

February 2022 – Planning Commission

Re: Commission goals for 2022

From: Jacqueline Danos

It seems that the first goal that the Planning Commission has set for itself is the creation of a Committee for Citizen Involvement or Citizen Involvement Committee. With a concern over the lack of communication between the citizens of Yachats, Mayor and Council, and the various City Commissions this seems to be a good start to the administrative new year. My strong inclination when developing the structure of such a committee is to start with questions about why create this committee and an outline of what a committee such as this is not and then develop the outline of what a committee could be and what might be expected of it.

Questions of “why”?

1. What issue or issues is Yachats currently dealing with that warranted the suggestion of this committee now?
2. What is the hole within Yachats land use planning that this committee would be filling?
3. What has changed recently that makes it the right time for this committee to be created or resurrected?
4. Has there been a strong push by members of the community to have more involvement in land use planning?
5. Has there been a strong push by members of the community requesting more dissemination of information to the community regarding land use planning?
6. Is communication between the City Council and the various Yachats Commissions and Committees enabling information about land use to be shared and incorporated into city decisions? If so, why a CIC/CCI? If not, would a CIC/CCI be the impetus for better information sharing?

What a CCI is not:

1. An advocacy group that rallies citizens to support or not support specific projects proposed within Yachats.
2. An advisory or decision-making committee.

What a CCI is:

1. A committee that aids the City in expanding the delivery of information regarding land use issues, meetings, and projects to a larger percentage of the Yachats community.
2. A committee that monitors and reports what is happening on the various Yachats Commissions and City Council with regards to land use projects.
3. A committee that helps the City Planner and City Manager post updates on projects in ways that the information can reach a larger percentage of the Yachats community
4. The committee to which citizens can come with ideas and views regarding current and potential land use issues so that these ideas can be shared with the various City Commissions and City Council

Type of Work Assigned:

1. With direction from the City Planner the committee might be involved with advertising upcoming land use meetings, writing monthly newsletter updates, monitoring the Community Voice section of the city website, coordinating the sharing of information between the various commissions and City Council, being the “go to” committee for citizens to access informational and educational materials such as lighting ordinance guidelines, water conservation systems, green development, etc.

The second priority of the Planning Commission is bringing the Comprehensive Plan and the supporting Municipal Code up to date. Without a strong Comprehensive Plan, and a supportive code backing it, code enforcement becomes weak, development might not meet community standards and desires, and economic resilience can be at risk. This is a project that the newly established CIC/CCI would be very useful with. Yachats has received grants for housing and a parking study both of which are part of the Comprehensive Plan. Having assistance with community outreach will be much appreciated by this Commission since there will be definite need for outreach withing the work of these grants.

With a new City Manager starting this month and the creation of a Committee for Citizen Involvement cross disciplinary work between the Parks & Commons, Public Works & Streets, and the Planning Commissions can begin. By having the Planning Commission work with the other Commissions more directly my hope would be that defined implementation plans can be developed through better communication and integration of work being done under the umbrella of the Comprehensive Plan. Examples of projects that are directly related to some specific goals of the Comprehensive Plan are broken down below.

A. Comprehensive Plan Areas for Review

1. Goals A thru C pertain to the protection of natural resources such as estuarine and shoreline.
 - a. The City Planner is currently working to update the Wetlands Inventory. Once that update has been completed a better review of these sections can take place.
2. Goal E – Protection from Natural Hazards and Disasters
 - a. The recent Hazard Mitigation update that was done should be officially incorporated into the Comprehensive Plan.
3. Goal F – Providing Recreation Opportunities
 - a. The Parks & Commons Commission has been doing work on the following projects:
 - An update to the Community Park which needs to be incorporated into the Comprehensive Plan.
 - The Little Log Church is on the list of possible funding for a remodel.
 - Developing a formal plan for how the Commons Building is used by YYFAP, public events, and the Community at large.
4. Goal G – Control of Urban Growth & Form and Goal J – Meeting Housing Needs
 - a. With the start of the two Housing Grants Yachats has received, the Housing Needs Assessment and Housing Production Strategy, a review for these goals will be completed.
5. Goal I – Provide Adequate Public Services
 - a. Yachats has completed a 20-Year Water Master Plan and a Source Water Protection Plan which the Public Works & Streets Commission will be working on. Both plans influence how Yachats develops into the future. Costs associated with delivering water and handling wastewater, conservation initiatives, and code updates all are important issues with regards to the future of water, and therefore economic development and land use, in Yachats.
6. Goal K – Public Involvement in Land Use Planning
 - a. With the current discussion toward creating a Citizen Involvement Committee or Committee for Citizen Involvement, and the implementation of a committee, this section of the Comprehensive Plan will be able to be updated.
7. Goal M – Transportation
 - a. The existing circulation plan was developed in the 1990s and needs to be updated and properly incorporated into the Comprehensive Plan. The Trails Committee has worked with Public Works to install delineators along Ocean View Drive as part of the transfer of the road into the City's

hands. This project, along with the “Boardwalk” plan should be folded into a revised circulation plan for the city so that pedestrians, bicyclists, and drivers can share the road safely.

- b. There has been discussion by the City Council due to input from a citizen about bicycle racks being installed at city owned properties and local businesses. This should be done in conjunction with developing a bicycle infrastructure that is incorporated into the circulation plan, the community park plan, and the trails plans through the work with the Public Works & Streets Commission.
- c. The need for parking is discussed in this section. With the grant received to do a parking study this section will be able to be updated. The parking study will look at more than just parking but at alternatives to driving which will help alleviate some of the need for parking. Those alternatives roll directly into the work of the Public Works & Streets Commission and what trails has been working on.

Section IV - Plan Maps

Currently the Comprehensive Plan does not have up to date maps included. With the housing and parking grants, and the finalization of the Wetlands Inventory, updated GIS maps will be completed and ready for inclusion into an updated Comprehensive Plan. Yachats will also have maps that can be updated, and layers added, as projects and initiatives are brought forward.