

ANACORTES PARKS & RECREATION

Advisory Commission

Meeting Minutes

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

September 10, 2019

Members Present: Sarah Nichols, Jo Ann York-Gilmore and Christine Hansen.

Staff Present: Jonn Lunsford, Bob Vaux, Dustin South, and Mary Snyder.

Others Present: Bruce McDougall, Kathryn O'Hara and Bill Gregory.

Called to Order: 6:00 PM

Minutes: August minutes were approved as submitted.

Public Comments: None.

Correspondence/Communications:

- Jo Ann reported on the Anacortes Forest Board meeting which included discussions of the Mt. Erie PSE lease, and work with Skagit Land Trust to modernize the Conservation Easement Program to correct past clerical errors. WWU researcher has asked to sample leaves of about about 15 Madrona trees to do dna tests to figure out blight, there is a new motorcycle rep on the forest board, John Meehan, and he will be on the trail committee. There was an active discussion on bike skills park and the permit process is still moving forward. The main discussion was about the appropriateness of the "A" Avenue landfill for a skills park. Skagit County will review the permits secondary to the cap on landfill and seep test will be done by the County. Trail #132, on Cranberry lake, parts of it are eroding and close to the water, creating habitat issues. There was a discussion to close or make limitations on the trail. Beaver Deceiver to be placed by hand with students of the Green Club.
- The Park Foundation met today and discussions ensued over beach volleyball, Picket pocket park, and a possible internship for parks and recreation.

Department Reports:

- Dustin reported on recreation that soccer season has started with about 500 kids and volunteers participating. Successful outdoor movie was held recently, Incredibles 2. Travis did a poll on facebook to choose the movie and then worked in conjunction with Marysville Parks and Rec. Sarah questioned the possibility of reports to check to make sure that all kids are being served and not some groups missed. A discussion was held over engaging other populations in the community The Anacortes School district has cancelled their after school arts program.
- Bob gave a report on Washington Park and revenues. The planning commission will do a site visit tomorrow on the boat launch and tomorrow night is the public hearing for the replacement of the dock. The project needs to be done by the end of January to avoid another fish window opening and postponement. The park has been filling up with campers over the weekends and there are still adequate staff in place. Still working with

permits from the Corp of Engineers, Fish and Wildlife and the SEPA process for the dock replacement.

Guemes Channel Trail: The permits have been approved for repair, beach nourishment permits are still pending. Proud of the park crew on work done in house to make repairs to the trail. Information is being supplied on the city website. Asphalt patches remain to be done and all park staff was involved. The public was very patient. Costs were low – rock was under \$1000. Permits are for five years and so subsequent damage may be done much more quickly. Work continues on moving the trail to the east in working with property owners. It was questioned if the SHIP trail and west was still on the horizon however nothing is pending at this time. The adjacent property is for sale and there is no interest in a presale agreement or easement so focus remains on the trail heading east to create a non motorized transportation trail into town.

Cemetery Expansion: Conditional use permit process is moving forward, going to planning commission during the first part of October and taking comments. A storm water detention pond will be required on the north end and trees will need to be removed.

Recreation Fall Programs and Events: Dustin gave an overview of the recreation events - Girls basketball signups are now, boys will be in November. Events – Dallas Kloke Mt. Erie Road and Trail Run–Oct. 12, Haunted Run at Washington Park on Saturday October 26, Breakfast with Santa on Dec. 7 and Winter Wonderland Walk on Dec. 13 and 14. The next A Town brochure will be mailed out 14th of December, so in the process of developing winter events.

Beach Volleyball: Bruce McDougal state that he was representing as a private citizen and advocate for beach volleyball courts to be built in town. He is working on fundraising and feels it would work well at Storvik. It is great for all ages, flexible on numbers that can play and the fastest NCAA sport in country. The area north of basketball courts at Storvik would work well for two courts and explore space for horseshoe pits as they are currently in place and being used. Two trees removed would need to be removed and the pricing estimates area around \$35000 – donations of about \$6000 has thus been dedicated. Concerns included yearly maintenance - grading, weeding, sand every couple of years, removal of nets and replacing of nets. Park Board will discuss this at the next monthly meeting. The hope is that it would be adopted as a city park.

Other Business: Two people have left parks, Chuck Arneson has retired and Dave Oicles has moved to the Planning Department. There are plans for replacement and possible shifting of existing employees to fill the voids. There was a question about the bike skills course in the forest lands and the seepage test. Jonn stated that this is misinformation and assured all that the parks department will keep children safe and follow procedures laid out by the County.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 7:20.

The **NEXT REGULAR MEETING** will be held on **Tuesday, October 8, 2019, at 6:00 PM**, at City Hall, 904 6th Street.

Respectfully submitted by,

Mary Snyder

Approved: 10/8/2019