

Citizen Involvement in Yachats Government

1. The best route for Yachats citizens to be involved in city government is by volunteering to be on one of Yachats commissions, by attending meetings of City Council and other commissions, and by participating in public input at appropriate times.
2. Other than being a member of a commission, the primary impetus for citizen involvement in Yachats government should come from the non-commissioner citizens themselves. There is a such a group that has expressed interest and a willingness to participate in all facets of city government; namely, the Yachats Action Alliance.
3. If the Planning Commission is leading the effort to solicit citizen involvement, this is the best place to start. What are *their* priorities, what would *they* like to see happen, and what would that involvement look like? Then we step back and let the group direct and determine what is most important to them. The YAA would need to identify a spokesperson who is a good communicator and who would best represent the interests of their group. A written report from them sent to the relevant commission and, optionally, to the city newsletter would be the best means of communication. This should be followed by a request to be on a commission's agenda to present their ideas.

Other thoughts

- We should be cautious about recommending that city staff be assigned to spend time on any new project. They are already overstretched. Any participation by city staff or commissioners should be willing and voluntary.
- Although the Planning Commission takes on special projects (e.g., lighting and fence ordinances, updating the Comprehensive Plan, parking solutions, and now perhaps a CIC), much of our monthly meeting time is not flexible. When there is a conditional use or building variance request or a Public Hearing, a lot of City Planner and planning commissioner time is required and has precedence over other activities.
- It would be helpful to have a clear understanding of Planning Commission priorities and their rank outside of our required activities (conditional use, building variance, Public Hearing, etc.). Where does establishing a CIC/CCI fit into our priorities? It will happen occasionally that our priorities need adjusting. When and by what criteria do our priorities get reassigned? At a minimum, we should publicly discuss when our priorities have changed.

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Planning Commissioner
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