

# ANACORTES PARKS & RECREATION

## Advisory Commission

### Meeting Minutes

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

July 10, 2018

**Members Present:** Sarah Nichols, Aaron Rasmussen, Jo Ann York-Gilmore & Kathy Shaw.

**Staff Present:** Gary Robinson, Bob Vaux, Dustin South, Nicole Johnston and Mary Snyder

Meeting was called to order at approximately 6:05.

**Minutes:** May minutes were approved as submitted.

**Public Comments:** Citizens that live in the condos near Storvik Park were present and expressed concerns about living in close proximity of the park and questioning whether the proper permits were obtained. The major issues have been noise, lights and after hours use by teens. Also presented were three letters submitted by homeowners – two that had the above complaints and one stating that they love the park. Residents stated that the lighting has been solved and thanked Jonn Lunsford for addressing the issue. It was asked if the hours could be reduced and a possible day closure. Nicole explained that she is the project manager and all proper steps were taken prior to construction. The hours are currently 11 am to 6 pm and shorter hours than any other in the area. One possible solution discussed was plantings and/or fencing on city property, secondary to the condos being built so close to the property line. It was suggested that the condo owners be involved in the barriers process secondary to view loss and costs.

**Electric bikes on Thompson Trail and Guemes Channel Trail:** There have been 2-3 calls lately about the use of bikes on the trails. Discussion ensued and it was agreed that the use should be allowed however speed limit signs should be displayed more prominently.

**Washington Park Refund Policy:** Recent emails have been distributed questioning the practices and policies of the Anacortes Parks Department in dealing with refunds at Washington Park. Review of the polices and examples of the practices were given. Gary feels that policies should be originated by the park board.

**Drones in Parks:** Gary has received an email about concerns of drones disturbing birds and birds nests. Questioned was whether or not drones should be allowed and what other parks are doing. The Forest Board is also discussing the use of drones and possible rules.

**Gary is Retiring:** Gary wants the board to talk to the mayor and be involved in the hiring process. Possible replacements were discussed.

#### **Department Reports:**

- Bob stated that all is good at the park and the staff is working well. He feels that Chris the caretaker is a good fit. The boat launch is flowing well.

- Dustin stated that all is good in the recreation side and a lot of events. There are new sailing classes and instructor, Kevin Pratt. Adult softball is starting and there have been some problems with the new netting and keeping the balls out of the area. There was talk about signage on the field letting users know they are responsible if they hit a house. Fall soccer registrations continue.
- Gary stated that he will be working on the comprehensive plan. Gary would like to share his knowledge of being a park director and involved, working thru mid December. Gary will then go on vacation and coming back for a few days in February. The hope is to have a successor in place by December 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Other Business:** Bonnie Bowers would like her service club to be involved in the refreshing of “Our Town Our Park”, with the 10 year anniversary of the site.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 7:53 pm.

The **NEXT REGULAR MEETING** will be held on **Tuesday, August 14, 2018, at 6:00 PM**, at City Hall, 904 6<sup>th</sup> Street.

Respectfully submitted by,

Mary Snyder

Approved: