

CITY OF YACHATS  
**Parks and Commons Commission**  
**Meeting Summary**  
 May 3, 2022

Present: Adam Altson, Craig Berdie, Catherine Whitten-Carey, Michael Hempen, George Mazeika, Chair, Fran Morse, Dean Shrock, Joann Kittel, Bob Langley, Rick McClung, Quinton Smith, Yachats News, Leon Sterner, Linn West

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

**II. CORRESPONDENCE/ COMMUNICATIONS**

**III. REPORTS**

**A. Trails**

*The recording began while meeting was under way...*

(0:47) Hempen made the motion to **change the name of the Parks and Trails Committee to the Trails Team and the name of Yachats Invasive Plant Subcommittee to Yachats Invasive Plant Squad.**

**Vote:** Adam Altson, yes; Craig Berdie, aye; Catherine Whitten-Carey, yes; Michael Hempen, aye; George Mazeika, Chair, aye; Fran Morse, aye; Dean Shrock, aye. **Motion carried unanimously.**

(1:35) Langley advised that information on the walkway project will be presented to City Council on Thursday, May 5<sup>th</sup>.

(2:28) Kittel advised that Civil West was completing their last project at the bridge. Reminded the Commission that May 21 is the dedication

(3:49) Langley asked McClung what the status was for the delineators.

McClung advised it will be some time. The IGA has not been received from ODOT. Langley then asked if McClung would mind if he (Langley) could contact Janet Berman himself. McClung said that was fine with him.

(5:33) Smith indicated that Parks & Commons needs to have representation at Council meetings. More discussion was held regarding attendance of the City Council meeting and presentation of materials.

(8:37) Smith asked via chat About in-person meetings. Mazeika advised the Civic meeting room has been painted and the carpets need to be cleaned. The decision for in-person meetings will be made by Council.

**B. Little Log Church**

(9:15) Sterner advised there will be a meeting next Wednesday, 4 pm at the Little Log Church and the City Manager will be attending. Discussion had on the quote from the engineers.

**IV. ONGOING BUSINESS**

**A. Pocket Parks**

(10:45) Mazeika advised he emailed the archaeologist but has not heard back from him. Berdie indicated he and Shrock got the plants to the

1 nursery and they will now have to monitor the irrigation system to make  
 2 sure they stay alive. Mazeika advised a response is needed from SHPO  
 3 before proceeding. Discussion held regarding signs and benches and  
 4 getting everything ready to go in.

5 **(13:49)** Whitten-Carey gave an update about signage. Indicated price was  
 6 approximately \$250 to \$300 per sign. Discussion was held regarding the  
 7 price and size of the signs, alternative vendors and sign material.

## 8 **B. Green Space Project**

9 (20:27) Berdie advised only one response has come in for the RFP. It is  
 10 included in the meeting packet. He went on to discuss the status of the  
 11 other firms that were contacted. The wetlands were an issue for one firm  
 12 and Berdie questioned/discussed how to handle that. Should the RFP be  
 13 modified? Discussion continued on the pond and Mazeika asked if there  
 14 has ever been a survey done to determine what is influencing it. Kittel  
 15 suggested contacting the Department of State Land (DSL) to see if they  
 16 would do a study. Discussion continued on how the pond was filled and  
 17 how to proceed, perhaps by doing a wetlands study before continuing the  
 18 Green Space Project. Discussion regarding the proposal from Land  
 19 Current was had.

20 (33:21) West gave his input regarding RFPs and RFQs indicating that  
 21 firms are busy and do not have time to keep responding to requests for  
 22 the same project. He advised not putting out another request and, if  
 23 comfortable with them, to use the firm that did submit and recommend  
 24 them to Council to negotiate with. More discussion held regarding either  
 25 asking Land Current the questions regarding the wetlands or going to  
 26 DSL.

27 (41:28) Berdie made the resolution that **Parks and Commons**  
 28 **recommends Land Current as the proposed vendor for engineering**  
 29 **of the Commons Green Space.**

30 **Vote:** Adam Altson, yes; Craig Berdie, yes; Catherine Whitten-Carey, yes;  
 31 Michael Hempen, yes; George Mazeika, Chair, yes; Fran Morse, yes;  
 32 Dean Shrock, yes. **Motion carried unanimously.** *Altson had a caveat*  
 33 *that the project proceed only if it is not detrimental to the wetlands.*

34 (43:33) Berdie will contact Land Current and let them know to hold a spot  
 35 in their schedule.

36 (44:55) Hempen asked Morphis if the kitchen painting would be complete  
 37 before May 21<sup>st</sup>. Morphis responded that he believed so.

## 38 **C. Commons Painting**

### 39 **1. Interior Update**

40 (43:55) Mazeika advised the painting is moving along nicely and it  
 41 looks fantastic. The main room will be done next week.

1 (45:34) Whitten-Carey thanked Hempen for finding the artist for the  
2 sunflower panels in the kitchen. Hempen advised how the panels will  
3 be handled. Hempen advised that Leon Sterner was able to tell him  
4 who had done the panels.

## 5 **2. Exterior**

6 (46:41) Mazeika indicated that he heard painting will begin in July  
7 which is next fiscal year. He indicated he got his information from the  
8 Yachats News, which is unfortunate. When Hempen questioned if it  
9 was on SeaRose's calendar for July, Mazeika confirmed that it was.

10 (47:38) Discussion regarding inaccurate information, charge letters and  
11 funding

12 (51:00) Sterner interjected that it was his understanding from listening  
13 to the Council meeting that the concern was a matter of sequencing  
14 projects, i.e., if the building was going to be remodeled then painting  
15 should take place after that, so it doesn't have to be done twice. He felt  
16 that was their logic, but there was no one from Parks and Commons to  
17 respond to that.

18 (51:57) Stott spoke to the Commission's frustrations and the process of  
19 getting things done. She explained how Lambert is attempting to  
20 develop policies for all procedures and CIPs so that everything will be  
21 laid out and transparent. She advised there will be a public forum,  
22 hopefully in June. She reiterated what she has said before, Lambert  
23 has had to staff and train City Hall employees, she is working on the  
24 budget, she is dealing with two lawsuits and feels once the budget  
25 process is complete in June, City Hall will be able to work more fully on  
26 working relations with Council and the Commissions.

27 (57:14) Morse questioned if "we" referred to the people currently  
28 involved or if it took into consideration the history of Yachats and the  
29 previous councils, commissions, etc. She indicated it was a matter of  
30 trust.

31 (59:00) Stott responded that she hopes that "we" will refer to everyone  
32 working as a team. She also indicated there are more projects than  
33 there is staff. Morphis will be doing project management with McClung.

34 (1:01:41) Whitten-Carey asked Stott if the exterior painting could be  
35 done since it was approved. Stott's "short answer" was "no". She  
36 asked about moving the vent and doing the portico and if those  
37 projects would affect the painting project. Further discussion was held  
38 regarding the budget and staffing.

39 (1:05:30) Hempen gave some history of the portico project; advised  
40 Loren Dickinson did an artist's rendering of what the portico might look  
41 like. He didn't think the addition would or should change the painting

1 that has already been scheduled. Discussion continued on getting the  
2 painting approved in the 2022/2023 budget.

3 (1:09:33) Groth indicated that \$35K is already in the budget for the  
4 painting and gutters for the next fiscal year.

5 (1:10:55) Mazeika reminded the Commission that the issue with the  
6 paint is that the soffits contain lead paint and SeaRose is licensed for  
7 lead paint removal. SeaRose will remove and dispose the old gutters,  
8 clean and remove the lead from the soffits and repaint.

9 (1:11:47) Whitten-Carey stressed that no staff has been managing the  
10 painting at the Commons, volunteers have been going over and  
11 making sure it is being done properly.

12 **D. Commons Reopening**  
13 **V. NEW BUSINESS**

14 **A. 2022/2023 Budget**

15 (1:12:34) Mazeika indicated he was confused regarding the budget saying  
16 that he felt others were making the Commission's budget decisions for it.

17 (1:13:09) Berdie summarized and reviewed the portico, stairs, landscaping  
18 indicating that would be one project and make the engineering and design  
19 for next year. Discussion continued regarding the budget and then moved  
20 onto timely posting of meetings and documents.

21 **B. Master Plan**

22 (1:21:57) Hempen asked for clarification on how to approach the Master  
23 Plan. Discussion held regarding what Berdie has already put together and  
24 how to present it to Council.

25 (1:23:22) Morse interjected that the Master Plan could be put on the  
26 agenda for next month. Mazeika also advised that Lambert requested the  
27 Commons Usage Policy be reviewed to determine if changes need to be  
28 made and that can also be put on next month's agenda.

29 **VI. OTHER BUSINESS**

30 **A. From Commissioners**

31 (1:24:40) Berdie expressed his disappointment in Lambert not introducing  
32 the new Facilities Manager to the Commission and not advising the  
33 Commission what her duties and expectations are. He indicated he is  
34 feeling ignored and feels that the Commission can help the new Facilities  
35 Manager. Mazeika agreed and indicated that the City Manager has not  
36 spoken to THIS Commission. He also stated that the Facilities Manager  
37 advised she would be at meetings in the future, but she has not been.  
38 Berdie continued, stating that the Commission came up with the job  
39 description and it hasn't even been made known to the Commission if  
40 those expectations were met.

1 (1:31:22) Stott asked the Commission to take a step back and think about  
2 being in the City Manager's shoes. She said the Lambert is providing City  
3 Manager Reports to the Council and those can be read from the Council  
4 Meeting Packet. She is getting a lot of things done and there are a lot of  
5 people asking for her time. She asked that the Commission be respectful  
6 of what Lambert is going through right now.

7 (1:32:35) Hempen asked if the City Manager's report could be sent directly  
8 to the Commission members so they don't have to search for it. Stott  
9 replied that it is her goal to have those on the website. She is going to  
10 forward the last two reports to all the members of this Commission so  
11 everyone can see all that she is getting accomplished. She further stated  
12 that the reports don't include the time spent on the two discriminatory  
13 lawsuits that were filed just before Lambert was hired. One is by an  
14 employee of ten years and there is "tons and tons" of information that has  
15 to be gathered by the staff.

16 (1:34:26) Berdie wanted to know what the lawsuits had to do with the  
17 Facilities Manager performing her job. Stott replied that the staff is being  
18 trained in many aspects of City Hall work and Lambert is still working on  
19 job descriptions and reminded the Commission that even when the  
20 Facilitator is fully trained and doing her job, all staff time requested needs  
21 to go through the City Manager. Discussion continued about how to  
22 continue the Commission's work and support the City Manager.

23 (1:38:37) Morse asked for a volunteer to represent the Commission at the  
24 May and June Commission Chair meetings. Berdie (for a limited period)  
25 and Whitten-Carey said they would do it. Altson said he would attend with  
26 Whitten-Carey. Mazeika advised the May meeting is May 11<sup>th</sup> at 1 pm.

27 **B. From Staff**

28 **C. For Next Agenda**

29 **VII. FROM THE FLOOR**

30 (1:41:16) Altson thanked Mazeika for all he has done and advised he will be  
31 missed. Kittel also indicated Mazeika worked really hard and he has walked  
32 the talk.

33 (1:42:32) Kittel then indicated she heard there was going to be a public forum  
34 for the Commons. Berdie voiced his concern that in a public forum only the  
35 strong personalities are heard and that while it may be a "part" of the process,  
36 it shouldn't be the only part. Discussion on how to proceed with surveys, etc.  
37 continued.

38 (1:45:06) Kittel indicated she brought up the forum because she wants to  
39 request that in the invitation for the forum it be recommended that the history  
40 of the Yachats Commons, co-authored by herself and Hempen be read.

1 (1:45:46) Discussion was held on what information needed to be included in  
2 the discussion on the future of the Commons. Berdie, in particular, indicated  
3 that the Commission should be included in determining the questions for a  
4 forum or survey.

5 (1:49:33) Mazeika indicated he has appreciated working with the Commission  
6 and will miss it. He won't say "I'll be back"; but he will be around.

7 Meeting adjourned at 4:04 pm.

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9 Transcribed by Contractor, L.F. Barrett on May 10, 2022

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