

City of Yachats

Parks and Commons Commission Meeting

March 2, 2021

Call to Order

Chair Dawn Keller called to order the March 2, 2021 meeting of the Parks and Commons Commission at 2:02 p.m. on Zoom. Members present were: Linda Johnson, Dean Shrock, Craig Berdie, George Maizeika (awaiting appointment), Dawn Keller, & Michael Hempen. Missing: Scott Gordan. From the Trails Committee: Bob Langley and Joanne Kittel. From the City Office: Kimmie Jackson & Heather Hoen.

Reports

Bob Langley from *the Trails Committee* gave a report on the hiker counter (Ya'Xaik Trail), interpretative signs being placed, an internationally-known architect to help with the boardwalk (he is to be in Yachats on 3/4/21 to meet with the group), and gravel being delivered for trails maintenance. Design options and a schedule pertaining to the boardwalk were presented by Bob Langley & Joanne Kittel. Questions related to trail maintenance (Aqua Vista Loop) were asked and responded to. Commissioner Johnson brought up a concern regarding the ivy-covered trees in the Koho area; discussion regarding the removal of this (and other!) ivy was held by the group. Trails will take this under consideration. Joanne Kittel also spoke of the brochures available in the various boxes found throughout the community. Volunteers will keep these boxes replenished. Discussion was held regarding the "Corten" barrier which is being considered for the guard rail along Ocean View Drive. Commissioner Berdie made *a recommendation to the Council to consider that the guard rail along this area be more aesthetically pleasing in creating a park-like atmosphere. The Commission passed this recommendation unanimously.* Finally, Commissioner Hempen gave an update on the "Big Tree Area" and that Trails will work on maintaining this area. Commissioners Hempen, Keller, and Berdie expressed their appreciation for the work of the Trails Committee.

Pending Business

Chair Keller gave an update on past recommendations made by the Commission to the Council and where these proposals are in process. Commissioner Berdie asked about the capital fund projects, designated funds, and the operating budget regarding planning for upcoming projects. He recommended that considerations pertaining to the budget be placed on upcoming agendas. Discussion regarding capital improvements (e.g., kitchen furnishings) was engaged in and enjoyed by the group.

Updates on Ongoing Projects

Commissioner Berdie presented an update on the Commons grounds project. Discussion by the group followed with ideas about what items (e.g., plants, buildings, amphitheater, fire pit, etc.) could be included in this project.

The Commission then looked at how best to proceed both with ideas relating to this area as well as how to offer various cost/benefit options. Included in this discussion was the utilization of outside resource people to help visualize options for the Commons grounds. Commissioner Berdie also offered to look at pricing for possible/individual projects in this area. The Commission also discussed ideas pertaining to the future maintenance of this area.

Members then spoke of how to elicit information regarding the use of the Commons and the open grounds. (Future) Commissioner Maizeika volunteered to write a (very brief!) newsletter article requesting community input regarding these areas.

New Business

Chair Keller brought to the Commission a 2017 report detailing what areas the commission/city is responsible for in regards to parks/open areas; should this master plan be updated with new areas to be included? Various areas in the city were examined and discussed as well as the process as to how to amend the Master Plan. Commissioner Hempen proposed that *the Commission recommend that the Ocean View Drive (Peace Pole Pocket) and Prospect Parks (as far as Radar) be added to the Parks and Open Space Master Plan of 2017 and that this proposal be forwarded for approval to the City Council. The motion passed unanimously.*

In other business, Commissioner Hempen asked Facilities Manager Hoen about the possibility of making the pavilion more water-resistant. Discussion followed along the lines of how to maintain the pavilion (specifically the floor). Facilities Manager Hoen said that she would be working on the floors but future discussion as to the pavilion's water-resistant status be addressed by the Commission.

At approximately 4:00 p.m., the meeting adjourned.