



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/84284077357>

October 12, 2021

6:00 PM

1. Call to Order
2. Approve Minutes
3. Public Comments
4. Budget Update
5. Cap Sante Rotary Park Centennial Project Final Review
6. Department Reports
7. Other Business

ANACORTES PARKS & RECREATION

Advisory Commission

Meeting Minutes

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

September 14, 2021

Members Present: Brad Adams, JoAnn York-Gilmore, Christine Hansen

Staff Present: Bob Vaux, Nicole Johnston, Karl Wolfswinkel, Jonn Lunsford, Victoria Wong

Call to order: 6:03PM

Minutes: August minutes were approved as submitted

Public Comment: none

Cemetery Update: went to council last night, and they approved the contract for phase 2. We will be putting another road within the cemetery. We are hoping to start early October and hoping for it to be done in November.

Department:

Nicole: crew was able to help out Tim from engineering to plant the plants for the raingarden. Tomorrow we will be at WWTP to trim and maintain the area. Soccer season started on Saturday, and AJ and crew did a great job. Learned how to do the lines for the soccer fields. Washington Park has slowed down a little and looking forward to catching up on things that we can work on and landscaping. No large projects at this time but looking to catch up on our facilities. We had a hiring freeze till July of this year, but now that we've hired 2 new staff, we can focus on getting things back in order.

Karl: We had a pretty busy week. We went to open streets, was able to sign up a couple of volunteers and interacted with a few dozen people. Was able to explain our programs at the Senior Center and connected with people who is looking to retire in a few weeks. So glad we went to have an organic conversation. In-person programs are working well that were from before Covid and is working well. Foot care is back. A couple of art classes as well. Meet and greet with Karl and received feedback from participants of the Center on programs and what we could offer to have them come more. Seated wellness meeting in person with 12 and virtual for about 12 as well. We've onboarded 6 volunteers since I started and we're in good shape and hoping to gain a few more. Meeting with Sally and Lea for them to pass along some wisdom to me. Brad – are they serving meals yet? Yes – we have been serving meals in person at the center since July 6 around 20-30 a day and around 70-80 meals on wheels at home. We are not renting out the center at this time to ensure that we can reduce the workload for Covid protocols.

Bob: We are going to see another record year of revenue and visitors and we want to make sure we continue to give better and better service. Last night, we presented the forest lands management plan in front of City Council and we were very happy to hear that City Council would like to start the public hearing process in October.

Jonn: social media – started the newsletter. The budget – we are proposing to run a budget that would take a little from our reserve funds to operate what we normally would. Covid still a factor. I don't see that lasting too long into the future.

Recreation – soccer Saturday started. Wonderland walk also happening Dec 10-11. Mt. Erie run will be on October 9 and Haunted Forest Halloween event on Oct. 30.

Other business: Brad – wanted to bring in interest to the heart lake master plan to add a park by the water. If we can gain traction on that, that would be great. It'll be the first park that would be lake front. In 2022 we can head to the conservation department to ask for a grant priority. One of our strengths is that ACFL can have matching funds, and road funds. We want to work with the forest advisory board as well, to figure out which grant to pursue. Skate park is another that is gaining traction for us to prepare for your recommendations on which grant to go for. Brad – empty space at the Storvik Park use – we can dial in on what can be used in that spot. Community Center, volleyball courts, senior workout space were proposed earlier.

Meeting adjourned: 6:46pm

Respectfully submitted: Victoria Wong

Date: October 5, 2021

Parks and Recreation Update October 2021

ACFL Management Plan Update

We are excited to be moving forward on the long and winding road of the 2014 ACFL Mng Plan update. I did a broad brush stroke presentation for the City Council on Sept. 13, asking for their preference on a direction forward. As the Planning Commission recommended the 2014 draft update to the City Council on March 27, 2019, Council is comfortable moving forward with their own public hearing and update process. Written comments may be submitted to me any time, and the Council Public Hearing for the plan is scheduled for October 18.

Friends of the Forest Trail Ambassadors

The Friends invited ACFL Steve and I to join their thank you pizza party for their first ever summer Trail Ambassador program. The volunteers, who set up informational tables at various trailheads throughout summer weekends, were very well received by both visitors and ACFL staff. Their observations, guest assistance and general feedback/updates were a great addition to our busy summer. We look forward to this program's future expansion, and say Thank You, FoF!

Rotary Club Cap Sante Centennial Project

Over the last couple of months I have been able to tour the proposed project site with two members of the Samish Nation staff, including Denise Crowe. Steve and I moved our monthly ACFL outing with Denise to the Cap Sante project site. Another great outing and exchange of ideas and insights. As Rotary Club Project Lead Tom Decker continues his work on grant applications for signage and other fronts, we had a very productive

pre-application meeting with City staff. We will begin permit work shortly for the trail phase of the project, and will be reviewing same at the October Parks Commission meeting.

Welcome Mike Sullivan

Director Lunsford, Parks Manager Johnston and I were able to welcome new Anacortes School District Executive Director of Finance and Operations Mike Sullivan to town. Along with some of his maintenance team, we toured the Volunteer Park and Smiley's Bottom area, talking about the long history of cooperation between the ASD and the COA. I look forward to working with Mike.

Trail #126 Bridge Replacement

Steve and Gabe removed the existing bridge from #126. The structure was long past due for replacement, and had become a particular hazard for the equestrian community. We are working with Planning and Permitting on next steps, and conducted a site visit with Sr. Planner Emily Morgan prior to doing any work at all. She approved the demolition of the existing bridge, and will be getting us a list of the appropriate permits for the work needed to move forward.

Joint Board Hike

In addition to this year's joint Forest Advisory Board / Friends of the Forest Board hike, Asa Deane and I continue our every other week meeting schedule. The joint hike was a beautiful Sept 15 stroll through the south Heart Lake old growth. Great discussions and catching up. Thank you to both boards for making yourselves available.

Heart Lake Survey Schedule Change

Aquatechnex, the company we have worked with previously on chemical milfoil application on Heart Lake, was unable to get to the survey work we had contracted with them to do before the weather change made any type of vegetation control ineffective. Like the rest of the world, they were impacted by staff health challenges. We have been able to move the contract to 2022, and are planning on a spring survey of the lake. This will allow staff the chance to bring any invasive vegetation control plans forward to the Forest Advisory Board for discussion next spring/early summer.

Forest Ridge Buffer Windowing

ACFL Steve and I met with the leaders of the Forest Ridge HOA, to review and approve the plan for eastern view windowing in the Native Growth Protection Area. This is called out in the original conditions for the development as approved by the Planning Commission and City Council. Very little work will be done, and Steve will be meeting on site with Eager Beaver prior to work commencing. Eager Beaver has worked on this site under Director Lunsford in years passed.

Labor Day Horse Rescue

Received a call early Labor Day morning about a horse that had gotten itself stuck on a down tree along trail #211, just north of Heart Lake. Something spooked the horse near the parking lot, prior to the rider getting in the saddle. It took off and ended up with two legs on one side of the tree and two on the other. Anacortes Fire Department, along with a local volunteer, were able to fashion some stairs out of dimensional lumber that the horse was able to climb with its hind legs. I have heard second hand that the horse and rider were both a bit banged up, but recovering.

Butte Falls, Oregon Reaches Out

Via an old friend of Asa Deane's, I met with the Mayor and other community leaders of the small southern Oregon town of Butte Falls. The town recently purchased several hundred acres of forest land, and are very

interested in the history of the ACFL. They are indeed pursuing trail access, educational and cultural history opportunities. It was a real pleasure speaking with these folks.

Trail #10 Repair

As I write this report, ACFL Steve and several members of our Parks Crew are wrapping up this much needed repair work, just in time for the rainy season to commence.

Miscellaneous:

- >9/1: attended Washington Park staff meeting. Nicole Johnston doing a great job running things out there, and the staff has already welcomed, assisted and said farewell to a record number of campers.
- >doing a deep dive into WP campground policies and procedures with several of our full-time staff. Once we have some clear priorities, we will present them to the Parks Commission.
- >public tree risk assessment continues.
- >have entered into a planning discussion with local Washington Trails Association folks, re: ACFL trail repair and maintenance projects. We are currently looking at #119 trailhead.
- >the local disc golf advocates are hoping to host a tourney at the Cap Sante course this fall. We are working with them on their plans, and are anticipating a successful event.
- >Director Lunsford and I found ourselves stepping in for Rec staff on a recent beautiful Wednesday afternoon Pee Wee soccer session. It was tons o' fun, and the kids didn't seem to mind a little Olde Tyme Rec.
- >attended another quality "Tailgate Safety Meeting" with the Parks Division on Sept. 17. These are always poignant discussions amongst a group of people deeply committed to their public work, and each other.
- >thanks to Jonn and Nicole for covering for me as I took vacation leave Sept 18-27. Also, thanks to ACFL Steve for managing the Summer ACFL work party on Sept 18.

Bob Vaux, Assistant Director

Grand View Cemetery Expansion Update: Trinity Contractors, Inc started on Monday, September 27, 2021. So far the work that has been done onsite is that they have started to cut away the interior road and parking pullouts, surveyed the area and had to drop a tree that was set to come down, because it was in the path of the interior road.

Our goal is to have this work done by the end of November, weather and time permitting. Work that is scheduled for Phase Two:

- Landscape throughout the expansion that will also include front entrance improvements.
- Fence around the sediment pond, fence behind the homes that are on Hilcrest Drive who live directly behind the cemetery.
- Retaining wall on the West side of the sediment pond. This is a block wall that will be place 1'-6" from property line and is not to exceed 24" in height.
- An asphalt access road within the expansion that will include parking pullouts.
- Irrigation
- Survey work for burial plots.

Washington Park Update: The campground has been full throughout the month of September. We are however starting to transition into the off season. The upper restrooms are set to close for the season on Sept. 30th. We will do a deep clean of both the uppers and lowers. Jonn and I recently spoke at a Soroptimist meeting and a comment was made about how more notice needs to be made for bikers to not use the loop road before 10am and if they do to make sure they let walkers know when they are passing. Bikers are supposed to follow the

same rules as vehicles on the loop road. Not sure we need another sign on the loop road, but it was a good discussion. Staff has been thinking of adding either another stop sign or even a speed bump right before the loop road entrance to hopefully make people stop and read the signs that say no RV, Trailers or buses on the loop road.

Field Use Update: We are halfway through soccer season and it is great to see so many of our fields being used. All the baseball fields (Volunteer, Daniels, ACE of Hearts and MDD) are being used for soccer practices. In addition Kiwanis Meadow, Storvik and Smiley' fields are being used for city and county practices. We also have ultimate frisbee on Tuesday nights at Storvik . Lady Blackhawks, Anacortes Little League and the High School baseball team have consistently been using the fields. The Field House nets are not completely up yet, but a huge thanks to Eric Saunders who has put in countless hours at the field house installing the new batting cage nets.

Crew Update: By the end of September we have officially say goodbye to all of our amazing seasonal staff. Braydn is currently working on obtaining his CDL and Myles is set to start his CDL class in mid- January. Dustin, AJ and Nichola spent a day down at U of W at a turf seminar and are hopefully becoming experts or at least learning new tricks on how to maintain turf fields. Dean Williamson who works year round for us at Washington Park starts his split shift coverage on the weekends in October. Dean's flexibility is a true help to the department and we are all really appreciative of Dean's efforts.

Cemetery Update: The leaves and chestnuts are falling and it is almost time to coordinate the crews effort for the epic clean-up. For the month of September we have had a total of ### of services.

Tommy Thompson Parkway- In early September the Street Department helped us out a great deal and paved the portion of the causeway right before the trestle that needed repaired. We are all super grateful for their help and that they were able to do this repair so quickly.

28th Street Playground- We recently have had a neighbor of this playground reach out to us and she has coordinated efforts with a few volunteers to clean up the park. She was able to fundraise funds for a memorial bench that will get installed near the playground within the next few months.

What is next? Crew will start to prune downtown trees, trim at Rotary Park and look to make improvements to the Ship Harbor trail boardwalk. We will also be ordering playground chips and placing them at 28th Street, Storvik, Kiwanis Meadows and Tursi Park. It is also the time of year for us to start to winterize our irrigation systems, turn off the spray pad and get ready for the winter months.

Nicole Johnston, Parks Manager

Recreation Staff Report:

Sailing Classes: The summer Learn to Sail youth and adult sailing classes wrapped up at the beginning of the month. Overall, pleased with the number of participants that went through the classes and our new partnership to offer classes with the Anacortes Waterfront Alliance worked well. Staff had a post season meeting with AWA Director, Matt, and discussed what worked well and what things to possibly improved for next summer's classes. We hope to have a schedule for 2022 Learn to Sail classes by February of next year.

Youth Soccer League: We are about halfway through the season and things are going well so far. Between the City and County Leagues we have close to 500 kids (50 teams) participating in soccer this fall. It is great to have kids socially interacting with each other and getting some exercise in the process. Games began on Saturday September 11th and will take place until the beginning of November. The league is utilizing the outfield at

volunteer baseball field to hold games for the U6 and U8 division. The usage of the outfield allows for the games to be spread out. We want to “thank” our parks maintenance crew for getting the fields prepped and ready for play, especially with the recent rainy weather which can make the fields a mess rather quickly.

Pee Wee Soccer: The Pee Wee soccer program ran on Wednesdays at Kiwanis Meadows September 1-22nd. The program offered an intro to soccer for the 60 participants that ages ranged from 4-6. Children were divided into small groups where they learned basic soccer skills through games and guided drills. The program has been a very popular about the participant age group and this fall has been no different.

Adult Drop-in Sports: Staff is in the process of requesting gym use from the Anacortes School District in the hopes that we can resume popular Adult Drop-in programs such as Pickle Ball, Basketball, and Volleyball. We are optimistic we should be able to resume the ongoing programs next month.

Tots in the Park: We tried to facilitate a toddler play group outside at Washington Park during the month. Low registration numbers facilitated us canceling the program. We will try again when the weather gets nicer.

Fall A-Town Publication: has been completed and staff received a final draft of the publication. We are in the process of getting it posted electronically and advertising the upcoming programs, classes, and events.



Total Volunteers Hours for September

City & County League Soccer Coaches

U-6	14	X	13 hrs.	=	182
U-8	22	X	13 hrs.	=	286
U-10	20	X	13 hrs.	=	260
U-12	12	X	21 hrs.	=	252
U-11/12	2	X	20 hrs.	=	40
U-13/14	4	X	20 hrs.	=	80
Total for Month					1,100

Respectfully Submitted by,

Dustin South, Recreation Manager

Travis Anderson, Recreation Coordinator

Parks and Recreation Budget: This year we are forwarding our budget after working with the Mayor and Finance Department. We have rehired our full time maintenance staff to pre-pandemic levels. This year to maintain our staffing we will need to use about \$90,000 of our parks reserves fund.

Homelessness in the Parks: Thanks to our staff for their quality work addressing homelessness in the parks and our facilities. The staff does a very good job trying to help people get the services they need while keeping the parks available and clean for recreation. Thanks also to the Anacortes Police and Family Center for their coordinated efforts.

Recreation Events and Activities: It is great to see over 500 children playing soccer every Saturday at Volunteer and Storvik parks. This is such a drastic change from last year and provides the kids and their families some normalcy during the pandemic. Thanks to all of our volunteer coaches and staff for making this happen. We look forward to seeing people at our Haunted Forest and Wonderland Walk later this fall.

Jon Lunsford