

ANACORTES PARKS & RECREATION

Advisory Commission

Meeting Minutes

*Sarah Nichols, Chairperson
Aaron Rasmussen
Kathy Shaw
Jo Ann York-Gilmore*

April 24, 2018

Members Present: Sarah Nicols, Aaron Rasmussen & Jo Ann York-Gilmore

Staff Present: Gary Robinson, Bob Vaux, and Jonn Lunsford.

Minutes: March minutes were approved as submitted.

Public Comments: None.

Parks Comprehensive Plan Update: Gary noted that this step in the Comprehensive Plan update was to have the Commissioners review this preliminary draft document and make any changes. If acceptable then staff would move the draft plan along to the Planning Commission and make it available for public comment.

Bob informed the Commission members that he had met with Planning Department staff and was working with them on a schedule to bring the document before the Planning Commission members.

Joann noted a couple of edits that she had. The main question was about facility standards. Discussion ensued regarding standards and how to best measure them give our location in Skagit County and City demographics regarding age. She also suggested that Volunteer Park and Washington Park were not recommended locations for off leash dog expansion. This type of opportunity could be explored elsewhere in our parks system. She had subsequent edits that she supplied to staff in written form.

Sarah asked if we received sufficient responses to the online survey. Bob responded that we received over 400 and he agreed with our consultant, Patrik Dylan, that we should look at it as an online public meeting or just one more way to collect public comments. Gary noted that one of the themes from the web survey was to improve and maintain what we have as opposed to acquisition of new parks.

Discussion ensued about providing more information about funding of activities listed in the Recommended Action Plan section. Commission members were also interested in a timeline or perhaps listing of priorities for projects. The bandstand at Causland Park was an example used. Sarah thought the public would like to know how much it may cost to repair it, or what would be involved such as engineering evaluation, historical evaluation and appraisal, etc. Discussion continued.

Sarah also suggested clarifying relationships with non-park entities/agencies that provide recreation opportunities such as the Fidalgo Pool and Fitness Center. Also a more complete discussion of the new Community Center if possible given the evolving nature of that idea. Another funding question was about the amount of impact fees collected, total and per home. How much was collected per new construction.

Aaron like that the online survey supported multi-modal use on the Guemes Channel Trail. He agreed that the Recommended Action Plan needed improvement. He asked for more detail on

each point, prioritize items, more detail about what is/may be delaying work, where the money is coming from and when it will be done.

Sarah asked if planned work could be listed as “high priority/high cost” or “medium priority/low cost”, etc. so that people could see details in our plan.

Aaron agreed and added that we would get more valuable feedback if we listed priorities. The role of the Commission is to set priorities and present them to City Council. Discussion of how this could be done and the water and electrical needs at Washington Park and the Heart Lake Master Plan were used as examples.

Edits were suggested for grammatical errors and typos.

Discussion of a work plan ensued for moving this draft to the next stage. No reservations listed about moving forward to Planning Commission

Joanne asked about the next steps in the public process. Bob discussed the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) permit and Planning Commission.

Gary said that we will take the information from this meeting, and written comments from Commission members and incorporate them the best we can. A map of the parks and perhaps a table showing park amenities would be useful additions.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 7:05 pm.

The **NEXT REGULAR MEETING** will be held on **Tuesday, May 8, 2018, at 6:00 PM**, at City Hall, 904 6th Street.

Respectfully submitted by,

Jonn Lunsford

Approved: 5/8/2018