



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

April 14, 2026 at 6pm

**This meeting will be held BOTH virtually and
in person at City Hall
(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 March Minutes
3. Public Comments
4. Correspondence/Communication
5. Review Project Updates
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).

March 10, 2026

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

Staff in Attendance: Jonn, Bob, Nicole, Bradyn, Darby and Karl

Call to order: 6:01pm

Jonn gave an introduction and welcome. He invited the public in attendance to visit the various project boards and ask questions of staff. He welcomed comments to be written and posted on the various boards. The official meeting would be held after the open house.

February minutes passed unanimously.

Public Comments:

None.

Correspondence and Communication:

JoAnn reported on the last Forest Board meeting, with Bob giving an update on the Heart Lake project. This will focus on shoreline restoration from a grant. The Forest Plan will go before Council on March 16th.

Jonn shared that the Parks Foundation will be helping more this year due to budget constraints. Staff is focused on the Clearidge courts and small dog park as well as general maintenance of all parks.

Department Reports:

All of the latest was mostly shown tonight. The pavers have been completed at the cemetery and the columbarium will be delivered on March 26th. The next step will be to go to Council to see policies and cost.

Bob reported that Jamie's work party at Little Cranberry went great.

Other Business:

None

Adjourned at 6:54pm

Respectfully submitted by Darby Jordan

Parks and Recreation Update: April 2026

Parks Manager Report: Nicole Johnston

March has been a busy month in Parks. Below are a few highlights.

- The new columbariums were delivered to Grand View Cemetery. Next up is creating the pricing for the various levels. Thanks to everyone involved.



- Precision Tree Service took down the dead Cypress tree at Causland Park. Parks crew worked on the ground to do the clean up to help save on cost. We now have some good wood to use for future Wonderland Walk Events.

-The crew all went to the Pesticide Certification Course over at the Skagit Fair Grounds.

-A few months ago, Steve organized to have one of the classes from the SVC Marine Tech Center to build new trash racks for Washington Park.

Thanks to the class for finishing up the two racks they are actively being used at the park now and doing the job of keeping the squirrels out.



-Dean Williamson was recognized by the Mayor with a Pride & Service award for his many years as a seasonal staff and for being full time for the last six years. Dean started as a seasonal in 2005. In addition, Dean also received the Mayors Excellence Award (the Mayors Award). Dean is Mayor Walter's first recipient of this award. Well, deserved for Dean and we are all so happy for him and the work that he does at Washington Park.



-I submitted a HPA permit to do maintenance on repairing sections of the Guemes Channel Trail. Once the HPA is approved then I will coordinate with Streets to do the overlay of the damaged sections on the trail. This is most likely going to happen in September. A HPA is a Hydraulic Project Approval.

-I am still working on the two RCO grants. The ALEA (Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account) and the WWRP (Washington Wildlife Recreation Program) for the SHIP Harbor Phase One project. City Council approved the Authorization Resolution on March 16th meeting.

-Volunteer Park has been busy with AHS games and practices. During the rainy days, the turf fields were in high demand. We hosted a few non-Anacortes games per the request of the AHS Athletic Director. The MDD scoreboard stopped working towards the end of the month, Parks have the parts on order, and we are awaiting the arrival to get scoreboard back to operating.

-Graffiti unfortunately continues to be a weekly occurrence in parks. We have seen graffiti this past month on the loop road near the lookout, on the top Mt. Erie on a rock, dugout of volunteer field and in Storvik restrooms. We continue to report the graffiti to the PD.

-Small dog park gazebo is being worked on and plans to be finished by the end of day on March 31st. Thanks to all the crew for taking on the task to get this project completed.

Looking forward to seeing what April brings!



Assistant Director's Report: Bob Vaux

ACFL

- 2/25 Jamie and I joined Jackie and Denise from the Samish Nation staff for our monthly outing in the forest lands. We looped around Big Beaver Pond, discussing a variety of past and possible future trail repair.
- Working with the Washington Dept. of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) on a comprehensive maintenance Hydraulic Project Approval (HPA) for beaver dam notching and bridge maintenance in the ACFL.
- Forest Plan: processing written public comments in preparation for the 3/16 Council public hearing, where additional public comments were heard. Staff now preparing a public comment matrix for the April 20 Council work session. Shout out to Planning Manager Libby Grage, for her input and support.
- 3/11 Enjoyed the annual Friends of the ACFL meeting. So appreciate the decades of education and all the new programming.
- 3/19 Dogs off leash emphasis patrol first thing in the N. Heart Unit. No contacts.
- 3/23 "A" Ave Landfill: drill and sample site recon with COA Parks staff, in preparation for the contractor to begin agreed to MTCA protocol.

BEN ROOT SKATE PARK IMPROVEMENT PROJECT PH II

- Finalized CXT restroom order and submitted purchase contract.
- Working on permits. Submitted Mar 12th.

TREES

- 3/2 Lake Erie Way ACFL neighbor paid for the removal of three trees Arborist Steve identified as hazards. I was on site for the work, where STS did a nice job.
- 3/10 Helped Jamie with a hazard tree in the Vista Too neighborhood (along the 32nd Street Swamp shoreline) that the beaver fell toward a home. Jamie did a great job getting on the ground safely.

- 3/20 Arborist Steve, ACFL Jamie and I mobilized to Forest Ridge for some hazard tree work. The HOA was unable to move their stored items so we will have to reschedule.

OPEN STREETS 2026

- This very popular local event approved by Council at its 3/2 meeting.

HEART LAKE SHORELINE RESTORATION PROJECT

- 3/3 Met on site with Katie and Jackie from the Samish Nation, began planning for the Cultural Resources Survey (CRS).
- 3/19 Some preliminary parking lot design review with design team.

W. 6TH PARK PROJECT

- Continue to work with our Legal Dept. and potential private sector partners on a plan proposal.

WASHINGTON PARK ANNUAL RESIDENCE INSPECTION

- Completed on 3/16. Chris doing a great job of Caretaking for us. Residence in good shape.

2026 SEASONAL HIRING

- Working with Parks Manager Nicole on this year's applications. We have seen a decent number come in.
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Recreation Staff Report: Dustin South, Recreation Manager & Eli Moore, Recreation Coordinator

Adult 4-on-4 Basketball League: The league concluded this month. The last game ended on a buzzer beater shot! We had four teams that played over the span of 6 weeks. Team registration fee is kept low by the self-officiated nature of the league. Team registration fees included providing teams with reversible basketball jerseys. Overall teams had a great time getting some exercise while "hooping it up" on Sunday afternoons at the high school gymnasium. We hope to get a couple more teams next year.

Youth Volleyball League: Practices for this annual league started at the end of the month. We have about 64 kids signed up. Many of whom this is their first experience playing volleyball. We have special equipment (lighter and oversized volleyballs, etc.) and we lower the nets to help the younger players experience success. The program takes place at the middle school gym on Tuesdays/Thursdays from 4-6pm.

Kids Art Studio: The preschool arts exploration class was offered again this month. For the second month in a row it continued to be popular with 8 participants registered.

Puzzle Competition: We held our last team puzzle competition of the season Mar 25th. We had 11 four-person teams registered. The puzzle events continue to be popular, and participants seem to enjoy the variety of puzzles staff have chosen over the past couple of years. Competitions will resume this fall.

Play Badminton: Program resumed this month with about 15 participants signed up. If they are new to the sport they received a brief instruction to the program, then played games.



SRA Training: Through a Workforce Develop Grant from National Recreation Parks and Association recreation staff was able to take a group of our student recreational assistants to Western Washington to talk with current staff, students, and professors about a possible career in Parks and Recreation. We did this on a Friday when there was no school. The event went great and students learned a lot.

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>

Depot Plaza Expansion: The project broke ground in the area just east of the W.T. Preston. The plan is to expand the depot plaza to this area that will provide more accessible areas for food truck vendors. The project is funded by an economic development grant from Skagit County and expected to be completed in May.

Other Items of Interest/Upcoming Events: Staff continue to work on summer programming for events and camps. With no A-Town publication staff is working on other ways to advertise programs to the community.

Total Volunteers Hours for March

	Drop-in Sports			
	4 X	16 hrs.	=	64
	Youth Volleyball			
	6 X	3 hrs.	=	18
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	Total for Month			82

Director’s Report: Jonn Lunsford

“A” Avenue Landfill: This spring, crews will begin monitoring at the former “A” Avenue landfill. The public will see crews working for the City placing ground water wells which may result in temporary trail closures. For background: The city was issued a No-Further Action (NFA) letter in 2009 when its closure and capping of the "A" Avenue Landfill was initially completed. The NFA was lifted in 2020 after citizen complaints about a city discussion regarding a bike skills course on the landfill cap. Since that time the city and Department of Ecology (DOE) began working through the Model Toxic Clean-up Act and entered into an Agreed Order in February of 2025. The DOE ran a public meeting and took public comments on the Agreed Order before it was finalized. In the spring of 2026, the city and DOE are finalizing a Remedial Investigation (RI) workplan to begin this sampling program. Please see the city website on the "A" Avenue Landfill: <https://www.anacorteswa.gov/1237/A-Avenue-Landfill-Site>