



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

Sept 8th, 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/86782645955>

Preliminary Agenda

1. Call to Order
2. Approve July 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).

July 14, 2026

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

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

Call to order: 6:01pm

Minutes: June minutes passed unanimously.

Public Comments:

Jim and Cheryl were in attendance from the Noon Rotary club to speak about upgrading the area of the gazebo at Rotary Park. Now that the lookout project is done, they are looking to improve other areas. They have met with Jonn and Mayor Walters about the gazebo area and shared that it is need of some repair and upgrade. It was built in 1987 and has aged. The Club has also met with Strandberg Construction and gotten a plan and design for a demo of the gazebo and improvement of the space. They have funds leftover from the lookout project and dedicated those for Cap Sante projects only. The next step is for Jonn to speak with Planning and Permitting as well as to City Council.

Correspondence and Communication:

JoAnn reported on the July Forest Board meeting being cancelled due to their summer break. Jonn shared that staff is writing to the Foundation about a way to work with them as well as Strandberg Construction on the W 6th Street Park project. The City has \$75,000 in impact fees and are hoping for a donation of \$50,000 from the Foundation. This would start on the project with the necessary dirt work, fence, landscaping, path and hopefully pavers.

Department Reports:

Councilwoman Marcia Hunt was in attendance and spoke about the new e-bike ordinance that Council is looking to pass. This would be in line with the new Washington state laws, classifying bicycles and Class 1 & 2 e-bikes as bicycles. E-scooters and Class 3 e-bikes, now classified as e-motorcycles and prohibited for riders under 16, are not allowed in parks or on shared use paths like the TTP or GCT. Helmets are required if the rider is under 18. There is also a speed limit for all of these personal transportation devices of 15 mph unless on a street signed for a higher speed limit. Full information can be found on the City website.

Bob shared that the 4th of July was safely celebrated. Staff closed the Mt Erie and Heart Lake gates that evening and there was no fireworks mess as in years past. Jamie and the crew have been busy trimming the trails.

Karl had nothing to add to his report.

Dustin reported that the registration deadline for fall soccer was yesterday. A big thank you to parents for getting kids signed up early as it makes creating teams much easier. County soccer will have 12 teams. Adult softball is running and Kids R Best Fest went great in its 36th year. Sports camps are running with high school students helping to lead these.

Jonn reported that the team has been trimming markers at the cemetery. The new Maritime Plaza held a grand opening celebration on July 1st, featuring the Samish drummers and Jazz music sponsored by the Manieri Foundation. The Farmers Market and Downtown Anacortes Alliance are looking at potentially a night market next summer.

The parks have all been busy with various groups and users. Staff and community members are still trying to find a location for pickleball.

Council will start the budget process on July 27th with department heads giving a second quarter update the week prior.

Next major event will be the Haunted Forest and then the Wonderland Walk.

Other Business:

There will be no August meeting for a summer break.

Adjourned at 6:50pm

Respectfully submitted by Darby Jordan

Parks and Recreation Update: September 2026

Assistant Director Report: Bob Vaux

STAFFING| due to some extended medical leave, we have some staffing challenges through August. Parks Mgr Johnston and I doing our best to mix and match both full-time and seasonal staff to cover our most essential tasks.

Director Lunsford, PM Johnston and I covering various needs in the field as well.

7/31 Will's farewell ACFL shift. This young man did a fantastic job for us. We wish him all the best.

Meanwhile, Will's ACFL seasonal partner, Gibson, is carrying on with great focus and energy. Can't say enough good things about his willingness to work alone, his lack of need for supervision after the plan for the day has been made and his follow through. We are continuing to hold the line out there.

We are also leaning on Lead Worker Steve P. in the ACFL. His years of experience are very helpful.

BLUE GREEN ALGAE| we are continuing to monitor Little Cranberry for any changes. Any sign of it getting harder to find as the month progresses.

HEART LAKE SHORELINE RESTORATION PROJECT| on 7/30 Director Lunsford and I met with our design engineers and our storm water team. We continue to work on storm water treatment options.

HEART LAKE TREATED FOR EURASIAN MILFOIL| 8/3 as per the approved and permitted contract, Aqua Technex treated 11.5 acres of Heart Lake shoreline for this invasive interloper.

SMALL WILDFIRE| the Anacortes FD was able to quickly extinguish this small fire just east of Heart Lake Road on Saturday afternoon, 8/2, called in by a hiker. May have been a small campfire, or a cigarette.

BEN ROOT SKATE PARK IMPROVEMENT PROJECT PH II| still working through some storm water issues. Thank you, Storm Water Aaron, for all the expert help and advice.

8/3 Council approved our contract with Colacurcio Brothers.

BURN BAN| 8/13 now in place throughout Anacortes, including Washington Park.

WILDFIRE RESILIENCE PRESENTATION| 8/13 really enjoyed Skagit Conservation District's Forestry and Wildfire Resilience teams' presentation on forest and wildfire ecology along with current wildfire season conditions in Western WA and the Anacortes area. This included discussing what homeowners and communities can do to mitigate their wildfire risks and how the local Conservation District can help. Anacortes Fire personnel spoke as well about their professional qualifications and specialized wildfire fighting equipment. Thank you, Friends of the ACFL, for presenting this community event.

TREES| have had three visits this month to neighbors of the ACFL and Grandview Cemetery regarding tree concerns. Arborist Steve will be called upon soon.

PARK "RANGER"| Officer Kellington's presence in our parks and woods this summer continues to have a positive impact on our visitors' experience, as well as the work of staff. Thanks again to Chief Floyd and Director Lunsford for making this happen.

WHISTLE LAKE GATE LEANER| you may have noticed the old growth cedar about 100' south of the main WL gate that has been "falling" for 3 or so years now. Have been reviewing options to fall the tree and fix the road. All the options thus far are complicated due to budget issues.

OPEN STREETS| have been working with coordinator Josh G along with relevant City staff in preparation for this very popular Aug 30 community event.

Park Manager Report: Nicole Johnston

Ship Harbor Boardwalk Project Update- I presented my final presentations on Aug. 24th for the Ship Harbor Boardwalk, View Point and Beach Access Project. Preliminary ranked lists will be available sometime around mid-September. This list serves as the basis for funding recommendations to the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board, who will approve the project list at the October board meeting for submittal to the Governor. The board's recommendation of a project list to the Governor is not the same as funding approval. Funding levels will be determined during the spring 2027 legislative session.

Adult Softball Field Prep- Parks crew and seasonal staff covered all field preparations for the Adult Softball League. The season wrapped up with a two-day tournament on Aug. 29/30. Special thanks to AJ and to Ty Swapp for working the tournament.

Soccer Field Prep- Parks crew have been painting a field at Smiley's Botton and Storvik and will create all the modified soccer fields for the city leagues the week of Aug. 31st. We also have teams practicing on the outfield of Daniels and Volunteer field, Kiwanis Meadow and Ace of Hearts every single day of the week during the soccer season.

Arts Festival Weekend was exiting to water hanging baskets and build a sand box on 6th Street.



Washington Park- Remains busy every weekend. We have had feedback from a neighbor to the park about noise concerns from user groups who use a PA system or amplify music. We do allow both, but Parks staff will work with guests if the volume is excessive. We have also added a feature when you go online to book the picnic pavilion you must answer a few additional questions about if you are using a PA or having music at your event. This will let us know more about the group and what their intentions are so that we can be proactive and have a discussion with them about keeping volume levels down for the group picnic area. There will be groups who come to the park to use the unreserved areas or beach picnic tables who do not inform us of their desire to amplify their activities. We will plan to have our staff engage with them about volume levels as needed. Best day of the summer at Washington Park was checking in on the Senior Day Camp that Rec Coordinator Eli ran for the department this summer. The energy around camp was electric. Way to go Eli for starting a new program that I am sure will be a success for years to come.



Charging for field time on MDD or Daniels- It is not our intent to overwhelm the Anacortes Baseball Club or the Anacortes Little League with a large fee for field use. However, we need to begin charging a rental fee to help offset the ongoing costs of field maintenance and the cost of operating the field lights. This policy will apply consistently to all teams and organizations using City fields outside of the Parks and Recreation League. We are happy to sit down with the Anacortes Baseball Club and Anacortes Little League and discuss the hours they have requested and an initial cost structure.

Volunteer Work Parties- Thanks to Tom Decker and his Rotarian crew for hosting a clean up of Cap Sante on August 12th. Nick from Chinook has been volunteering every other Monday at the cemetery weeding the flower beds. He started in the beginning of summer, and his last day of volunteering was August 31st. More then I can count on my hand we have had CWP workers from the Police Department weeding flower beds at the PD, around City Hall, Volunteer Park and even on Q Ave.

Memorial Benches- Steve has replaced two memorial benches where the wood was rotting. One bench is located at Kiwanis Meadow and the other at Storvik Park.

ACFL- Appreciate all the crew for taking additional shifts to work in the woods over the weekend to help cover while Jamie is out on medical leave. Everyone on the crew has been great to jump into the ACFL when needed to clear trees as well.

Grand View Cemetery- Braydn and crew have been very busy this past month at the Cemetery. The crew was able to raise 100 markers and work to trim all markers.

Seasonal Staff Update- Will in the ACFL last day was Aug. 2nd. Great young man and hard worker. Josh Doebler last day was Aug. 28, we have never had such a hard-working seasonal at the Cemetery. Riely's last day at Washington Park was Aug. 22nd. It was nice to have a veteran staff at the park; hope he wants to return.

What is next Parks Crew? Recover slightly from the summer rush and then get ready for a few Fall park projects. On the to do list is to add irrigation to Altair Americus, repatch the GCT where needed with public works and repair the Cap Sante View Point seating area to name a few.

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

Youth Enrichment Camps: These popular themed camps took place at WA Park from Monday through Thursday, from 9 am – 12pm and started in June. Activities and games are scheduled around the theme of each week. These are some of our more popular youth camps for the summer. The camps are geared towards kids aged 5-12.

Skyhawks Sport Camps: Multi-Sport camp, Mini-Hawk, Tennis, Track & Field, Basketball, Volleyball, and Soccer were the sports provided kids the opportunity to play different sports during the week-long camp. Campers ages ranged from 4 – 12. The half and full day options for select weeks provided an opportunity for them to have fun and social while providing flexibility for a family's summer schedule. Camp participation numbers varied, but most were well attended.

Kids R Best Fest: Saturday, July 11th was filled with a variety of fun filled kid/family friendly activities, games, and entertainment. This was the 36th year of the event. We were able to have inflatables, pony rides and much more interactive activities for the participants! Entertainment was provided by Louie Foxx. The 2027 event will be held on Saturday, July 10.

Kids Arts & Crafts Camp: Instructor Vickie Corley offered two separate weeks of camps for kids to explore their creative side. New this summer instructor Vickie offered a camp for preschool aged children. All the camps had good numbers.

Youth Wrestling Camp: Hawkeye Wrestling Club provides beginner wrestling camp for kids the week of July 14-16. This gave kids the opportunity to try out wrestling for the first time. Basic skills and techniques were taught to the participants.

Adult Co-ed Softball: We had a total of 12 teams register for the 2026 season. A handful of new teams formed and joined the league this season. Games are usually played on Sundays, started the week of July 12th, and concluding the weekend before Labor Day. We continue to offer this league as a “wood bat” league for the male hitters. We work with the Skagit Valley Softball Umpire Association to provide umpires for all the games. Several of the adults who play in the league have played for years and become a tradition for them every summer. Congratulation to end of season tournament champions “Family Life” and runner-up “Banana Sluggers”.

Challenger Soccer Camp: Recreation staff continue to work with Challenger Sports to provide soccer development program during a week in the summer. This unique camp brings coaches from overseas and is a great opportunity for kids to learn how to play soccer with an international flavor. Challenger does a great job with the camps, making the drills fun and engaging for the participants.

Youth Water Sports Classes: Classes concluded for the season this month with our continued partnership with Anacortes Waterfront Alliance allowed the city to offer Learn to introductory Water Sports Class to the community. These classes not only gave kids the opportunity to try sailing, but they could learn the basics of Paddle Boarding and kayaking as well. Outside of our program AWA offers further opportunities

for youth to continue whichever water vessel they most enjoyed. The main mission of AWA is to provide water recreation to the Anacortes Community through a variety of means. Overall participation numbers are down a bit.

Adult Sailing Classes: Again, through our partnership with the Anacortes Waterfront Alliance we were able to offer Beginner Small Boat *Learn to Sail Classes* for adults. Both July and August sessions were filled and continue to be popular.

Senior Citizen Camp: Following a very similar model and the youth summer enrichment camps, Recreation Coordinator Moore worked with Senior Center Staff to offer the first ever Senior Day Camp the week of August 3-5, from 10am-12noon. Participants got to explore exciting activities like colorful tie-dye creations, science lessons, journal creation, and classic yard games. The new program was a huge success, and staff will look for ways to continue the program next year.

Preschool Arts Explore: Instructor Vickie Corley offered a first ever weeklong preschool arts and crafts camp. The camp was well attended, and teacher Vickie will look to continue offering a class throughout the year.

Youth Soccer: Staff spent a lot of time this month getting ready for the upcoming season. Tasks included forming teams, recruiting coaches, coach meetings, and taking care of late registrations. Practices started towards the end of August. With games starting on September 12 and are held most Saturdays through October. Thanks to all our volunteer coaches for dedicating time to teaching kids the game. We have a record number of participants this 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 (and Family Pickle Ball Sundays) at Mt. Erie Elementary. To see the latest on the drop-in sports schedule visit: <https://www.anacorteswa.gov/971/Drop-In-Programs>.

Recreation Manager met with Anacortes Girls Basketball Association representatives to see how we could accommodate their gym usage requests at Fidalgo Elementary.

Fall/Winter Programs: Recreation staff currently working on fall events and program planning. August is also the month that we put in our requests for facility usage for the Anacortes School District Facilities for the entire school year.

Upcoming Events: Mt. Erie Road & Trail Run scheduled for Saturday, October 17. Haunted Forest is taking place on Saturday, October 24 (normally it is the last Saturday of October but because Halloween is on the last Saturday, we are doing it a week earlier.) Wonderland Walk, Friday & Saturday, December 11 & 12.

Total Volunteers Hours for July & August

Drop-in Sports

1	X	26 hrs. = 26
1	X	16 hrs. = 16
2	X	10 hrs. = 20
1	X	4 hrs. = 4



Kids R Best Fest

2 X 6 hrs. = 12



Youth Soccer

30 X 1.5 hrs. = 45

12 X 8 hrs. = 96

Total for Month 219

Director's Report: Jonn Lunsford

The Mayor pointed out in his article in the *A-Town is Our Town* publication that the city is currently facing a \$2.4 million budget gap for 2027.

Here is a link: <https://www.anacorteswa.gov/743/A-Town-Magazine>

To see when items are coming to the City Council for the 2027 Budget, please click this link to the budget calendar: [2027 Proposed Budget | Anacortes, WA](#)

Last year the city cut 8% of its general fund staff. This is an important year for local citizens to talk to their elected officials about city services they value and offer ideas for support.