



**ANACORTES PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT**

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**GARY ROBINSON, DIRECTOR**

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**Anacortes Community Forest Lands Advisory Board  
January 4, 2018**

**Senior Activity Center 6:00 P.M.  
Preliminary Agenda**

1. Call to Order
2. Approve Minutes
3. Public Comments
4. Communication/Correspondence
5. Staff Reports
6. Heart Lake Update
7. Other Business

**If reasonable accommodation due to a disability is needed  
contact Russ Pittis at 293-1918  
48-hours prior to the meeting date.**

# ACFL Forest Advisory Board Minutes

November 2, 2017

**Members Present:** Marty Laumbattus, Carolyn Moulton, Sandra Starbuck & Aaron Rasmussen

**Staff:** Jonn Lunsford

**Minutes:** Minutes of the November 2nd meeting were approved.

**Public Comments:** None

**Correspondence and Communication:** None

**Staff report:** The discussion focused on the upcoming algae treatment at Heart Lake. Staff is working on a contract with Herrera Environmental Consultants to help oversee the project. Questions centered on the timing of the treatment. Denise Crowe with the Friends of the Forest discussed her organization's concerns with treatment and the breeding season for native amphibians. Questions about a year round fishery at the lake with fewer fish stocked. Discussion ensued. Question were also raised about the report on the milfoil treatment at Heart Lake submitted by Aqua Tech Nex.

**Other Business:** Staff answered questions about a National Guard training on Mt. Erie.

Meeting adjourned at 6:40pm. Respectfully submitted: Jonn Lunsford

Anacortes Community Forest Lands Report  
Jonh Lunsford  
December 2017

**Time Change:** Please remember, ACFL Advisory Board meetings start at 6pm.

**Wild Animal Refuge Signs:** The City of Anacortes has posted Warning signs on 4 trails in the Community Forest Lands to alert trail users that there is a wild animal refuge in unincorporated Skagit County. The trails with the signs are in the southern end of the Little Cranberry area.

According to two police reports, in February 2012, a wolf from the refuge was captured in the ACFL. In October of 2017, a wolf escaped an enclosure and went on to private land adjacent to the animal refuge.

The signs read as follows:

Warning. There is a wild animal refuge in unincorporated Skagit County adjacent to the Anacortes Community Forest Lands. In the past, wolves have escaped their enclosure on to neighboring properties and the ACFL. Please stay on ACFL trails and use caution when walking with children and dogs. If you encounter a threatening situation call 911 immediately. Call ACFL staff at 360-299-1953 with questions.

**Heart Lake 2018:** We are completing the contract for Herrera Environmental Consultants to help us coordinate the algae treatment at Heart Lake. That contract is expected to go before our City Council on January 2 for approval.

I was out on vacation the first half of December but on my return found about 20 trees blocking trails from winter winds. I also discovered that all three lakes filled up and water was flowing out the creeks and over the spillway at Little Cranberry Lake. Seems like we are back in a “normal” winter pattern for weather with wetlands getting recharged and seasonal creeks flowing as well. Winter projects continue with bridge inspections and repairs, clearing trails of downed limbs and trees, and other trail maintenance projects. We have noticed that a motorcyclist or two have been sneaking into the ACFL during the seasonal closure of motorcycles and have been riding mostly around Whistle Lake and sometimes on non-motorized trails as well. This was occurring in November too. I hope to catch them soon and “educate” them. I also discovered that someone tried to burn down our restroom at Whistle Lake by lighting all the toilet paper on fire. Minimal damage occurred. Our successes this month include:

- Downed trees and hazard trees were removed off trails 243, 23, 113, 4 of 115, 2 off 302, 2 off 300, 100, 2 off 245, 28, 219, 2 off 217, 3 off 247, 216, 21, 218, 202, 219, 1 off the high school cross country trail, and 27.

- Thank you to Trail Committee member Dan Senour for coming out on Dec 12<sup>th</sup> and helping me remove downed trees off the trails. Also, thank you to Trail Committee member Bruce Rustad and his mountain bike riders for clearing a number of trees this month off the trails.

- I hauled some gravel to the trailhead at West 10<sup>th</sup> for a volunteer family to use to repair a couple of muddy sections on trail 128.

- An illegal trail along trail 118 continues to be used and was blocked off by Staff once again.

- On December 20<sup>th</sup> we cleared blackberry around a couple of residences at Forest Ridge development as part of the Fire Wise program initiated by the fire department.

- The turnstile posts at the north end of trails 210/250 were rebuilt as the old one rotted away.

- On December 16<sup>th</sup> I held the last ACFL work party of the year, with a project to repair sections of trail 109. With an overwhelming turnout (over 25 people!), we also removed a ton of non-native invasive holly and ivy along trail 10. A huge thank you goes to volunteers Phil Schober, Diane Peterson, Nat Peterson, Paul Vance, Jeff List, Elizamae Andrews, “JD”, Sara Holahan, Lewis Wood, Don McLashey, Susan Hill, John Pinguoch, Lincoln Gilden, Calder Wood, Luke Rutz, Saville Feist, Hannah Gleason, Elly McFarland, Kailey Davis, Christoph Franssen, Emmett Moore, Morgan Billow, Givlia Wood, Rick Stevens, Rick’s daughter, and the other kids who helped that I did not get their names that were part of the Anacortes High School Green Club and AP Environmental class. Thank you also to the mountain bikers that were riding by that I put to work carrying logs! You all did a great job! Below are a few pictures and

**HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

