

CITY OF YACHATS
PARKS AND COMMONS SPECIAL MEETING
February 22, 2017

Minutes

The February 22, 2017 special meeting of the Parks and Commons Commission was called to order by Chair W John Moore at 3:00pm in Room 1 of the Yachats Commons. Members present: Ruth Bass, Scott Gordon, Derek Ojeda, Dean Shrock, Lauralee Svendsgaard. Absent: none. Applicants present: Michael Hempen, Monica Ihnat. Staff present: Manager Joan Davies, Rick McClung. Audience: 1.

I. Re-Opening Deliberations Regarding Applicants to Open Position

To correct the discussion in Executive Session during deliberations of applicants at the February 16, 2017 meeting, Moore opened discussion of applicants.

Moore clarified per the duties of commission members, a commissioner must have a conflict of interest as a reason to abstain from a vote.

Shrock moved to proceed with vote: Hempen – 4; Ihnat – 2. Hempen is recommended to the Council for appointment to the Commission.

Moore instructed Hempen to attend the next City Council meeting to be interviewed and formally approved.

II. Formal Election of Vice Chair

For purposes of clarification, Moore reopened nominations of Vice Chair. Shrock nominated Svendsgaard. Motion to approve: Aye – 6; Nay – 0. Svendsgaard is appointed as Vice Chair.

III. Highway Construction around Totem Pole and Tree in front of Commons

Due to change in sidewalk location, highway project people noted the closeness to a shorepine tree and the totem on the east side of the Commons. Davies asked for input from the Commission on removing the tree and/or the totem pole. Davies explained that the tree roots will have to be cut on one side which may result in the death of the tree. McClung noted that the totem pole sits on a concrete pad and has a 2” diameter stem going through its center for anchoring purposes.

Svendsgaard asked why the sidewalk path cannot path go to the right of totem pole where there is more room. Davies reported that onstreet parking and ADA parking necessitate the location to the left of the pole.

Regarding the totem pole, Svendsgaard reported the pole was originally on loan from the creating artist for “undetermined period of time.” Svendsgaard believed the pole is not affiliated with Coos Umpqua or Siletz Nations. Svendsgaard will check with Joanne Kittel to identify owner and ascertain their plans for removing, repairing, or transferring ownership to the City. McClung noted that now is an ideal time to move the pole given the current availability of earth moving equipment.

Regarding the tree, councilors discussed issues around life expectancy, stability with only half of its root structure in tact, and potential cracking of the sidewalk from root growth. Svendsgaard,

Bass, Ojeda, and Shrock agreed that preserving the tree is ideal but removal would be acceptable provided no other feasible options.

Shrock noted that the tree currently obscures the visibility of the totem. He also suggested that if the totem remain in that spot, some accent feature, such as a bench, be installed to draw attention to the art.

Svendsgaard wanted to have new trees replanted if the existing tree is removed. McClung noted that ODOT plans to plant two trees and other bushes in filteras along the sidewalk.

Davies said she would confer with arborist about likelihood of the tree surviving damage to its root ball.

IV. Other Business

A. Svendsgaard reported hearing that a business was under contract to remove moles from ballfield and was concerned about the method being used to remove the rodents. Svendsgaard recommended the implementation of a management program to control moles. Davies reported there were currently 127 holes on the ballfield. Svendsgaard recommended an ongoing grooming of the field such as plow, seed, and roll.

B. Shrock asked whether the Commission should have a representative at the Friends of the Commons meetings. Moore said this topic will be addressed at the next meeting.

Without further business to discuss, Moore adjourned the special meeting at 3:27pm.

Next Meeting: Thursday, March 16, 2017 at 3:00pm

Chair W. John Moore

Date

Minutes prepared by H.H. Anderson, February 22, 2017