



CITY OF YACHATS
PARKS AND COMMONS COMMISSION
April 12, 2023

Meeting Summary

Guests/Audience: 8

1. Chair Adam Altson called this meeting to order on this April 12, 2023, of the Parks and Commons Commission at 1:00 pm. Members present: Michael Hempen, Meg Simans, Ron Simans, and Dean Shrock. Staff: Kimmie Jackson, Recorder.
2. (0:00:50) Announcements & Correspondence: The bike racks will be installed next week, Tuesday April 11th; the sunset parks north and south are still not transferred over; the plants still need to be addressed; looking at replacing the boulders with smaller boulders.
3. (0:08:30) No Citizens Concerns
4. (0:10:55) Recap of the monthly Chair Meeting: Meeting was cancelled, the next meeting is on April 26th at 10am and Member Ron Simans will attend in member Altson's absence.
5. (0:12:50) Goals were sent off to Council, no response yet.
6. (0:17:18) Volunteer Applications: Interviewed Dan Sterling for Seat A for the commission. After discussion, the motion was made to recommend to Council and accept his membership. All are in favor and passed unanimously.
7. (0:25:15) Interviewed George Giroux for Seat D for the commission. After discussion, the motion was made to recommend to Council and accept his membership. All are in favor and passed unanimously.
8. (0:29:54) Discussion around the possibility of running and managing the Commons by a non-profit. Joanne Kettle reported on behalf of Linda Hetzler, that a nonprofit group is in the process of being formed similar to what used to be Friends of the Commons. This stems from a request from the City Manager to Linda Hetzler to go ahead and form a new 501, not sure of what type. There was a meeting to discuss who to bring into the group and if a member from Parks & Commons or as an individual wanted to be part of the group. The Council was making a decision to eliminate the Commons building from the Parks & Commons Commission. The group will possibly be meeting on Friday at 11:10am at the Commons, Room 8 to discuss further.
9. (0:52:42) Discussion around the Council Vote to remove the Commons building, then discussed whether or not to remove the Commons from Parks & Commons Commission. The Commission has not received any correspondence with official notice, and is unclear in the process, and have been informed that there may be some additional septs that need to be taken before it can become official. Will continue to operate the same, except possibly not making recommendations but table items until this Commission receives clarity.



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2 The Commission has researched the Charter, City Code and Administrative Policy on
3 how to change a Commission and found that this may be unclear and is requesting
4 further clarification from the Council on its decision and the steps that are required to
5 change a commission. Questions as to whether or not the public is notified for public
6 involvement when changes are made to Commissions. The Council voted three to two to
7 remove the Commons without discovery made this a contentious vote. To change
8 municipal code there should be a public Hearing, and residents vote for changing the
9 Charter. At this time, this Commission believe that the motion that the Council passed
10 may not be valid since there were no discovery or steps taken.

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12 Some members of this Commission reached out to the former Mayor Ron Brean for
13 some background to change the Commissions and stated there would be so much red
14 tape it would take years to accomplish legally to remove a commission.

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16 Without transparency, will need to continue in this same manner until notification of the
17 process, procedure and ramifications to disband are reported back in writing. The
18 Commission believes that there should be public involvement and their own involvement
19 in discussions before a decision is made.

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21 Discussion continued around the Chairs meeting and that it should still happen even if
22 the City Manager is not available to attend.

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24 10. (1:21:19) Trails Report is attached to the online packet for review.

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26 11. (1:41:14) City Manager March Report: noted that the Parks & Commons was referred to
27 Parks & Trails before there was a Council vote. Also noted that the bench by the
28 wetlands was rebuilt by maintenance and is not safe and up to standards. It will be
29 rebuilt by the new maintenance person.

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31 12. (1:43:26) Initiating a city-wide master plan to include pocket parks, housing, parking, etc.
32 and will meet with the Planning Commission at some point this year.

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34 The north park should be a go for the removing of the gravel on Ocean View and replace
35 with the topsoil and plants.

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37 13. (1:50:23) The Chair's communication has been proven to be difficult and is considering
38 stepping down. After members have discussed alternative, there will be no changes at
39 this time except that member Ron Simans will attend the chair meetings and take over
40 the communication with the CIP Coordinator.

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42 14. (1:53:16) Commission received two requests for memorial benches. At this time there is
43 no list being maintained by the City at this point. There is some type of policy based off
44 Newport and will be discussed at the May meeting.

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46 Chair Altson adjourned the meeting at 2:47pm.

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1 Prepared by Kimmie Jackson on April 17, 2023