



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

May 12, 2026 at 6pm

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

Access to the meeting via Zoom through this link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86782645955>

Preliminary Agenda

1. Call to Order
2. Approve April Minutes
3. Public Comments
4. Correspondence/Communication
5. Pickleball Discussion
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).

April 14, 2026

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

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

Call to order: 6:01pm

Minutes: March minutes passed unanimously.

Public Comments:

Marcia Hunt was in attendance to speak about volunteering to sweep the Tommy Thompson Parkway. She has received some community feedback that the City should be responsible to clean it. Marcia has developed a website to allow volunteers to sign up when they are available. Advertising will be done at the Skagit Bike Club as well as the City website and social media. Volunteers will need training first before signing up. It takes about 90 minutes to sweep the trail.

Marcia also spoke about the Public Safety Committee and their discussion of the classifications of ebikes and emotorcycles. Discussion was had about minors, helmets and licenses.

Correspondence and Communication:

Jonn reported that one of the neighbors is still concerned about pickle ball noise so staff is considering closing the courts 2-3 days a week, noon to noon. The May meeting will be held at the Senior Activity Center and public will be invited to share their thoughts at this time. Jonn will reach out to Skyline again regarding their courts and opening them to the public to help with the volume of traffic to Clearidge.

JoAnn reported on the Forest Board. Tony Lapsansky was in attendance to give his report on the lake health. He has been granted an extension to continue this work for another year. The Forest Plan will be before Council again on April 20th for Council discussion.

Project Updates:

Jonn shared the projects each person is leading:

Karl: renovation at the Senior Activity Center

Bob: skate park restroom & parking lot, W 6th park, Heart Lake shoreline improvements

Nicole: SHIP shoreline restoration and boardwalk replacement

Dustin: Volunteer field turfing, Maritime plaza

Jonn: U Ave park

Darby: cemetery with addition of columbariums and green burials

Sarah asked if there was any action taken after the open house. Jonn shared that most feedback was about Volunteer Field. But no action has been taken yet.

Jonn reported that the Daniels family has committed to \$750,000 for the turfing of the field and Dustin is going out for a 1.3 million grant that is very competitive. Staff will be looking for further donations from the community.

Department Reports:

Nicole reported that Jack Hart wants to do a work party at SHIP with the parks crew and community volunteers. This would work on replacing boards, trimming vegetation, and repairing the split rail fence. Nicole is going out

for grants to replace the washed out section and narrow the access from the ferry parking and allow for ADA access there.

She also shared that she and Bob would be holding interviews on Thursday for seasonal staff. Baseball season is going strong but the scoreboard on MDD is not working.

Karl shared that his focus has been on the meals program. As of June 30th, the County will no longer provide meals. Skagit Council on Aging, a small non-profit, has expressed interest in taking this on and their Board is in support. There are lots of details to work through to get them up and running. SCOA has reached out to all the Mayors in the county and will be setting meetings with them. It will be a 6 month contract to get to the end of the year, then reassess and renew the contract. Funding will come from NWRC, state and federal, a one time County contribution and non-profits. Staff are looking at other options just in case. He also reported that the remodel is in process and their new auto check in system will go into place soon.

Bob announced that the skate park resealing will happen this week with the Skatepark Improvement Foundation paying for that.

He shared that his projects did not get a lot of feedback at the open house, but requests for basketball have been voiced again at W 6th park.

The design and specs are in for the skatepark restroom and parking lot, they are being reviewed by staff in contracts and engineering.

The Heart Lake project is in the early design phase, looking at critical areas and setbacks. The challenge will be water filtration as it is so flat and hard.

Staff is looking at 5 year permits for routine trail maintenance such as adding gravel or fixing bridges.

Other Business:

A question was asked about the next A-Town. Staff responded that this will no longer be produced.

Adjourned at 6:52pm

Respectfully submitted by Darby Jordan

Parks and Recreation Update: May 2026

Nicole Johnston: Parks Manager

Clearidge Fence Update- Parks crew installed 22 additional fence poles to brace the existing clearidge fence. When we put up the noise reducing curtains up in May we are hopeful that with the additional fence support this will allow us to leave the curtains up year round. Thanks to all the crew that have worked on this fence project and thanks to all the pickleball players for their patience while we worked to get the job completed.



Small Dog Park Gazebo- Small group of dog park regulars and myself worked for a few hours to install a barrier / wind block around the small dog park gazebo. All materials were donated to complete this project and I know that the small dog park regulars are thankful for the upgrade to the park.



Arbor Day- On Friday, April 24th we celebrated Arbor Day and planted a Bay Leaf tree near the Community Garden. Thanks to the Mayor and a few City council members for helping us plant the tree. As a city we are recognized by being a Tree City USA and this year will be our 26th year of that recognition.



Seasonal Staff Update- We have offered all the seasonal staff jobs and look forward to having a new crew working for us this summer.

Washington Park- No major updates from Washington Park. We are gearing up for the busy season ahead! Camping is picking up, graduation parties are around the corner, and the boat lot is starting to fill. We're excited to welcome Reilly back to the park on May 22, just in time for Memorial Day weekend!

Submitted both RCO grants for the Ship Harbor Project. Up next is waiting for the technical review of my power point presentations that will take place on May 20 & May 21.

MDD Scoreboard- The MDD scoreboard stopped working about three weeks into the AHS fastpitch season. After many calls with the Daktronics rep and loads of patience the dream team of Sky, Myles and Nichola were able to troubleshoot the problem and order the correct replacement parts. The scoreboard was fixed just in time for Senior Night. The Anacortes School District paid for half of the parts and the Anacortes Parks Foundation Volunteer Park fund paid for the other half.

Volunteer Work Party at the Anacortes Community Garden-The gardeners had a work party over the weekend of April 25th. Garden is looking great. We have a few on the wait list who would like a garden plot. I am working right now with Rotary Noon and HF Sinclair on the idea of possibly expanding the community garden so that we can add a few more plots. There is interest from the club to fund this project and do the work of building the boxes. More details to come on this.

Small Mowing- Loads of small mowing happening in the parks and at the city facilities. Great collaboration with street department this last week of April to mow with the RC mower at Kiwanis Waterfront Park. That park needed a haircut and we appreciate the team effort to get that done.



Looking forward to May and hope this sunshine stays!

Assistant Director's Report: Bob Vaux

ACFL

Forest Plan

Shout out to Libby in Planning for sitting down with us in Parks and providing technical expertise in support of our public comments' matrix, along with her on-going FP update process wisdom. Director Lunsford, Darby and I put in the hours on the 4/20 Council packet.

Council had support for the Plan and not many questions at the 4/20 meeting. Staff now awaiting any written comments from the Legislative Branch.

Maintenance

Provided ACFL Jamie with some hazard tree falling support along the Whistle Lake access road as well as on trail #22.

Working with COA Planning on trail #115 bridge replacement. Anna has been super helpful.

The ACFL Story

Attended a great meeting with DNR and City of Issaquah staff on the history of the ACFL. Issaquah looking for inspiration along similar lines.

Friends of the ACFL

Jamie and I met with Ellie K, prepping for this summer's Trail Ambassador Program training and the expansion of this very successful volunteer effort.

Enjoyed participating in the Friends' Board & Staff retreat. A true partnership forged in the goal of the long-term health and enjoyment of the ACFL.

Earth Day Volunteers

Special thanks to the 30 climbers and the 7 divers who showed up for the April 18 Dallas Kloke Mt. Erie Clean Up and the Heart Lake trash clean up dive, respectively. Jamie was able to work with the climbers.

We also had Parks Maint Tech Braydn K working an ACFL dogs off leash emphasis patrol that same day. Sadly, he had a handful of dol encounters, most involving mountain bikers.

Jamie and I also continuing to work in similar "patrols" as time allows.

Beaver

The Whistle Lake / Toot Swamp beaver community is hard at work. Jamie and I have been working the surveillance/hand notch protocol as is consistent with the rest of the ACFL beaver work.

BEN ROOT SKATE PARK IMPROVEMENT PROJECT PH II

We have finally received the design and bid package documents from MacKay Sposito. Review process with Saben/Engineering and Tiffany/Legal now.

RESEAL

Shout out to Rachel and the BRSP non-profit for covering the cost of resealing the pump track and skate area. Thank you Grindline for the always good work.

W. 6TH PARK PROJECT

Working with Mayor Walters, Legal and the private sector on a potential community service contract.

SEASONAL STAFF

Parks Manager Nicole and I have been conducting interviews and getting the jobs filled.

TREES

Met a citizen living near a north end disc golf course hazard tree, that happened to be hanging over a long-time neighborhood access trail into the park. ACFL Jamie and I were able to safely fall the tree and clean up the trail. We also cut down a rope swing just south of the disc golf course.

DNR FIRE CREW TRAINING

Jamie and I were enjoying our monthly outing with Samish Indian Nation staff Denise and Jackie, when we encountered this summer's local DNR fire crew training on Sugarloaf. Great to see the skills and commitment of these young folks and their seasoned DNR leadership.

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

Youth Volleyball League: Our annual recreational league for 3rd-6th graders concluded this month. Thank you to all our volunteers for helping make this season a success.

Kids Art Studio: Instructor Vickie offered some after school art classes again for grade school kids. Numbers were down for this program, however the preschool art class had good participation numbers. Summer camps have also been scheduled for upcoming months.

Youth Track & Field Program: Started on Monday, April 20th. AHS Track and Field team helped run the camp again this year. With just over 150 participants signed up for the program, they learn all the basic FUNdamentals of track and field events. The event concludes with a track meet where athletes get to compete against each other and win ribbons for each event they compete in.

Play Badminton: Brought back the program due to a request from a community member, this time of year it is much easier to get into a gymnasium. Had about 15 participants signed up. If they are new to the sport they received a brief instruction to the program, then played games. The program lasted about 5 weeks.

Volunteer Field Conversion Grant: Staff has applied for a Youth Athletic Facilities Grant through RCO. Application was due at the end of the month. If awarded the grant, the goal would be to convert Volunteer ballfield to artificial playing surface. Adding lines for soccer and lacrosse. We should know by Fall if we are awarded the grant.

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>

Maritime Plaza: The project is almost complete and looks great. Farmer's Market starts their weekly Saturday festivities and will soon expand into the new space once vendors have a chance to look at it in person. Staff is looking into adding a stage to the area and trying to secure funding for that addition.

Other Items of Interest/Upcoming Events: Kids Fishing Day is Saturday, May 30 at Heart Lake. Start fishing at 7am. Kids under 15 get to fish for free. Bark in the Park Annual Event is Saturday, June 13 from 10am-2pm and Kids R Best Fest is Saturday, July 11 from 10am – 2pm. Both events take place at Storvik Park. Youth Soccer Registration is currently open for the fall recreation season.

Total Volunteers Hours for April



Drop-in Sports

4 X 16 hrs. = 64



Youth Volleyball
4 X 10.5 hrs. = 42



Youth Track and Field
30 X 1.5 hrs. = 45

Total for Month 151

Director's Report: Jonn Lunsford

Forest Lands Management Plan: The City Council approved the Forest Lands Management Plan on May 4th. Thanks to Bob Vaux and Darby Jordan on our staff for their months of work on the Plan. We also appreciate the assistance from the Anacortes Police Department, Anacortes Fire Department and our Planning and Economic Development Department who greatly assisted in the overall improvement of the Plan. Thanks to the volunteers on the Forest Advisory Board for all the meetings dedicated to the Plan. Thanks to the Friends of the ACFL and Transition Fidalgo who contributed to the Plan and to all the citizens who took the time to attend meetings and comment.

Pickleball: Our Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission meeting in the month of May will focus on a discussion about the potential reduction in the number of days of play allowed at the pickleball courts at Clearidge. The meeting is May 12 @ 6pm at the Senior Activity Center.

Cemetery Fees: We should have new cemetery fees available for green burial and columbariums by the end of May. Council is considering these fees at their May 11th meeting.