Parks & Recreation Advisory Commission

Preliminary Agenda

City Hall – 904 6th Street

February 11, 2020

6:00 P.M.

1. Call to Order
2. Approve Minutes
3. Public Comments
4. Correspondence/Communications
5. Department Reports
6. Park Impact Fee Discussion
7. Grant Priorities for 2020
8. Recreation Updates
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)
Parks and Recreation Update February 2020

Recreation Staff Report:

Community Events: 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. The event has currently has 200 participants registered. Still a few more tickets available.

Boys Basketball: Boys' basketball started practice January 6th with the first games starting January 18th. We have 140 participants signed up for boys' basketball with 15 total teams which is on pace with previous years. The last Saturday of scheduled games is February 29th. We had a referee training on January 10. We have a good young group of staff helping out with this program and they are eager to learn and we are looking forward to having them involved for the next several seasons.

Pee Wee Basketball: The Pee Wee Basketball program designed for children ages 4-6 ended its four-week course February 1st. The four-week class taught children the fundamentals of basketball through drills and games. The course had 63 participants

Youth Enrichment Programs:
Staff is offering two toddler enrichment courses this quarter Messy Me and Fieldhouse Fun.
Messy Me, provides a semi guided arts and free play course that promotes creativity and fun. The class provides safe space for kids to get messy and try new things.
Fieldhouse Fun, is an intro to all sports where kids work on general motor skills and basic sports-based movement including catching, throwing, kicking and running. Staff provides parent child guided activities along with group games that get the children moving and having fun.

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.

After School Arts Program: So far the classes we have offered for this program, Kids Baking and Conference Week Art Camp, are filling and parents are excited we are continuing to offer them. Look for more classes in the future as we get deeper into this afterschool programming.

Adult Drop-in Sports: With the high school gym officially being open we are back to our normal gym usage at the elementary school. The drop-in Pickle Ball, Volleyball, and Basketball are happy to get back to having some time in the gyms. They are very appreciative.

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

Parks Maintenance Update:

Picket Pocket Park Update- This project is still under current construction, however we hope to have it completed by the end of February. Strandberg Construction is doing the building and is currently working on the grading for the pavers. This will be a nice addition to have up Commercial Ave. Both neighbors of the Park Jimmy Johns and Penguin Coffee are looking
forward to this new space. With some art and additional lighting to the area we look forward to the Pickett Pocket Park.

**Grand View Cemetery Expansion Update**- Just to recap we are looking to expand Grand View Cemetery. This is a large scale project and it will be broken down into phases. First phase will be clearing of the vegetation and removal of trees. Second phase will be the construction of the expansion irrigation systems and development of the gravesites. The expansion will take place on 5 acres of the 11.5 acre cemetery. The proposed expansion will create room for around 2,800 gravesites. We are hoping to start this project in 2020 as soon as we receive our Conditional Use Permit.

**Washington Park Campground Utility Project**- Parks Department is looking to do some upgrades to the Washington Park Campground utility section. We will do this upgrade in sections, starting with the C section and then move onto the A section of the campground. In the end we will have a more efficient set up for all the utility camp sites. The plan is to start this first phase this winter 2020 and be done by April 2020.

Crew is starting to think ahead to spring.

Baseball season brings a lot of extra time put into the fields at Volunteer Park. We are doing a work party on Saturday, February 28th and have invited the high school teams, Anacortes Little League and the Black Hawk baseball club to join us and help get Volunteer Park ready for the spring baseball season.

Also, the grass is starting to grow and we are looking to mow the cemetery when we can. First week of February we hope to post the seasonal park positions.

Respectfully submitted by, Nicole Johnston, Parks Manager

**Parks Maintenance Administration**

Highlights for the Parks Commission

We are excited to report that the new pilings and floats at Washington Park are almost a month into service. The combined City team of Parks, Planning and Public Works, along with exceptional delivery of goods and services by TransPac Marinas and Culbertson Marine culminated in a very successful project. Early reviews from users are positive, and we look forward to the new year with fully functional floats.

City of Everett Park Ranger David Green met with Jonn, Brian Tottenham and I, briefing us on the successful strides that Everett has made working with its homeless population, especially on public lands. We plan on sharing this information with a larger city staff group, led by the Mayor. We continue to work with our new parks maintenance team members, training them in various roles and responsibilities.
The Planning Commission did unanimously approve a Critical Areas Ordinance recommendation to the City Council. There has been a lot of discussion of use regulation both in the ACFL and parks system, but the Planning Commission work on this does not change or inhibit any currently approved user groups. I am happy to answer any questions at the Feb 11th meeting of the Commission.

Respectfully Submitted, Robert W. Vaux

**Parks and Recreation Plan Approved:** The Parks and Recreation Plan was approved by City Council on February 3. The name was changed from Park and Recreation Comprehensive Plan to simply Parks and Recreation Plan by Council to avoid possible confusion with the City Comprehensive Plan passed in 2016. Thanks to the public, Parks and Recreation Commission members, city staff and Council who help us to refine this document.

**Parks Impact Fees:** Parks impact fees are gathered from new development to help with future park construction to handle population growth. Our impact fees were last updated 20 years ago. Staff working on revisions to bring to City Council this spring from their review.

**Beaver Deceiver Planting Project:** We are planning on a work party with the AHS Green Club on February 17 to plant alders and native twinberry in the emergent wetland adjacent to the beaver deceiver. Staff thought it would be a good idea to plant up the area with the Green Club to enhance the habitat around the 32nd Street Swamp.
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. Combining 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: