



DATE: May 21, 2019

TO: W. John Moore, Mayor  
Yachats City Council

FROM: Shannon Beaucaire, City Manager

SUBJECT: Input from Commissions on Organizational Structure

Dear Mayor and Council,

The Commission Chairs met on Friday, May 17 and discussed the Council's request for input on their purpose and role in the Yachats organizational structure.

The Commission's felt that the work they did for the budget document articulated what they saw each Commission's role to be. Those descriptions are attached to this document.

Among the thoughtful conversation, questions that arose were:

- How does Council want action items to come from the Commissions?
- How should Commission's interact with the 501c3's associated with their respective Committee's?
- How does Council envision communication from the Council to the Commissions?

Other staff items that are arising following the Chair meeting:

- How do action items/recommendations go from Commission meetings to staff?
- How do Commissions interact with other Commissions/Committees when items may cross over purposes?

We look forward to working with the Council to continue to develop procedures.

### **I. Planning Commission**

The Planning Commission and City Planner/Code Enforcement Officer play an integral role in shaping the long-term character of the City through development and implementation of the Yachats Comprehensive Plan and other long-range planning documents. Planning for the City of Yachats is at a crucial turning point. There has been a rise in housing starts as well as an increased awareness of the need for more affordable housing for our local workforce. With this increased population comes an increase in the need to plan for the future of Yachats' built environment. Maintaining the "Coastal Village" atmosphere will take revisions to many of the current documents that dictate how the city grows and how that growth is managed.

#### **GOALS**

With the help of the City Planner, a priority timeline should be developed, and a step-by-step plan created with the goal of having the Comprehensive Plan and the City Council goals integrated and supported with enforceable Municipal Code.

#### **COSTS**

This work will be done by people without formal training in city planning. As the revising of the Sign Ordinance has shown, each step of this process can take months. Basic training for the current planning commissioners and subsequent training for any new commissioners is needed.

City planning has evolved over the past decades, especially since the introduction of environmental, health and sustainability designs and concepts. Given the residents strong leanings toward environmental stewardship, the City of Yachats might integrate some of these concepts into how it grows. Making use of available conventions and meetings of city planners and organizations that are at the forefront of these positive planning developments might be one way. Suggestions include:

- Utilize the Oregon Cascades West Council of Governments Community Economic Development programs.
- Have commissioners attend planning meetings held in other coastal communities.
- Cover some costs of attendance at Oregon based conferences and events.
- Host webinars for the planning commission at City Hall.
- Negotiate with related organizations to hold meetings in Yachats, such as:
  - Oregon Chapter of the American Planners Association;
  - Living Future Institute;
  - Urban Land Institute Northwest; and
  - US Green Building Council, Oregon.

## **II. Library Commission**

The Yachats Public Library is an all-volunteer lending library funded principally by the City of Yachats. It provides residents and visitors to the Yachats area with an open, public facility that provides resources for accessing and sharing both entertainment and information.

The Yachats Library Commission oversees the management and operation of the Library and facilitates communications among the various entities involved in library related activities. Among these entities, the Commission works on a regular basis with:

- The Head Librarian and Children's Librarian who volunteer their time to provide ongoing, hands-on management of library operations.
- The library's volunteers who (a) provide staff for the library, (b) serve those who visit the library, (c) stock and maintain library shelves and displays, (d) prepare books for fundraising sales, and (e) perform any number of other vital, behind-the-scenes activities.
- The Friends of the Yachats Library, an independent, non-profit organization that supports and promotes library service to the Yachats area, including raising money to help fund library operations, finance improvements, maintain facilities, and provide resources for other vital library-related expenses.
- City of Yachats administrative staff who provide advice and support to help ensure that library activities and library infrastructure are functionally and technically sound.
- The Yachats City Council who need periodic and timely updates as to the library's status, activities, and goals.
- The citizens and visitors to the Yachats area who are the primary beneficiaries of this important local institution.

In addition, the Library Commission periodically reviews library policy, develops strategic short-term and long-range plans, and acts as a conduit for library-related discussion and concerns.

### **III. Parks & Commons Commission & Committees**

#### **Parks and Commons**

The Parks & Commons Commission formulates rules, regulations, and standards for the operation of the City's parks, Commons building, and grounds in a manner that assures the security of City assets and encourages use by renters, residents, and visitors alike; establishes rental rates for Commons use; plans for the regulation, development, and improvement of the City's parks; works with the Facilities Manager to create an annual Facilities Maintenance Budget, cooperates with volunteer organizations and City groups in the advancement of the Commons; and recommends items for the annual budget to the Budget Officer and City Budget Committee. The Commission also supports the Little Log Church & Museum Committee ("Friends of the Little Log Church") and the Trails Committee.

#### **Funding:**

Funding is derived primarily from the City's restricted "Visitor Amenities Fund" resulting from the City's "Transient Lodging Tax" (TLT). Depending on the expense, supplemental funding can come from the City's General Fund.

#### **Goals:**

- Work to assist the City Council to ensure success with its 2019 Council Goals.
- Work with the Facilities Manager to create a comprehensive plan for upgrades to the Commons Building to ensure the continued desirability and functionality for the various entertainment and educational events held at the Commons annually.
- Maximize Commons Building income by encouraging promotion or co-promotion of appropriate events.

#### **The Commons**

The Yachats Commons is the community center in the heart of Yachats. The building was built in the 1930s and was used as a school until 1983 when it closed. In 1990 the building was purchased by the City of Yachats to be used as a community center. It is the heart and soul of the greater Yachats community, being host to such events as dances, meetings, exercise classes, plays, musical productions, conferences, festivals, the youth center and much, much more.

The building hosts City Hall and the Yachats Youth and Family Program. Rooms, lighting, and sound equipment, and picnic shelter are available for rent to individuals, groups, or organizations and can host small groups or large events.

#### **Little Log Church & Museum**

The Little Log Church Museum was built in the late 1920s by community volunteers using local timber hauled down the Yachats River. It was completed and dedicated in 1930. The church and property were sold to the Oregon Historical Society in 1969 when the congregation outgrew this site. It became a museum in 1970 and was deeded to the city of Yachats in 1986 for continued use for public purposes. The Little Log Church Museum houses photographs of the area, settler exhibits, and works by former resident artists and authors. It receives between 2,000 – 2,500 visitors annually.

#### **Trails Committee**

Formally adopted by the City of Yachats in 2009, the Yachats all-volunteer Trails Committee meets twice or more monthly (weather permitting) to maintain and develop hiking trails throughout the Yachats region. Additionally, the Committee has taken-up the task of removing invasive weeds on city property and replacing with native plants. This Committee often collaborates with the Siuslaw National Forest, Oregon Parks Recreation Department, Angell Job Corps, and other agencies to make our trail system the best regionally.

### **III. Public Works & Streets Commission & Committees**

The Public Works Commission is composed of up to seven Yachats citizens who have an interest in how the City Water, Wastewater, Streets, and Storm Drains are maintained, serviced, and other projects used to expand service. This also includes an understanding of how these services are paid for. The primary requirements for Commissioners are willingness to learn and a sense of curiosity of how these systems work and how delivery of these services is accomplished.

**Funding:**

Water and Wastewater services are paid for through the utility billing system. Streets are paid for from the Yachats share of Oregon Department of Transportation funds and grants. Storm Drains are paid for from transfers from other City funds.

**Functions:**

- Prepare recommendations to the City Manager and City Council for rules, regulations, and standards for the operation and use of Public Works systems.
- Prepare recommendations for future development, improvements, and maintenance for Public Works systems with the help of City Staff.
- Review all rates and fees for funding and improvements for all Public Works systems and prepare recommendations to the City Manager and City Council as part of the annual City Budget Process.
- Serve as the City Public and Traffic Safety Committee.
- Review monthly Budget Reports for all Public Works systems including Capital Improvement projects.
- Serve as the Franchise Review Committee for reviewing City Franchise agreements and make recommendations to the City Manager and City Council.
- Serve as liaison to various Lincoln County Committees or Work Groups associated with Public Works systems.
- Serve as the sponsoring Commission for the Emergency Preparedness Committee.

**Goals:**

- Sponsor Operation Clean Sweep in June 2019 and recruit Citizen Volunteers to assist Commission members to monitor collection site.
- Sponsor and assist with a review of the current utility billing system rates to ensure that capital reserves are adequate to fund future projects (by December 2019).
- Sponsor a review of options to increase the available water supply especially during July through October (by October 2019).
- Review current Franchise Agreements (by September 2019).

Emergency Preparedness Committee

The Emergency Preparedness Committee is composed of Yachats Citizens, City Staff, and other Lincoln County residents who have an interest in how the City and surrounding areas prepare to withstand various natural, accidental, and human caused life threatening events. This includes events such as Tsunamis, earthquakes, storms, fires, biological outbreaks, and landslides. The primary requirements to serve are willingness to learn and a sense of curiosity of how the City and citizens can protect institutions and themselves.

**Funding**

Committee activities are supported by volunteer efforts, City funds, and grants. Any request for City funds or grants must be reviewed and recommended by the Public Works and Street Commission before they can be sent for consideration by the City Manager and City Council.

### **Functions**

- Maintain the City's Storm Ready and Tsunami Ready certification.
- Conduct events and exercises to improve City resilience when an emergency occurs.
- Conduct events and exercises to improve Citizen awareness of how to cope with an emergency event.
- Maintain a working liaison with the Yachats Rural Fire Protection District.
- Maintain a working liaison with Lincoln County organizations on Emergency Preparedness functions.
- Maintain a list of City Staff and Citizens who completed FEMA/NIMS training courses.

### **Goals**

- Conduct a Table Top Exercise before October 2019.
- Update Incident Staff descriptions by November 2019.
- Develop Tsunami Evacuation Plan by December 2019.
- Renew Storm Ready and Tsunami Ready Certification by May 2019.
- Refresh contents of North and South storage containers by August 2019.