



ANACORTES PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT

**P.O. BOX 547, ANACORTES, WA 98221
(360) 293-1918 / (360) 293-1928**

JOHN LUNSFORD, DIRECTOR

Parks & Recreation Advisory Commission

Preliminary Agenda

City Hall – 904 6th Street

May 12, 2019

**MEETING CANCELLED
DUE TO COVID-19
RESTRICTIONS**

**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)**



CITY OF ANACORTES

Laurie Gere, Mayor
904 6th Street Anacortes, WA 98221
www.anacorteswa.gov

PRESS RELEASE

Summer 2020 Events Sponsored by the City of Anacortes are Cancelled.

May 11, 2020

The City of Anacortes has been closely monitoring the COVID-19 public health crisis and the recommendations of the Governor's Office and the Skagit County Public Health Department. Last week the Skagit County Public Health Officer Dr. Howard Leibrand, issued guidance on summer events. The recommendations are that the community should cancel or postpone all large scale events, therefore the City of Anacortes has made the decision to cancel the following:

- Kids Fishing Event, scheduled to take place June 6, 2020
- Bark in Park, scheduled to take place June, 20 2020
- Kids R Best Fest, scheduled to take place July11, 2020
- Art Dash scheduled, to take place August 1, 2020

The City of Anacortes Parks and Recreation Department is evaluating the remainder of our summer programs to find ways to adapt or postpone our recreation programs. The City's priority is public health and we believe that physical health is an important component of public health. If possible we will provide programming in a socially distanced or virtual capacity.

One of the elements of Bark in the Park is a pet food drive, we believe we can do this drive in a way that facilitates social distancing. Details will be available on the Parks and Recreation Department's webpage soon. Additionally, the City is exploring ways to offer the Art Dash as a "virtual run" where participants could run their own course, log their time, and still be a part of the event!

We are all adapting to the quickly evolving nature of the COVID-19 pandemic and reacting to the recommendations to cancel some of our communities' most beloved summer events. The City has determined that the threat that large scale events pose to the health of the community is too great. The City will continue to work on innovative alternatives to these events so we can connect even when we are apart.

Please visit our website at: <https://www.anacorteswa.gov/490/Parks-Recreation> or follow the City of Anacortes Parks and Recreation Department on Facebook for more information as it becomes available. If you have specific questions please refer them to Dustin South, Recreation Manager at 360-293-1918 or dustins@cityofanacortes.org.

Parks and Recreation Update May 2020

I want to thank all the Parks and Recreation and Senior Activity Center staff for their efforts during this month dealing with their regular duties and the additional work brought about by COVID-19. Our parks and ACFL trails remain open but we have closed many amenities such as the campground at Washington Park, sports courts, play grounds, picnic shelters, fire pits, fast pitch and baseball fields. As Nicole noted below, Jim Rains is moving on to Public Works and Heather Brennan will be retiring. We wish them the very best and thank them for their years of service with us. Valora Sandstrom has retired from her position as Administrative Assistant. I am grateful to Valora for her years of service and care and consideration she showed managing Grand View Cemetery for the City. Victoria Wong has joined our team as our new Administrative Assistant starting April 1. She has shown grace under fire during this hectic time.

The situation with COVID-19 and all the services we provide can change rapidly. Please check our website for updates: anacorteswa.gov

Thank you. Jonn Lunsford

Park Manager Update-

- GRASS is growing and the crew is doing their best to stay on top of all the mowing/ trimming.
- Dustin South, our Recreation Manager, is helping the crew and has become our main Grand View Cemetery mower. We thank him for all of his hard work. Travis Anderson, our Recreation Coordinator, has also been helping the crew out with anything that is asked of him from sanitization to mowing with the trim crew. We appreciate all of his hard work.
- Jim Rains has been taking the lead on the Washington Park Pedestal's for the C Section he is close to being finished with them.
- There has been a lot of covid monitoring at our parks, trail heads and parking lots. Parks Crew has played an important role in trying to keep our parks and trails open while encouraging the public to social distance themselves.
- Staff News: Heather Brennan is getting ready to retire, her last day will be in early July, and Jim Rains is moving departments and will start working for the Waste Water Treatment Plant as an operator starting June 1. We are happy for Jim, but we will be sad to see him leave.
- Washington Park Campground has remained open. We have modified what campsites are open, keeping only half of our sites available as helped keeping the campers properly distanced.
- Road Closures: Mt. Erie Road is closed all the time, Little Cranberry Road and Washington Park Loop Road are closed on the weekends which has been helpful with keeping the crowds down.

Looking ahead to what May will bring. I am planning for the crew to keep up on maintaining all of our open spaces, parks and trails the best we can. We will continue to monitor and promote responsible recreation.

Nicole Johnston

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May Parks Commission "Meeting" Report

Over the last several weeks, my daughters have offered me many insights into how one is able to learn about people during a crisis. We have all seen and been in the middle of widely varied circumstances. One thing I am very sure of is the pride I feel working along side the men and women of the Anacortes Parks & Recreation Department. Mayor Gere and Director Jonn Lunsford have gone to great lengths to keep our parks and forest lands available to our citizens when they need them most. Many visitors and locals alike have been frustrated by the modifications in service we have been forced to make, but all the while our staff has been working hard to provide for our community.

Tasks like restroom cleaning and garbage rounds have not waned during this pandemic. Trails and beaches are open for walks, and Picket Pocket Park was opened. Our utility upgrade project in "C" section at the Washington Park campground is close to completion. Burials at Grandview Cemetery are respectfully handled, and we are all working to make sure social distancing is practiced by our staff, as well as the recreating public.

As the Governor's Stay Home / Stay Healthy order remains in place, we ask that our citizens be patient with all of our temporary signage explaining our temporary policies. Please know that we are taking very seriously the work involved with making difficult decisions every day that are contrary to our traditional and powerful mission. Our commitment to the mental and physical health of this community remains strong. The delivery of this will continue to vary as we all work our way through this very challenging time. It is our great pleasure to serve as your Parks & Recreation Team.

Bob Vaux, Assistant Director

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