

To: Yachats City Council Members
Members of the Parks and Commons Commission
Yachats City Manager and Mayor

From: The Yachats Youth and Families Activities Program Board

Date: June 7, 2021

RE: Updates and Resumption of In Person Activities

As you know, in March of 2020 in response to the pandemic, the Yachats Youth and Family Activities Program (YYFAP) suspended all in person programs. Now that Lincoln County has been permanently designated “Low Risk” and we are seeing an increase in demand for our services, YYFAP has recently started preparing for a return to in-person activities in the spaces we rent in the Yachats Commons building.

The grant funding which we receive that allows us to provide free pre-school and youth programs requires that we transition back to in-person programming this summer. In addition to this requirement to maintain funding, we also feel strongly that it is the right thing to do for the families and children in our community.

We would like to assure you that the resumption plan required by the Oregon Health Authority and the Early Learning Division for in-person programming includes strict measures to ensure that we are safeguarding the health of our staff, children, and others. Under current regulations, parents/guardians will not be allowed in the building but must drop off and pick up their children outside. Daily health checks, mask mandates, and increased sanitation protocols are required and will be strictly followed.

As long-term renters of dedicated space at the Yachats Commons, we have worked hard to be good tenants. In 2009, YYFAP entered into a long-term lease agreement with the City for dedicated space in the Commons, with a 50 year option for annual renewal. Over the years, we have made significant improvements to the spaces we occupy and we contribute \$400 a month in rent in support of the Commons. We continued to pay monthly rent throughout the pandemic, even though programs were shuttered and we were not occupying these allotted spaces.

When the City vacated its offices in the Commons and discussions were occurring around the possibility of renting out that space, we were approached and asked to submit a proposal for consideration. We did so in good faith, but doing so has apparently caused upset as we have been informed that some perceived our proposal as YYFAP attempting to take over the Commons. That was certainly not our intent. We value our relationship

with the City and community and the proposal was developed with an eye towards increasing the safety of our youth by moving them out of the basement while also doubling rents paid to further support the upkeep of the Commons facilities.

YYFAP's mission is to provide a safe and supportive environment for children, to be an advocate for youth and families, and to provide and encourage activities that integrate youth into the community. We truly believe that YYFAP and our youth are assets to the community, and that the safe, educational programs that we provide help to meet current needs and ensure a strong future for Yachats. Having dedicated space is needed to maintain our status as a Certified Childcare Center and provides security for our staff and the families that depend on our programs.

As we begin planning to resume activities, we are excited to welcome new staff that will work together and with volunteers to provide high quality summer camp, preschool, and afterschool programs for the youth and families that live and work in our community. Moving forward, we will be conducting a needs assessment to help us look to the future as we revamp current programs and develop new ones that will continue to serve youth, family, and community needs. We look forward to sharing the results with you when available.

Attached for your reference is the most recent snapshot of our programs (before the pandemic hit) showing audiences served, as well as volunteer contributions and funding sources. Please let us know if you have any questions or concerns, ideas for improving communication, or if you have suggestions about how we can better serve the needs of the youth and families that live and work in our community. We are always willing to attend Commission and Council meetings to address any additional concerns you may have regarding our plans and/or operations.

yachats youth and family activities program

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49 % live in Yachats

41 % live in Waldport

10 % live elsewhere (Seal Rock, Tidewater, Ten Mile, etc.)

our income:



Volunteers gave us over **1300** hours of their time

we served:

822 meals at Families Together to

98 different families

37 children at Rec+

30 preschool children from September to June

21 school-aged children during summer camp

15 preschool summer campers

22 swimmers and water safety learners

53 children plus caregivers at Indoor Park

We are a certified childcare program and a USDA Food and Nutrition Program through the Oregon Department of Education.

We are proud of our summer water safety/swimming program, which we can offer thanks to Ken and Mary Aebi and the Quiet Water Homeowners' Association.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.