

Rotary Club's proposal for Cap Sante park heard by public

CALEB SPROUS

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Members of the Anacortes public attended a presentation by the Anacortes Rotary Club and the city's Parks and Recreation Department regarding proposed changes to the Cap Sante Summit Viewpoint on Dec. 12.

Prior to the meeting held at the city council chambers, members of the public were able to view design layouts of the proposed changes.

The proposal includes a 1,950 square foot viewing platform with panoramic views of Mount Baker and Padilla Bay, as well as a two-tiered platform with seating and ramps, and planters to divide the viewing platform from the parking lot which will include 23 stalls.

The meeting was largely informational as it began with a presentation and concluded with a question and answer segment.

City of Anacortes Parks and Recreation Director John Lunsford, Anacortes Rotary Club President Lindy Reno and Rotarian Ron Litzinger led the discussion on the project.

The project represents a public-private partnership between the two entities that began in 2018. According to a news release, the Anacortes Rotary Club has raised over \$400,000 for the project. The expected cost of the project is \$550,000.

Previously, the Anacortes Rotary Club, in conjunction with the city, upgraded the Rotary Viewpoint Trail with kiosk signs, new walking connections and directional signposts in 2022.

More **PARK** | **A3**

Park/ from A1

“This project is more than just a physical transformation of 1,950 square feet,” Reno said. “It symbolizes our commitment to the community.”

A major element of the project highlighted by the presenters was ensuring it was ADA accessible for individuals with disabilities and for the elderly.

The project will also showcase Anacortes history through the use of interpretive signs, Reno said.

“We are pleased to enter the next phase of the permit application process this month with the intent of construction beginning spring of 2024,” Reno said.

The project would require the clearing of 4,800 square feet and the



IMAGE PROVIDED BY ANACORTES ROTARY CLUB

A rendering of the Cap Sante Summit project.

removal and replacement of native shrubs at a two-to-one ratio, according to comments by Litzinger at the presentation.

Following the presentation, a question and

answer segment opened in which community members not only asked questions but expressed their current viewpoints on the project.

Some members of the

community expressed concerns that the project would bring increased vehicle traffic to the area. Lunsford told the audience of Anacortes residents that the goal of the project is

to “get people out of their cars” to enjoy nature.

An additional concern was raised by two community members regarding the impact the project may have on the local deer population. The community members were particularly concerned the deer would have nowhere to go and would find themselves on the lawns of Anacortes homes and in the streets.

Another public commenter raised concerns about maintenance of the park after the project was completed.

“We understand that ongoing maintenance is a concern,” Litzinger said.

“So, when you look at the design we selected ... we specifically went with a rock platform because it’s much lower maintenance than our other designs.”

While the project is a public-private partnership, the responsibility of maintenance will fall on the city’s Parks and Recreation Department, according to comments from Litzinger.

The Cap Sante viewpoint project is slated to enter the next phase of its permit application process this month.

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