

CITY OF YACHATS
PARKS AND COMMONS COMMISSION
SUMMARY MINUTES

November 5, 2024

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

Audience: 9

Trails and Parks Reporting: Discussion on the distribution of recent trails reports and other workgroup updates. Concerns were raised about the timing of report distribution, aiming to improve the process so that reports reach the Commission members sooner, allowing for timely discussions. It was discussed to have trails and relevant reports shared with Commission members directly and in a timely manner, possibly CC'd to specific individuals responsible for distributing these to the group. The City Manager discussed refining report timings to streamline information flow to the Commission, suggesting earlier meetings to provide up-to-date information.

The Commission seeks adjustments to the reporting cycle, suggesting reports be shared immediately with relevant Commission members when ready, instead of following the current delayed cycle.

Ongoing Maintenance of City Trails and Parks: A key topic was the responsibility to maintain city trails, which includes closing unsafe trails and managing invasive plants, often in partnership with local and regional organizations. The management of trails and efforts to keep city parks in optimal condition, including reducing invasive species and planting native ones, was also discussed.

804 Settlement Agreement and O'Neill Property Purchase: The City Council is working on finalizing the 804-settlement agreement to purchase the O'Neill property. This initiative involves city and county efforts to preserve the historic landmark and develop the estuary walkway.

6. ADA Bathroom Improvements: Planned improvements to add ADA-compliant bathrooms on the building's other side, providing easier access for people with disabilities and accommodating large wheelchairs. This project aligns with Oregon's initiative for enhanced accessibility along the coast.

7. Recreational Easement Requirements: The necessity of a recreational easement for certain grants was examined, with steps to clarify requirements for the property involved. Collaborations with public works and county surveyors are underway to determine the proper course of action.

8. Civic Campus Master Plan: The Commission is engaging in initial planning sessions with Scharen Design Team to develop a civic campus master plan. Sessions with diverse community interest groups, including activity leaders, aim to identify needs and aspirations for future improvements.

Stakeholder Representative for Civic Campus Master Plan: Decision was discussed for each group to nominate a representative for ongoing stakeholder meetings as part of the Civic Campus Master Plan initiative. No immediate formal vote was recorded; members will confirm their representative after the initial session.

9. Fence for Sunset Parks: The Commission debated options for protecting new plantings in Sunset Park, with members favoring the use of plastic fencing over rail fencing, accompanied by clear signage to keep the public out of newly planted areas.

Approval of Green Plastic Fencing for Sunset Parks: Motion passed to erect a green plastic fence around new salal plantings at the north and south sections of Sunset Park, accompanied by clear signage to deter public access and protect the plantings as they take root. All members present were in favor.

Sunset Park Planting Schedule: Motion passed to proceed with planting the salal in Sunset Park when conditions are favorable, potentially in spring to ensure better establishment of the plants. This was agreed upon unanimously.

10. Policy Matrix Review: The Commission reviewed policies, proposing adjustments for more realistic approaches to donations and gifts by removing perpetual maintenance requirements. An updated policy matrix was circulated, outlining items requiring further discussion or amendments with the aim to finalize in the next meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:05 p.m.

By Kimmie Jackson Recorder