



ANACORTES PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT

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Anacortes Community Forest Lands Advisory Board

**June 4, 2026
6PM**

The regular meeting of the Forest Advisory Board for June is cancelled. The Board will be gathering at 6PM at the Heart Lake Parking Lot for the annual joint ACFL hike with the Friends of the ACFL Board. The public is welcome to join. No business will be conducted.

Staff contact: Bob Vaux
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360/293-1918

Minutes of the Meeting: May 7th, 2026

Board members present: Brian Wetcher, JoAnn York-Gilmore, Tabb Stringer, Kit Gerwels

Staff present: Bob Vaux, Darby Jordan

Meeting held in person and called to order at 6:00PM

Minutes: April minutes were unanimously approved.

Public Comments:

None

Friends of the Forest Update:

Ellie shared that summer is quickly approaching. The kindergarten program is complete and the 3rd and 7th ending soon. Hannah has been leading the family hikes and all have been at capacity on registration. However there are no-shows each time, preventing others from participating. The Friends are requesting to bump the registration numbers up to allow for more opportunities. They anticipate that the group would still be at the 25 number with some registrants not actually showing up. The Board recommended to approve this change.

Ellie also announced that the Naturalist Club is also finishing up with their last Saturday being in the woods looking at scouting invasive species. Their Trail Ambassador training will be next week with about 30 people signed up-their largest group to date. The Discovery Center will be open Tue-Thur from 10-2. They are starting two new downtown plans-the second Thursday of the month will be a “how to be a better ACFL neighbor” and the last Saturday of the month is a drop in nature craft option.

Staff Reports:

Jamie was not in attendance as it was his birthday. Bob shared that Jamie will be doing the Trail Ambassador training for the Friends. This year they will have a “mobile unit” of seasoned volunteers out on the trails.

Bob also shared that there have been both DNR and Anacortes Fire trainings in the forest lands.

Bob expressed thanks to the Board for all the work on the Forest Plan, having 21 meetings to update it. Parts of the Plan have been adopted into the City code to allow for enforcement.

There will be two seasonal staff starting soon, Will on May 27th and Gibson on June 15th, which will help Jamie tremendously.

Parks Commission Report:

JoAnn reported on the Parks Board. At the last meeting, Marcia Hunt was in attendance as a representative of the Tommy Thompson trail sweeper

volunteers. She is working on an online sign up for volunteers, hoping to allow for people to take shifts when they are available.

Staff all did a project update at the last meeting.

Karl spoke about Meals on Wheels and the meals program at the Center. At this time Skagit Council on Aging will be handling the program through 2026.

The Aktion Club has raised \$70,000 toward this program.

Nicole has been working on two grants for the SHIP repair and project. The Clearidge fence is being reinforced to allow for the sound dampening curtains to stay up year round. The small dog park has a wind break on the gazebo now. The May 12th meeting of the Parks Board will be at the Senior Center to discuss pickleball as the neighbors want the courts closed but staff have received written comments against the closure.

Other Business:

Bob spoke about the June meeting being the hike with the Friends. This will be at Heart Lake on June 4th at 6pm.

June 6th is National Trails Day and will be a joint work party at the Clyde Way water tank.

Adjourned at 6:34 pm

Respectfully Submitted by Darby Jordan