

## City of Yachats

### Parks and Commons Commission Meeting Feb 18, 2021 2:00p.m.

#### Call to Order

Chair Dawn Keller called to order the February 18, 2021 meeting of the Parks and Commons Commission at 2:00 p.m. on Zoom. Members present were: Linda Johnson, Dean Shrock, Craig Berdie, Dawn Keller, & Michael Hempen. From the Trails Committee were: Joanne Kittel & Bob Langley. From the City Office were: Kimmie Jackson & Heather Hoen. And from Finance, Don Groth.

#### Reports & Items for Discussion and Decisions

Facilities Manager Hoen gave an update on the painting colors/estimates, the possibility of getting dimmer switches for the Commons, and the current state of purchasing the dishwasher including what size, price, etc. There was discussion about whom to consult for further information. Ms. Hoen also mentioned that she had not received a response from the county pertaining to the possibility of having a basement apartment in the Commons.

Joanne Kittel and Bob Langley then gave an update on the upkeep of trails which traversed both public and private lands. The Trails Committee requested that it be informed of and consulted on anything related to the town's trails (and parks) - planning, development, implementation, & maintenance. *A motion to this effect was passed unanimously by the Commission and was sent to the City Council for approval.*

The Trails Committee also requested that it be empowered to manage its own financial obligations within the guidelines set by the annual budget (as was done previously) and that requisitions be given to Ms. Hoen who would serve as liaison between the Trails Committee and the Finance Committee. The Trails Committee also requested that it have autonomy in terms of scheduling work sessions following, of course, guidelines pertaining to the covid pandemic. (These requests were acceptable to the Commission.)

The Trails Committee also requested that the Commission "endorse, recommend, and champion" the Trails Committee in regard to its work on the 57 meter boardwalk on Oceanview Drive. There was considerable discussion r/t engineering, cost, process, and construction of this project. *It was moved to request that the City Council approve the process of soliciting engineering and design bids for the Oceanview Boardwalk Project using existing budgeted funds (\$50,000) with the purpose of eventually selecting a vendor for said project. The motion passed unanimously and was sent to the City Council for approval.*

Finally, there was discussion r/t replacing rotting/rotten sections of the existing boardwalk in the wetlands area. Ms. Hoen was tasked with finding out who is responsible for this section of infrastructure.

Tara DuBois from the Cape Perpetua Collaborative gave a report on the interpretive signs that were being designed and created for placement in specific locales in the area (generally along established trails). She spoke of the size, content, and placement of such signs; the Trails Committee pledged to continue to assist Ms. DuBois with these interpretive signs. *It was moved to seek approval from the City Council for the placement of these interpretive signs (as designated on the provided map). The motion passed unanimously and was sent to the City Council for approval.*

Wally Orchard (in a previous request) asked that four houses be allowed to be placed in the wetlands park for nesting swallows. *The motion was moved and passed unanimously to allow this project to move forward.*

### **New Commission Member**

George Mazeika's application was accepted and he was interviewed by Commission members for the vacant Commission position. *It was moved that George Mazeika be recommended to the City Council for the appointment to the open Commission seat. This motion was also passed unanimously and sent to the City Council.*

### **Feedback & Discussion on the Craig Berdie Proposal for the Open Commons Space.**

There was considerable discussion r/t how to move this proposal/project forward. Internal discussion among the commissioners centered around what functions, projects, structures, process, etc. would be desirable in reference to this project. Commissioner Berdie requested that his fellow commissioners submit written suggestions (with rank order percentages) to him to be collected and collated. There was also discussion about the possibility of seeking professional polling/survey assistance in terms of garnering the community's preferences. (Additionally, there was brief discussion about another survey which may be requested in the future pertaining to the possible uses of the Commons.)

Discussion, discussion, discussion...

It was generally accepted that Commissioner Berdie would gather written material from the commissioners, compile the data, and that further information from the Yachats community be collected based on that initial data and the ensuing Commission discussion.

### **Additional Comments & Odds 'n' Ends**

Chair Keller mentioned that she would be writing a brief monthly newsletter article highlighting things the Commission is working on. She stated that if and when needed, the newsletter could be a means of requesting information from the public in regards to future Commission projects.

Commissioner Hempen reported on his and Commissioner Johnson's work on the projects pertaining to the outside of the Commons. He requested funds (\$25,000?) to help begin both natural (arboreal) and construction improvements and said that as work progressed, additional funds will be applied for (also with the assistance from grants).

After a brief discussion revolving around the State Park, the meeting adjourned at approximately 4:20 p.m.