

1 CITY OF YACHATS  
2 **Parks and Commons Commission**  
3 **Meeting Summary**  
4 February 1, 2022  
5

6 Present: Adam Altson, Craig Berdie, Michael Hempen, Catherine Whitten-Carey, Dean  
7 Shrock, Fran Morse, George Mazeika, Chair, Dayna Capron, Neal Morphis, City  
8 Coordinator, Joanne Kittel, Bob Langley, James Kerti, Patricia Hettinger, Rick McClung,  
9 Ann Stott, Council President

10 **I. CALL TO ORDER**

11 Meeting called to order at 2:06 pm by Chair, George Mazeika.

12 **II. CORRESPONDENCE/ COMMUNICATIONS**

13 **III.** None.

14 **IV. REPORTS**

15 **A. Trails**

16 (0:54) Mazeika apologized that the report did not get included in the  
17 meeting packet. He told Langley that the new trail looks good and he  
18 always hears good comments while walking it.

19 (1:43) Langley highlighted the projects Trails has been working on;  
20 invasives at the Commons, removal of blackberries at the treatment plant,  
21 working on the Gerdeman public trail, whale park and the new trail. The  
22 PER was received on Ocean View and decisions are being made on how  
23 the project should look. Meeting with the engineer on the 7<sup>th</sup> and hopefully  
24 get that to McClung so he can put in a request for proposal for  
25 engineering. The delineator project is the same; the City and ODOT are  
26 taking care of the "legal things". Gerdeman Public Trail is still closed due  
27 to the tree; have been unable to get in touch with Sean Stephens who is  
28 the preferred arborist to work on it. People were seen walking the trail so  
29 the gate was locked. Will need to find someone to remove the tree if  
30 Stephens doesn't contact them soon. Met with the Fire Department to talk  
31 about extending the Ya'Xaik Trail to the Fire Department and they are  
32 interested in extending the trail along the north side of the property to  
33 Highway 101; it would serve as an additional recreational trail but the main  
34 purpose is to serve as an evacuation trail.

35 (4:12) Kittel advised the Peace Hike was a modified version caused by  
36 limitations due to Covid. It was a great success; there were over 150 in  
37 attendance; two fires, one attended by Wake and Kinlen Wheeler and the  
38 other by Kittel and Lisa Norton from the Siletz Tribe. Kittel was surprised  
39 that over 70 people hiked to the Amanda gathering area. People were  
40 impressed with the bridge construction and she reported she was just  
41 there and all the cables are now in. Should have a finished bridge by the  
42 end of the month.

43 Kittel thanked Langley for taking the initiative and measuring everything. In  
44 doing so he found two additional trails for the Fire District to consider on  
45 the Siuslaw National Forest land; one is about 50 feet the other is about

1 75 feet. Depending what is decided Kittel will request of the Commission  
 2 that the City take the liability for that trail. The additional cost to insurance  
 3 would be \$25 or less. Langley explained the location of the trails.

#### 4 **B. Little Log Church**

5 (8:42) Kerti indicated he was not sure what the status was on the  
 6 Valentine's Day vow renewals as the Board meeting is next Wednesday.  
 7 He knows Mary Crook has been working on the vows. Since the Little Log  
 8 Church is still closed the vow renewals taking place at the Presbyterian  
 9 Church. Indicated their last meeting they did a recap of the council  
 10 meeting and also spoke with Larry Thornton. Waiting for the Letter of  
 11 Intent.

12 (2:20:15) Carl Miller advised that \$1,200 in donations were received in  
 13 January. He was unsure of how many couples were signed up for the  
 14 renewal of vows but last he knew there were six.

15 (11:43) Chair, Mazeika wanted to make a statement for the record: "Yachats Youth and  
 16 Family Activities Program has been an amazing contributor to our community and I  
 17 would like to formally acknowledge that. Not only have they been a great tenant,  
 18 currently they're paying \$800 a month rent but they're also maintaining their space, they  
 19 pay for maintenance and upgrades on the playground and a major part of the remodel  
 20 was paid for out of YYFAP funds. All of those are minor issues. I don't think that people  
 21 appreciate what a contribution and what a service for our community YYFAP is. Having  
 22 been a business owner and employer, I appreciate the struggles that working parents,  
 23 single working parents go through to arrange schooling and care for their children and  
 24 ever since the county moved school services out of Yachats we have had nothing here.  
 25 Over 28 years ago YYFAP stepped in and in all that time has filled a really important  
 26 niche in our community. I know business owners who have sent their children through  
 27 the program both the preschool and the activities program. I know single, working  
 28 mothers who are doing that now, working couples with young children and over the  
 29 years I think it's a good example of how in our small community any activity influences  
 30 and effects the whole community," He went on to make the motion: **That the Yachats  
 31 Parks and Commons Commission acknowledge YYFAPs contribution of over 28  
 32 years and thank them for their service to this community and congratulate them  
 33 on getting ready to move into the new space.** Seconded by Morse.

34 **Vote:** Altson, yes; Berdie, yes; Hempen, yes; Whitten-Carey, yes; Shrock, yes; Morse,  
 35 yes; and Mazeika, yes. **Motion carried unanimously.**

#### 36 **C. YYFAP Update**

37 (14:45) Hettinger thanked Mazeika for his words and advised she  
 38 appreciated the community support and support from Parks and  
 39 Commons.

40 \*The licensing inspection is one week away and at that point YYFAP will  
 41 get the official number the space can accommodate and the kids will move  
 42 in that afternoon full time.

43 \*The two offices were moved last week and 95% accomplished. She  
 44 contacted SeaRose to help with last minute things like hanging coat  
 45 hooks, etc. She is excited to go forward in the new space and looks  
 46 forward to the next adventure.

1 \*The kids have been up to help move some things and have some  
2 ownership of the space and they are very excited.

3 \*The handles on the xylophone outside have been repaired and are now  
4 attached with weatherproof chain.

5 \*Will be getting an estimate for more bark for the playground.

6 \*Will look into loose rail on tree house.

7 \*Getting an estimate for the vent hood in the basement.

8 (19:11) Whitten-Carey asked if the antenna cord was gone. – Hettinger  
9 advised it was taken care of by cutting the cord and putting a plate over it.  
10 Whitten-Carey then asked who was responsible for the repairs at the  
11 playground.

12 (20:24) McClung indicated that starting a week ago a Public Works  
13 employee goes over weekly to work on maintenance items for City Hall  
14 and the Commons. Told Hettinger to put a work order into City Hall and it  
15 will be taken care of.

16 (21:05) Hettinger advised that to her knowledge the playground was  
17 financed by a grant through the State, funds from the City and YYFAP  
18 partnered to select and purchase the equipment and volunteers put it in  
19 with help from the City.

20 (21:33) Kittel indicated it was Milo Gramaans Dad (Chris) who did the tree  
21 house with his own funds and the playground was funded by a grant  
22 written by the Friends of the Yachats Commons and in conjunction with  
23 the Parks and Commons. McClung indicated there is a drainage system  
24 beneath the playground as the area flooded. Discussion was held  
25 regarding the correct bark chips to use.

26 (23:23) Altson raised the issue of the children being upstairs while there is  
27 painting going on. Mazeika advised the painting is not taking place in the  
28 YYFAP section of the building. The only issue would be when they paint  
29 the hallway adjacent to YYFAP. Mazeika advised Morphis that SeaRose  
30 was unable to access the City calendar to determine what rooms would be  
31 available for painting. Morphis advised he would get that to them.  
32 Hettinger advised they asked Searose to make sure the painting in the  
33 hallway where the preschool is to take place when the children aren't  
34 there.

35 (25:33) Mazeika asked Hettinger about fund raising indicating he missed  
36 the big dinner. Hettinger indicated the dinner would be put off until 2023,  
37 but is getting the fund-raising committee together to determine what they  
38 can do in the spring and summer.

39 Mazeika addressed the commissioners indicating YYFAP would give an  
40 update and report on a regular basis and Hettinger is getting back to that.  
41 Hettinger advised that YYFAP values and appreciates the support from  
42 Parks and Commons.

#### 43 **D. Green Space Project**

44 (27:20) Berdie indicated there were five (5) proposals in response to the  
45 request for qualification (RFQ). They are located in the document section  
46 of the website, select Parks and Commons and then select Greenspace  
47 RFQ results. He gave an overview of the different companies. He felt the

1 responses were impressive and next steps are: 1. Decide who to send a  
2 Request for Proposal (RFP) to, including pricing and general outlines of  
3 how to proceed. 2. Get City Council's assurance that this project will be  
4 funded before going forward for the RFPs. The RFQ was to give the  
5 Finance Committee time to give the Council information on where the  
6 funds would come from for this. That hasn't happened so Parks and  
7 Commons needs to go to City Council and ask them to supply the funds.  
8 He discussed the different areas of the budget funds could be obtained  
9 and indicated he had spoken with Tom Lauritzen regarding line items and  
10 the Operating and Capital Budget. Berdie felt that there were several  
11 funds to take monies from to comfortably go forward with a request for  
12 funds from Council. Discussion was held on how to pick which of the five  
13 (5) firms should be sent an RFP. Berdie suggested sending RFPs to four  
14 (4) of the (5) companies. Mazeika said he was comfortable with that.  
15 Shrock brought up the question of the difference a company more local  
16 would make versus one further away. Berdie indicated that the most local  
17 was from Eugene and further stated that there will be travel costs but  
18 didn't think that was a big consideration. Berdie went on to say the  
19 Landcurrent has done a lot of playgrounds and integrating a play space  
20 into the project would be nice. He went on to say that being in Eugene  
21 they would have the most knowledge of coastal conditions  
22 (38:28) Whitten-Carey indicated her definite "yes" was Landcurrent from  
23 Eugene, she thought it was more creative, Carbon neutral and more  
24 natural. She felt Greenworks was "stodgy" it was very formal and felt like it  
25 could be a park in any other US city. She felt Integra from Santa Rosa  
26 would be unfamiliar with the climate and too far away. She had no specific  
27 comments on PCD or Range Studio.  
28 (39:48) Altson advised he had no preference, he was impressed with all of  
29 the companies. His main focus was having experience working on the  
30 coast. He was impressed with Greenworks via their document but the  
31 others were no less qualified.  
32 (40:55) Morse advised she felt the same way and that at least three (3)  
33 needed to be chosen and agreed four (4) was a good decision. She felt  
34 Integra should be dismissed due to the distance and travel.  
35 (41:18) Shrock was impressed with how one took into consideration  
36 concerns of the unhoused people camping and drainage and many other  
37 things they took into account. He felt the Commission needed to take  
38 those things into account also, not just the beautiful landscaping.  
39 (41:48) Hempen felt all the companies had good experience and some  
40 had decades of experience. All were knowledgeable about what would  
41 grow on the coast, he was more interested in a company more local due  
42 to travel and the ability to respond quickly. His top choices were  
43 Greenworks and PCD, but all seem experienced.  
44 (43:03) Mazeika said he was impressed with all the companies but he  
45 liked PCD. He's leery about Greenworks because of their size but if the  
46 Commission requests RFPs from four (4) companies then there will be  
47 good information to provide the City.

1 Discussion continued on the different companies and Hempen advised he  
2 would feel more comfortable if the City Council was more firm in their  
3 support of this. He hopes to get that in the meeting next week. Morse  
4 questioned if a Letter of Intent would be required for this project.  
5 (49:04) Berdie indicated he would like to meet with McClung after the  
6 meeting with City Council to determine what would be involved in creating  
7 an RFP. Will need to be clear on what it is they are being asked to bid on.  
8 (46:16) Hempen brought up that he thought two companies brought up  
9 wetlands and how to deal with that and potential it will become. He said a  
10 company's ability to deal with that would definitely be a factor  
11 (46:51) Berdie indicated that the two smaller companies actually  
12 suggested using a consultant who done the hydrology report for the waste  
13 water plant. He said that no one addressed the infrastructure of the  
14 boardwalk. It was built in 2004 so that is 18 years for the infrastructure and  
15 it needs to be determined how long that is going to last. Discussion was  
16 held regarding including the boardwalk into the green space plan.  
17 (49:29) Whitten-Carey brought up that Landcurrent had a wetlands stream  
18 expert and that they also talked about plants surviving climate change.  
19 (51:26) Berdie summarized: (1) bring RFQs to City Council; (2) insure  
20 there are funds; and if necessary a Letter of Intent; (3) Work with McClung  
21 to determine what needs to be included in an RFP to minimize the effort  
22 on the vendor's side.  
23 (52:06) Mazeika asked if it was realistic to think an RFP could be ready to  
24 send out before the next meeting Berdie wanted to know if he and  
25 McClung could come up with an RFP would the rest of the Commission  
26 want to see it before it went out. He explained what an RFP was.  
27 (53:13) Morse said she felt no one was more knowledgeable than  
28 McClung in this area and she wasn't going to second guess his work. She  
29 is fine if it can be done and sent out. Everyone else agreed.  
30 (54:09) Altson asked if anyone remembered working with the person who  
31 did the hydrology work on the waste water plant. McClung advised he  
32 worked with him and he still has a good relationship with them and he  
33 would be happy to work with them again.

## 34 V. ONGOING BUSINESS

### 35 A. Commons Painting

36 (56:07) Mazeika gave an update on the painting. Polly Plumb will only  
37 need the hall Friday, 2/15 through Monday, 2/18. Only concern was that  
38 quilts don't pick up any paint smell; there are quilts from France and other  
39 countries on display. SeaRose advised that they most likely won't be able  
40 to paint after the 15<sup>th</sup>.

41 (57:29) Whitten-Carey advised she contacted SeaRose before the  
42 meeting and was told there was still no signed contract. Whitten-Carey  
43 advised that Searose should hand-deliver the contract for signature since  
44 Guenther is overwhelmed with all the emails she gets.

45 (58:10) Capron advised that Guenther did receive the email and contract  
46 and is planning on signing it but they are in the middle of taxes and billing.

1 (58:36) Whitten-Carey went on to say that there was a concern regarding  
2 the contract, (1) the preschool ceiling was not on it and (2) none of the  
3 interior doors were included to be painted. Mazeika advised he had told  
4 SeaRose to do an “add on” for the ceiling and as far as the doors the  
5 contract needs to be looked at. SeaRose advised if they got the contract  
6 some of the painting could start over the weekend and then next week  
7 continue but not paint during the quilt show.

8 (59:36) Mazeika advised Guenther said she would pop in from time to time  
9 to check on the progress of the painting and by the time of the March  
10 meeting it should be close to complete.

11 (1:00:21) Shelly Shrock indicated there was a lot of “stuff” in the storage  
12 area off of the multi-purpose room and she and some other volunteers  
13 would like to clean it out. Discussion held on cleaning out the storage  
14 room and other areas.

15 (1:03:05) Stott explained the process of putting unused items into surplus.  
16 She advised since the value of the items is so low, nothing formal needs  
17 to be done, they can just be cleaned out. McClung said anything under  
18 \$500 doesn’t have to go through the process but the items given away still  
19 need to be recorded. Mazeika suggested Habitat, Goodwill or St Vinnie’s  
20 as they will come and pick it up. Hettinger advised there is some old  
21 furniture that they would like to dispose of. Discussion continued on  
22 cleaning up and disposing and when to do it.

23 (1:11:27) Berdie said that ultimately this is the City’s responsibility and that  
24 the Parks and Commons Commission and volunteers do a lot of work but  
25 at some point the City needs to step up and get some things done.  
26 McClung said he would take care of getting the computers out of the way  
27 and make sure no confidential or City information is on them.

## 28 **B. Pocket Parks**

29 (1:13:25) A week away from the response period for SHPO Shrock and  
30 Whitten-Carey provided information in the meeting packet about signage.  
31 Whitten-Carey went over the information. Question of type and size of sign  
32 the Commission would like as well as where the signs should be located.  
33 Discussion held on signs. Altson brought up a cross walk from Ocean  
34 View to 4th and discussion was held on pros and cons. Stott brought up  
35 that any signs on 101 need to be approved by ODOT. Everyone agreed to  
36 having a crosswalk across Ocean View to 4<sup>th</sup> Street. Whitten-Carey  
37 indicated the drawing shows four benches in that area. Discussion ensued  
38 and it was decided that three was a good number.

39 6<sup>th</sup> Street – talked about beach access, Whitten-Carey indicated the beach  
40 access is “a slippery slope” and could be a liability. Want to move current  
41 bench back, add an additional bench and then plant salal to discourage  
42 people going down the rock cliff.

43 (1:45:24) Stott advised she used the beach access quite often. She uses  
44 her cane and goes carefully but has not had a problem. She felt the public  
45 needs to be able to make their own decisions about beach access.  
46 Discussion was had regarding safety and signage for beach access.

1 Whitten-Carey continued talking about the benches indicating there was  
 2 another very good spot for a bench in "Peace Park".  
 3 (1:52:17) Altson pointed out the dilemma: indicate beach access to keep  
 4 people from climbing down the rocks or not indicating beach access and  
 5 having people continue to climb down the rocks. Hempen said beach  
 6 access says "come here" and he doesn't think it is necessary. He also felt  
 7 that the park should be officially named and perhaps have signage as  
 8 such. Berdie indicated that in 2019 it was officially named Peace Park.  
 9 He continued the discussion on the signage for "No Beach Access" and  
 10 "Public Access" at Peace Park. McClung suggested the signage say  
 11 "Peace Park Entrance" while Mazeika stated his view was that anything  
 12 that says access means it is a maintained access point.  
 13 (1:58:21) Whitten-Carey advised she had enough input and would get  
 14 together with Shrock and put together a more detailed signage  
 15 presentation. Langley also suggested indicating that is not where the 804  
 16 trail goes.

### 17 **C. Commons Front Landscaping and Stairs**

18 (2:00:20) Morphis spoke with a company out of Lincoln City about  
 19 upgrading the skate park and they've done a number of local skate parks,  
 20 Toledo, Kaiser, Newport and they are associated with a "prolific"  
 21 skateboarder that lives in the Seal Rock area. Sent pictures of our skate  
 22 park and is waiting to hear back from them. He thought they might be  
 23 willing to come to then next Zoom meeting. Mazeika indicated he wasn't  
 24 sure that's how to proceed. The original discussion was to replace the  
 25 piece that rotted. Discussion held on how to proceed.

26 (2:05:00) Stott indicated the skate park is "near and dear to her heart"  
 27 because she spoke to some 15 year old girls who used the park daily in  
 28 the good weather. She indicated even the ramp that is still in good  
 29 condition is not safe because it has a lip on it. Also, the features are so  
 30 close together She would love to see what this company could do from a  
 31 skate boarder's point of view with that small space.

32 (2:07:20) Morphis said he would research other companies and get more  
 33 information.

34 (2:07:39) Berdie raised the concern of getting this done this year as there  
 35 are so many other projects on the P&C plate.

### 36 **D. Commons Re-opening**

37 Nothing at this time Mazeika wants to meet with City Manager to see what  
 38 she thinks.

## 39 **VI. NEW BUSINESS**

40 (2:09:20) Mazeika wanted to remind everyone about the obligations under the  
 41 open meeting and public information regulations and laws. The agenda is his  
 42 responsibility and Commission members contact him if they want something  
 43 on the agenda. He reminded commissioners that any communication  
 44 between commissioners to include Dayna so it can be part of the public  
 45 record. Any email sent to another commissioner or council member also gets  
 46 sent to Dayna.

