

City of Yachats

Parks and Commons Commission Meeting

May 4, 2021 - 2:00 p.m.

I. Call to Order

Chair Dawn Keller called to order the May 4, 2021 meeting of the Parks and Commons Commission at 2:00 p.m. on zoom. Members present: Linda Johnson, Dean Shrock, Michael Hempen, Craig Berdie, George Mazeika, Dawn Keller. Member absent: Scott Gordan. From Trails Committee: Joanne Kittel & Bob Langley. From the City Office: Kimmie Jackson & Heather Hoen. From the Council: Ann Stott.

Commissioner Berdie expressed concerns about how to amend the unofficial notes provided prior to the meetings. E-mails containing amendments should be sent to Chair Keller. Chair Keller also expressed thanks to Commissioner Berdie for developing, collecting, and processing the surveys regarding the Commons Green Space.

II. Reports

Chair Keller said she would be meeting with Carl Miller from the Little Log Church soon. The quarterly financial report was received. The Trails Committee gave its report regarding the applied-for grant as well as sought feedback from the Commission regarding the Boardwalk Project and the possible features to be included in the project. Discussion followed with the Commission generally agreeing to have the project include look-outs (viewing station(s)) overlooking the bay. The pros and cons of using gravel and/or wood and having a boardwalk and/or sidewalk were also discussed. Commissioner Berdie asked if the businesses along this stretch of walk had been contacted. Commissioner Hempen also brought up the original intent of furthering the Oregon Coast Trail aspect of this project. After clarification regarding amenity vs. utility, gravel vs. boardwalk, Commissioner Hempen proposed that the Commission pass on a vote to the City Council that an amenity model for the walkway be adopted by the city. The proposal/motion passed unanimously. (It was also understood that this model would be in compliance with the state's purpose for the trail.) Further discussion was held regarding the use of "delineators" or an equivalent which would be used to provide safety along this walkway. Trails will keep the Commission informed as to what precisely will be used as this project progresses.

Commissioner Hempen then proposed that a subcommittee be formed to look into the phased upgrades to the Commons front, north end, and parking areas in

order to move these improvements along. The Commission discussed the time frame, budget, and the extent of the remodeling that needs to be done.

Commissioner Hempen expressed the urgency of getting the sidewalk repaired first due to safety considerations.

Commissioner Johnson pointed out the presence of the POW/MIA flag in front of the Commons. Discussion followed. Commissioner Hempen volunteered to look into the history of the placement of this flag in Yachats. Chair Keller also requested that Commissioner Mazeika write a small article for the newsletter regarding this flag. He agreed to do this as well as put this on the Yachats Facebook page.

III. Business

Chair Keller brought up the issue about the Commission's plan to assist in re-opening the Commons. Concerns including legal issues, immunity, and safety procedures (e.g., cleaning, testing, etc.) were introduced and discussed. (Please refer to the attached packet.) Discussion regarding the necessity of hiring help and/or using volunteers to help with re-opening followed.

Commissioner Berdie brought up the possibility of having a staged contingency plan which would be updated/phased as the virus situation changes.

Commissioner Hempen also brought up the consideration of how to manage the building given different occupancy contingencies utilizing different configurations of hired and/or volunteer help. The idea of having someone living on (or near) site (e.g., in an RV on the property) was introduced for discussion. Chair Keller brought up the idea of (re-)forming a group similar to the former Friends of the Commons group which would help facilitate the re-opening of the Commons.

The feasibility of having volunteers do this work was questioned by Commissioner Berdie. Commissioner Mazeika also questioned the ability of the Commission to move forward on this issue without knowing if the Council would fund hiring a person to do/oversee this monitoring work. Chair Keller proposed a model where the community and not the city would be responsible for the scheduling and upkeep of the Commons. Commissioner Berdie suggested that interest be solicited from the community regarding this model. Until that time, he also stated that more concrete steps be taken toward opening the Commons.

The discussion returned to the possibility of having someone be hired to monitor and oversee what is necessary to re-open the Commons (i.e., someone living onsite). Commissioner Berdie then said that the Commission propose a system be put in place to have the Commons be opened in regard to monitoring and cleaning the facility. Such a system would delineate what kinds of groups could use the Commons and what each specific group would need to do to follow reasonable guidelines pertaining to distancing, cleanliness, etc. Commissioner

Shrock suggested, with Commissioner Johnson's agreement, that the Council needs to hire someone to monitor and maintain the Commons.

Commissioner Berdie proposed that the Commission request that the Council acquire/hire a person to clean, maintain, monitor, and secure the Commons.

The Commissioners voted unanimously for this proposal giving their individual reasons for doing so with the exception of Chair Keller who voted in the negative giving her reasons for doing so.

Commissioner Berdie then proposed that once Lincoln County reaches Medium Risk, the Commons be opened to physical and non-physical activities using county recommendations r/t covid considerations.

The Facilities Manager would follow all protocols and would use her discretion in the re-opening of the Commons to specific groups.

Also at that time, Commissioner Berdie also proposed that fees be adjusted by being reduced to 50% for the use of the building.

Prior to the vote, clarification was requested. Patricia (from YYFAP) also gave information regarding her organization and state guidelines pertinent to YYFAP's use of the building and the timeline pertaining to such.

Commissioners Berdie, Hempen, Shrock, and Mazeika all voted in the affirmative whereas Commissioner Johnson and Chair Keller voted in the negative.

Before adjournment, Facilities Manager Hoen answered Commissioner Hempen's questions regarding gutters and outside color for the Commons. She also answered a question regarding the facility's ventilation system posed by Commissioner Berdie.

In regards to the newsletter, it was agreed that Chair Keller would write an article soliciting interest in volunteering for the monitoring and maintenance of the Commons as well as a possibility of forming a community group similar to the Friends of the Commons.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 4:20 p.m.

The following is an addendum to the April 2021 notes (top of page 2):

Commissioner Johnson asked about opening plans for the Commons;

Ms. Hoen said that no plans were made yet but that reservations were being taken for the future (along with the pavilion). Commissioner Berdie expressed that the Commission should consider that the Commons **will be fully open** in September and the **budget should reflect this**. Chair Keller suggested that

volunteers may need to be recruited to help with opening the Commons. Commissioner Berdie reported that **he has revised the Commons Open Space Survey based on reviewers' comments** ~~he is developing a survey to elicit information from the community regarding the~~. He requested ideas from the Commission as to how to get the survey out (and returned). Ms. Kittel and Ms. Hoen (along with Chair Keller) gave ideas of distributing the survey in various places in the community (e.g., City Hall, restaurants, the Visitor Center, online, etc.). Discussion ensued. Ms. Stott suggested that Ms. Jackson's drop box be used as a collection point. Commissioner Berdie said he would proceed with the survey. Ms. Jackson gave guidance about the distribution of the survey.