



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/87587083640>

November 9, 2021

6:00 PM

1. Call to Order
2. Approve Minutes
3. Public Comments
4. Budget Update
5. Skate Park Update
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*

October 12, 2021

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

Public: Tom Decker

Staff: Bob Vaux, Jonn Lunsford, Nicole Johnston, Karl Wolfswinkel, Dustin South, Victoria Alsup

Call to order: 6:01pm

Minutes: September minutes were approved as submitted

Public Comment: none

Budget Update: Jonn - our budget is going before council later this month. We have our full staff back so we'll have to dip into our reserve to cover costs. The cemetery expansion is nearing completion, it'll cost us about \$850,000. 1st phase is \$250,000. 2nd phase is \$605,000. We'll be doing an interfund loan and will pay it back with 1% interest. Discussion ensued with questions regarding cemetery funding.

Cap Sante Rotary Park Centennial Project Final Review: Bob: Brad, and JoAnn met together to walk from the main kiosk all the way to the top. JoAnn - certainly was valuable to see where the intended trail which will mimic the social trails that are not official but to see what we're looking to fix for the trail. Brad - once the crush rock is on the bottom, side by side trail walking would be accommodated. A few switch backs still need to be set. Bob: worked hard with Tom and the rotary club. The trail climb section kiosk is where it crosses the disc golf course and found a great route to get through there to minimize the interaction with the disc golf course. Disc golf players are use to having the public crossing the course. Looking to have signage around there to help indicate the trail to use. We had planning staff out there. Rotary Club hired geo engineers that submitted a draft with a critical area report, and we're close to getting the final. Bob has submitted all the material he could find. Our pre-application meeting with city staff, and didn't get any major comments or concerns from staff like surface water, fire suppression so that's a good thing. Asking for approval for the new trail route. Bob has done the hikes with the Samish Nation. Tom Decker - 4 segments but we're focusing on the trail. Critical trail to connect downtown to the trails in downtown but we also need the trail signs to welcome the public to enjoy the trail itself. Viewpoints is in a conceptual stage, we're hoping to be back to the public in the spring of next year with more information. To give a sense of the rotary club excitement, we're close to \$200,000 fundraised for this project as a whole and will be raising more funds in the public once we have more updates about the viewpoint. Chris - thanks for bringing in the signage element at the same time as the trail. Brad - What is the steepest slope on the trail and is it viable for all public to use? Bob - 3/4 of the way up is the steepest section where the switchback happens. General climb and most people are surprised that they can get up there. Having a route that most user groups can go through the trail comfortably. All in

favor of approval of the trail route and new signage? motion to approve? all commission members motion to approve.

Department Reports:

Parks Maintenance: exciting news is Bradyn Krueger passed his CDL and we're all happy for him. He took the time on the weekends to get that certification. Washington Park has surpassed revenue goals for September. Public Works will be helping us pave the boat launch road next week. Cemetery Expansion update: things are moving along. So far we have the neighbor fence up around part of the pond and beyond the neighbors houses by hillcrest drive. Later this week, the metal fence will go in around the pond. Landscape is starting to arrive. Irrigation is getting staked out for the trenches to be made. They're planning to asphalt the inner road on Friday but don't think that might happen. It's moving along and you can see the plan coming together. So far we are on schedule. Brad - how high is the fence going to be? On top of the burm it's about 4 ft. They basically won't be able to see the cemetery and they'll get a landscape screen as well. Rotary park - the parks crew did some trimming and cleaning up of the branches and it looks very nice. We had 100 yards of play chips and all our playgrounds will get spruced up.

Senior Activity Center: People have continued to come to the Senior Activity Center. Yesterday we had about 50 people and 65 people today. Our pool room is getting more popular. Talk with Karl is continuing to be a success and hoping to gain more momentum. Chief Floyd was here last month to talk to the public and so was Bret Lunsford. March for meals - has a team that raised funds for the meals on wheels program. Since 2005 they've raised about a million dollars which is amazing. Bowling bash in March hopefully. The Ukelele group has been very popular in the past, and they're meeting on their own right now but had a conversation to possibly bring the group back. Strength and balance is a huge issue and we're hoping to have an instructor to get the ball rolling again to bring back to the center. We're all decorated for halloween already. We talked about creative ways to bring programs to folks, the foundation purchased an AWL, to make it more engaging for those who are tuning it at home. Facilities set us up with air purifiers in every room and helped us with new chairs.

Recreation Programs: big thing we've been doing is our youth soccer program. We had a record number of volunteer coaches and thank them for helping out. Parents and kids are excited with something normal to lean on. We've spread some of the games out so we can help mitigate whatever we needed. Staff has been great. The rec assistants have been doing a great job refereeing the games. We'll look into basketball for November. We're working on our sailing agreement in partnership with the waterfront alliance. The agreement in the summer was for 1 year. We want to revisit and hopefully we can do a recurring contract with them. We are working with the school district to get back into the gyms for pickleball, volleyball, etc along with the youth basketball program. The school district is currently not scheduling outside groups to use the facilities so we're trying to see how we can work with the school district to get back into the facilities for practices and games. The main issue is the cleaning. The custodial team already is double cleaning and won't be able to clean after the user groups use it as well. We had the mt. erie road and trail run this past saturday, we had about 30 total participants. It was fun to see the former alumni and runners who were coached by dallas kloke come and participate. Normally we can go into the gym to stage everything, but we did it outside this time. The boy scout troops in town helped us along the trail to help station the trail route and intersections for the run. The haunted forest event is coming up at the end of the month, Sat oct 30th. Anyone who would like to help out we would love it. We have a family walk around 5pm that is less scary for families with no registration. At 6:30pm we have the scary walk for older kids and families that is \$10 for registration.

Bob: Working on the permitting requirements on the cap sante trail project and we will have the public hearing on the ACFL Comp plan monday oct 18.

Other Business: none

Adjourned: 6:50pm

Parks and Recreation Update November 2021

Recreation Staff Report:

Youth Soccer League: Most of our youth soccer program concluded this month. Between the City and County Leagues we have close to 500 kids (50 teams) participating in soccer this fall. We want to give a BIG Thank You to all our volunteers coaches for helping make this season a success. We could not do it without you!

Dallas Kloke Mt. Erie Road & Trail Run: The 46th annual run took place on Saturday, October 9. We had about 30 participants at the in-person event. It would great to see some new faces at the run this year. We had to hold registration and awards ceremony outside this year due to the elementary gym not being available due to COVID. Final results of the race can be found on our website at: <https://www.anacorteswa.gov/889/DK-Mt-Erie-Road-Trail-Run> Staff would like to “thank” local Boy Scout Troop 4081 for their incredible volunteer efforts along the trail route and for helping gather the course markings after the race concluded.

Haunted Forest: We held our 2nd annual event on Saturday, October 30th, at Washington Park. At 5:00 pm there was a “not so scary” walk which was free and geared towards younger kids/families. Pre-registration was not required, and we estimate over 500 people participated. Then at 6:30 pm the “scary forest” started which had over 300 registered. Several actors from the community dressed up and did their best to scare folks as they shuffled through the route. The event was sold out several weeks before it started. Thank you to all the volunteers that truly make this a successful event!

Girls Youth Basketball League: Participant registration concluded this month, and the process of team formation, volunteer coach recruitment, and scheduling of practices is now taking place. The start of practices has been pushed back a little bit due to availability of gym space at the Middle School.

Total Volunteers Hours for October

	City & County League Soccer Coaches				
	U-6	14	X	12 hrs.	= 168
	U-8	22	X	12 hrs.	= 264
	U-10	20	X	12 hrs.	= 240
	U-12	12	X	18 hrs.	= 216
	U-11/12	2	X	20 hrs.	= 40
	U-13/14	4	X	20 hrs.	= 80

	Mt. Erie Road and Trail Run				
	Troop 4081	30	X	2 hrs.	= 60

	Haunted Forest				
		35	X	4 hrs.	= 140

Total for Month 1,208

Dustin South, Recreation Manager

Travis Anderson, Recreation Coordinator

Parks Maintenance Report:

Grand View Cemetery Update-

- Irrigation should be done by the end of October/ early November. There is a delay on when the pump for the irrigation so we will have to wait until we are able to test the system.
- All of the electrical work has been done for the irrigation system.
- More plants and trees have been planted. The landscape team is working on planting all the 200+ arborvitae trees that will be going along the St. Mary's church fence line.
- Weather is looking good for the first part of November and we are hoping to pave the interior road and parking pullouts.

There is still lots more landscape to be completed, a perf pipe to be installed in the swale, a chain link fence still needs to be installed around the sediment pond and the side walk needs to be poured in the columbarium area.

Fields- Soccer season wrapped up and Kiwanis Meadow Field and Volunteer Field took the hardest hit from soccer Saturday's. Parks crew put down some fertilizer and this will hopefully bring back the grass. Smiley's and Storvik Field are still in use until Nov. 5th for County soccer teams. Ballfields are being used by baseball club, fast pitch and youth football.

Washington Park Update- The driftwood Ghouls has been a great addition to the park. First week of November the street department is set to pave the boat launch road. The boat launch should be closed for a day while this work is being done.

Crew Update- Crew has been working hard to get things ready for the winter. Feels like most spare time the crew has this month has been spent blowing leaves and chestnuts! Sky has been able to complete two memorial benches. One was more of a repair on a bench at Washington Park and the other is for a new bench for 28th street playground. Steve spent three days pruning downtown street trees and Myles and Nichola are been getting caught with markers at the cemetery.

Volunteers- Special thanks to the morning Rotary and noon Rotary club for coming out to Storvik Park and helping spread playground chips.

What is next for November... wintering irrigation, getting Causland Park and the cemetery ready for Veteran's Day and more leaf clean up.

Nicole Johnston, Parks Manager

ACFL Plan

The Oct 18th City Council Public Hearing for the plan came and went without much fanfare. Council made it clear that we will get back into the Plan within the next couple of years, assuring the next update will occur in a much more timely manner. The good news is we have a plan that has done its job for a long, long time, and will continue to do so. It is slated for the November 1st Council Consent Agenda.

A very special thank you to Victoria Alsup, nee Wong, for going several extra miles to prep a very challengingly formatted document for the Council meeting, and the ease of future readers.

Tuesday, October 19th

We came to work feeling good about our ACFL plan, and getting ready to prep the updated document for City Council, when the call came to Director Lunsford that the local wolves had escaped their cages. As these wolves live adjacent to the South Cranberry Unit of the ACFL, we took immediate action to evacuate the woods and close down the trailheads. Special thanks to Friends of the Forest Executive Director Asa Deane for volunteering alongside Parks Mgr Johnston, ACFL Steve and myself as we worked to get this done.

While this emergency response was in progress, Director Lunsford contacted me and asked me to check on a Mt. Erie rescue of a stranded climber. I made my way out to Lake Erie Grocery just in time to watch the United States Navy successfully pluck the climber from a south Mt. Erie rock wall, and safely get the individual to awaiting medical care at the Lake Erie boat launch.

On my way back to the South Cranberry woods, the call came in that the wolves had been returned to their fenced enclosures. We pulled the emergency closure signs and got on with the afternoon.

Washington Park Boat Launch Access Road Improvement

Parks Maintenance Team members Johnston, Tottenham and I have met with Street Division leadership Brandon Lowry and Saben Williamson. They came to us with a plan to improve the launch road at Washington Park. This includes tight lining some drainage ditches and overlaying the existing approach with new asphalt. The project looks great, and is ready for the asphalt overlay finishing touch. We just need the weather window to get that done. THANK YOU to Brandon and Saben for suggesting creative and cost saving solutions to park challenges.

Skagit Land Trust Visits ACFL

Monday, Oct 4th, Director Lunsford and I welcomed SLT Stewardship Director Regina Wandler to the ACFL for a periodic check in. At Regina's request, we focused our visit on the Whistle Lake Dam, the #215 Ray Auld Drive trailhead and the southern boundary of the Lakeside rock quarry lease. All sites are consistent with the ACFL Comprehensive Plan, as well as the expectations of the SLT. A very enjoyable outing. Special thanks to Billy Campbell at Lakeside Industries for his generosity with his time and knowledge.

Rotary Park on Cap Sante Trail Project

Parks Commission Members Brad and JoAnn joined me for a trail tour in preparation for the October Commission meeting. Good walk. Good talk. The Rotary Club and I appreciate the unanimous support of the Commission at its Oct 12 meeting for the trail route. Director Lunsford and I are currently working with the Rotarians on eastern viewpoint concepts.

DNR Urban Forestry Program

I met with NW Region Community Assistance Forester Jeremy Porter Oct. 7th. We work with Jeremy in a variety of capacities, including some very good hazard tree workshops over the years and of course, maintaining our now 20-year run as a Tree City, USA. Jeremy introduced me to brand new to WA DNR Jess Lloyd, who was just hired to fill the Urban Forestry Specialist position in Olympia. We provided updates on our respective agencies, and look forward to continuing to find ways to work together.

Friday, October 1st

Had the opportunity to contact three separate homeless individuals in our parks today. Nicole J. and I met with two of them at Volunteer Park, one near the restroom, the other near Daniels Field. The third contact was made later in the day by Brian T. and I above the #5 Cap Sante disc golf course tee box. The first person left willingly, the second worked with us to clean up his sleeping spot, and the third honored

our 72-hour notice and had cleaned up their campsite and moved on when Brian T. went back to check the following week.

Worth Mentioning...

...attended a graveside service at Grandview Cemetery on the 16th. Wanted to thank the whole Parks Crew for the work they get done up there, and also for the professional and compassionate manner in which they help make the services happen.

...keeping up with my regular meetings with both the Friends of the Forest and the Samish Nation. Really grateful for the positive nature of both.

...Oct 11 Council meeting; Parks Elements of the Capital Facilities Plan were moved forward, along with the plan.

...ACFL Steve and I met with Streets Division Lead Brandon Lowry. He and his crew will be removing a few dead street trees in the 9th and Q neighborhood.

...Rec Coordinator Anderson and I met with APD Capt Fuller, re: Wonderland Walk parking. We are very appreciative that the PD will be on site both nights this year, helping us safely process what will surely be thousands of visitors.

...Parks Manager Johnston and I conducted the annual inspection of the Washington Park Caretaker residence. All is well, and Caretaker Chris continues to be a critical member of our team.

...finally conducted Gabe Apple's exit interview Oct 1. He was generous enough to meet with me two weeks after his last working day, and share some good thoughts about the ACFL seasonal job.

...Oct 5; attended all staff planning meetings for Haunted Forest and Wonderland Walk. Great to bring everyone together creating these very popular community events. Go Travis!

...Director Lunsford took a few well deserved days off. I did my best to move from the Co-Pilot's to the Pilot's seat while he enjoyed some free time.

...Travis and Dustin were both occupied with events on Saturday, October 9th, so I was able to step in as field supervisor for a few soccer Saturday hours. Brought back lots of memories. Most of Travis' referees are the children of the ones who worked for me a couple of decades ago. Great to see a small town still being small in some ways.

...took some personal leave on Oct 14, 15.

Faithfully Submitted,

Bob Vaux, Assistant Director

October 28, 2021
