



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 virtually via Zoom.

Access to the meeting via Zoom through this link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87820983982>

September 14, 2021

6:00 PM

1. Call to Order
2. Approve Minutes
3. Public Comments
4. Cemetery Update
5. Cap Sante Rotary Trail Update
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

August 10, 2021

Members Present: Christine Hansen, Alex Hernandez, Brad Adams

Staff Present: Bob Vaux, Dustin South, Nicole Johnston, Karl Wolfswinkel, Victoria Wong

Call to order: 6:05PM

Minutes: June minutes approved as submitted

Public Comment: none

Capital facilities & draft dept budget update: there were no major department budget changes or additions or subtractions. Biggest budget news is 2 full-time maintenance staff were filled as of July 2021. Bradyn and Myles doing amazing and thrilled to have them on board. Capital facilities plan – developed a plan with adding a restroom to the park shop at Washington Park. We have some funding guarantee in house, Parks Foundation and Kiwanis club and possible LTAC money to round out funding. We're still working with the Cap Sante viewpoint project. The rotary club will come to future Parks Commission meetings when they are about a year away from breaking ground with the viewpoint project, the trail portion we're shooting for this fall. Minimal impact since most of it exists. Cemetery expansion underway. Jonn working with Steve Hoglund and the Mayor to find financial backing for projects.

Department Reports:

Dustin – Recreation had a busy summer. Good to be doing recreation programs again. Proud of the camps with sport camps in collaboration with high school sports teams. Busy sports camp was end of June coinciding with the heat wave. The kids and parents have been really appreciative that we could put stuff together to keep kids sane and socializing. Travis offered a few survivor camps, and also the new Dino camp. Art dash on July 31st – numbers were down a little but restructured to make it not as serious and more of a fun run community event. 1-mile kids run received well. We'll tweak a few things but keep it similar and keep it on the Arts Festival weekend as per usual for the following year. Rec staff has been helping up at the Senior Center for front desk coverage so they can get things back to full strength and a team effort from the parks department.

Nicole – Cemetery expansion update – the month of July has been a busy month with services up at the cemetery. We had almost a service every Saturday. Ripple effect of waiting for their services and now seeing it progress. Myles has been working hard with all the services. The crew has been working on irrigation with the lack of rain and showing us where our irrigation needed to be turned on/fixed. Impressed with the crew to trouble shoot the problem. Kiwanis Park area sprinklers had to be figured out and Brian was able to figure it out within a day or two. Continuing our watering of the hanging flower baskets. Cemetery expansion – this week we're reviewing the site plans. We have about 90% of the site plans and doing the final revisions by the end of the day tomorrow so it should be good to go out to bid. We will be posting it in the paper by August

18. With the help of Tim from Engineering to look at the cost estimate, we were able to cut down 100k in the proposal. The crew will prep the site and get all the rocks out with a rock rake.

Karl – Been with the City just over 7 years with the Senior Center for about a week. Marketing – wrote an A-Town publication article. Aug 29 Senior Center will be part of the open streets event. Operations – last time we met, we were mostly virtual but we did open up July 6. Pre-Covid was about 150 people per day at the facility, right now it's about 1/3 the amount but high spirits and there's definitely a need for the center to be open. About 2 weeks ago – changed to mask only. Some people are not coming in due to health concerns. Statewide benefit advisors to help people with Medicare hoping to come back. They've done classes before and hopefully September they can open it up to one on one in person consults and hopefully some classes in October. Working with Bret Lunsford to come in for some programs starting in September and working with the library to get some help from them and talk about some ideas. Chief Floyd will be coming in to the Center in September to chat. Chat with Karl to start up in September to learn their names and stories and why they come. Lea brought up that we have some low numbers in volunteering but we took in 2-3 volunteer applications this past week so it's looking better.

Bob – Washington Park wild fire a week and a half ago – our phones rang around 6:20am and Nicole and I were out there by 7:00am and the Anacortes Fire dept was able to put it out successfully. It was smoldering by the west beach area in the woods. Campers have been following fire ban regulations. Cranberry and Whistle lake have been pretty family friendly since the heat wave. Steve and his crew have been doing a great job. We've had some luck with some overtime shifts with Capt. Fuller and when officers support us in the ACFL, it helps tremendously. Thanks to the Anacortes Police Department and Fire Dept for their assistance.

Other business – There was a discussion on the Community Center collaboration with the Fidalgo Pool. The project is currently on hold. There was a question about a beach volleyball court at Storvik Park, as there is a petition going around town for a pickle ball court at that location. Staff discussed possible options at the NW corner of the park.

We had a year of intensified and increase use of e-bikes. The e-bike people have observed the rules in the forest lands; forest lands policy directs ebikes on motorized trails. Concern that there are e-bikes that don't actually look like e-bikes and more like a motorbike. Discussion ensued.

Nicole and Brad visited the skate board park. Safety improvement ideas that didn't cost too much to revisit. Simple things to suggest to give it the maintenance it needs. A resident wants to host a local scooter competition to fundraise for a new skate park. Nicole to meet with him at the end of August to talk about his ideas. Covered some graffiti that's on the rock that bleeds outside of the bowl.

The Heart Lake Master Plan was discussed. Access and possible implementation of the plan were the focus of the discussion.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 6:42PM.

Respectfully submitted: Victoria Wong

Date: Sept. 3, 2021

Recreation Staff Report:

Skyhawks Basketball/Lacrosse Camps: Kids had the opportunity to participate in basketball and lacrosse camps during the week of August 2-6. Each sport was offered as a half-day camp and kids were taught basic skills of each sport. Camps were held at Mt. Erie Elementary. Participation numbers were between 20-25 participants in each camp.

Art Dash Fun Run: Staff coordinated the Art Dash Fun Run July 31st. The event featured a kids 1-mile, 5k, and 10k with optional obstacles scattered along the way. We had 174 runners registered for this year's event which is significantly less than the numbers we saw in 2019 pre-pandemic. The event was re-tooled for 2021 with shorter distances and obstacles runners could choose to navigate through.

Sailing Classes: Youth Beginner and Intermediate classes remain popular and continued to be held through the month. We had one Adult Beginner class that was full. The summer learn to sail classes will conclude on September 2nd. During the summer of 2022 we hope to build on the momentum we have gained through the 2021 class success.

Adult Co-ed Softball League: We had 11 teams registered for the league this summer season. Overall, the league went well and was capped off with a season ending tournament on August 29th. There were a few hiccups along the way this season, however staff was able to work through them. Players/teams were grateful for completing the season on a positive note.

Kids R Best Fest: Staff worked with the Anacortes School District to provide some kid friendly activities, games, and give away items at the district's annual Ready to Learn Fair. Students and families also had the opportunity to get back to school supplies and information about community resources available to them. Next year we hope are eager for Kids R Best Fest return in July. However, APRD would still like to have a presence at the Ready to Learn Fair.

Youth Soccer League: With Fall approaching means soccer season is right around the corner. During June and July, registration was open. During the month of August, teams have been formed, volunteer coaches recruited, and practice times scheduled. Travis helped parks maintenance crew prepare fields for practices starting the week of August 23. Games will begin September 11th with the season ending November 6th. Adjustments are being made for game days to spread the parents and children out to meet county health requirements. Soccer participation is hovering around 500 kids with about 50 teams this year. Great to see kids getting some exercise and socializing with teammates.

Outdoor Movie: Staff offered a Free Movie in the Park for families Thursday, August 26th, at Storvik Park. The Recreation Department partnered with Marysville parks and recreation to use their outdoor movie screen and projector. High winds, low temperatures, and COVID concerns accounted for a reduction in numbers from previous years. Staff plans to increase advertising for this event in the future.

Fall A-Town Publication: Staff has continued work on the Fall A-Town Publication this month. Editing the final draft of the publication on August 27th. The publication will have information about registering for youth basketball, Mt. Erie Run, Wonderland Walk, Haunted Run, Breakfast with Santa, and many more activities!

Dustin South, Recreation Manager

Travis Anderson, Recreation Coordinator

Parks Maintenance Update:

Grand View Cemetery Expansion- Below is the latest schedule for phase Two of Grand View Cemetery Expansion

-Aug. 31 Parks Crew is renting a Bobcat and Rock Rake for one week to prep the surface and get ready for phase two.

- Bid opening on Thursday, September 2. *The final engineers estimate on phase two is \$556,692.*
- City qualifies contractor and awards contract to lowest qualified bidder on Monday September 13.
- Last day for contractor to return executed construction contract on Tuesday Sept 28
- City issues Notice to Proceed on Wed Sept 29 at the earliest (*generally the City tries to work with the Contractor to issue NTP on a day that works with the contractor's schedule*)
- Estimated first day of construction on Thursday, Sept. 30 per APWA GSP
- Assuming 34 working day construction timeline, project complete on Thursday Nov 18 with one Holiday (Veteran's Day) best case and no weather days.

Washington Park Update- Washington park remains busy throughout the month of August. With the burn ban that is currently still in effect we still have had many campers and park visitors. We have had a community member reach out to Bob and I and she has interest in helping get upgraded firepits for down at the beach. We hope to get firepit rings that are like what is in the campsites and more of them for down at the beach. Will keep you posted on this project.

Crew Update- I have been really happy with all the extra work the Parks Crew have put in this summer and this past month. With all the extra services at the cemetery, Steve Philipps is working a flex schedule to cover the lakes over the weekends and to AJ Yost who also has worked a flex schedule or worked extra to cover Sunday adult league softball games. We are down to just five seasonal parks staff, and like each year we will be sad to see them leave.

TTP Update- The Tommy Thompson Parkway trestle has had some repairs this past month. We had 8 boards break on the actual trestle and then we also had to repair the asphalt on part of the causeway. Thanks to Public Works for helping us make the repairs. The trail count number for the month of August is 17,896.

Field Use Update- Soccer season is here. AJ and crew have been busy getting Smiley's, Storvik and soon Kiwanis Meadow field ready for play. New this year you will see the younger teams playing in the outfield of Volunteer baseball field on Saturday's. Also, a few teams will be using the outfields of both MDD and Daniels baseball fields for practices. Baseball teams will continue to use MDD and Daniels field this fall for "Fall Ball Baseball/ Fastpitch". The Lady Blackhawk fastpitch team is up to two teams and have been regular users on MDD. We are not finished putting the field house batting cage nets up, but we will be working with the Baseball Club to get the nets up before the end of September.

Nicole Johnston, Parks Manager

Parks and Anacortes Community Forest Lands Report

Open Streets Fun

Special thanks to Bicycle/Pedestrian Czar Warren Tessler and the many volunteers that made the 7th Annual Open Streets so successful. It was truly a pleasure to be part of a day with so many smiling faces. It was hard not to feel the palpable joy watching the bicycle skills course set up by the Anacortes Mountain Bike Team. Tiny bicyclists having such fun. It really inspires one to try and make this a reality in our community.

Rotary Club Cap Sante Trail Project

Throughout August we have had a variety of site visits including GeoEngineers, hired by the Rotary Club to do the required biological report, as well as the Samish Nation to make sure we are not going to disturb any important historical sites. So far, feedback from all involved has been positive.

City Council Honors Eric Shjarback

City Engineer and Assistant Director of Public Works Eric Shjarback is retiring August 31. Eric has been a huge friend of Parks throughout his career, and is a fantastic creative problem solver. I will miss working with him very much, but am excited for the new lifestyle he is about to lead.

Washington Park Boat Launch Road

Parks Foreperson Brian Tottenham and I met with Streets Division Manager Brandon Lowry and his right hand Saben Williamson at the WP boat launch last week. We discussed a variety of options for asphalt repair and surface water management improvements. Big thank you to Brandon and Saben for coming up with some great low cost solutions to some age old challenges.

COA Meetings Returning to Virtual Format

While we did enjoy an in person hike for our last Forest Board meeting, and an in person/virtual hybrid at last month's Parks Commission meeting, we are returning for now to virtual meetings. The Forest Board will be hiking with the Friends of the Forest Board for its September meeting.

Thank You Alli

The ACFL Trail Team bid farewell to Alli Schuh on Friday, August 13th. She was a fantastic worker and maintained a very positive demeanor throughout many ACFL summer challenges.

Miscellaneous:

- Continue my regular meetings with Asa at the Friends of the Forest HQ.**
- We did receive a citizen's report concerning vegetation clearing above the Guemes Channel Trail. I verified and documented the work, and have passed it along to Planning for further action to be taken.**
- Have done my best to attend regular Washington Park staff meetings. Though I am not regularly on site any more, I remain actively involved in the park's management.**
- Parks staff continues to be a first contact for a variety of homeless circumstances in the Parks and ACFL. Thank you so much to the Police Department and the Family Center for being ready to take over when necessary and offer advice when possible.**
- ACFL Steve and I continue our monthly educational hikes with Denise Crowe of the Samish Nation staff.**
- I did take vacation leave Aug 16 – 23. Special thanks to Parks Manager Nicole Johnston for covering.**

Bob Vaux, Assistant Director

Parks & Recreation will be in front of City Council a few times in September, here is what is on the docket:

September 13: Anacortes Community Forest Lands Plan. Bob Vaux will be presenting this item for our staff. The plan was approved by the Forest Advisory Board in 2014 to become a part of the City Comprehensive Plan update in 2016. In the 2014 Draft, there were not many changes from the last plan approved by City Council in 2009. We will be working with the Mayor and Council on the process to update this Draft Plan and take public comments.

September 27: Conservation Easement Program Update. Ms. Swetnam and I have been working with the Skagit Land Trust on a new Conservation Easement Program contract and conservation deed. We will be joined at this meeting by Michael Kirshenbaum of the Land Trust and Konrad Liegel, and a consulting attorney who specializes in conservation easements. Together, the four of us, along with Rob Hoxie from our GIS staff, have been working on these revisions for the past year. The original contract for the Conservation Easement Program was signed in 1998. Our goal is to update the contract language to reflect new conservation standards and unify the many conservation easement deeds into single deed.

September 27: The Anacortes Waterfront Alliance is scheduled to come to a City Council meeting to discuss their collaboration with us and provide a brief update on their sailing programs.

Jon Lunsford, Director