

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE TRINIDAD CITY COUNCIL
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 13, 2011

I. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

- Mayor Bhardwaj called the meeting to order at 7:00PM. Council members in attendance: Morgan, Bhardwaj, Davies, Miller, Fulkerson.
- City Staff in attendance: City Attorney Paul Hagen, City Clerk Gabriel Adams, City Manager Karen Suiker.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. ADJOURNMENT TO CLOSED SESSION

1. Government Code section 54956.8: Real Property negotiations regarding the Trinidad Library, located at 042-051-34, between the City of Trinidad through its City Council and/or City Attorney, and the Humboldt North Coast Land Trust, regarding the terms of a potential lease for the Trinidad Library.
2. Government Code section 54956.95: Liability Claims for Damages, etc. against the City of Trinidad, submitted by the following individuals: Tsurai Ancestral Society, Axel Lindgren III, Kelly Jean Lindgren, Christine Williams, Kris K.C. Lindgren, Tanna Lindgren-Tripp, Sarah Lindgren-Akana, George E. Nelson, Patricia Bailey, Gary Nelson, Parris Lindgren, Chet Jarboe.

IV. RECONVENE TO OPEN SESSION

- No final action to report. City Attorney Hagen was excused from the meeting prior to open session.

V. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

- *Motion (Fulkerson/Miller) to approve the agenda as submitted. Passed unanimously.*

VI. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – February 09, 2011 cc, March 09, 2011 cc

- *Motion Miller/Davies to approve the minutes as amended. Passed unanimously.*

VII. COMMISSIONERS REPORTS

Bhardwaj:

- **Indian Gaming Benefit Committee:** Grant proposals are being rated by the committee. Awards will be announced at an upcoming meeting.

Morgan: Nothing to report.

Fulkerson:

- **HTA** is seeking applications for Director position. Also, all the transit busses have been equipped with wireless internet.
- **RREDC:** Exploring ways of getting cash from local economy into banks.

Davies: Attended RCEA meeting.

VIII. STAFF REPORTS

Karen Suiker – City Manager

- Highlighted accomplishments listed in updated staff report. Thanked staff for assistance.

IX. ITEMS FROM THE FLOOR

Steve Ruth – Trinidad Resident

Permanent repair of the Van Wycke Trail should be approached considering erosion at shoreline.

Richard Johnson – Planning Commission Chairman

1 Vacancy on Planning Commission still. General Plan update still in progress. City should consider updating ordinance to allow additional outside-city residents to apply for Commission vacancies. Tsunami Siren connection and testing is in progress. Also, on Friday April 15 the Trinidad Rancheria is holding a Community Plan conference at the Tribal Meeting house at 9:00am.

Marie Garibedian – Trinidad

Announced Arts Trinidad events scheduled on the first Friday of every month from June – October. Asking businesses and residents to participate in the festivities.

Marie Kellher-Roy – Trinidad Area Resident

Invasive Plant group meeting April 23 to help educate the community on various targeted species.

Nandor Vadas – Trinidad

Organizing a neighborhood watch program in Trinidad. A public meeting was held in March to announce the program and solicit participation within the community. A contact list is being established to alert residents of emergencies when they occur. A proposal will be brought to the Council for installation of signs, and participating residents will be issued window stickers to promote the network.

Brad Twoomey – Trinidad

The Tsunami Sirens installed are nearly 35 years old, and may fail to operate. Also, proposed installation of fiber optic cable to Trinidad Head cellular facility could impact the look of the environment. Thanked TPW Director for calling the site meeting to review the proposed project in advance.

Stan Binnie – Trinidad

Asked about the status of the Gateway Project. Criticized TPW for overly-aggressive maintenance on Trinidad Head trails. Criticized AT&T for assuming they have a right to proceed with fiber optic cable installation on Trinidad Head.

City Manager Suiker explained that there was no permit issued to AT&T.

Kim Tays – Trinidad

Various criticisms of City staff regarding Encroachment Permit application that AT&T submitted for installation of fiber optic network up Trinidad Head. Read a prepared statement, and quoted BLM transfer documents.

Cyndi Lindgren – Trinidad Area Resident

Met with AT&T on site and discussed their fiber optic installation proposal. Disappointed that they assumed that it was okay to proceed.

Mareva Russo – Trinidad

Lease on Trinidad Head with Verizon for cellular facility expires in 2017. Recommended a consultant who could assist the City in planning a transition to remove the facility.

X. CONSENT AGENDA

1. Staff Activities Report through April 2011
2. Financial Status Reports for March 2011
3. Living on Shaky Ground Presentation, Thursday, April 14, 2011
4. Proclamation 2011-03; Declaring May 2011 as National Bike Month.

Motion (Fulkerson/Miller) to approve the consent agenda as submitted. Passed unanimously.

XI. AGENDA ITEMS

1. Presentation and Acceptance of the FY2010 Annual Audit
City Manager Suiker explained that she was impressed with Auditor Ralph Marcello’s depth and detail, and suggested renewing his contract for the upcoming fiscal year.

There was no public comment.

Motion (Fulkerson/Miller) to accept FY2010 Annual Audit and authorize the City Manager to review and implement management recommendations, and sign engagement letter on behalf of the City for FY2011 Audit Services. Passed unanimously.

2. Annual Public Hearing on Unmet Transit Needs
City Manager Suiker explained that Trinidad and all the cities in Humboldt County annually conduct a public hearing to assess the public’s opinions regarding unmet transit needs. Members of the public are encouraged to

testify and address unmet needs or their perception regarding improvements that would make the transit system more usable and accessible to the public

Public comment included:

John Webb – Trinidad Area Resident

There are many unmet transit needs. I would prefer to use public transportation considering the high gas prices, but the current schedule has many disadvantages: 1) There is no Sunday service, 2) the schedule does not encourage ridership from Trinidad because it takes way too long to get to Eureka, and 3) lack of transport North of Trinidad and East on 299.

Stan Binnie – Trinidad

There should be a smaller shuttle to get Trinidad residents quickly to McKinleyville where they can transfer to the main line.

Richard Johnson – Trinidad Area Resident

Reminded everyone that there are many open public meetings scheduled for unmet transit needs upcoming in other cities. He will pass on comments to HCAOG at the next meeting.

Melanie Johnson – District Coordinator for AARP Drivers Program

Encourage destination specific busses that serve seniors at least once a week.

Council comment included:

Davies, Fulkerson: Additional safe and secure bike locking stations would be useful for riders who don't take their bikes with them.

Public comments will be forwarded to HCAOG for consideration.

3. Discussion/Decision on Allocation of a portion of General Fund Revenues derived from Transient Occupancy Taxes for FY2010-2011.

City Manager Suiker explained that during preparation of the 2010-11 budget, proposals were solicited for funding efforts to increase tourism in the area. The source of funding represents a portion of the TOT, which is expected to generate about \$72,000 this fiscal year. Three funding proposals were received as follows:

- Greater Trinidad Chamber of Commerce \$9500
- Trinidad Museum Society 2% or other portion
- HCCVB \$1500

Public comment included:

Dawne Davis – President, Trinidad Chamber of Commerce

In 2003 the City collected \$17,000 in TOT. At that time, the City allocated the Chamber \$3000 annually for tourism promotion efforts and has been doing so traditionally since the late 1990's. TOT revenue has steadily grown each year and is expected to reach \$72,000 this by the end of June 2011. However, the amount that the city budgets each year for tourism related efforts has not increased. The Chamber is requesting \$9500 this fiscal year to address a number of projects that have been deferred due to funding issues. Projects include signage along scenic drive, updated brochures, website expansion, promotion of new Trinidad events, Co-op advertising for business members, etc.

Richard Johnson: Trinidad Area Resident

Since the Chamber's request was made in early 2010, the city has a new park, wine tasting room, and a new spa location has opened. The Chamber is imperative to promoting Trinidad. The City benefits from increased business services, and the hospitality to visitors that they provide.

Steve Ruth – Trinidad

"Mugwhump". I want Trinidad all to myself. ☺

Council comments included:

Fulkerson: In favor of allocating a specific percentage for stability purposes. Also, a process should be developed that determines exactly who and what this money will be used for. If not, we will be at the mercy of everyone asking for funding. If city funds are being gifted to other agencies for spending, the city should micromanage the expenses somehow. I support allocating \$3,000 to Chamber for FY2010-2011.

Bhardwaj: The collapse of the State budget will no doubt require the city to be cautious with spending. I can support the full amount requested this year, but not an ongoing basis.

Morgan: I can support a percentage based allocation on an annual basis, but realize significant injections are needed from time-to-time. I support this one-time proposal for \$9,500.

Miller: I am impressed with the Chamber's enthusiasm and wish list. However should be cautious and responsible with spending. Is it possible we meet them somewhere between \$3,000 – 9,500?

- a. *Motion (Fulkerson/Miller) to authorize expenditure of \$3,000 to Greater Trinidad Chamber of Commerce for FY2010-2011. **Passed unanimously.***
- b. *Motion (Miller/Fulkerson) to authorize an additional, one-time expenditure of \$6,500 to the Greater Trinidad Chamber of Commerce for FY2010-2011. The record will reflect that this decision does not set a precedent for an ongoing annual commitment. **Passed unanimously.***
- c. *Motion (Fulkerson/Miller) to authorize expenditure of \$1,500 to HCCVB and \$1,500 to Trinidad Musuem for FY2010-2011. **Passed unanimously.***

4. Discussion/Decision to Consider Appointment to California Coastal Commission

The City Council received letters of request from Alex Stillman, Virginia Bass-Jackson, and Mark Lovelace asking for support in their candidacies for Coastal Commission.

Council comment included: **Morgan:** Supports all the candidates.

Public comment included:

Stan Binnie – Trinidad

Encouraged the Council to support Stillman and Lovelace. Read the Coastal Commission's mission statement.

*Motion (Fulkerson/Miller) to send letter support to Governor endorsing Mark Lovelace and Alex Stillman for Coastal Commission appointment. **Passed 5-0.***

5. Discussion/Decision on Committee to Recognize Quality Community Design

Councilmember Fulkerson explained the proposal that recognizes people who develop good design with physical space. No official nomination process, but opinions and suggestions for members are welcome.

*Motion (Miller/Bhardwaj) to establish a committee of the Council with the task of recognizing quality community design. Each Councilmember should enlist 1 committee nominee by the next meeting. **Passed unanimously.***

XII. COUNCIL REQUEST FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- Planning Commission Member, Trinidad Head Maintenance & Management Plan

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

- Meeting ended at 9:45pm.

Submitted by:

Gabriel Adams
City Clerk

Approved by:

Kathy Bhardwaj
Mayor