

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE TRINIDAD CITY COUNCIL
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 09, 2013

I. CALL TO ORDER

- Mayor Fulkerson called the meeting to order at 7:00PM. Council members in attendance: West, Miller, Fulkerson, Baker, Davies.
- City Staff in attendance: City Manager Karen Suiker, City Clerk Gabriel Adams, City Planner Trever Parker.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. ADJOURNMENT TO CLOSED SESSION – No closed session scheduled.

IV. RECONVENE TO OPEN SESSION

V. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion (Davies/Miller) to approve the agenda as written. Passed 5-0.

VI. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – August 14, 2013 cc

Motion (Miller/Baker) to approve the minutes as amended. Passed 4-0-1. (Davies was absent).

VII. COMMISSIONERS REPORTS

Miller: BLM Gateway update. Marine Lab 100 Anniversary Open House announcement. HCAOG discussed 101 Safety Corridor.

Baker: COT Watch update.

Fulkerson: Brief HTA update, Victorian Home renovation on HTA owned land.

Mayor Fulkerson also made a special presentation of Proclamation 2013-05: Humboldt State University Centennial Celebration 1913-2013. Introduced HSU President Rollin Richmond, who thanked the Council and highlighted the university's various achievements and accolades.

VIII. ITEMS FROM THE FLOOR – None

IX. CONSENT AGENDA

1. Financial Status Reports for August 2013.
2. Staff Activities Report for September 2013.
3. Law Enforcement Activity Reports.
4. Request Authorization to Advertise Water System Upgrade Project.

Motion (Davies/Miller) to approve the consent agenda as written. Passed unanimously.

X. DISCUSSION AGENDA

1. Discussion/Decision regarding General Plan Update and Schedule.
City Planner Trever Parker explained that at Karen's request, I am providing you with update as to where we are in the General Plan update process and expected schedule. Unfortunately, once again I have to report that we are behind the schedule I drafted for you in March 2012. There are several reasons for these delays.

Time. There were other things going on, both in Trinidad and other work obligations, so that I did not always get to spend the amount of time needed. Trinidad projects included quite a number of permit applications, the OWTS program implementation and several projects with the Coastal Commission, including a couple of LCP amendments and a couple of appeals. The good news is that the lack of time spent on the General Plan last year was reflected in the billings, so that we were well under budget for the year.

Housing Element data and complexity. The Housing Element in particular took longer than I thought it would due partially to the complicated State requirements. It was not our goal to develop a Housing Element that would be certified by the Dept. of Housing and Community Development as required by State law, but we did want to include all the requirements and make a good faith effort towards that end. But also, we had some real

problems with the data. The Housing Element is now just a month or two away from Planning Commission approval.

Outside involvement. The next element we have started working on is a Cultural & Historic Resources Element. With the particular interest and possible controversy over this element, I expect that it could take a significant amount of time to get through. I started by soliciting informal input from the Tsurai Management Team, including the Yurok Tribe and the Tsurai Ancestral Society, at meetings and through email. I also reached out to Trinidad Rancheria. It was suggested that I go ahead and initiate the formal Tribal Consultations on the General Plan update that are required by State Law (SB18). I then sent out letters requesting consultation to the Tribes listed by the Native American Heritage Preservation Commission, providing 90 days to respond. As expected, I only heard back from the Yurok Tribe and Trinidad Rancheria. I have also offered the opportunity for more informal participation and consultation from these two entities along with the Tsurai Ancestral Society through the TMT meetings or other avenues.

The Community Design Element will be the last one that the Planning Commission will consider. The idea of this element is to make the design review / view protection policies more objective, fair and clear. This will likely be of particular public interest, which could prolong the review.

Even though these last two elements may move slowly due to some controversy, public involvement, or communication issues, there are other things that staff and the Planning Commission can continue to work on in the meantime. These include the environmental (CEQA) document and the zoning ordinance update. Because of the City of Arcata's difficulties in getting their General Plan and Zoning update certified by the Coastal Commission (it has been five years), I have provided a copy of the draft elements approved by the Planning Commission so far to local Coastal Commission staff.

There was no public comment.

The Council agreed, by consensus, that the General Plan Update should be kept a priority.

2. Presentation/Discussion regarding Trinidad Head Study Committee Final Report.

Committee Chairman Stan Binnie introduced the report. He noted that the Tsurai Ancestral Society provided comments late, and they did not approve of the report as written. He also presented the report outline that included: Committee members, Top Concerns, Documents Regulating Activities on Trinidad Head, and Ownership Interests.

Committee Secretary Mareva Russo presented all the findings and research to the Council in a binder format. Multiple copies of the binder will be on file in the City Clerk's office, and the full report will be sent to all the stakeholder groups. She presented highlights and findings of the Committee's research in detail, noted in the following summary outline:

- Trail Stewards Program Recommendation.
- Top Ten Public Concerns
- Committee Actions
 - Trinidad Head Tours
 - Management Guidelines
 - Public Meeting Input
 - Documents assembled in a master binder to be kept at City Hall.
- Suggested next steps
 - Trail Steward Program
 - Update Management Plan
 - Participate in Coast Guard Land Transfer Process
 - Restore to a more natural state.

Public comment included:

Virginia Waters – Committee Member and Trinidad Area Resident
Would like to see invasive species removed.

Stan Binnie – Committee Chairman, Trinidad Resident

Would like to see the binder put to use, and the recommendations made by the committee put into action.

Victoria Sackville – Trinidad Resident

The meetings were intense. Appreciates how consensus was reached by the committee, even during times of disagreement. The meetings held on Trinidad Head were incredibly productive.

Council comments included:

Fulkerson: Thanked the committee for their hard work and dedication to the assignment. The City received thousands of dollars worth of volunteer research from this committee. Regarding Trail Stewards, a representative should meet with Public Works and the City Manager to discuss existing projects and budgets. **City Manager Suiker** suggested looking at the Hammond Trail Steward Program as a model for a Trinidad Head program. She offered to initiate that process.

Davies: Offered to volunteer with Miller to discuss and/or coordinate the Trial Steward program concept.

Miller and West: Both impressed with the report, binder, and the intensity of the group meetings.

Miller: Could we develop a subcommittee that would recommend future agenda items?

*Motion (Baker/West) to form a committee of 2 Councilmembers to explore the possibilities and action items recommended in the Trinidad Head Advisory Committee report. **Passed unanimously.***

3. Presentation/Discussion regarding Overview of Trinidad Cemetery Options.

City Manager Suiker explained that the Council has requested staff to report on cemetery operations. Toward that end, the following information is presented to the Council in tonight's packet:

Trinidad Cemetery Quick Reference Guide, as updated July 2012. This document details the procedures for selecting and securing a burial plot and lists the associated fees.

Price Survey of Cemeteries as prepared by the Funeral Consumers Alliance of Humboldt as of February 2013.

City Manager Suiker and City Clerk Adams explained that there are currently at least 300 available burial plots and approximately 200 cremation plots available in Trinidad Cemetery. A map detailing the current occupied and vacant plots is available at Town Hall, and that map has recently been duplicated with additional copies now maintained in the City Manager's Office and the Water Treatment Plant to assure this information is available in multiple locations. This map was last formally printed in 1993 with subsequent activity handwritten on the map, and staff is in the process of obtaining a cost estimate for preparation of an updated map. Staff offered to answer any questions and/or take direction regarding any possible changes to the manner in which the cemetery business is conducted.

Council thanked Staff for the report. No decision was made.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

- Meeting ended at 8:50pm.

Submitted by:

Gabriel Adams
City Clerk

Approved by:

Julie Fulkerson
Mayor