

NEED FOR WORKGROUPS

As one of the smallest cities in the NW, Yachats does not generate sufficient revenue to hire staff to take care of all the things citizens typically expect from their city governments --things like police, parks and rec department, library, and many more.

Fortunately, there is a strong sense of community here and numerous people have been willing to volunteer over the years. Many of these people have skills and experience in a number of areas. Volunteers have undertaken tasks that benefit the City and have accomplished things that would not have been feasible otherwise.

Even though not always acknowledged and/or recognized, the City has in some cases created, and in other cases allowed, the formation of work groups. In many cases, workgroups have successfully implemented projects, while supporting facilities and people on an ongoing basis, e.g., Trails Committee and Library Commission. The use of workgroups in this community has proven to be very effective. It has facilitated meaningful interactions between volunteers, City Commissions, and City staff to accomplish projects – some quite major. Most importantly, the workgroup model has helped create *a sense of place* that is particular to Yachats.

To ensure a consistently high standard of volunteerism and transparency, along with the flexibility needed for diverse projects, we propose defining a Workgroup as: “A group of volunteers sponsored by a Commission or City Council empowered to undertake a specific task of limited duration, working with city staff and reporting to the sponsoring entity.”

In order to safeguard the tradition of volunteerism in Yachats, while providing institutional guidance to ensure continuity from one City Manager to the next, we propose that the Council codify the concept of Workgroups in the City Code.

We welcome any questions or comments.

Sincerely,

Bob Langley, George Giroux, and Dan Sterling