



CITY OF YACHATS

PARKS AND COMMONS COMMISSION

June 20, 2019

Approved Minutes

I. Call to Order

Chair John Purcell called to order the June 20, 2019 meeting of the Parks and Commons Commission at 3:00 pm in Room 1 of the Yachats Commons. Members present: Michael Hempen, Linda Johnson, John Purcell, Dean Shrock, Scott Gordon, and Craig Berdie. Absent: none. Also Present: Facilities Manager Heather Hoen, Trails Leads Bob Langley and Joanne Kittel. Audience: 26.

II. Minutes – April 18, 2019

Commissioner Hempen moved to approve the May 16, 2019 minutes as presented: Aye – 6; No – 0.

III. Reports

A. Commissioners - none

B. Trails Committee

Kittel reported they had the largest crew of 29 members and 3 Forest Service workers at the most recent work event. Three Rivers asked for extension on their grant.

Commissioner Berdie asked if anyone had talked to the logging company that contributed to the slide problem that took out the old bridge. Kittel stated they had discussed the matter with the logging company who indicated it was a natural event.

C. Facilities Manager

Facilities Manager Hoen asked Commissioners if they had specific information regarding what they want to see in a maintenance plan. Commissioner Berdie explained his two-page handout of what he would like to include in a maintenance plan and budget for that work. Berdie asked Hoen to meet to review his plan suggestions.

Hempen asked for clarification on the status of the backstop where there are pieces that are hanging and about to fall. Commissioners discussed what decisions have been made about removing the backstop. Commissioner Shrock recalled the Commission previously decided to remove the backstop. Purcell indicated he would speak with Public Works about their plans for the backstop. Hoen explained the condition of both the existing fencing and the backstop

1 portion. Commissioner Gordon noted they could remove the top part of the backstop and tighten
2 up the fence portion. Hempen asked for more information about the expected life of the fence.

3
4 Purcell noted that fencing and locking an area was not an option as it makes that area exclusive
5 to those who have keys. He also acknowledged the issue of people not cleaning up after their
6 dogs. He suggested a first step of removing the problematic areas of the existing fence. Hoen
7 suggested the fence material itself was reusable.

8
9 Berdie suggested that a locked fence area could be set up as a rentable area. Gordon suggested
10 that the area not be locked. Berdie did not want to use chain link for the fencing material. He
11 suggested a more visually appealing material such as 4-inch wire mesh. Commissioner Johnson
12 also thought something other than chain link would be better. Purcell summarized the
13 Commission was looking at providing an enclosed area that could be used by both the children
14 and the City for rental. Shrock indicated he would talk to Dave Reiseck about his design plans
15 for that area. Berdie and Shrock indicated they would report back to the Commission with
16 conceptual plans.

17
18 John Deriberprey (King Street) suggested the use of a spring-loaded gate to prohibit dogs from
19 pushing the gate open. Debbie Hempen asked about flattening the area so people do not trip in
20 the mole holes. Shrock recalled the Commission previously looked into that and found it to be
21 too expensive and an on-going battle.

22
23 Johnson asked Hoen about the broken tines on the skate park fence. Hoen was not aware of
24 those breaks.

25
26 Purcell thanked Blythe Collins for the Farmer's Market report. Hoen indicated the vendor has
27 not returned her call about adding a handwashing station. Collins asked if there was a way to
28 screen the porta-potty area so the area was not so visible to people at the market. Gordon stated
29 creating a barrier with 5-gallon buckets posts and some barrier material would be easy to create.
30 Purcell summarized that Hoen would continue to work with the porta-potty provider.

31
32 Hempen asked if opening the Commons was an option. Purcell explained the city would need to
33 block off the certain areas of the Commons. Collins suggested using the Commons was not
34 necessary and she did not want the responsibility of the building being open to the public.

35 36 **D. Little Log Church**

37 Mary Crook reported the Byrdsong concert was very well-received and well-attended at around
38 50 people. She added that the performers were pleased and were wanting to return for another
39 performance. Hempen asked for clarification on status of the rebuild project. Hoen explained
40 the Little Log Church board has decided to tear down and rebuild the entire structure. Karl
41 Christianson reported the Board met with the attorney who indicated one route would be to
42 change the 501(c)4 to a 501(c)3 at a cost of about \$600 and another would be to simply form a
43 new 501(c)3 at a cost of around \$3,900. Minutes Recorder stated she recently formed a 501(c)3
44 for around \$400, noting this was for a nonprofit does not raise more than \$50,000. Hoen reported
45 they have met with the Lions Club, the Ladies Club, and the Chamber. The Lions and Ladies
46 Clubs were very receptive to getting involved.

1 Hoen explained the situation with tearing down versus rebuilding everything. Johnson suggested
2 they should make the museum part larger when they rebuild. Hoen indicated the Board and the
3 Council would decide about the expanding the facility.

4
5 Purcell raised an idea of combining the visitors center with the museum. Crook argued that the
6 attraction of the building is that it is historical. Johnson suggested the church could be retained
7 as the historical part and the museum could be expanded. Crook noted while the museum
8 portion was added in the mid 1990s, the Log Church was viewed as historical even though it
9 was not registered as a historical building. Shrock asked Crook if there was more museum
10 inventory she could display. Purcell discussed with Crook the possibility of building a larger
11 museum. Christianson indicated he would raise the possibility of expanding the museum with
12 the Board. Carl Miller added that the Friends of the Little Log Church have a fundraising goal of
13 \$100,000. Shrock agreed with Gordon about keeping the visitor center where it is.

14 15 **V. Business**

16 **A. Finance, Revenue/Expenditure Reports**

17 Berdie asked why the month to date amount was the same as the year to date. Hoen suggested
18 that it was an artifact of the current software. Berdie clarified that the 50% expenditure on
19 maintenance was due to improper coding in previous accounting before Hoen took over the
20 account coding herself.

21 22 **B. Parks & Commons: Powers & Duties**

23 Purcell noted the three documents in the packet about the Parks and Commons powers and
24 duties. Minutes Reporter Anderson explain the ordinance document is what creates the code.
25 Berdie noted there was no mention of Trails in these documents. Purcell added there was no
26 mention of the Little Log Church and Museum. Anderson explained that an ordinance requires
27 multiple hearings and should only be used for more permanent regulations and that policies are
28 used to establish the smaller detail of how things get done.

29
30 Purcell summarized the duty of the Commission includes:

- 31 1. Oversight of Trails
- 32 2. Oversight of Little Log Church

33
34 Purcell noted the Farmer's Market falls under facilities management as its connection to the City
35 was essentially a reservation.

36
37 Berdie questioned the specificity of the statements about building and grounds. He argued that
38 Parks and Commons should have responsibilities for all buildings. Commissioners discussed
39 what should be included under the Commissioner's purview.

40
41 Purcell suggested the Commission oversee city-owned parks, city-maintained trails, and city
42 buildings.

43
44 Purcell noted they need to change the language of "Commons Director," possibly to "City
45 Manager."

1 Purcell questioned the necessity of Item F about receiving gifts. Other Commissioners were ok
2 with the Item F.

3
4 Purcell and Berdie discussed language to use regarding the maintenance direction.

5
6 **C. Yachats Community Park & Wetlands**

7 Purcell indicated this information was for general education. Hoen noted the City was
8 responsible for the trees in the wetlands, and tree maintenance must be done by a certified
9 arborist. Hoen has asked an arborist to inspect the area.

10
11 Berdie had concern about the filling in of sedimentation in the ponds. He suggested they start to
12 investigate options for some removal of the sediment. Kittel suggested the Commission speak
13 with Betty Bahn about the plans her group did to rehabilitate the wetlands. Purcell asked
14 Hempen to talk to Betty Bahn to see if she would come to a meeting. Langley added they would
15 eventually have to replace the boardwalk foundations.

16
17 **D. South End Estuary Dog Waste Station and Waste Receptacle**

18 Purcell noted there was a dog waste station by the south Yachats bay stairs. Hoen stated Dahl
19 picks up the trash from that location. Purcell asked Hoen if Dahl could provide a larger trash
20 can. Berdie suggested if the state allowed the dog waste station and a pump station, they could
21 allow a restroom.

22
23 Purcell asked what the Commission could do to move forward a south end restroom. Hoen noted
24 Dave Reiseck owns some of the land in that area and was very against public restrooms.

25
26 **VI. Other Business**

27 **A. From the Commission - none**

28 **B. From the floor**

29 Scott (1004 Yachats River Road) stated that the northern-most feature of the skate park was in
30 disrepair. He explained the other features were professionally done and well-maintained. He
31 estimated that replacing this ramp would cost \$1,000-\$1,500. Hoen added that the situation
32 presents a safety hazard to skaters, noting this ramp appeared to be a DIY plywood and metal.
33 Purcell asked Hoen to work with Scott on fixing the ramp.

34
35 Scott also asked for a sign stating, "Skate at your own risk."

36
37 Gordon moved to authorize Hoen to spend up to \$300 to repair the ramp in the skatepark and to
38 get an estimate of a permanent replacement: Aye – 6; No – 0.

39
40 Purcell adjourned the meeting at 4:34 pm.

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45 John Purcell, Chair

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47 Minutes prepared by H.H. Anderson, June 26, 2019