parks crew trouble shoot the Daniels score board that was not turning on properly. The scoreboard is now working properly. Youth baseball teams will start practicing on park fields in March. We hired Garret Krause as our baseball seasonal, his first day was Feb. 23rd. Parks crew is still hoping to transition the Ace of Hearts Baseball infield into a grass infield like Storvik. This will save staff time and money. Fingers are crossed we don't run out of time to make this transition happen this year.



-The columbarium's are on the way. They are set to be delivered on March 26th. Crew is working on prepping the area for the pavers that will be around the columbarium pad. Crew has also started to mow up at the cemetery.



-Ship Harbor update is that I have started the grant writing for the ALEA and the WWRP grant with RCO. My deadline for these grants is April 30th. I am set to go to the City Council meeting on March 23rd for the mayor and council to approve the authorization resolution forms on the grants.

-Pot Hole on the 32nd Street Parking lot got filled. Thanks to Jamie.

-Steve is leading the boom truck training for the City. That training is taking place on Feb. 26th.

-Jamie and Steve cleared a tricky and rather large tree on trail #208. Nice work!



-Clearidge fence will be a little project for the crew this spring. We are looking to order 22 galvanized steel posts so that we can brace the fence before we put up the noise reducing wind screens. Once we brace the fence, we feel hopeful we can leave up the curtains all year round. Still figuring out a few details on this project, but after a quick meeting with Public Works Director, Logan Lee we feel hopeful.

-Parks will be working with the Street Department to make a few repairs to the Guemes Channel Trail. We will overlay with asphalt where needed. The trail will be closed for a few days in April when we are set to do this work. In other news on the GCT parks crew removed the two unauthorized

plaques that were installed. We will do our best to notify the owners of the plaques and get them returned. I will work with Darby to create a sign that prohibits this kind of activity.

-Nichola and I have been working with GIS on getting Parks crew set up to use cartograph. This is proving to be a bit more work than anticipated to get all the parks, trails, cemetery plots loaded into cartograph with all the details needed for each location. Hard to say when Parks crew will be ready to start using the program, but we are hopeful it is an easy transition!

-The community garden is full, and we have a few people on the wait list for a garden plot. One idea we had was expanding the garden on the north side (playground side) and adding a few more plots. The current members of the community garden are all for it. I have reached out to a few generous community clubs and businesses to see if there is interest in not only funding the potential expansion, but to also build the garden plots. Parks crew would be able to get the ground ready, but we are looking for a group to take on this small project from start to finish. Let me know if you have any ideas of local groups!

-Altair Americus Park is going to see some improvements we hope later this spring. The Port of Anacortes donated four picnic tables some time ago and we feel like they are in good enough condition to reuse at Altair Americus Park. The tables are currently sitting near the driftwood giraffe near Market Street. Crew will have to do some ground prep to remove the old tables and concrete pads at the park to properly place the tables. We will aim to do this work before the busy summer months. Also, near the park along Market Street the City has been asked to install the letters ANACORTES ahead of the FIFA World Cup games. We think the location of the marina and water is a nice background for tourists and residents to have a photo opportunity. The letters will be 6ft tall and made of fiberglass. This is all being funded by the Skagit Tourism Bureau. They want the letters installed by June 1st.

-Seasonal jobs are posted. You know the drill if you have someone looking for spring/ summer employment with the Parks Department, please send my way.

Feeling ready to spring forward on March 8th!