

City of Yachats

YACHATS STRATEGIC PLAN

(1996)

Just as important as the preparation of a clear vision of what the community should be by the Year 2020 is an effective and reasonable program of activities to achieve the desired future. It should not be assumed that this list of activities will be all-inclusive or unchanging. Undoubtedly there will be activities by individuals and organizations that are not within this plan. Certainly, time and changing circumstances will necessitate changes to the actions, timetable, priorities and costs. The need to make these adjustments should be anticipated and a process created to involve the community with that annual adjustment. In this way the plan will be kept current and people will have an opportunity to be involved and make the commitments required to get the work completed.

People are the real key to effective action plans, particularly in a small towns. Their commitment to volunteer time, money and other resources will spell the difference between success and failure. One of the weaknesses of small town living is that resources are often scarce and attitudes or personalities often lie in the way of effective communication. However, one of the great benefits of a small towns is that communication on a one-to-one level is still possible, and when it happens great things can take place.

This section has two primary elements. The first is a listing of the many action items suggested by the community over the course of four focus group meetings and two community workshops. The list is impressive, lengthy and incomplete. Incomplete because there needs to be a final identification of who will be responsible to do the work and when is the activity to be complete. That portion of the listing must be the result of extensive discussion and commitments within the community. It is the mutual review and final commitment to complete the work that is so important. That effort will take time, and it should. Commitments are very important, particularly in small communities where there are few if any alternatives for making things happen. People need to share the work and know what they are committing to, because accountability is easy when everyone knows who was to do what, when. Taking that time to discuss and agree will in itself be an important community building activity. Using the Covenant Principles and developing the community tools, such as a facilitators group to help the process work, and identifying appropriate outside consulting assistance, are methods for reaching the desired future the people of the Yachats Area want and have identified in the Vision and Action Items.

The second major element is the creation of strategies for the six most important issues to be addressed. By focusing the community's resources on these six critical elements the people of the Yachats Area can make great progress towards the future they desire, and lay the groundwork for much of the other work that needs to be accomplished. Important to this process is the recognition that this is only a beginning.

ACTION ITEMS

1. FOSTERING COMMUNITY Action An “*” indicates an item where the action can be completed quickly and thereby create an early success for the community.

*1.1 Create on-going community participation process

1.2 Establish neighborhoods & appoint neighborhood representatives

1.3 Create electronic (phone tree) or other community communication system (newsletter) 1.4 Create year round schedule of community events 1.5 Establish monthly community potlucks, round tables, projects or other activities to foster dialogue 1.6 Create Resident Involvement Committee (RIC) to foster participation throughout entire Yachats Area

1.7 Use the RIC to coordinate neighborhood reps, volunteer recognition and to foster communication 1.8 Seek way to encourage a diversity in elected positions 1.9 Set ground rules for public decision making *1.10 Hire a director for The Commons 1.11 Create an easily accessible mediation process to resolve neighborhood issues

1.12 Use the state mediation programs to resolve community scale issues

1.14 Develop a Community Skills Bank to better use the many skilled people who live locally

1.15 Place The Commons and Library “on-line”

*1.16 Communicate the Yachats Sense of Place by distributing the Vision and Community Covenant to residents as well as visitors

1.17 Maintain an on-going dialogue about the Vision and Plan (town hall forums) 1.18 Create a system to obtain financial support for city services used by non-city residents 1.19 Foster a Youth Council to provide effective youth involvement and activities 1.20 Create a rider board to help people share rides 1.21 Complete Community Strategic Plan (promote Yachats for “the things we love”)

2. GUIDING GROWTH

Action

*2.1 Identify the “Sacred Places” 2.2 Foster Yachats as a world-class healing, environmental & arts community/center (newsletter, hot tub rentals, pool, innovation) 2.3 Create a village feeling and scale (human scale/foster spiritual growth as well as physical and economic) 2.4 Encourage the public display of art 2.5 Provide for diverse, mixed use development (single & multi-family residences as well as commercial) 2.6 Keep development and transportation at a human scale e.g., small businesses and family businesses (including cottage industry) rather than malls & trails instead of roads 2.7 Seek

flexibility for land use decisions, such as using pro- active design review, commercial building criteria and other performance standards 2.8 Involve private owners in setting standards 2.9 Trade-off increased density in Yachats to retain open area elsewhere 2.10 Use City rights-of-way to promote desirable development 2.11 Recognize tourism as part of Yachats and allow for appropriate scale tourism along the Yachats River Area (e.g., North Fork covered bridge), as well as becoming more comfortable with tourism by keeping it to activities that reflect Yachats character and values 2.12 Add pedestrian/bike trails along the Yachats River, at Cape Perpetua, on ridge and throughout the area, and tie into the 804 Trail 2.13 Use the presence of people to keep crime levels down 2.14 Create an annual forum on development *2.15 Use The Commons as a center for environmental education & other activities 2.16 Use rights-of-way near The Commons for appropriate development 2.17 Develop a commercial center using private and public land near The Commons 2.18 Create attractive public parking

3. STEWARDING THE LANDSCAPE

Action

*3.1 Know the “essence of the landscape.” Create a comprehensive inventory of the entire ecology (GIS if possible). Include wetlands information 3.2 Develop a history of, and mark, the old cemeteries 3.3 Compile information about local and Oregon Coast trails. Distribute maps at local restaurants and B & B’s 3.4 Create a planning district from Big Creek 10 Mile creek so that common problems can be addressed (see Action Item 1.6) 3.5 From a joint committee with local, state and federal representatives to coordinate action about natural resource concerns 3.6 Have more Earth Day celebrations 3.7 Identify and preserve ecological sites and greenbelt gateways 3.8 Persevere the City watershed, including no pesticide spraying 3.9 Create a program to provide information to private property owners on how to protect and restore creeks 3.10 Encourage “valuing the land” in all local plans and programs *3.11 Create a directory of State and Federal officials for programs effecting the area 3.12 Create an integrated tree protection system that recognizes the life cycle and purpose of trees. Include a tree permitting system within the city and sustainable tree cutting elsewhere 3.13 Identify, protect and designate viewscapes; in all directions, not just towards the sea 3.14 Establish a representation pool to provide input to Oregon Dept. of Transportation, including input about turnouts and signs *3.15 Work with Port of Alsea to improve the Yachats River boat ramp, without increasing power boat or fishing use 3.16 Create interpretive signs for history, cemeteries, parks, etc. 3.17 Work with ODF & W to improve no angling signing 3.18 Regulate the dumping of yard clippings, and provide a site 3.19 Improve trail signage

4. URBAN SERVICES

Action

4.1 Water is a key resource: conduct EIS evaluation before diverting water from the Yachats River. Include an alternatives analysis 4.2 Develop a surface water storage system, including possible storm water cisterns, pumped storage, consolidated water storage, lawn alternatives, urban gardening, and

composting toilets. It may be appropriate to consider these factors in the river EIS. 4.3 Create a committee to study how best to provide public restrooms. Consider alternatives, such as private providers with public assistance. This should be part of the community mixed use development strategy 4.4 Obtain City ownership of County land around the City watershed. 4.5 Transportation is important to the community residents for social, economic and identify reasons. Mass transit to the Valley and other cities must be improved 4.6 Mini-transit services (electric carts, pedicabs, etc.) are needed in town 4.7 Improve the trail system, using the 804 Trail as the main stem. Focus on access between Ocean View Dr., and the 804, purchase of the 10+ acres between Aqua Vista and Marine Drive. Assure there is walking access between all parts of town and all parking areas, as well as to the Oregon Coast Trail 4.8 Use the logging trail on the south side of Yachats River for hiking 4.9 Use open areas such as cemeteries for recreation when appropriate 4.10 Find creative funding sources for local projects, such as investor funded services 4.11 Retain fire services in town 4.12 Create a regular County service presence in Yachats 4.13 Consolidate services and programs where efficiency and effectiveness will be fostered (consider partnering with other governments as part of that process) 4.14 Where appropriate Yachats should use the services of other governments (such as public safety) 4.15 Use The Commons to foster understanding and to provide services) 4.16 Create a respite or assisted care facility 4.17 Seek flexible approaches to providing services 4.18 Strategically locate trash containers around the city 4.19 Prepare an emergency preparedness plan 4.20 Purchase sites needed for significant community purposes as soon as possible, before they are lost or more expensive 4.21 Vote for mass transit

PRIORITY STRATEGIES

#1 FOSTERING COMMUNITY Creating an effective sense of community was seen as the most important activity for the people of Yachats. The current alienation, lack of effective involvement and history of non- cooperation, are all symptoms of the problems facing the people of the Yachats Area. The following strategies are designed to begin the community building process and will create the needed foundation for much of the other work that needs to be completed.

1A Create an on-going role for a Yachats Area Coordinating and Involvement Team Effort by January, 1997. Using as the initial membership the Task Force members, foster their commitment and energy to create this program. This entity should be legally created by ordinance and intergovernmental agreement between the City and Lincoln County. Associated with the ordinance should be a funding commitment that will be determined based upon each year's work program.

1B Establish a Facilitators Cadre of local residents who will commit to facilitating local meetings if YACITE and other community activities. This will help assure more effective meetings and substantive progress. Ask for volunteers by January, 1997 and an complete training by June, 1997. Have available an outside facilitator for use as needed by January, 1997.

1C Complete the Community Directory so everyone who is interested will know where they can access useful community resources. This will foster more action items being completed and more people brought into the process effectively. Using the people who are already working on this document a draft

should be ready by January, 1997.

1D Assign YACITE to create a community mediation process by December, 1997. Include in that program an outside mediator who is on-call as needed (Letter of Agreement between City and mediator by June, 1997). In addition, a Neighborhood Mediation Program based upon those used in Multnomah County and the City of Gresham should be created by December, 1997.

1E Assign YACITE to conduct a Leadership Forum annually for City and County elected and appointed officials. The purpose of the training would be to familiarize local officials with adopted plans, visions and programs. At the same time it would teach decision-making, public hearing process and consensus building skills. Have the initial program in-place by January, 1998, and expand it to allow any interested citizen to attend by 1999.

1F Adopt formal meeting process ground rules by the City and YACITE by June, 1997.

1G To foster a greater sense of community encourage the public display of local art by providing such art at The Commons and other public places. Approval by June, 1997. To guide the selection of the art and to create an on going public art program the Yachats City Council will create a self-supporting Arts Council by June, 1997.

1H Integrate the activities of the City Involvement Committee with YACITE by appointing CIC members as YACITE members prior to the beginning of Periodic Review in 1997.

1I Assign YACITE to produce a report on how well the Yachats Area is achieving its vision on an annual basis; A State of Yachats Review. Use this as an opportunity to focus local energy resources on important concerns and to keep the strategic plan active and up-to-date. First report should be June, 1998.

1J Have YACITE consider the value of creating a Friends of Yachats group and provide their recommendation to the City, County and community-at-large by June, 1997.

1K City create a Yachats Phone Tree as a rumor control method and public information tool by June, 1997. Ask YACITE to obtain volunteers.

Measure Of Success: Tasks completed on time. Community survey indicates increased local government.

2 URBAN SERVICES WATER 2A Water is the most critical natural resource and political issue facing the community. There is considerable concern about how well the community can meet its future water needs and even greater concern on how those needs should be met. Ultimately it must be recognized that the City has a legal responsibility to meet the urban service needs of its residents and businesses. How best to meet those needs can provide an opportunity for creativity and the fostering of

unique character. A Blue Ribbon Community to review options should be created by the City unique Council by December, 1996. This balanced group should seek to review and report on all options available. The City should proceed with its water service facilities as it determines appropriate in the interim, with a minimum of actions that would preclude options being considered by the Blue Ribbon Committee, who must finish their work by December, 1997.

2B The City should work with the U.S. Forest Service, Lincoln County and private property owners to assure that pesticides and other pollutants do not enter the City's watershed. Building on the initial program have the needed IGA's (intergovernmental agreements) approved by June, 1997 and a program such as River Rangers (as created by the Unified Sewerage Agency in Washington County) established by June, 1998.

2C YACITE study the creation of an on-going water quality commission created by IGA with City, county and USFS. Recommendation to the City, County and USFS by December, 1998.

Measure of Success: Tasks completed on time. Adequate water available as needed for domestic purposes. Survey indicates overall satisfaction would solutions found.

3 URBAN SERVICES -BIKE/PEDESTRIAN PATHS 3A To meet the current needs of residents and visitors, as well as the anticipated needs created by the on-going growth in the area, establish an effective network of pathways for bicycles and pedestrians. The City will be responsible for adopting a Bike/Pedestrian Plan by June, 1997. Land purchases will be budgeted in the City Capital Improvement Program for each year until the complete system is available. A goal of 25% of the needed land will be set and all land in public ownership by the Year 2000.

3B Purchase of connections of the Bike/Ped. System to the public parking in the Yachats central area will be complete by June, 1999. Construction by December, 2000.

Measure of Success: All tasks completed on time.

4 STEWARDING THE LANDSCAPE- INVENTORY THE LAND 3A To provide needed information and develop credible data for better decision making, delegate to YACITE the responsibility to create an inventory of landscape resources (e.g., water, trees, soils). City will assist with information and grant- writing for funds for studies and computer needs. YACITE will recruit local volunteers by February, 1997. City will provide staff resources as-needed and approved by City Council. The information gathered will be made part of a Geographic Information System to be administered by Lincoln County no later June, 1999. In exchange for the information Lincoln County will make maps and information available to the City on an as-needed basis.

Measures of Success Tasks completed on time. Materials available and used.

5 STEWARDING THE LANDSCAPE - INTEGRATED TREE PROTECTION 5A The protection of

trees is important to the preservation of Yachats' character and is of primary concern to those interested in maintaining a Yachats sense of place. Inside the City a Tree Ordinance should be adopted protecting significant trees from cutting except for safety reasons. All development on new lots will be expected to demonstrate why any tree not in the building envelope area should be cut. This ordinance should be in place by December, 1997. To assist in administration a Tree Committee composed of persons knowledgeable about trees (e.g., landscape architects, arborists, silvaculterists, nurserypersons) should be created. One of the initial tasks of the committee would be a guidebook on tree planting and preservation.

5B Outside the City the Tree Committee will work with Lincoln County to identify important treed vistas to be protected under the state's Land Use Goals. It should not be expected that this will stop all tree cutting, but cuts will be modified. Program adopted by January, 1999.

6 GROWTH MANAGEMENT - COMPREHENSIVE PLAN HAZARDS UPDATE 6A The City will adopt existing information on flooding and Tsunamis as part of Periodic Review. New public construction will only be allowed above the 50' level. Existing public development below that level will continue, but if modified must be protected from water effects to the extent reasonable. Ordinance in place by December, 1999.

6B A study of wind hazards will initiated by the City as part of Periodic Review and appropriate protection standards in place by December, 1999.

This is a beginning, but it is a feasible and important place to start. A beginning that will have important consequences for the people of the Yachats Area. It will set the stage for the many other important tasks the community needs to accomplish. It is only a partial list of what can be done, what will be done.
Yachats Area Strategic Plan 4

[The 2020 Vision Project](#)
[The Vision of the Yachats Community in 2020](#)
[City of Yachats](#)