



CITY OF FORT BRAGG

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COUNCIL COMMITTEE ITEM SUMMARY REPORT

MEETING DATE: APRIL 27, 2016
TO: PUBLIC WORKS & FACILITIES COMMITTEE
FROM: TOM Z. VARGA, PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR
AGENDA ITEM TITLE: Receive Report and Provide Recommendation to City Council
Regarding the Commercial Use of the Coastal Trail

ISSUE:

At its meeting of March 28, 2016, the City Council considered the use of Electric Personal Assistive Mobility Devices (EPAMDs) on the Fort Bragg Coastal Trail within the Noyo Headlands Park. The use of EPAMDs on the Coastal Trail was denied by Council as it conflicted with a deed restriction prohibiting the use of active recreational activities on the Coastal Trail property. At the conclusion of its discussion, Council directed that the larger question commercial uses of the Coastal Trail, (and by extension, the rest of the Noyo Headlands Park), be reviewed by the Public Works and Facilities Committee. Following this review, the Committee is requested to forward its recommendations to the Council for its consideration.

BACKGROUND:

The proposed guided Segway tours illustrated the question as to the appropriateness of commercial use of the Coastal Trail. Should such use be allowed? If so, what regulations would be appropriate?

The recent, proposed commercial operation of guided Segway tours on the Coastal Trail is one of several commercial uses of the Coastal Trail that have come forth since the opening of the trail. Commercial uses cover a broad range of possible activities. A small sample includes: guided tours, food vendors, filming, Paul Bunyan Days, kite flying competitions, weddings, various tournaments, or other special events. A policy of what, if any, profit making activities are permitted within the Noyo Headlands Park is needed. Such a policy would not only apply to the Coastal Trail, but should also consider Glass Beach and the other public spaces in the vicinity of south trail. If some activities are to be allowed, appropriate regulations need to be developed.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Review and consider the issues concerning commercial use of the Coastal Trail. Recommendations should be developed that can be forwarded to the full Council for their consideration and action.

Such regulations should distinguish between public or non-profit uses versus for profit uses. Many activities can be allowed as long as they do not interfere with enjoyment of the park by the public at large. Current park regulations should be adequate to cover these activities (see **Attachment 1**, FBMC Chapter 9.68 – Preservation of Parks).

The Committee's assistance and guidance is requested in directing staff on what goals to be achieved in drafting any policies or Ordinances that will implement the Council's decisions.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. FBMC Chapter 9.68. – Preservation of Parks