

MINUTES OF THE RE-SCHEDULED MONTHLY MEETING OF THE
TRINIDAD PLANNING COMMISSION
WEDNESDAY, March 20, 2013

I. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL (6:08 pm)

Commissioners Present: Johnson, Pinske, Vanderpool, Becker, Rotwein
Commissioners Absent: none
Staff: Parker, Caldwell

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

February 20, 2013, 2013

***Motion (Rotwein/Vanderpool) to approve the minutes as written.
Passed unanimously.***

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

***Motion (Becker/Rotwein) to approve the agenda.
Passed unanimously.***

IV. ITEMS FROM THE FLOOR

Diane Stockness (439 View) is concerned about the Trinidad viewshed in her neighborhood. She would like some trees cut to roof level and is having some problems with neighbors cooperating. She likes trees but would like her view back and thinks the City should address this issue. She suggests addressing the viewshed in the Housing Element. Brush, berries and cherry trees around town need trimming. Vacation rentals pose an issue, too, since their owners are not around to trim. She suggested a volunteer work party for vegetation maintenance.

V. AGENDA ITEMS

- 1. City of Trinidad Tsunami Warning Signage:** Public Discussion on a proposal to place tsunami warning signs around the City. 'Leaving' and 'Entering' tsunami zone signs are proposed on Edwards Street and the Lighthouse Access Road as well as near the tops of City trails accessing the Beach on existing posts. Signs warning people that they are in a tsunami zone are also proposed to be placed around the harbor parking area. The Planning Commission may make a recommendation to the City Council on what, if any, signs to include in a future permit application, but no formal approval or disapproval of the signs will occur at this meeting. Located within City of Trinidad property and Rights-of-Way and in the harbor area in various locations.

Planner Parker introduces the project. The signs are standard CalTrans approved designs. State Parks is installing these same signs on their roads and trails with a CDP waiver from the CCC. The permitting within the City is complicated.

Commissioner Comment

Planner Parker clarifies for Commissioner Pinske that the locations chosen were based on existing poles and visibility, not specific elevations for expected tsunami run-up—except for the sign on Edwards Street, which will require a new pole; that location was chosen to be visible from both Edwards and Van Wycke. There is no state mandate to place these signs. Commissioner Johnson asks about the State Parks' sign permitting requirements. Planner

Parker noted that the City had granted approval to Trinidad State Park to seek a CDP directly from the Coastal Commission, which was waived for *de minimus* development. Parker isn't sure about the Park's internal approval process and standards though.

Public Comment

Brad Toomey (Himalaya Dr) suggests that the Planning Commission doesn't have to approve the signs. He is concerned about signage in Trinidad, and believes there are strict zoning regulations for a reason.

Diane Stockness (439 View) would like to see maps of the sign placements in the Post Office and other spots before approval. The area needs warning signs—there are earthquakes every month.

Zach Rotwein (53 Westhaven Dr) thinks that the area is already compromised by the placement of the tsunami siren in a less-than-ideal location, and thinks it's urgent to put the signs in to protect public safety.

Commissioner Comments

Commissioner Johnson explains that this meeting is for public comment, but no formal action will be taken.

Commissioner Becker appreciates people not wanting too many signs around town, but agrees that the siren is in an inadequate location and the project is proposed for public safety. She is in favor of the warning signs.

Commissioner Pinske thinks the locations are alright. He thinks only one sign may be needed for the C3 location and the Edwards Street post may impact views less if it were located on the north side of the street. The overriding concern is the safety of the community and tourists. The signs are standard and not too large in his opinion to pose viewshed problems.

Commissioner Becker agrees and echoes that they are standard signs for public safety. She thinks they're noticeable but not distracting.

Commissioner Vanderpool feels the same. He believes that the City shouldn't be putting signs up everywhere but that these are an exception as they are for public safety.

Commissioner Johnson notes that Trinidad is a tourist destination and public safety is first and foremost. Trinidad should not fall negligent in putting up safety signs and should be consistent with the rest of the coast. There are a few issues: he is not completely convinced that the Edwards Street sign is necessary and the Axel Lindgren Trail location will fall under Policy 69 and needs Tsurai Management Team approval. He has a letter from the Tsurai Ancestral Society objecting to the Galindo Street sign and the trail itself, but notes that that is a City Council issue. He feels that these signs are not intended or likely to alter pedestrian use patterns, and if anything could discourage use. Commissioner Becker agrees that discussions between the City and tribes regarding larger trail issues would be desirable.

- 2. Rancheria 2013-02:** Grading Permit and Coastal Development Permit for construction of approximately 2,300 feet of 6 in. water main along Scenic Drive in order to meet current City standards and provide adequate fire flows to the Trinidad Rancheria. Work also includes tie in to existing laterals, a new fire hydrant, flush hydrant, valves, paving and erosion control. The project will replace an existing 3 in.

water main connection from Scenic to Westhaven along Lanford and under Hwy 101. The Lanford Road portion will remain to serve existing connections, and the portion running under the freeway will be capped and abandoned in the future. Located within City of Trinidad and Humboldt County Rights-of-Way along Scenic Drive from Main Street to approximately 500 ft. south of Lanford Road.

Parker clarifies that the Stability and Alquist-Priolo sections should be disregarded; they are language left over from the previous Caltrans project last month. This project is on a more stable section of Scenic Drive and the Alquist-Priolo regulations apply to human-occupied structures.

Commissioner Comment

Commissioner Becker clarifies that this project is not meant to increase usage, and Planner Parker responds that yes, but the project is improving pipes to standard sizes, which means larger pipes. This will improve fire flows on Lanford Rd and reduce the likelihood of failure from undersized lines. It will not increase available service connections, though.

Commissioner Becker asks about the cost to the City and Barry Jarvis, engineer with Indian Health Services (IHS), states that IHS pays for the project and then it is turned over to the City for ownership and maintenance. If the City Engineer has to be called upon for inspections, the City can ask for reimbursement under the project.

Public Comment

Debbie Sangford (80 Lanford Rd), and other residents have concerns about how the project affects Lanford Rd residents.

The project engineer, Barry Jarvis, reviews the replacement of a 3" pipe with a 6" pipe up the City right-of-way up the center of the northbound lane of Scenic Drive, approximately 500 ft. south of Lanford Road. Work will occur within the existing paved portion of the right-of-way, except for three small areas where valves and a new fire hydrant. Two years ago IHS and the Trinidad Rancheria looked at replacing the 3" line under Lanford Rd and found environmental issues, real estate conflicts and drilling under the freeway risks, so they proposed to construct a new 6" main line along Scenic and connect it to an existing line along Main Street instead. He ensures her that there is not a fee for residents since a Federal Agency, HIS, under Health and Human Services is funding the project. With respect to water service on Lanford Rd, there will be no impact. However, some downtime is required when they disconnect the existing main and reconnect at Lanford Rd. There will be a number of advance notices. Traffic control and access was also discussed.

Commissioner Comments

Commissioner Johnson recommends another condition: ensure residents / users along Scenic Dr and Lanford Rd are given clear and adequate notification of when the water will be shut off. He reads applicable Section 01500 of the project's General Requirements. The project should comply with paragraph 1.22 requiring a cultural monitor, and other requirements for work hours, access, event rules, traffic control, and services.

Barry Jarvis, Project Engineer, responds to residents stating that the project is contracted from September 1-March 1, but the intent is to do the work before the rainy season. He continues, following other comments / questions from residents, explaining the project in more detail. IHS has an engineering component and has been building and updating substandard tribal infrastructure throughout the U.S. since the 1950s. This project has been broken into four phases and this is the final phase. This project completes a flow loop to the

Rancheria, and brings the 3" water line up to the current 6" standard for fire flows. If there was a fire, the fire flow could collapse the existing line due to its small size and substandard material. This could drain the City's entire storage tank.

In response to questions and comments about the relationship of this project to the Rancheria's plans for a hotel and other development, Planner Parker adds that this project is not paving the way for future development and not creating a higher capacity or new connections. The future Trinidad Rancheria development would be a separate process. This is maintenance consistent with other maintenance and upgrades the City does periodically, for example, putting in new filtration equipment to filter out sediment at the water plant.

Planner Parker clarifies the language in the letter / notice sent to residents dated March 13th so they understand what was meant regarding the project.

Commissioner Johnson recommends alerting the residents prior to the start of construction. Once the contract is awarded, the City Manager should brief the community on the actual construction schedule. She will be the point of contact since she reports to the City Council.

Engineer Jarvis agrees that communication is key, and that the schedule is not set in stone; it is dependent on contractor bids. He also explains to the residents that this project is health-related because it is bringing the water line to meet standards for the existing housing. Planner Parker agrees that this is part of the City's water system and would have to be done anyway, regardless of the Rancheria's plans.

Motion (MP/GB) to adopt and approve the project as conditioned in the staff report with the condition that the residents are alerted to the timeframe of outages or construction times.

Passed unanimously.

3. General Plan Update: Housing Element review and discussion.

Planner Parker has looked at the City of Arcata's Housing Element (HE) and worked on the City's a bit but there is no new draft. She needs to reformat, "appendicize" the data, and tie in the data to the discussions and then to the policies.

The Commission agrees that the data is noisy and important data needs to be teased out. If data is not found to support goals, it can be put in the appendices.

Commissioner Johnson liked the notice about responding with comments. This month's assignment is to focus on policies and review them for discussion.

Note the mistake: p. 35 #5 is applicable to Blue Lake, not Trinidad.

Commissioner Pinske points out that some of the highlighted information should be verified by Gabe, the City Clerk.

p. 37, mobile home reference should be moved to the RV park section.

Public Comment

B Twoomy inquires about a policy in the Land Use Element and subdivision requirements to have all lots with street frontage and how that would affect the Twoomy subdivision.

Planner Parker replies that that requirement is actually in the existing general plan, but would not affect existing lots.

VI. CITY COUNCIL & STAFF REPORT

The City Council approved the supplemental Planning budget.

The Tsurai Management Team met to review the Cultural Element; the General Plan was not addressed, but it was a positive meeting. This is going to be a long and slow process.

Commissioner Becker will not be at the next meeting due to surgery.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 8:06pm.

Submitted by:

Sarah Caldwell

Secretary to Planning Commission

Approved by:

Richard Johnson

Planning Commission Chair