Parks & Recreation Advisory Commission

Preliminary Agenda

City Hall – 904 6th Street

March 10, 2020

6:00 P.M.

1. Call to Order
2. Approve Minutes
3. Public Comments
4. Correspondence/Communications
5. Department Reports
6. E-bike 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)
February 11, 2020

Members Present: Joann York-Gilmore, Sara Nichols, Alex Hernandez

Staff Present: Jonn Lunsford, Nicole Johnston, Bob Vaux, Dustin South, Sally Hill, Valora Sandstrom

Others Present: Brad Adams

Called to Order: 6:02 pm.

Minutes: December 2019 minutes were approved as submitted. There was no January meeting due to snow.

Public Comments: None.

Correspondence/Communications: Jonn reported that the Parks Foundation is reviewing their bylaws and are wanting to meet with the Parks Commission to coordinate efforts of both groups. They are looking at a meeting in the summer at Washington Park.

Department & Project Reports: Dustin reported that some of the after school arts program was now being managed by the Parks Department. Most of the classes offered are full. The School District is working through transportation issues for the students. The kids baking class has seen a number of middle school students sign up, typically an age level that is challenging to reach with program offerings. Boys basketball is underway and close to the season’s end. Another successful pee wee program has finished. The Daddy Daughter Dance is coming up with the usual high numbers of registrants.

Nicole reported that the Pickett Pocket Park is under construction. Pavers will be installed next week and then solar lights and a couple of art pieces. The cemetery expansion project is moving forward and will go before the Planning Commission in March. Work continues on the Washington Park utility project which includes electricity upgrades to the A and C sections, starting with C section. Waterline improvements are being assessed. Seasonal job openings have been posted. The High School Green Club is planting alders and twinberries at the 32nd Street beaver deceiver site. The score board at MDD field has been repaired and fields are ready for the upcoming ball season. A rededication for the newly re-turfed field is being held on Friday, March 14th at 9:30 am. There is a work party scheduled at Volunteer Park on Saturday, March 29th.

Bob reported that he and Jonn went to Olympia to meet with Representatives Ramel & Lekanoff to bring awareness to projects that the Parks Department is involved with. A letter of acceptance was received on the Parks & Recreation plan so grants can now be applied for.
February 2020 Minutes
Page 2

Sally Hill, Senior Center Coordinator, reported on the success of a new program being offered, the Aging Mastery Program. Registration is online through Sportsites. Donations have been received to cover operating costs for the program and through a grant from the National Council on Aging. Visitor statistics at the SAC are showing increased numbers of users of the center. Looking to expand services and program offered, with the goal to have increased involvement in the teenage community with offerings similar to the Techwise program that the Library offers.

**Washington Park:** See projects reports above by Nicole.

**E-Bikes in the Parks:** Discussion tabled until March.

**Park Impact Fees:** Bob reported that the City is looking into an update of the current building impact fees, which were last updated in 1998. Working with Burke consulting group for a scope of work plan, then will decide whether to do updates in-house or through a contract with an outside firm.

**Grant Priorities:** John is asking staff and board members to be thinking of projects that would meet grant guidelines set by the State and bring them back for discussion and ranking.

**Recreation Update:** Dustin reported that the boxcar at the Depot has been removed and the Farmer’s Market container has been relocated to make room for the new restroom project. The City was awarded an economic development grant of $300,000 from Skagit County for the project. Jonn reported that LTAC grants are paying for professional cleaning of the Thompson Trail and Heart restrooms. Dustin also reported that open gyms are now back in full function. Summer offerings going into the spring/summer A-town publication have been determined. The publication will be mailed out in April. Working with the Anacortes Waterfront Alliance on an agreement to transition sailing classes to them and explore sailboat rental options.

Other Business

Meeting adjourned at approximately 7:05 pm

The **NEXT REGULAR MEETING** will be held on **Tuesday, March 10, 2020, at 6:00 PM**, at City Hall, 904 6th Street.

Respectfully submitted by,

Valora Sandstrom

Approved:
Parks and Recreation Update March 2020

Recreation Staff Report:

Community Events: Staff held the 15th annual Daddy Daughter Dance February 22nd. The event exceeded past attendance numbers, the 2020 event had 384 dads and daughters in attendance. The dance provided an opportunity for daughters to enjoy a night out with their dad’s. The event provided music, a free photo, snacks, a raffle and lots of smiles. One improvement we have discuss for next year is to add an additional photographer so we can eliminate the wait for dads and daughters to get their photo’s take. Mike Jenkins DJ service provided the music. A big “thank you” to volunteer Carol Yates for helping out with this event.

Boys Basketball: We had 140 participants signed up for boys’ basketball with 15 total teams which is on pace with previous years. The season ended February 29th. This program is not possible without the help of many volunteer coaches. Thank you to all our coaches who volunteer to help teach kids the game of basketball and develop their skills!

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. The first session of Messy Me, finished February 12th. The second session that was scheduled from February 26th-March 18th was canceled due to low registration numbers.

Fieldhouse Fun, is an into 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 gets the children moving and having fun. The first session of Fieldhouse Fun ended February 18th and will start back up with the second session March 3rd.

After School Arts Program: We have had a very successful Kids Baking class on Mondays and Wednesdays at the Middle School. Jackie Davison the instructor, has had about 20 total kids registered between the two classes. Participants have learned how to make donuts, banana break, and scones. There was a nice write up in the Skagit Herald on Monday, Feb. 17 about the class.

Conference week art camp, with instructors Sue Roberts and Janice Veal, was a big success as well. The program had over 20 kids registered. Many parents were very excited we continued offering these programs.

Dustin South, Recreation Manager
Travis Anderson, Recreation Coordinator
Senior Activity Center Update:

Unconventional Runway Show: Twisted Pixies Retrospective
The Anacortes Senior Activity Center Foundation will be holding its annual fundraiser featuring Anacortes’ own Twisted Pixies on Saturday, April 4. This unconventional runway show will feature a 17-year look back to the fabulous costumes of the Twisted Pixies. The event will be held at the Transit Shed, located at the north end of Commercial Avenue. Doors will open at 5:30 p.m. Admission is $75 and will include dinner and costume show. There will be a silent auction of art created by participants of ASAC art classes, a dessert auction and a raise the paddle fundraiser, all to raise funds for the Foundation, which supports the Center. Tickets will go on sale in March at asacfoundationanacortes.org.

Kevin Carroll Ukulele Concert and Workshops
Kevin Carroll, Austin Texas ukulele artist and instructor, will be at the Center on Thursday, March 26, for two ukulele workshops and a public concert. The first workshop at 1:15 p.m. will be for folks who have been playing a few months; the 2:30 p.m. “orchestral” workshop will be for advanced beginners and intermediates. The concert will be at 4 p.m. The cost for each workshop is $30 and the concert is $10. You can also buy a combo that includes both of the workshops and the concert for $40. Tickets are available at the Reception Desk.

Volunteer Appreciation Ice Cream Social
Join other Center volunteers and friends for special sundaes made from yummy, locally made Lopez Island Creamery ice cream at 2 p.m. on Tuesday, April 14. There will be musical entertainment, plus you’ll enjoy a delicious ice cream sundae by celebrity servers. Everyone is welcome to attend. You don’t need to be a volunteer to come and enjoy the party. Join us in honoring all of the volunteers who make this Center great! Please RSVP at the Reception Desk or call the Center at (360) 293-7473. Thanks to Alex Thiemann at Lopez Island Creamery.

Bowling Bash -- March 21
Have fun at Riverside Lanes in Mount Vernon while helping raise money for Meals on Wheels. Bring a team of four bowlers and enjoy two games of bowling, food, refreshments and prizes. The team entry fee is $250, and team members are encouraged to raise additional funds by asking for donations from family, friends and colleagues. Door prizes will be awarded throughout the event, in addition to prizes awarded to the top three fundraising teams. If you do not have a team, no problem! Sponsor a team for $250 and we will find deserving bowlers for you.

Wii Bowling Bash -- March 11
Not a fan of standard bowling? Sponsor a Wii bowling team instead! The Wii Bowling Bash will include the same fun and prizes as with the standard Bowling Bash event. The event will be held on March 11 at the Anacortes Senior Activity Center. The event is sponsored by Chandler’s Square. Call (360) 293-7473 for more information.
Bingo Baked Potato Bar – March 24

Join in this new all-community March for Meals fundraising event at the First Baptist Church, located at 2717 J Ave in Anacortes. Dinner will be served from 5 to 6 p.m. and bingo will be played from 6 to 7 p.m. Dinner will feature a delicious baked potato bar with toppings, chili and salad, and there will be 5 games of bingo with an optional “blackout” game at the end (blackout cards are $1). There will be door prizes, and additional prizes for bingo winners. The cost is $10 and includes dinner and 2 bingo cards. You may purchase more cards; children 5 and under can eat for free. Tickets are available at the door. This event is sponsored by the Anacortes Senior Activity Center.

Sally Hill
Administrator, Senior Activity Center

Parks Operations Update

Grand View Cemetery Expansion Update- Working on revising the landscape plan and working with planning for revisions on the retention pond. This project is still set to go to the Planning Commission on March 11th.

Ballfields- Crew is working hard to get ball fields ready for the spring season. Kick Off for the AHS baseball and softball is Saturday, March 14th. Rededication to MDD is happening at 9:30am and AHS ASB is organizing a FREE BBQ for fans.

Crew Update- Heather Brennan is retiring after 15 years of working for the Parks Department, she started as a seasonal and in 2008 transitioned into full time. Her plan is to retire by June. We will be looking to fill her position in the near future.

Coming Up for March- Repairing the Clearidge Pickle Ball Court Fence from a Fall wind Storm, start planning for Arbor day, prune downtown trees, lots of mowing and looking to schedule a work party on the Guemes Channel Trail with the AHS Green Club to work on the planting pockets and plant shore pines.

Pickett Pocket Park- Strandberg Construction is nearing completion of the paver and irrigation installation. Parks and Recreation staff will install landscaping and solar lighting. Special thanks to Strandberg Construction for working with downed cedar that was found in the ACFL and milled for the park.

Nicole Johnston
Parks Manager

Parks Administration Update

On Thursday the 27th I was part of an interview team headed by Director Lunsford. We met with 8 candidates for the Administrative Assistant position that will open with Valora’s retirement at the end of
May. We are currently assessing these interviews, and will schedule a next round for 2 or 3 finalists. As Valora has been with Parks & Rec for 33 years, and shared the job with Mary Snyder for 25, this is a very significant hiring process.

Solid progress is being made on the campground utility upgrade project at Washington Park. Parks Foreperson Brian Tottenham and the very talented Parks Maintenance Team is doing the vast majority of the work in house. We have been happy to find the water line in great shape, and not in need of replacement for the most part. Trenching for the electrical upgrades is complete, and we are now ordering new pedestals and finalizing plans for the locations of same. We are hoping to complete the work in “C” Section by April 15. We are looking at doing the same in “A” section most likely at the beginning of 2021.

Director Lunsford continues the lead on working with the Army Corps, Dept of Fish and Wildlife, Dept of Ecology, COA Planning and Permitting and local tribes on our Washington Park boat launch ramp cleaning protocol. We are hoping to have an updated, permitted plan within the next 30 days or so. In the meantime, we have direction from the above agencies and nations to clean the ramp of beach materials as needed. We will of course continue to keep all work out of the water, and will store the material until a nourishment plan is agreed upon and permitted.

We are hoping to schedule a Loop Road Burrows View site visit for the Parks Commission in early April, so we may begin the planning process for that area.

The Forest Advisory Board will be discussing the possible 1 year trial for Class 1 E-bike use of the ACFL trails by those who qualify for and have obtained ADA parking permits. This is scheduled for the March 5 meeting. I was away on vacation leave Feb 14 – 23.

Robert Vaux
Assistant Director

**ACFL Planning Process:** The City Council is currently reviewing the Critical Areas Ordinance (CAO) which may take until May or June to complete. It is our intention to bring the ACFL plan back to City Council once the CAO has been approved. This could be three or four months from now.

**Grant Opportunities:** Some of the projects that we have considered in the past for application to our state funding agency, The Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO), are as follows:
- Storvik Park Field and Lighting Improvements
- Heart Lake Master Plan Improvements
- Skate Park Improvements
- Storvik Park “small courts area”

The grant cycle begins again this spring with applications due in May. We will continue to discuss these and other projects at our Commission meetings.

**Thank you to the Anacortes Parks Foundation:** The Foundation is not only our partner in the construction to the Pickett Pocket Park, they are also a contributor. As you can see when you drive down Commercial Avenue near 22nd Street, the park hardscape is nearly complete and we are preparing to add landscaping, solar lighting and signage to finish the job.