



**CITY OF YACHATS
PARK & COMMONS COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
Civic Meeting Room 1, 441 Hwy 101 N. OR 97498
Tuesday, May 6, 2025 at 2:00 pm**

**I. Call to Order
II. Roll Call**

Commission Members	P/A
Meg Simans	P
Dan Sterling	P
Ron Simans	P
George Giroux	P
Adam Altson	p
John Pravel	p
Dan Wright	P

Staff Members	
Bobbi Price, City Manager	Kim Jackson, City Recorder
Neal Morphis, City Clerk	Rosa Marchand, Commons Coordinator

III. [Announcements](#)

- a. Scharen Designs will hold its last public input meeting on May 14, 2025, at 5:00 PM in the Commons and will meet with the Parks & Commons Commission on June 4, 2025, at 2:00 PM.
- b. Wildfire Emergency event is scheduled for May 19th from 3 to 5:30 PM in the Commons, focusing on emergency shelter discussions with Red Cross sponsorship.

IV. [Public Comment](#)

- a. [Jim Welch presented the Bird City initiative](#), recognizing communities committed to wildlife protection and conservation. Yachats aims to achieve this designation by joining many communities across North and South America.

Jim Welch and local members are forming a steering committee and have met with the Bird City, Oregon, director to discuss the application process. The initiative highlights Yachats' conservation efforts and aims to address threats to wildlife, such as light pollution and invasive species. Interested commissioners can contact Jim Welch for more information.

- b. [Catherine Whitten-Carey, E 3rd Street](#), Whale Tail Park, needs improvements in areas such as park maintenance, more seating, upgrading facilities, and enhancing signage to improve accessibility and safety for visitors.

Would like to see a memorial somewhere on the 804 Trail for Sean, who passed trying to save two people from drowning. Lastly, safety concerns would be to see boulders of some size at the end of the road or the cliff's edge at Ocean View Drive and Pontiac Street. This cliff to the ocean is perilous without a visible physical barrier, especially at night or in the rain, for those unfamiliar with the area.

V. [Reports](#)

- a. Review & Approve [April Summary Minutes](#)
- b. Commons Data Report [Link](#)
- c. Commons Narrative Report [Link](#)
- d. Workgroups Report [Link](#)
- e. Parks Maintenance Report [Link](#)

VI. [VI. New Business](#)

- a. [Beginning discussion on the scope of the signage project for the wetlands boardwalk](#) - Highlights mentioned were the scope of a signage project for the Wetlands Boardwalk, which aligns with a city Council goal. The commission is tasked with determining the content for signs that will enhance public information in the park. The city manager will handle the design and ordering of the signs. A subcommittee may be formed to streamline the project, aiming for completion by early summer, and focused on establishing clear objectives for the signage project to enhance the visitor experience at the Wetlands Boardwalk. After the discussion, the sub-group was formed with members Meg Simans, John Pravel, and Adam Altson.
- b. [Consider Mayor Berdie's proposed replacement of the Yachats' noxious weed policy](#) - Yachats Municipal Code Section 5.08.110 Noxious and Invasive Vegetation: The discussion on noxious and invasive vegetation discussed a range of viewpoints among the participants, such as Concern for Ecosystem Health. Many participants express strong concern about the impact of noxious and invasive species on local ecosystems. They highlight that these plants can outcompete native species, disrupt habitats, and harm local wildlife populations, leading to a loss of biodiversity; a proactive management plan is necessary to control and mitigate the spread of invasive vegetation; educational signage about these species could inform park visitors and residents about the threats posed by invasives; balancing Human Use and Nature Conservation; and long-term Commitment and ongoing efforts, rather than a one-time removal initiative.
- c. [Discuss reimagined PCC Guidelines](#) - The discussion on reimagining the Parks and Commons guidelines focused on enhancing community experience and accessibility. Commission members identified improvements to promote inclusivity and ensure that amenities meet the diverse needs of visitors. Key points included enhancing signage for clear information, gathering community input to inform better programs and events, and emphasizing sustainability in both maintenance and design. The goal is to establish guidelines that promote safe, enjoyable, and environmentally responsible use of parks while fostering community connection. The document will require some editing and will continue the discussion at the June meeting.

Adjourn Parks & Commons Commission Meeting 4:08 pm

Minutes prepared by Kimmie Jackson, City Recorder