



Anacortes Community Forest Lands Advisory Board

**August 6, 2026
6PM**

In person and virtual meeting options.

In Person: City Hall Main Floor Conference Room

Zoom Meeting Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88308344363>

Preliminary Agenda

- 1. Call to Order**
- 2. Approve May '26 Minutes**
- 3. Public Comments for any item not on the agenda**
- 4. Skagit Conservation District: cone collection request**
- 5. Friends of the ACFL Update**
- 6. Staff Reports**
- 7. Parks Commission Update**
- 8. Other Business**

Adjourn

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

JULY 2026

Assistant Director's Highlights

Parks & Recreation

Submitted: July 30, 2026

Bob Vaux

HEART LAKE SHORELINE RESTORATION PROJECT

- On-going RCO grant compliance work. Shout out to Melinda in Finance for helping me through the reimbursable invoice process.
- Digging in on stormwater treatment requirements/design.
- Working with the Samish Indian Nation on the Cultural Resources Survey, Jamie helping with the digging.

W. 6TH PARK PROJECT

- Working on permitting with Stormwater Manager Aaron E.
- Continued work with Legal on the MOU with the Parks Foundation.

BEN ROOT SKATE PARK IMPROVEMENT PROJECT PH II

- The project is out to bid, and we are working on final details of storm water report.
- Our low bid came in at just under \$310K. The Engineer's estimate was \$382K, so feeling good about our numbers currently. Council will consider the contract on 8/3.

TREES

- Responded to an ACFL neighbor's request on Georgia Place. Tree not currently a threat.

ACFL RECON

- 6/30: 100/103/133/104/100: highlighted by a visit with the Friends of the ACFL Littles out enjoying some woodsy adventure. Good visitor contact as well.
- **STAFFING:** working on coming up with a replacement for Will, who returns to college in Early August.
Sadly, we have struck out on this front. We will do our best to fill in shifts from existing staff. Not ideal, but not a new song to learn either.
- **4TH OF JULY:** ACFL staff did a great job over the holiday weekend, visitors did pretty well, too. I worked the 4th night shift, closing Erie Summit and Heart Lake gates, along with Ray Auld Drive and Heart Lake toilets. Opened the gates first thing on the 5th and the previous night's work paid off. Firewatch that morning showed all's well in the woods. Shout out to Brian Wetcher for his annual fireworks patrol at Little Cranberry.
- **7/7:** Jamie and I spent a couple of hours combing the east shore/bank at Little Cranberry for a reported "camp". We did not find one. If you happen to be out that way and spot something we missed please let us know.
- **7/20:** The "chunky" variety of blue green algae has appeared along the upstream face of the Little Cranberry dam. We have seen this before and it differs from the blooms that may appear as scum, mats, foam, or paint-like layers on water surfaces and can change water color to green, blue, brown, or red. We have notified the Skagit County Public Health Dept (SCPH) and have sent photos. Signage

remains posted for awareness. Due to budget cuts, SCPH is working on a new strategy to be able to help us out.

SCPH able to sample on 7/23. On 7/28 we heard back from SCPH: no detected algae toxin in the sample taken. Good news.

NEW POLICE OFFICER ORIENTATION

- **7/24:** Parks Mgr Johnston and I welcomed the newest candidate for APD with our usual orientation protocol, Nicole the parks and me the woods. This young man has been living in this area for a while, so he brought a lot of local knowledge with him. Super nice guy as well. We wish him all the best as the Academy approaches.

James Burroughs
ACFL Maintenance technician
07-29-2026

ACFL Maintenance Report: July 2026

Trail Trimming

- ACFL staff finished all ACFL trail trimming on 7/23
- Trimmed and removed debris on Windward way trail
- Trimmed leeward way trail (ship harbor ext.)
- Continued monitoring for second round trimmings as we started early this year

Trail Maintenance

- Cleared trees on Trails 100, 221, 300
- Bridge prep work for Trail 115
- Replaced old bridge on 115

ACFL patrols

- Monitored visitor compliance
- Checked out rogue trails along H.L road and trail 103/102

Hazard mitigation

- Removed wasp nests impacting trail users on Trails 216, 128
- Removed rebar from Trail 123
- Replaced bridge closure sign for Trail 105 (closed to horses)

Heart lake project

- Dug holes at heart lake with Samish Nation, assisting with the Cultural Resources Survey.

ACFL sanitation

- Garbage collection
- Restroom cleaning
- Litter pick up