

CITY OF YACHATS
PARKS AND COMMONS COMMISSION
SUMMARY MINUTES

October 1, 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.

Agenda Discussion : It was decided that time would be allocated at the end of the meeting for updates from commissioners on their individual research or ongoing projects.

Motion to Approve the Agenda for today's meeting be approved as presented. Passed unanimously.

Announcements :

Co-Chair Sterling will facilitate the next meeting as two commissioners will be out of the country. There is one open seat on the commission. Hempen announced that he will not be renewing his term, and his last meeting will be in December. He expressed gratitude and will miss the group but plans to stay engaged informally.

A Motion was made to Nominate Dan Sterling as Facilitator for the November Meeting on November 5th and was Passed unanimously.

Citizens' Concerns :

No additional citizens or concerns were raised.

Trails Report

Issues were discussed regarding trail maintenance, with an emphasis on reporting any issues to the city. It was clarified that reports from trail groups should be presented at the Parks and Commons meeting for transparency and public access.

Meeting Summary - Short discussion on the presentation of the summary and being able to review for corrections.

Motion to Approve Minutes from Previous Meeting - A motion was made that we approve the minutes from the September meeting as distributed and passed unanimously.

Review Admin Policy #5

The discussion focused on a draft policy related to donor responsibilities for gifted items to the city; emphasized the importance of addressing individual commissioners' concerns raised in a previous meeting.

The group examined the bullet points regarding the city's obligation to repair gifts at the donor's expense. It was proposed to remove the phrase "at donor's

expense," relieving donors of this responsibility after a 10-year term. Co-Chair sought feedback on this change and suggested numbering the policy pages for easier reference during discussions. The meeting aimed to finalize a comprehensible policy that all commissioners could agree upon.

The motion discussed during the meeting involved amending the draft policy related to the city's obligations regarding gifts. Specifically, the proposal sought to remove the phrase "at donor's expense" from the policy, thereby absolving donors of any responsibility for repairs to gifts after a 10-year term. The intention was to ensure that the city could maintain or remove the gifts without further obligation to the donors. The group aimed to reach consensus on this change to move forward with a finalized policy that all commissioners could support.

Prospect Park Update

The group discussed archaeological concerns related to certain steps at Prospect Park. Volunteers are mentoring others on park maintenance, and guidelines from archaeologists will inform them what can and cannot be done on-site.

Volunteers and Park Maintenance

Discussion about the need for a consistent maintenance system across parks. The idea of having "Park Ambassadors" was proposed. Ambassadors would visit parks regularly to assess maintenance needs and report on them.

Trails & Maintenance Oversight

There was a back-and-forth on how trails should be maintained and the role of the Parks and Commons Commission in overseeing or assisting with maintenance.

There was a general consensus that having Park Ambassadors would be helpful for communication and maintenance coordination but should not complicate the process.

Role Clarification :

It was clarified that the Parks and Commons Commission's role is to manage parks, not necessarily to maintain them, which remains the responsibility of the city and designated groups like the Trails and Yips groups.

The meeting concluded with the understanding that the commission would continue discussing park-related issues and maintenance but focus on maintaining clarity on roles and responsibilities between the different groups involved.

Action Items :

Dan to facilitate the next meeting.

Continued discussion on Park Ambassadors and maintenance strategies.

Follow-up on archaeological concerns in Prospect Park.

Meeting adjourned at 4:05 p.m.

By Kimmie Jackson Recorder