



ANACORTES PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT

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

Parks & Recreation Advisory Commission

Preliminary Agenda

City Hall – 904 6th Street

July 14, 2020

MEETING CANCELLED DUE TO COVID-19

**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 July 2020

Parks Maintenance Administration
Highlights for the Parks Commission
July 2020 Meeting

Seems like everything is prefaced with some statement about strange times these days. Glad we got that out of the way.

Since we were last in touch Summer officially started, and we are doing our best with less, just like everywhere and everyone else. We have seen a retirement from as well as a transfer out of our Parks Maintenance Team, and I must tell you how proud I am of those remaining men and women who are bringing it every day, from Washington Park to Grand View Cemetery, and all points in between. You might notice a few places that don't seem to be receiving their normal amount of attention. These are the realities of the day, and we keep doing our best to get everywhere possible week in and week out. A special thank you to our Rec Division, Dustin and Travis, for answering the maintenance bell in lieu of their normal routine, which, of course, is anything but.

I would also like to take a minute to thank and acknowledge the fantastic budget work Director Lunsford has been doing with Finance Director Hogland and Mayor Gere. The Anacortes Parks & Recreation Department remains in-tact and hard at work, while many departments throughout the country, and as near as Mount Vernon and Burlington, have been decimated by budget cuts. I can promise you our team is earning the opportunity to do what we do every day.

Our team did complete the utility upgrade to "C" section in the Washington Park campground, just in time to reopen in June, and fully reopen as of July 1st. All sites in A, B and C sections are now available for camping. The Group Camp remains temporarily shuttered. The work done by our team with support from VECA electrical contractors looks fantastic, and all the in-house ingenuity and labor saved the City tens of thousands of dollars. We are hoping to pursue a similar project in "A" section in the spring of 2021.

I have been spending a fair amount of time in the field since the pandemic hit. It's no secret that use of the parks and forest lands has been intense throughout the spring and early summer. Combining this with some temporary reductions in service and facilities, there have been many opportunities to interface with our user groups, out of town guests and folks just looking to share their theories and opinions on life and how to live it.

I have been out most of the last two weeks with some vacation and non-covid health issues. I am very happy to be back, and look forward to answering any questions you might have.

Be Well,
Robert W. Vaux
July 6, 2020

Parks Maintenance Update/Nicole Johnston

*Opened up Washington Park Camping to 2/3 capacity and plan to open up the entire campground starting July 1st. Washington Park has been busy with boaters, campers, and all the other park visitors. The beach fire pit have also been opened and Washington Park staff has been encouraging groups to stay 5 or less per fire pit during Phase Two.

*ACFL has been staying busy, we took away all of our parking limit signs once we entered into Phase Two. The ACFL crew has been able to trim all the trails already around Heart Lake, which we think is SUPER impressive.

*Grand View Cemetery Expansion Update- We are set to go to City Council for the Conditional Use Permit on July 20th.

*Crew has been busy with big mowing and small mowing and lots of TRIMMING all over.

*HUGE thanks to Fidalgo Rotary Club for weeding the flower beds in front of the Depot and for weeding the flower beds at Causland. This has been so nice to have volunteers reach out and want to help keep our parks looking good. Also, we have a group of volunteers who live on 10th Street weed the flower beds at the library.

*We had some vandalism to the Storvik Park tables that were on the spray pad. We have removed them from the Park for now, but we are looking to replace the tables or try to come up with a solution for a repair for the seats.

*Our ballfields are open to groups of 5 or less at a time. Daniels Field and MDD field have had a consistent number of people using the fields. No formal practices or tournaments have been scheduled at this time on our fields. With Adult Softball League around the corner we will get a volunteer group and ask the crew to spend some time getting Island View Rotary Field ready for games.

*Group picnic shelters and playgrounds are still CLOSED. Keeping people off the playgrounds has been a challenge for the crew. We have posted signs, used caution tape and often remind people of the rules. We will all be happy once we can open up the playgrounds again.

*Crew Updates...it has been helpful having a few seasonal staff work in the ACFL, WP and sanitation. Parks Crew is still appreciating the help we have been getting from the Recreation team (Travis and Dustin). Heather Brennan has her last day July 6.

Park and Recreation Update / Jonn Lunsford

- We bid farewell to Sally Hill and Heather Brennan this month. Sally worked for over 30 years at our Senior Activity Center and just retired this month. She has been a great leader and a respected advisor for senior services in our community. Heather Brennan worked for over 15 years in our parks maintenance. If any of you or your children played on baseball, fastpitch or soccer fields through city programs, Heather was largely responsible for keeping everything in great shape. Our sincere thanks to Sally and Heather, happy retirement.

- Dustin has been working on our Depot Plaza Restroom Project. Thanks to him for coordinating everything. We are waiting for engineered drawings from our consultant. Special thanks to Tim Hohmann from our Public Works Engineering Department for his assistance.

- I am working on some preliminary designs for a new memorial wall at Causland Park. We can have a discussion and take public comment when we are able to meet in person, or establish a program for video meetings. Questions via email or phone are welcome anytime.