

CITY OF YACHATS
PARKS AND COMMONS COMMISSION
SUMMARY MINUTES

September 3, 2024

The regular meeting of the Parks and Commons Commission was called to order by Chair Meg Simans at 2:00 p.m. in the Civic Meeting Room of the Yachats Commons. Members present: Ron Simans, Michael Hempen, Dean Shrock, Co-Chair Dan Sterling and George Giroux. Audience:

I. Announcements None.

II. Citizens' Concerns None.

Summary

Chair Meg Simans led the September 3rd Parks and Commons Commission meeting, which included discussing the master plan proposals as the first item on the agenda; t reminded guests and commissioners about the meeting's protocol and announced an emergency preparedness fair on September 14th and the recruitment of another open commission seat. Also highlighted that parts of the trail are not under the city's jurisdiction.

City Project Proposals and Timelines

The Parks and Commons Commission discusses the proposals from various architecture firms for a city project. The key points are a member asks Ian about Arc Architects' shorter 4-month project timeline compared to others. Ian from FFA Architecture explains their expertise in long-term maintenance planning and working on coastal projects. John raises a question about the community engagement process involved across different proposals.

Improving Project Scheduling and Community Engagement

Commission member stressed the importance of early project scheduling, scope establishment, and community engagement in all proposals; raised concerns about the current proposals not allowing enough time for community consensus and questioned whether there was enough room in the fees to create separate schedules for different projects. The team discussed their approach to public outreach, emphasizing the need for flexibility and community-specific strategies. Also highlighted the advantage of having a local team member and the importance of tailoring projects to the specific needs and characteristics of the communities they serve. The team also discussed proposals for enhancing Yachats' unique culture and heritage, with a focus on understanding the community and conducting fieldwork to create focus groups and 3D scans of buildings.

Community Engagement and Successful Communities

The team discussed the importance of community engagement in creating successful communities, with a focus on understanding and addressing community needs. Ian

shared his company's approach, emphasizing the significance of research, feedback, and facilitating conversations to capture a range of voices. It was highlighted the need for architects to be personable, approachable, and actively engage with the community, sharing their successful outreach strategy. The discussion also touched on the importance of addressing barriers in the community, building relationships between cities and tribal communities, and showing all work to the community.

Ranking Ballot System for Proposal Evaluation

The chair led a discussion about a ranking ballot system for evaluating proposals. The ballots were distributed to the members, and the top three choices were to be announced later. The chair thanked all the applicants for their work and emphasized that the commission is an advisory group, not decision-makers. The ballots were to be tallied by Commissioner Giroux, and the results were to be read out by the Recorder.

Sunset Park Barrier Fence Discussion

The proposed planting as a visual barrier at Sunset Park, South. Two options were debated: a green fence or an orange construction fence, with concerns about children climbing it. The decision was not reached, pending further investigation into insurance and construction aspects. The chair suggested building a sturdy fence along a creek bank, prioritizing safety over liability concerns, based on her experience installing a railing fence on the Amanda trail, and proposed installing a temporary plastic fence to protect plantings while awaiting the master plan. The team agreed, and the chair planned to discuss using green fencing with Paul, while Ian would look into alternate color options.

Prospect Park Work Group Transition Discussion

Discussion about the Prospect Park work group transition process, proposing the creation of a permanent subcommittee for Prospect Park maintenance and the identification of a new leader to replace Wally. It was suggested that the most sustainable model would be to keep all activities under the umbrella of Yips, designating specific groups for different tasks. Also emphasized the importance of coordination, flexibility, and knowledge transfer to ensure the sustainability of various parks and trails in the city. The team agreed to find a suitable leader for the Prospect Garden project.

Admin Policy #5

This Item will be reviewed at the October meeting.

Adjournment:	4:15 p.m.
Prepared By:	Kimmie Jackson, Recorder