



yachats youth

and family activities program

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September 6, 2020

TO: Members of the Parks and Commons

FROM: Yachats Youth Program Board

RE: Proposal for YYFAP to move Offices and Afterschool to City Hall Space including the storage room, bathroom and offices down the hall

The board of directors of the Youth Program would like to respectfully submit a proposal to move our office and afterschool program to the Commons space that is currently occupied by Yachats City Hall.

The youth program has been in existence now for 25 years. As time has gone by it has grown in scope and service. The City and Parks and Commons have been great supporters, and we are appreciative. Our early childhood programs are in rooms 4 and 7 upstairs in the Commons and we have worked to make improvements to those spaces, through grants and donations.

Currently our afterschool program, offices, and kitchen are in the basement. While we appreciate the structural changes that made staying in the basement more safe, there is still a concern for children and staff evacuating in an earthquake, fire or Tsunami. There are also no bathrooms and review by a certified plumber made it clear they could not be added down there. The basement has never been ADA accessible. If we move our afterschool program to the upstairs space we would be able to accommodate children with special needs if they wished to attend our program. Our licensing has granted us a waiver thus far, but the Childcare Division actually requires ADA accessibility.

The square footage of 750 square feet would allow us to have up to 21 children afterschool, so long as we continue to also have access to the gym

on most rainy days, and the playground on sunny ones. We do not feel there would be much that would need structural change, it looks like we can make the space work by tearing down the counter, doing some patch work, bringing up cubbies from downstairs and perhaps putting in some new carpet, and some other items we may find once we get in and start working on the space. YYFAP would cover the costs of adjustments needed to make the space better suited to our use.

Given the new requirements for spacing of office staff due to Covid, the upstairs offices would allow our staff to have their own workstations and not have to share air space and germs. We would also have a space to store documents which are now stored under the upstairs bathrooms.

We would be interested in moving our kitchen and cooking operations upstairs too, if we could share the space in that larger kitchen. We have shared in the past when the basement was not safe and it worked well. We have been cooking in the basement for the last seven or eight years all the while fighting a rodent population that is common in old basements.

At this point we will be beginning our preschool year remotely, and at present, given Covid, we don't plan to hold afterschool activities until next school year. If Covid allows we may open for other programming and summer camp next year.

So in essence, we can be very flexible with the city as they vacate the premises. If there is a need for storage, etc. as they get settled into their new space, this could be accommodated.

Our office hours are flexible, especially during Covid, but staff could be in the building from 8 am to 6:30 pm. The kitchen space would be used from 10:30 am to 4:30 pm most days, once we reopen and children are in the building for preschool. Afterschool runs 3:45-6:00 pm and would be in that space upon reopening. (Fall 2021 is our current plan.) Summer programs if we are able to have them, run usually M-TH and either from 9-1 or 10-2 (so midday) in that school aged space. (We usually run them in the preschool room too.)

Again, we have appreciated the support of the City and the Parks & Commons Committee members throughout the years. We feel the Youth Program is a vital resource for the citizens and working members of this community. We hope you will give consideration to our proposal to move

upstairs to a safer, cleaner, more accessible space for our community's youth.

Respectfully,

The Yachats Youth & Family Activities Board of Directors
and Alice Beck, Executive Director