Parks & Recreation Advisory Commission

Preliminary Agenda

City Hall – 904 6th Street

January 14, 2020

6:00 P.M.

1. Call to Order
2. Approve Minutes
3. Public Comments
4. Correspondence/Communications
5. Department Reports
6. Recreation Upcoming Events
7. Smiley’s Bottom Wetland Report Update
8. Comprehensive Plan Update
9. Other Business

If reasonable accommodation due to a disability are needed, please contact Mac Jackson at least 48 hours prior to the meeting date (360-299-1961)
December 10, 2019

Members Present: Sarah Nichols, Jo Ann York-Gilmore and Alex Hernandez

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

Others Present: Kathryn O’Hara

Called to Order: 6:03 PM

Minutes: November minutes were approved as submitted.

Public Comments: None.

Correspondence/Communications:
- JoAnn reported on the Forest Board meeting which included discussion on trail systems thru the Anacortes Community Forest Lands and the Thompson Trail that are connectors with Pacific Northwest Trails. Representatives from PNT gave a presentation and would like to develop an agreement with the City of Anacortes. Critical areas were discussed with the planning commission, including passive and active recreation allowed. All parks are governed by the critical areas ordinance and there will be a meeting on Jan. 18 to view a draft ordinance before it goes to council. E-bikes were discussed and it was agreed to treat them as motorcycles on forestland trails. The Forest Board will be adding a new member in 2020.
- The Anacortes Park Foundation did not meet this month and they will have a retreat next month. The Anacortes Arts Commission will be a part of Wonderland Walk this year.

Department & Project Reports:
- Dustin reported that Breakfast with Santa went well. Girls basketball is underway and boys basketball will begin after the first of the year. Winter Wonderland Walk is this weekend, Friday and Saturday from 5-8 pm. Dustin and Travis did a presentation to council last night to inform them of recreation happenings. Jonn will be working on pop up lights in various parks during the holiday season.
- Bob stated that public works armored the sewer connection on Guemes Channel Trail, repairing some structural failures. Permanent repairs will be done on the sewer problems in 2020. The park maintenance crew is fully staffed, with A.J. Yost and Sky Guthrie as new employees.
- Park and Recreation impact fee updates are underway to prepare for the future uses. These have not been updated since 1998.
**Washington Park:** The City has signed a contract with Culbertson Marine to demolish and replace with the new floats. The floats are done and ready to be placed. It is expected that a 3 day closure of the launch will be needed. Cleaning the ramp was done yesterday. Parking fees increases have not been done in a couple of years secondary to damage and disruptions. Discounts were given to pass holders earlier in the season.

**E-Bikes In the Parks:** Jonn reported that Christine is not in favor of allowance of the e bikes on the Thompson Trail or Guemes Channel Trail and stated several reasons. Discussion ensued over allowance of e bikes on the trail. It was agreed that it may assist in taking more vehicles off the road, give an opportunity to those with disabilities or mobility restrictions and that speed should be the factor. It was agreed that this would be an agenda item in January to collect information on language, examples of neighboring communities, classification of bikes. It was also agreed that possibly a one year trial be given to collect information from the public on the allowance. Also suggested was to look at the policies at Washington Park on whether to allow e-bikes before 10 am.

**Comprehensive Plan Update:** Jonn will be taking the draft Comprehensive Plan to the Anacortes City Council on Monday, December 16. Kathryn O’Hara requested that the language on section 4.3 to add: Skagit Audubon Society. Kathryn will email Jonn with the specifics of her request.

**Washington Park – Burrows Bay Lookout:** Bob reported that the Burrows Bay Lookout on the Washington Park loop road has become increasingly crowded with parking issues. Disruption of the moss, along with public safety, were noted. Another issue at the park is the overwhelming number of requests for memorialization of loved ones. Combing the two issues and finding a solution were discussed. It was agreed to bring this item back as an agenda item in January.

**Other Business**

Meeting adjourned at approximately 7:15.

The **NEXT REGULAR MEETING** will be held on **Tuesday, January 14, 2020, at 6:00 PM**, at City Hall, 904 6th Street.

Respectfully submitted by,

Mary Snyder

Approved:
Parks and Recreation Update January 2020

Recreation Staff Report:

Community Events: Parks and Recreation staff held another successful Wonderland Walk event December 13th and 14th. The walk featured 21 community groups that each decorated a campsite at Washington Park and provided a fun and free holiday event. Staff estimates the walk had over 2,500 total attendees.

Breakfast with Santa: Recreation staff along with volunteers from the Senior Center ran this year’s Breakfast with Santa December 7th. The event gives families an opportunity to get a picture with Santa, eat a pancake breakfast, decorate cookies and listen to carols by our local elementary choirs. The event had 223 total attendees.

Daddy Daughter Dance: Staff is planning its annual Daddy Daughter Dance for February 22nd. The Dance gives an opportunity for daughters to enjoy a night out with their dad’s. The dance will provide music, a free photo, snacks and a raffle.

Pop-up Light Show: Staff held its first ever pop-up holiday light show. Staff displayed LED projected Christmas lights in the trees of Causland Park and Monday, December 22nd and 23rd from 6pm-8pm both nights. The event brought approximately 100 people out to the park over the two nights and is an event staff would like to continue to expand.

Adult Enrichment Classes: Continuing classes of Tango, on Tuesday evenings and Qigong for your Health will continue through the next couple months. Both classes are held in Depot.

Youth Girls Basketball: City League girls’ basketball finished their last week of games December 21st.

Youth Boys Basketball: City League boys’ basketball will begin practice the week of January 6th. The league has 140 participants which is on pace with previous seasons. The boy’s first game is January 18th with the season ending February 29th.

Pee Wee Basketball: The popular program for kids ages 4-6 years old is close to filling both sessions. It will be held on Saturday mornings from January 11 to February 1 at the middle school gym.

After School Arts Program: We have taken over this program from the Anacortes School District. We are working on offering a kids cooking class starting at the end of the month and also some art classes during elementary half-days in February.

Respectfully Submitted by,
Dustin South, Recreation Manager
Travis Anderson, Recreation Coordinator

Parks Report

Crew kept busy during the month of December doing the following:
- cleaning up leaves
- winterizing irrigations
- cleaning up the Volunteer shop and the parks maintenance shop
- Prepping the site for the Pickett Pocket Park area (Strandberg is set to start construction 1/13/20)
- Getting Washington Park ready for the Wonderland Walk event
-Deep Cleaning the Washington Park Restrooms

**Pride and Service Awards** were handed out to Jim Rains (5 years) and to Steve Phillips (1 year).

Steve spent more time in the ACFL navigating the trails and checking on trees. Also, Steve has been doing a daily check this past month on the Beaver Deceiver that is located off of 31st Street.

Sky has been spending more time out at Washington Park Opening up the park and becoming more familiar with park operations.

**Coming up for January...**
- Finish up the Pickett Pocket Park Project
- Complete Enclosure on the electrical box at Volunteer Field
- Checking light fixtures / drinking fountains at the parks
- Ordering supplies
- Starting the Washington Park Campground Utility Project.

**Grand View Cemetery Expansion:**
- Working with our Planning Department to begin the Conditional Use Permit process.

Nicole Johnston
Anacortes Parks Manager

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**Parks Maintenance Administration**

Report for the Parks Commission
January 2019 Meeting

We wrapped up 2019 with another successful run of the Wonderland Walk at Washington Park. Congratulations to Rec Coordinator Travis Anderson for his first WW rodeo, and to all the APRD staff and volunteers for putting together such a highly regarded community event. I believe we captured Gary Robinson’s original intent of thanking the local citizens for another year of supporting their parks and their recreation.

In addition to taking some much appreciated vacation time over the holidays, end of year activities included a fair amount of meetings evaluating our 2019 work plan and budget expenses, while planning for same in 2020. High priorities include completing the WP boat launch repair as well as upgrading WP campground utilities. We are also continuing our work on the cemetery expansion, the Depot restroom project, and our litany of parks and forest lands maintenance and upgrades.

The Planning Commission continues its work on the Critical Areas Regulations, and I will be attending those meetings, as well as upping my game in the ACFL as Jonn has passed the baton of its management back to me after his excellent 19 year run.

Respectfully Submitted,
Robert W. Vaux
January 7, 2020
**Parks and Recreation Comprehensive Plan:** We expect this will come back to City Council this month. It could be as early as the 21st or possibly the meeting on the 27th. We have received comments and made additional changes to the document after speaking with our Planning Staff and Port of Anacortes Staff. That draft is available to view on at [www.anacorteswa.gov](http://www.anacorteswa.gov). Please go to the Parks and Recreation page under Comprehensive Plans.

**Smiley’s Bottom Wetlands Report:** The “Volunteer Park/Smiley’s Bottom Critical Areas Report, Restoration Plan & Master Plan,” is in its final edits and Parks and Planning Staff are developing a schedule for committee meetings to review the plan. Committee members at our last meeting consisted of City Staff, School District Staff, Friends of the Forest Staff, members of Evergreen Islands and the Anacortes Parks Foundation, and staff from the wetlands consulting company, ATSI, that developed the report. Once the report is completed it will be made available on the City website.