



**City of Yachats
Meeting
To Be Held Via Zoom & In Person
Tuesday, July 7, 2026, 2:00 PM**

Community Spaces Committee Meeting

In Person Meeting Location:

Commons Building, Civic Meeting Room 1
441 N. Hwy 101, Yachats OR 97498

[Join Zoom Meeting](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83554861795)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83554861795>

Meeting ID: 835 5486 1795

Agenda

Work Session

- Review Commission Evolution
- Introduction of Peeta and the Waste Prevention and Material Reduction Initiative
- Wrap-up of the 4th of July Festivities
- Discussion in laying groundwork for YERC (Geotech and archaeological studies).
 - Report from Dan
- Brainstorm any and all activities and events for the YERC

Regular Session

- I. **Meeting Called to Order** (reminder to silence phones)

II. Roll Call

III. Announcements

IV. Public Comment

V. Reports (an opportunity for Commissioner questions and comments)

- a. Summary Meeting Minutes
- b. Commons Reports
- c. Parks Maintenance Report
- d. Workgroups Report

VI. New Business

VII. Ongoing Business

- a. Pond Restoration Options

VIII. Other Business

- a. From Committee
- b. From Staff

IX. Adjourn

This meeting is open to the public and all interested persons are invited to attend. This meeting will be audio and video taped. All items to be considered by the Committee must be submitted to City Hall no later than one week prior to the meeting. Minutes of all public meetings are available for review at City Hall, or on the City website at www.yachatsoregon.org. In accordance with ORS 192.630, City of Yachats will make a good faith effort to provide accommodations for any person desiring to attend a public meeting, if the request is made at least 48 hours in advance of the meeting time. The meeting room is physically accessible to persons with mobility devices; a sign language or foreign language interpreter may be available, with advance notice. Call City Hall at 541-547-3565 or Oregon Relay 1-800-735-2900 (TDD) two days in advance.

POSTED July 2, 2026 By: Neal Morphis, Deputy Recorder



CITY OF YACHATS
Community Spaces Committee
MEETING SUMMARY MINUTES
Room 3 441 Hwy 101 N. OR 97498
Tuesday, June 2, 2026, at 2:00 pm

Work Session

I. Meeting called to order

Commission Members	P/A
Adam Altson, Chair	p
John Pravel	A
Dan Wright	P
Bill Reeves	P
Lance Bloch	P

Staff Members	
Kimmie Jackson, Recorder	Bobbi Price, City Manager
Rosa Marchand, Commons Coord.	

Work Session

1. Chair Altson reported on the recent pickleball tournament, which was described as highly successful despite rainy weather. Tournament organizers presented a \$2,400 donation to the City to support fundraising efforts for the proposed Yachats Event and Recreation Center.

For the 2026 Fourth of July celebration, several new activities intended to expand the event beyond the traditional parade and fireworks display, including live music, a beer garden, bounce houses, a community barbecue, a skateboarding exhibition, sidewalk chalk art, and kite-flying demonstrations. Additional law enforcement presence and enforcement of personal fireworks restrictions were also discussed. Members generally

supported the expanded family-oriented activities and efforts to reduce noise impacts on residents and pets.

The work session focused on preliminary planning for the proposed Yachats Event and Recreation Center and discussed potential uses for the facility, including indoor pickleball courts, community events, concerts, theater performances, markets, and other recreational activities. The members emphasized the importance of designing a flexible, multi-purpose facility capable of serving a variety of community needs.

Also discussed the need for geotechnical and archaeological studies to determine site suitability and to support future grant applications; the discussion centered on the relationship among facility design, intended uses, site conditions, and engineering requirements. Committee members agreed that additional planning and refinement of facility functions should occur before significant expenditures are made on engineering or architectural work.

Regular Meeting 3:00 pm

- I. Meeting called to order
- II. Citizens' Concerns -
- III. Announcements - Announced the 4th of July activities; Pickleball Tournament presented a \$2,400.00 check to the City.
- IV. Reports (000)
 1. Summary Minutes - Make a change to the previous motion from the May 6th Minutes to amend "Motion was made to recommend to City Council they take action to increase the system development charges by \$2,000; that the Committee is in favor of increasing the lodging tax from 9% to 12%, dedicating it to the Parks and the greater master plan, and to the operation thereof"; and remove "to increase the system development charges by \$2,000". The motion was called and revised:

Motion:	Motion was made to recommend to City Council that they take action to increase the lodging tax from 9% to 12%, dedicating it to the Parks and the greater master plan, and to the operation thereof:
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Ayes:	Wright, Bloch, Reeves, and Altson	Nays: 0	Absent:1	Recused:
Passed:	4/0			

2. Workgroup -Informational and attached to the online packet.
3. Commons Report - Informational and attached to the online packet.

V. New Business

1. The committee revisited previous recommendations regarding funding options for parks and recreation facilities. Members discussed an upcoming presentation to the Finance Committee concerning a proposed increase in the Transient Lodging Tax and alternative funding mechanisms, including potential bond financing. The discussion focused on identifying dedicated revenue sources for future parks and recreation improvements.

Members discussed several ongoing community-space projects and facility improvement concepts, including maintenance considerations, future recreational opportunities, and long-range planning for community gathering spaces.

2. Vote for Vice Chair - The committee agreed to postpone the selection of a Vice Chair until a future meeting.
3. Mendell Memorial Proposal - The Mindell proposal was Amy Mindell's request to install a memorial stone in a community space. The proposal called for a natural stone monument with engraved lettering commemorating the individual being honored. Committee members reviewed photographs and design details provided in advance. Generally, they agreed that the memorial was modest in scale, appropriate for the setting, and consistent with other memorial features already present in the community. Discussion focused primarily on the engraving and whether black paint, gray paint, or no paint should be used to improve the visibility of the lettering. Members also considered how well the paint would withstand Yachats' coastal weather and whether it could be touched up in the future if needed. Overall, the committee viewed the proposal as straightforward and noted that the review process exists mainly to ensure that memorials remain compatible

with public spaces and do not become excessively large or intrusive. After discussion, the committee unanimously approved the proposal as presented. Following the vote, Mindell asked about installation logistics, including timing and potential road closures needed for the contractor to place the stone. Committee members advised coordinating with city staff and Public Works to manage traffic control and installation details.

Motion:	Motion was made to approve the Amy Mindell memorial stone proposal as presented, including the installation of the engraved memorial stone in the proposed location, subject to coordination with the City Manager and staff regarding installation logistics.			
Ayes:	Wright, Bloch, Reeves, and Altson	Nays: 0	Absent:1	Recused:
Passed:	4/0			

Adjourn Community Spaces Committee Meeting 3:30 pm.

Minutes prepared by Kimmie Jackson, Recorder

Commons Report

Intern – OSU OASIS Program: The City is pleased to welcome Peeta Arenas, an Ecological Engineering student from Oregon State University, who is serving as a summer intern through OSU's OASIS Program.

Peeta is working with City staff on a Waste Prevention and Materials Reduction Initiative. This project focuses on reducing waste generated in City buildings and community facilities by evaluating current practices and developing new policies and procedures that promote waste prevention, material reduction, and sustainable operations.

Fourth of July Celebration: The City is excited to host its annual Fourth of July celebration, featuring several new activities and community partnerships this year.

Scheduled events include:

- Pancake breakfast hosted at the Lions Hall.
- Hot dog sales by the Yachats Ladies Club.
- Beer garden hosted by Pelican Brewing Company in partnership with View the Future.
- Children's games and bounce houses hosted by YYFAP.
- Barbecue hosted by the Yachats Fire Department.
- Chalk Walk along Ocean View Avenue.
- Kite flying on the beach.
- The community's beloved Fourth of July Parade.
- Fireworks display beginning at **10:00 p.m.**

The City appreciates the many local organizations and volunteers whose collaboration makes this annual celebration possible.

Surplus Sale and Stored Items: The City's surplus sale has been completed. All surplus items have been sold, donated, or properly disposed of.

Additionally, all items belonging to the Little Log Church and Museum (LLCM) have been transferred to the museum to be stored.



City of Yachats Workgroup Report- June 2026

Workgroup: Trails/YIPS

Report Date: 7-06-2026

Overview of Activities -

- Placed gravel along 804 N Trail where driveways cross the trail
- Started to install split rail fencing along W side of restoration area S of the library

Volunteer hours for year ending June 30

- 86 volunteers contributed 2231 hours (of those, 56 volunteers came to only one work session and contributed 90 hours in total)
- So, 30 volunteers contributed 1941/2231 hours
- Of those 2231 hours, trail leaders contributed 609 hours.

Workgroup: Keeping Yachats Beautiful

Report Date:

Overview of Activities

- .

Next Steps and Future Plans

Requests for Support or Resources

-

Workgroup: Estuary Walkway

Report Date:

- Overview of Activities:
- Still have not had the changes sent to Joanne on the Indigenous sign that Peter Hatch, Cultural Dept., CTSI said he would do.

Progress and Achievements

-

Next Steps

- Continue working on the interpretive signage content.
-

Recommendations

- None

Workgroup: Under Stage Storage @ Commons

No new activity to report

Workgroup: Library

Report Date:

Overview of Activities

- Assisting with library catalog database cleanup in anticipation of joining the Lincoln County Library District
- Assisting the Library Administrator with the process of reviewing the possibility of joining the LCLD

Progress and Achievements

- Discussing potential tasks that the work group can perform with the Library Administrator
- Catalog database cleanup is ongoing

Group Goals

- Begin assisting the Library Administrator with specific tasks as needed in July

Workgroup: Emergency Preparedness

Report Date: 7/1/2026

Overview of Activities

- Cemetery Conex: Shelving is about 60% complete; will finish the week after the 4th
- Supplies for the Conexes ordered for '25/'26 are arriving
- Supplies for the Commons Emergency Shelter ordered for '25/'26 are arriving
- Crestview Conex: PW assisted with a Water purification demo with our portable equipment... took water from the creek and it came out clean. Will repeat this exercise periodically so we have several individuals who understand how to operate it.

Progress and Achievements

- First Draft of the Protocol for an Emergency Shelter compiled: Members reviewing, 2nd draft for August Meeting
- A couple of members attended an Emergency Preparation Class in Lincoln City, put on by
- Have identified qualified people for instructing at all 8 Tables for the 2Week Ready Fair.

Group Goals

- Setting a Date with the Red Cross for a Simulation Training for an emergency Shelter, hoping they can accommodate a September time frame
- Oct 3 is the 2Week Ready Fair at the Commons
- Expecting Public Works to install the gravel pad for the Conex up on Horizon Hill, which is being given to us by FXR & ODHR
- Further analysis of bringing back sirens as a means of alerting, as Yachats had before, will occur this summer.
- The distribution of the purchased supplies and the up-to-date inventory of each conex will take place this summer.

ChatGPT ▾

This is a copy of a shared ChatGPT conversation
[Report conversation](#)

I live in a small town with a very nice park called the Commons in the middle of the town. The commons has this wetland, tha was more of a pond but has grown in to the point that we are losing rather value of having water, as opposed to pond weeds. This accelerated when we lost two muskrats that were living there. It is not easy to get heavy equipment in to dig it out. What are our options to restore the original pond.

This is actually a very common problem with small community ponds and wetlands. What often happens is that the pond slowly fills with organic material (dead cattails, rushes, algae, leaves, sediment) until what was once open water becomes a marsh. Muskrats can play a surprisingly important role because they eat cattails and create openings in dense vegetation. When your two muskrats disappeared, you likely lost a major natural "vegetation management crew."

Before deciding on a solution, it is important to determine whether the pond is primarily:

1. Filling with sediment from runoff, or
2. Filling with vegetation and organic muck.

The solutions differ.

Option 1: Hand-Clearing Vegetation

If the problem is mostly cattails, rushes, and pond weeds:

- Volunteers can cut vegetation in winter when water levels are low.
- Floating aquatic weed harvesters can sometimes be brought in.
- Cut vegetation should be removed from the site or it simply decomposes and adds more muck.

This is often the least expensive approach but requires ongoing maintenance.

Option 2: Hydraulic Dredging

If there is still water underneath but lots of soft muck:



A small floating dredge pumps sediment through a hose to a disposal area.

Advantages:

- No heavy equipment needs to reach the pond.
- Can work in confined locations.
- Minimal damage to surrounding parkland.

Disadvantages:

- More expensive than excavation.
- Requires a place to dewater the dredged material.

For a town commons, this is often the most practical restoration method.

Option 3: Long-Reach Excavator

If access exists from one side:

- A long-reach excavator can sometimes work from the shore.
- Recreates deeper pools and open water.
- Can selectively leave wetland habitat while restoring open water.

Many successful wildlife ponds are restored this way.

Option 4: Create Open Water Pockets

Instead of restoring the entire pond, create several deeper pools connected by channels.

Benefits:

- Less expensive.
- Easier permitting.
- Provides habitat diversity for birds, amphibians, and insects.

Many wetland biologists actually prefer this approach over converting everything back to open water.

Option 5: Encourage Muskrats Again

If muskrats were historically present and disappeared due to predation or other factors:



Musk rats can:

- Reduce cattails.
- Maintain open water lanes.
- Create habitat for waterfowl.

However, they are not a substitute for dredging if decades of sediment have accumulated.

Option 6: Aeration and Water Management

If the pond has become shallow due to nutrient buildup:

- Bottom-diffused aeration can slow muck accumulation.
- Reducing nutrient inputs from lawns, fertilizers, and goose populations helps.
- This prevents future filling after restoration.

What I would investigate first

Since you are involved with conservation work in Yachats and Bird City efforts, I would recommend:

1. Measure current water depths.
2. Compare with historic photos from 10–20 years ago.
3. Determine whether the loss is mostly vegetation or actual sediment accumulation.
4. Have a wetland restoration contractor evaluate whether hydraulic dredging is feasible.

For a small town commons pond where access is difficult, hydraulic dredging combined with selective vegetation removal is often the best long-term solution. It can restore open water while preserving much of the wetland habitat that birds and amphibians use.

How large is the pond/wetland—roughly a quarter acre, half acre, an acre, or larger? And is this the Commons in Yachats Commons? If so, I can think through what might be practical given that site's access constraints and permitting issues.