



ANACORTES PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT
P.O. BOX 547, ANACORTES, WA 98221
(360) 293-1918 / (360) 293-1928

Parks & Recreation Advisory Commission

Preliminary Agenda

This meeting will be held via Zoom. Access to the meeting via the link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82496579818>

April 13, 2021

6:00 P.M.

1. Call to Order/Go over Zoom format
2. Approve Minutes
3. Public Comments
4. Whistle Lake Dam update
5. Cap Sante Rotary Trail Discussion
6. Department Reports
7. Other Business

If reasonable accommodation due to a disability are needed, please contact Mac Jackson at least 48 hours prior to the meeting date (360-299-1961).

ANACORTES PARKS & RECREATION

Advisory Commission

Meeting Minutes

Sarah Nichols, Chairperson
Jo Ann York-Gilmore
Brad Adams
Christine Hansen
Alex Hernandez

February 9, 2021

Members Present: Sarah Nichols, Jo Ann York-Gilmore, Christine Hansen, Brad Adams.

Staff Present: Jonn Lunsford, Bob Vaux, Dustin South, Nicole Johnston, Lea DeVere and Victoria Wong.

Others Present: Tom Decker, Jack Darnton

Called to Order: 6:02 PM

Minutes: December minutes were approved as submitted.

Public Comments: Rotary Club presentation by Tom Decker and Jack Darnton.

Parks and Recreation and Rotary Club discussions: both have worked for over a year on a proposed project to celebrate the Rotary Club's centennial in 2022-2023. Making use of existing infrastructure and new infrastructure at Cap Sante Park.

Cape Sante Park – Anacortes Rotary Centennial legacy project. Three different elements were proposed: Rotary viewpoint trail, improvement suggestions at the base of Cap Sante park, public involvement activity to maintain park. The Rotary Club is interested in Cap Sante Park because it'll be the Rotary Club's centennial in 2022-2023 and they would like to work on a legacy project that would have great impact on the community. They chose Cap Sante park because it needed a little TLC and a project that needed the Rotary Club to get it up to date.

What they're looking to improve on: trail to the top that's easy to find and to follow, better public viewing with better access, paved walkway along marina to refurbished gazebo, keep hikers off the road for safety and on one path. Cap Sante in French is translated to in health. More and more people especially this past year need more trails that are closer to downtown and easier to reach. Rotary viewpoint trail - trail would be easier to find, increase use of the trail to lessen traffic at the summit, keeping more people off the road and promote more use in general.

The trail runs along the shoreline for a while then hits the gazebo, and then this is where the trail cuts through the disc golf course and it makes it harder to find so we propose more signage to make it obvious. The parking lot area needs a little love because it can get slippery.

Signage opportunities on all entrances could help better direct people to the trail itself.

Rotary Viewpoint trail concepts - priority to pedestrian and pets no horses and motorized vehicles, 2-person tread, minimize disk golf impact, trail surface to protect terrain, trail amenities with signage and benches about half way up. Parking lot up at the summit will be levelled as much as possible.

Viewpoint Concepts - part of the idea proposed is from the parks department. We are in the imagination stage for viewpoint as new ideas.

1) Mt. Baker viewpoint - east side of the parking area at summit. way to offer more and safer open access for people at the summit. Currently, people can only see the mountains if you head to the rocky area but not everyone can access that. Won't be touching the madrona trees. pressed rock and stone boulder foundation, rock fill compact gravel with flagstone surface. low maintenance, walkable surface. possible metal railing on top. Tiered design to accommodate people, create separation from cars, enhance views to water and mountains. Little disruption in relatively open site with invasive species. ADA ramp entry points to improve accessibility.

2) Concept is multiple levels to enhance separation. Tiered design makes to reference historic amphitheater. Stepped down to improve sight lines to water and mountains to the east.

3) possible alternative to rock and fill foundations, post and beam concept example from Norway. Off-site fabrication to minimize on-site work. likely to be higher cost alternative. Easy access for visitors and multiple tiers for more view options.

The idea is to let the viewpoint stand by themselves. Low profile amenities that would not be visible from downtown, low fencing.

Would like to borrow Washington Park's bench concept with the stones and no-back bench to enjoy the views. Rustic fences to keep it modest and low key to make people keep to the path and not pass.

Base area projects - paved path repairs, gazebo roof repairs, additional signage. Morning rotary club had a volunteer who painted the base area but still needs to be repaired. Picnic table needs a little bit of work as well. Signage - directional signage on the trail itself and interpretive signs to help people enjoy the area while their there. Interpretive signs to show: city and park history, marine resources, mountains and geology, native cultures, refineries, park plants and wildlife, Skagit River Valley.

public engagement strategies - trail stewards trained by city parks staff, emphasis on public engagement, clean-up, invasive species, identifying maintenance issues, rotary and public volunteers and a great opportunity for students.

discovery days - walks, tours and other public events, focus on nature, culture and history, to be led by local educators, experts and volunteers.

Proposed rotary timeline - view point concept - June 2021 - possible design approvals - May 2022.

trail work permits June 2021 - trail work complete Oct 2021.

Lower walk gazebo work can begin - May 2022

Questions – The presenters were congratulated on a thorough plan and explanation. There was a question about compatibility of bikes and hikers on the trail. It is likely this would be solved by staff and Commission deliberation.

People love walking loops - to go down to the Amphitheatre and circle the whole Cap Sante Park. East side trail has other challenges and want to tackle this current process first.

Funding - legacy project by Rotary Park will provide financial support. They've raised \$60,000 so far and hope to reach \$100,000 to the end of the year. Matching dollar for dollar with anonymous donor. We can move to a more public fundraising effort when we get a better estimated cost on everything proposed.

The Rotarians are proposing that the city conducts the trail repair work as part of the partnership.

How many people use those trails currently and what is the prediction on the uptick. How many people is the design hoping to accommodate? Currently there are not a lot of users unfortunately, but with the increase in signage, they feel that it'll create an uptick in users who are looking for a hike in downtown Anacortes.

Bob noted that Cap Sante is a Fish and Wildlife Habitat Conservation area that requires reports to be done so it can be sustained that there would be no loss in habitat function or value. Trail can be fortified within the current trail. Ultimately, construction to make it safer to use and easier on the ground. Trail project standpoint, we are a community blessed with many trails and have experience building and repairing it, and in this case, we can help do it hopefully without major construction.

ADA accessible for mt baker viewpoint is possible.

Department Reports:

- Dustin: we were able to get basketball going under phase 1 guidelines. we have 80 kids signed up small groups of 6-7 pods. working on skills and parents and children are excited to be doing something active. Using city hall gym. school district not letting outside users use their facilities. Travis has been partnered with the library to do virtual fitness classes. Instead of daddy daughter dance, encouraging dads to take their daughters out for date night at local restaurants and outside activities to get them out. Depot Plaza Restroom installed and delivered took 2 days to complete. it was 2 sections and each section was about 75000 pounds. Farmers market will be excited. not open yet, need connections still. Going to get a concrete sidewalk around it with landscaping. hopefully open in march.
- Bob: continually impressed by our crew and how nice the new Causland memorial project going, and Washington Park. Wind storm clean up - about 90% open in the forest lands. a few places in the forest lands where trees are not down but tipped over and could be dangerously hanging - curious for the approach for those. If you see it, please let the us know as we're trying to get those.
- Nicole: few of our parks took a hit from the wind storm - cemetery we had 3-4 giant trees go down, giant tree down at Tursi Park, lots of branches at Washington Park and Storvik. We had the Kiwanis service club volunteer and they have been doing a weekly clean up and was super helpful and makes the parks much nicer. Continually impressed with Brian's Washington Park utility A upgrade work. Sky, Steve and Gary Robinson have been working on the pavers at Causland park. Battling water at the cemetery expansion. Been a tough time to work through a expansion during the winter. We are holding off the paving until we get a better weather window. Then we will hydroseed and finish the pond and wrap up phase 1. Hopefully to start phase 2 in August of this year. Anacortes high school honor society club - picked up litter and trash along the Tommy Thompson and other parks. We're getting ready for baseball season - meeting with coaches next week to find out what it'll look like to hopefully have a somewhat normal spring sports season. New lights at the skate park is great, is there a way to keep the lights on longer at Storvik Park to give people more options to be outside more.
- Lea: Anacortes Senior Center still closed to the public. Coming to 1 year on march 11. Even with the door closed we are pretty active and doing as much as we can virtually. We are replicating our in-person programs to virtual. Goal is to add 2-3 programs a month. We have also revived the program silver foxes. Coffee hour with Mayor Gere. Cooking group is adding a 2nd class. Working to provide a wide variety of information to seniors to get more information out there. AARP usually run free tax

clinics, but they are not able to do currently. They are working with us to take requests to make assistance available to people. Looking forward to spring to get some outside programs going.

- Jonn: City staff are talking with City Council Committees about how we might be able to formalize our relationship with the Anacortes Family Center to assist with homelessness. March 1, we will be going to the City Council meeting with BERK consulting about the updated Parks and Recreation Impact fees.

Other Business: Chris Hansen – there are more donors than places to place benches – if a location is found, please let Bob know. On A Ave by 41-42nd Ave entrance had 3 small animals with saddles going into the forest land. Is that permissible? As long as they are tethered, they're able to be in the forest lands.

Is every other month meeting format approved by everyone? Yes.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 7:20pm.

The **NEXT MEETING** will be held on **Tuesday, April 13th, 2021, at 6:00 PM**, virtually.

Respectfully submitted by,

Victoria Wong

Approved: February 16, 2021

Parks and Recreation Update

April 2021

Parks Operations and Maintenance Report

After a year's hiatus, it was great to get our quarterly ACFL work parties back in action. In partnership with the Friends of the Forest, we hosted 18 highly motivated community members on Feb. 27th. Many invasive plants were removed from the banks of Ace of Hearts Creek in the North Heart Unit, and we also picked up litter along both sides of Heart Lake Road from trailhead #208 south to the power lines at #248 trailhead. Thanks to all who showed up and left the site better than they found it.

On March 4th we held our first Forest Advisory Board meeting since last March. It was great to see everyone, and get this important body accessible to the public once again.

I continue to help Steve in the woods as I am able, mostly clearing trail when large or complicated blowdown is involved. We did have a nice afternoon of neighborhood outreach near the #105 trailhead in Rockridge. We are working up there to reestablish an awareness and observance of ACFL boundaries. We also continue to work city-wide on a variety of tree issues outside the ACFL.

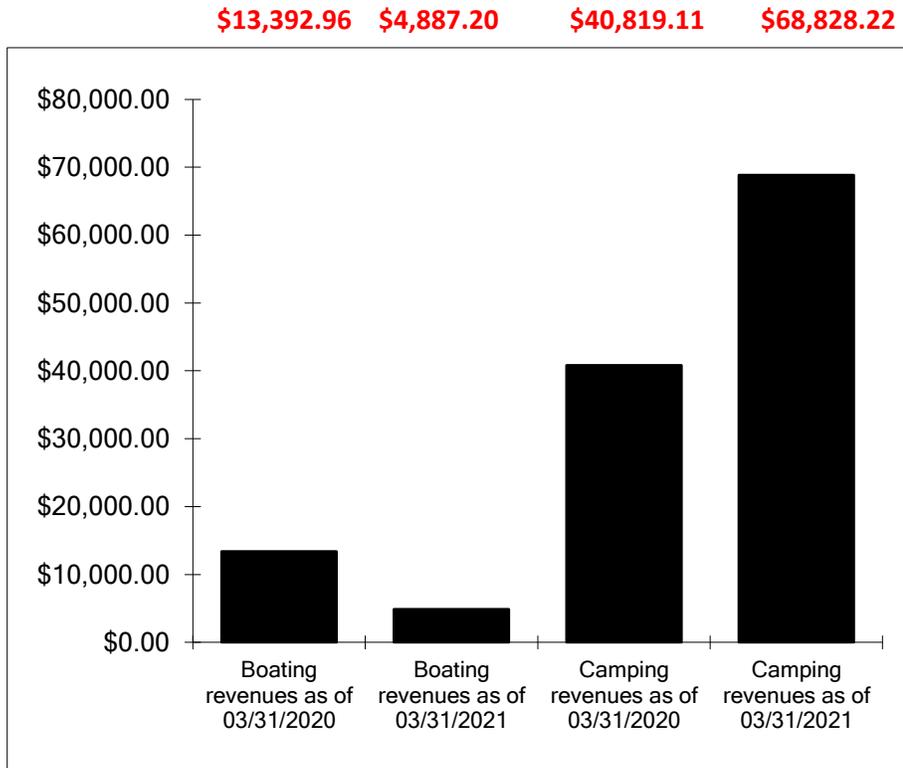
As we have discussed at a variety of public meetings, planning actions required for the Whistle Lake Dam safety and maintenance protocols continue. ACFL Steve and I have worked with our consultant on numerous site visits, as well as reaching out to a variety of city staff in both Public Works and Planning. As the plan evolves, we will certainly keep our community updated.

ACFL trail #10 saw some very specific water damage at a spot between junctions with #'s 117 and 113. We had a preconstruction site meeting with Planning, Public Works and a wetlands biologist. I am working with all on the repair plan.

Our in-house work on the Washington Park 'A' Loop campground utility upgrades continues with consistent, measured success. Brian Tottenham and the crew have been carefully trenching in and around our park forest, laying conduit for the new electrical lines (which has passed L & I inspection), and prepping sites for the improved pedestals delivering both power and water. Thank you to our partnering electrical contractor VECA as well, who is always a pleasure to work with. We will be opening the loop back to camping by April 1st.

A 10% increase in our fee structure at Washington Park was approved by City Council. This will go into effect May 1.

Here is the Washington Park revenue as of March 31, 2021.



Parks staff is working with Puget Way park neighbors on a wind damaged fence that separates a driveway from public trail access. Brian Tottenham is working on an estimate.

City staff from across a variety of departments continue work on the requests for and concepts surrounding the embedded social worker. We believe we have an efficient and effective working model with the Anacortes Police Department and the Anacortes Family Center, along with Parks, Planning and Legal. Council has heard a presentation on same, and has approved a one year contract with the Family Center.

Parks Manager Nicole Johnston and I have reached out to the local disc golf community, hoping to work more closely with them as they care for the Cap Sante course, which is growing in popularity. At the present time we are focusing on getting the golfers' dogs leashed up, as well as working together on vegetation management decisions.

Planning Department staff presented the Planning Commission with the compiled and categorized Shoreline Master Program public comments at March 10 Commission meeting. Discussion of these will take place at a future meeting.

We are planning for maintenance on the privately-owned section of the Guemes Channel Trail. The land owner has granted permission, and Fish and Wildlife has approved this much needed work. We are now working with City staff to firm up our plan.

I have joined Eric Shjarback from Public Works as City liaison to the Anacortes Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee (ABPAC). This group has done a great job over the years advocating for non-motorized transportation, including the necessary planning and safety factors. Their highest profile event has been the Open Streets celebration in August. We are hopeful we might just be able to pull off some version of this in the near future.

I represented the City at the annual Friends of the Forest membership meeting. I really appreciated all the positive feedback on our parks' crews' efforts to get the ACFL trails open after the mid-January westerly winds.

Updated Parks Impact Fees were unanimously passed by City Council at the March 1st meeting. These are scheduled to take effect Sept. 1st of this year.

Planning activities continue with the Cap Sante trail/viewpoint Rotary project team. We are looking forward to the Parks Commission feedback at the April 13 meeting.

It is great to see local stone mason Bryan Elliott working on the Causland Memorial project.

ACFL Steve, Nicole Johnston and I were able to remove the downtown corridor street tree Christmas lights. We are hoping to begin a phased pruning program next fall.

Thank you again to the Samish Nation for our continued partnership with Denise Crowe. Our monthly hikes in the ACFL are an educational and inspirational highlight.

Bob Vaux, Assistant Director

Grand View Cemetery Project-

This past month the contract with Tiger Construction has been suspended due to weather. Tiger moved to work on a road project on 41st Street for the City, but this last week of March they are planning to return to the cemetery to finish up the last few items on their to do list. Tiger Construction needs to finish up working the dirt, work on reshaping of the swale and tidy up a corner of the retention pond. We have decided to cancel the hydroseed application that Tiger Construction was set to do. The Parks crew is going to seed it ourselves and by doing this we will save some money that we can use rather in the 2nd Phase of the project.

Second Phase of the project is still in the works. We are currently working with eccosDesign to finalize our plan for what we want the cemetery to look like. We are excited about the plans and we are eager to start working on this as soon as we can.

Washington Park Utility Upgrade A Section- Super impressed with the crew to take this on. Brian and Sky have worked REALLY hard on the project. Ready to take on campers by April 2nd!

Field Update- Baseball season is in full swing! Anacortes High School Baseball and Fastpitch started and we have already hosted a successful jamboree for both teams. League games are set to start the last week of March. AJ has done a great job getting Volunteer Field ready for baseball season. Anacortes Little League, Black Hawks Baseball Club and the Lady Black Hawks club have also started. Those clubs are using Ace of Hearts, Storvik, Rotary Field and all of the school districts fields as well. We appreciate the patience those clubs have as we work to also get those fields ready for their season.

Volunteer Groups- This past month I have had various groups reach out to me and do work parties. The Bike Club did a Tommy Thompson Trail sweeping work party, the AHS Honor Society has started to do some weeding for us on R Ave and I know the Rotary Club is eager to get to their weekly work party at Causland Park.

Causland Park Memorial Wall- Thanks to Nichola who did a great job getting the plaques polished and ready for the epic install.

What is Next... Crew will start mowing and getting all of the parks ready for the spring/ summer activity. Still looking to fill parks seasonal staff positions and will hope to have our season staff all hired by the end of May.

Nicole Johnston
Parks Manager

Recreation Staff Report:

Youth Basketball: The modified practice only basketball season ended March 13th. Each team had no more than six players and one coach, practices had an emphasis on individual development and skill building. We had 89 children participate in the program.

Pee Wee Sports: The modified Pee Wee Sports Camp ended March 24th, the program has 35 children enrolled in the program. The children were divided into small groups and participated in different sports activities each week. The program was held at Volunteer Park and having the availability of artificial turf fields afforded us the ability to hold this program outdoors.

Fieldhouse Fun: The modified fieldhouse fun class ended March 23rd. The toddler movement and sport course provided small children and their parents an opportunity to move and play in a semi structured environment.

Youth Volleyball: The youth volleyball league for 3rd-6th grade children will begin April 13th. Staff is planning to run a modified league under the stat health guidelines, we currently have 29 participants register for the league. After facility usage discussions with the Anacortes School District, it looks like we may be able to utilize one of their gyms to host this program.

Adult Sports Program: Staff has planned an adult sports program. The program will allow for participants to compete in a different sport every week. With two participants currently signed up we do not anticipate offering this time around. We have received some input from potential participants and might be able to modify for future success.

Egg Hunt: Staff has planned a modified version of the annual egg dash for April 4th 8am-10am. The event will take place multiple parks including Storvik, Kiwanis, Tursi, Causland and Washington Park. Moving the event to multiple parks allows for smaller group sizes than we saw in previous years.

Youth Track & Field: We are currently registering participants for our youth track and field program. The three-week program will start in May. So far there has been a great response and kids are excited about participating in the annual program.

Summer Programming: Staff has been working on programs to be advertised in the Summer A-Town publication for kids and adult to participate in this summer. Some of the highlights are Survivor Camp, Learn to Sail Classes, Pee Wee Athletics, Fall Soccer League Registration, Art Dash Fun Run, Adult Co-ed Softball, and more! We are also trying to figure out ways to modify some larger events like Bark in the Park and Kids R Best Fest.

Depot Plaza Restroom Project: This project is almost finished. Landscaping around the site is complete thanks to PNW Civil and our own parks maintenance crew. It looks great! CXT fine tuning some of our plumbing fixtures and we are really close to opening up the restroom to the public. There will be a ribbon cutting in April to celebrate. The Farmer's Market is extremely excited to start using it. For all the details about the project visit our website at: <https://www.anacorteswa.gov/1282/Depot-Plaza-Restroom>

Dustin South, Recreation Manager
Travis Anderson, Recreation Coordinator

Here are some additional items we are working on:

"A" Avenue Landfill: City staff is working with our consultants, Anchor QEA and Cris Matthews from the Department of Ecology on the Agreed Order at the landfill. Since little has changed at the landfill since it was initially closed in 2009, the City will be working with Ecology to understand what the testing parameters will look like and how best to work with the public to answer any questions. The City does have a website with information and links here: <https://www.anacorteswa.gov/1237/A-Avenue-Landfill-Site> As we get new information we will post it here.

Senior Center Administrator Hiring: I plan on going to City Council in April to ask for permission to hire a new Senior Center Administrator to replace Sally Hill. If permission is granted under our Covid hiring reductions, then I hope to begin advertising in May for the job.