



**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 in person and virtually via Zoom.

In person meeting will be at the Main Conference Room 904 6<sup>th</sup> St.

Access to the meeting via Zoom through this link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87264204678>

August 10, 2021

6:00 PM

1. Call to Order
2. Approve Minutes
3. Public Comments
4. Capital Facilities & Draft Department Budget Update
5. Department Reports
6. 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*

June 8, 2021

**Members Present:** Sarah Nichols, JoAnn York-Gilmore, Brad Adams

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

**Call to order:** 6:00PM

**Minutes:** May minutes were approved as submitted

**Public Comment:** none

**Whistle Lake Dam Update:** there have been some marked trees people have seen. We have been on site in the last month with 2 of our consultants, and we're taking the next steps of getting ready for permitting for structural testing of the condition of the existing dam, and what would be the best option to move forward. Options may include: tear the existing dam and build another one, drain the lake 12-15 feet so no longer be a dam, or making the dam bigger. Trail #206 and #205 does drop down to connect so we will have to find a way to get small equipment through. At the forefront of this project is narrowing down the impact this will do to the surrounding forest lands. At this point, there are no plans to come in via Deer Lane. Some concerns expressed from that neighborhood if it could go through Deer Lane, but it will not be a consideration at this point. We're looking to use exclusively forest land pathways. Permitting alone, will take quite a while. Jonn's been working with the Department of Ecology (DOE) to get into compliance. Sarah: is it a 2022 project? Very likely, other than structural testing. Our geological technical engineer is going to tell us the parameters, then they'll speak to the DOE, then when it comes to contract time, it'll go to City Council for approval. Brad: was the dam originally created to be a reservoir? It was installed to pump water from Campbell Lake, to create more volume in Whistle Lake and this is the backup drinking water source into town. They're testing it to see how it was constructed since there were no plans from before to confer with.

**Correspondence:** Parks Foundation met in person and Kiwanis Club wants to help fund the restroom at Washington Park by the Picnic Shelters. West end trail funded - Transpac to work with us to create a boardwalk to field fit them at West 2nd and Smiley's bottom. Parks Foundation is also donating \$5000 to the Memorial Wall at Causland Park.

**Forest Board:** Brian is still monitoring the critical areas ordinance. No action yet in Forest Lands Master Plan.

**Department Reports:** Bob - Critical Area Ordinance Update - public hearing has was brought to a close last night. Council will do their deliberations now and will discuss with staff. Wetland buffer, stream buffer, evergreen islands advocating for buffers to be larger, but will be hard since we have already platted lots. We are in the middle of a positive hiring process for our 2 maintenance positions. We are meeting the final 4 this Thursday, with a goal to have them start July 1st. 45 applications for the 2 positions so a good pool. Over the

weekend, in the forest land, there are giant blue chalk paint arrows around 50 of them by Mt. Erie, reached out to a lot of regulars, but no one saw this happening. But no one saw anything. We reported it to the police, so we can pass information along to them. How is the clean up plan? So far we're inventoring the problem, but maybe a backpack sprayer with water. Visually might not be great, but it's wipeable but the crevaches won't always come out unless we can spray it down. We had a work party last Saturday by Sugarloaf, we didn't see anything.

Dustin - We're excited the A-town publication came out after almost a year lapse. We were able to get a lot of programs in there for spring and summer to get back to normal slate of activities. We have many of our usual favorites and some new ones. Youth track and field program in May. Great to see the kids out there. We had a flag football program start last month, still continuing this week - working with the high school football team to facilitate and that's been great. Youth volleyball camp started this afternoon - originally scheduled for the middle school but rescheduled at Fidalgo Elementary. School district has been very helpful to get us in their facilities. Highlights - several programs has been filling. We were unsure how things would go, but looks like people are eager to get their kids scheduled for activities. We have a few adult programs going on, and we're seeing great numbers. We're looking to add more spots in our already fill classes going forward. Will do our best to get people on waitlists to get into programs. We are not planning to do Kids R Best Fest, but we are looking to partner with the School District with the REady to learn fair with kids activities. Mid-August is the time frame and hoping the restrictions will have eased by then. Bark in the Park - we're working with the police department with the pet food drive on June 18th. We're planning to do the outdoor movie at the end of August - should be easy to distance. We're planning to do the challenger soccer camps, skyhawk camps that are still on the schedule to come this summer. We're paying attention to what the state and county health department says for restrictions.

Lea - Senior social Cafe - program we're doing something in the parking lot with canopy and tables, decoration, food, games, coffee and tea for people to meet up and hang out. 10am - 1pm. making some great progress to eventually opening the senior center. We had 4 on site programs in the building. 3 art classes and 1 seated wellness classes. Socially Distancing and masked up. Some classes we're working with hybrid models, we're finding that some classes have done really very well with their virtual programming. We're looking at continuing with hybrid models, and technology upgrades to improve the systems to continue it to work. NCOA - hybrid models seems to be the way to go. We're also able to bring back the volunteer program and it's been positive. A week ago, county nutrition program plans to bring back on site meal program hopefully just after July 4th. We have completed our 2nd accreditation with NCOA - council sets high standards and we've met it for the 2nd time. We're the only senior center in WA state to be accredited.

Jonn - hiring of the parks maintenance and the senior administrator hiring process will start this Friday as well. Nicole - kudos to the seasonal staff for working so hard. Working on the memorial wall at Causland Park to finish up the wall. Parks foundation is trying to help us raise funds to honor that centennial. Grandview cemetery - working with our engineers to create documents to go out to bid for phase 2. Hoping to start the work in late September. Spray pad we're hoping to open that as soon as the governors give us the go ahead. Demographic is under 12 so we're hoping to get the green light. 4th of July - parade, fireworks and town photo all a go. The people in the parade just needs to enter a form to acknowledge that they understand that we can't hand out things this year. Daniels family / RCO

Other Business: hoping for a in person meeting next time. City hall is going to soft open June 14th 9am-1pm, July 6 full open. Cancelling July meeting and reconvening in August.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 6:41PM.

## Parks and Recreation Update August 2021

### Recreation Staff Report:

**Youth Soccer Camp:** Anacortes High School Girls Soccer team partnered with recreation division to provide an awesome opportunity for youth to learn new and refine old soccer skills early in the month. There were just over 100 participants, Kindergarten through 5<sup>th</sup> grade, who got to take advantage of this program. As part of the registration fee, participants received a soccer ball to continue practicing with. A big “Thanks” to the high school girls soccer coaches and players for all their hard work for making the camp happen!

**Senior Center Reopening:** The Anacortes Senior Activity Center reopening to in-person customers on July 6<sup>th</sup>. There has been a slight shortage of volunteers as the center resumes opening and so staff has filled in to help as needed. Current center volunteers and staff have been very helpful in training Parks and Recreation staff on the daily routines.

**Survivor Camp:** Another great week of survivor camp has been completed. July 12 was the second of two camps offered this year. Kids and parents were excited to have the popular program back this summer. Washington Park continues to be a great venue for the camp and staff are looking at ways to expand the program in the future to allow more kids to participate. The four-day camp leads children through various teambuilding and competitive activities.

**Art Camp/Class:** July 12-15 was the second week of youth and adult art classes offered this summer. Like the first week these classes were held at the Depot. The Youth Classes had 28 participants, Teen class had 4, and Adult Classes had 4. Recreation staff was very pleased with the participation numbers, especially since the class was not advertised in the Summer A-Town Publication. We are looking forward to getting information included in the 2022 Spring/Summer A-town publication so we can fill classes.

**Sailing Classes:** Youth Beginner classes remain full and very popular. There are several classes offered throughout the month along with a few Intermediate classes and one Adult Class. Intermediate sailing classes have been more difficult to fill. However, the adult class filled a several weeks ago. The sailing program has yet to be able to use the Seafarer’s Park Building for classroom training, due to the Port’s COVID restrictions. However, since the weather has been very favorable, they have been able to utilize the outdoor classroom. Community interest in the sailing programs has been very high this summer.

**Hawkeye Wrestling Clinic:** APRD partnered with Hawkeye Wrestling Club (the youth wrestling program in Anacortes) to host an annual beginner wrestling clinic. The clinic has been offered for the past several years and gives kids in the community the opportunity to try the sport without committing to an entire season. Participants learn the basics of the grappling sport. The camp took place the week of July 12-15 and we had 16 participants registered. A little lower than our average of about 25 kids. Thanks to the Hawkeye Wrestling Club for providing this opportunity!

**Youth Soccer:** Soccer season is almost upon us! We currently have 418 participants signed up for the city league and numbers are down in the county league. Comments from some families are they are wanting to play in Anacortes this year. Staff is recruiting coaches and organizing players and parents in anticipation for practices to start at the end of August with games starting Saturday, September 11 and playing every Saturday through late October. With the return of the youth soccer season, we are glad kids will be able to get outside, play and social with friends.

**Dino Camp:** The inaugural Dino-camp was held at Washington Park July 26-28. Dino camp provided a dinosaur-themed day camp for 25 participants ages 6-11. Campers learned about some of their favorite dinosaurs while playing dinosaur-themed games and activities.

**Skyhawks Multi-Sport Camp:** Kids had the opportunity to participate in multiple sports during the week of July 19 through 23. Baseball, Flag Football, Basketball, and Soccer were the sports offered throughout the week. The camp was held at Mt. Erie Elementary and they had great weather and good participation numbers all week.

**Challenger Soccer Camp:** We were excited to have Challenger Sports back in town with their unique brand of soccer camps which have an international flavor. The soccer skills camp was offered to kids ages 3-16 and half or full day options were available. The camp was held at Kiwanis Meadows Field. Participation numbers were down a little bit this year, but we are anticipating things to be back to normal levels and beyond by 2022.

**Skyhawks Track and Field Camp:** This was new camp for us offered through Skyhawks. Building off the popularity of our spring youth track and field program the program was geared towards kids ages 6-12 and taught them the fundamentals of how to run, jump, and throw. The camp was held on Rice Field at the high school.

**Art Dash Fun Run:** The staff is excited to bring the Art Dash back to the community after running the event virtually in 2020. This year's art dash consists of a 1-mile kid's fun run, 5k, and 10k run. The staff has added obstacles to this year's race for an added element of fun. We have 136 participants pre-registered for the event and will hold day of registration to serve more runners. With the shorter distances it may entice more people to run who may not normally participate.

**Fall A-Town Publication:** Staff is continuing to work on programs and events for the next edition of the A-Town (Fall). Which is scheduled to be distributed to the community around October 5<sup>th</sup>. The publication will have information about youth basketball, Mt. Erie Run, Wonderland Walk, Haunted Run, Breakfast with Santa, and much more!

**Dustin South, Recreation Manager**

**Travis Anderson, Recreation Coordinator**

---

The heat wave that rolled through the region at the end of June tested a lot of us in many ways. It also tested Whistle Lake's capacity for humans. We never did do an actual vehicle count on any of those four days, but Spradley Road was almost booked solid. There was the usual disregard for our alcohol and smoking prohibitions, but there were also many people just looking to cool down a few degrees. Along with ACFL Steve and his seasonal staff, Director Lunsford, Parks Manager Johnston and I spent a fair amount of time directing traffic and trying to keep activity at the lake somewhat reasonable. Steve and the team, along with an APD Officer that we have been able to schedule in the forest lands, continue to do a terrific job of working daily for the health of the woods and the safety of its visitors.

The 4<sup>th</sup> of July holiday weekend came and went in a relatively quiet manner. We had the ACFL staffed well into the night of the 4<sup>th</sup> and early morning on the 5<sup>th</sup>. Locals and visitors were very respectful of the City's No Fireworks in parks and woods policy.

We did have about a ½ acre wildfire just north of the Cap Sante summit on July 20<sup>th</sup>. AFD responded quickly, keeping the fire on the rocky balds and out of the woods. DNR also responded. We are cleaning up all the litter that was exposed by the burn.

Planning progress continues for the Rotary Club Centennial project on Cap Sante. Club members and I are doing an extensive site visit this week with an environmental scientist in preparation for submitting permit applications. We should have a conceptual view platform for Parks Commission review soon.

A variety of conversations with neighbors of the potential Guemes Channel Trail route continue. Interest remains high, and we are doing our best to answer questions and present options as we look to the future.

The City Council unanimously passed the Critical Areas Ordinance update Monday, July 26<sup>th</sup>. Parks & Recreation will continue to work with Planning and Permitting on all relevant projects, incorporating especially the updated wetland and riparian zone buffers.

There is a good chance we have discovered some invasive milfoil at Heart Lake. We are working with a consultant to put together a survey of the lake, and we shall develop an action plan from there.

Spent time with various city staff working on homeless issues. The contract with the Anacortes Family Center is proving to be very helpful for staff, the community at large, and most importantly, the folks in need of a break.

#### Miscellaneous:

- our two new Parks maintenance team employees Braydn Krueger and Myles Farrell got started with us at the beginning of July. It thus far has been a pleasure and big time shot in the arm.
- FOF Exec. Dir. Asa Deane is still out on Family Leave. I have been meeting with Ashleigh and Beck in his absence. We are working on a date for the FOF and FAB Boards to get together for a summer hike.
- working with the LaConner School District on some science field trips that include the ACFL and Washington Park. Really appreciated their reaching out and willingness to plan with us.
- thanks to Parks Foreperson Brian Tottenham and ACFL Steve for bolstering our Whistle Lake parking lot trailhead against illegal 4-tired access.
- working with ABPAC (Bicycle and Pedestrian group) planning the Aug 29<sup>th</sup> Open Streets event. Should be tons o' fun.
- Samish Nation staffer Denise Crowe, ACFL Steve and I continue our monthly hikes; keeping a close eye on the health of the woods, and a deeper glimpse into the sacred space.
- have been working with Brandon Lowry from Public Works on protecting the "Powerlines" rock climbing access neighbors from rogue parking attempts.
- working on various community tree issues.
- have found myself spending a little time at Washington Park this month. We continue to set revenue records out there, despite the burn ban. Our veteran seasonal staff has been doing a great job under the leadership of Parks Manager Johnston.

**Bob Vaux, Assistant Director**

---

**Washington Park-** Park remains busy as ever. The July 16<sup>th</sup> burn ban that went into effect and was challenging at first for guest to follow, but everyone has been following the rules. The seasonal Washington Park staff continues to work hard and has done an amazing job. Towards the start of August we start to loose seasonal staff as they head off to college. On July 29<sup>th</sup> we had a small brush fire off of trail 518. The Mt. Erie Fire Department and the Anacortes Fire Department were on scene as early as 6am to put the fire out. We do not know what the cause of the fire was, but this is a busy connector trail and could have been from a cigarette. Attached is a photo. Also DNR was out to the scene to do their investigation of the fire. WP staff will continue to monitor the location of the fire throughout the next couple of day.

**Grand View Cemetery Expansion Update-** We received the engineers cost estimate for Phase Two of the Grand View Cemetery expansion which came in much higher than expected. We are working now on going through this cost estimate and seeing where we can possibly save on some money. For example we are looking to save 10% by prepping the site ourselves and renting a rock rake to get the area ready for construction. Our goal is to go out to bid ASAP so that we can start work before the rain comes. It is estimated that the contractor will be able to do this work in 34 working days.

**Tommy Thompson Parkway-** Sky & Brian were able to mow the TTP and the trim crew was able to trim the causeway just in time for the Art Dash event. The numbers have been high just like last year on the TTP. For the month of June the trail counter had a total of 17,475 counts and for the month of July the counter had 25,187 trips counted. We were notified on July 29<sup>th</sup> of a small hole near the trestle on the TTP and the crew was able to cut away the asphalt and fill with rock and make the repairs.

**4<sup>th</sup> of July-** The 4<sup>th</sup> of July was a success! Thanks to Nichola for bringing the boom truck down for the town photo and thanks to Sky & Vinod for working the late shift at Cap Sante.

**New Full Time Staff-** Braydn Krueger started July 1<sup>st</sup> and Myles Farrell started July 6<sup>th</sup>. Both are great additions to the crew and have been learning things quickly. The crew is back to full strength and the Parks Team is feeling strong. If you get a chance make sure to say hello to the new guys Braydn and Myles. Photo attached!

**Irrigation-** Irrigation has been more important than ever during this dry summer we have been having. The crew continues to work hard to fix irrigation that has needed and was able to get the Kiwanis Waterfront Park irrigation completely fixed and that patch of grass next to the ferry will be looking green again in no time.

**Clearidge Pickleball Trees-** Thanks to Steve and crew for planting our new 8 arborvitae trees in front of the Clearidge Pickleball courts! They look great and are providing a great landscape barrier.

**Volunteer Park Drinking Fountain-** The crew with the help of Brandon and Mac from the Facilities Department were able to get a new drinking fountain installed at Volunteer Park. Thanks to the Brennan Family (*Heather Brennan worked on the parks crew for 15 years*) for their generous donation of the fountain. There is a water bottle refill station, traditional drinking fountain and a dog drinking fountain.

As always parks crew is spending loads of time mowing, trimming, keeping trees, hanging baskets, planter boxes watered and keeping the parks open and clean for our community.

Nicole Johnston, Parks Manager

---

**Budget and Capital Facilities Plan:** We are working on our Parks and Recreation Budget and Capital Facilities Plan. If revenues hold steady, we hope to continue with our pre-Covid funding.

**Conservation Easement Program:** This is the program that helped conserve the Anacortes Community Forest Lands. A contract signed with our partners, the Skagit Land Trust, in 1999 helped to create the program. We have been working with the Land Trust on some technical improvements and updates for the past couple of years. We plan to bring the updates to City Council in this month or early September for discussion.

**Homelessness and Cooperative Approach:** Many thanks to the Anacortes Police and Anacortes Family Center as we work with a variety of homeless individuals in our parks and city green spaces.

**Senior Activity Center:** Welcome to Karl Wolfswinkel, our new Senior Activity Center Administrator. Karl started at the Center on August 2. He will be joining Lea DeVere who is the Admin. Assistant at the Center who did a great job providing programming while the Center was closed since March 2020. The doors reopened to the public on July 6 of this year.

John Lunsford, Director