

MINUTES OF THE RE-SCHEDULED MONTHLY MEETING OF THE
TRINIDAD PLANNING COMMISSION
WEDNESDAY, May 29, 2013

I. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL (6:02pm)

Commissioners Present: Johnson, Pinske, Vanderpool, Rotwein
Commissioners Absent: Becker
Staff: Parker, Caldwell

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

March 20, 2013

There were no corrections.

Motion (Pinske/Rotwein) to approve the minutes.

Passed unanimously.

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion (Pinske/Rotwein) to approve the agenda.

Passed unanimously.

IV. ITEMS FROM THE FLOOR

items.

V. AGENDA ITEMS

1. **Trinidad 2013-04:** Design Review, Conditional Use Permit and Coastal Development Permit (as applicable) to place tsunami warning signs around the City. Five sets of 12" x 15" '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. Four 22" x 18" and four 24" x 24" signs warning people that they are in a tsunami zone are also proposed to be placed around the harbor parking area. Located within City of Trinidad property, easements and Rights-of-way and in the harbor area in various locations.

Planner Parker introduces the project and summarizes the staff report. She notes that condition 1 should be reworded to specifically reference that the C4 signs at the top of the Axel Lindgren Memorial Trail will not be placed until approval is received from the Tsurai Ancestral Society, Trinidad Rancheria, State Historic Preservation Officer, Yurok Tribe and CA Coastal Conservancy in accordance with Policy 69 of the Trinidad General Plan and recommendations of the Tsurai Management Plan.

The Tsurai Ancestral Society (TAS) requested a continuance of the project in a letter submitted to the Commission. In response to the letter, Planner Parker notes that the Tsurai Management Team will meet on June 5, and that tsunami signs may be discussed at that meeting, but likely no decision would be made. Parker notes that most signs are not within or near the Tsurai Study Area (TSA) and specifying that the Galindo Trail signs do not require a permit or action by the Planning Commission. The Parker Creek Trail sign is outside the TSA and 12.5-acre Coastal Conservancy easement area, but close by, so condition 1 could be expanded to include this sign if the Planning Commission felt that was appropriate. The Commission could also make a recommendation to the City Council regarding the Galindo location.

Commissioner Comment

Commissioner Pinske gets the impression that, except for the C4 sign, the TAS request to postpone the entire action is not reasonable, and the condition for the C4 sign requiring their approval takes care of C4. Planner Parker clarifies that the Planning Commission action tonight would constitute final City approval (unless appealed), but that the C\$ signs will not be placed until Policy 69 approval. It was noted that the TAS has specifically objected to the Galindo Street location in the past, but the signs itself is a public safety issue, will be placed on an existing structure, does not encourage traffic and does not require a permit. Commissioner Pinske states that the larger issue of the trail location is the purview of the City Council, and that the trail is not what is being addressed with this project.

Commissioner Vanderpool gets clarification on the C2 sign placement and Planner Parker states that it could be on the north or south side—based on whichever minimizes view issues or is more visible to motorists. Commissioner Johnson thinks it would be most effective on the right-hand side (going downhill). He thinks that maybe the C2 sign is unnecessary since 100 ft down is a larger warning sign; it's a duplication of information. Commissioner Vanderpool agrees, stating that more signs cause more people to ignore them and the signs placed should be the most effective ones. Planner Parker suggests a recommendation to the City Council.

Public Comment

Jim Gullett (Trinidad resident) thinks the right-hand side placement is best, and gets clarification that the signs are double-sided.

Motion (Rotwein/Pinske) to adopt and approve the project as conditioned in the staff report with the amendment to Condition 1.

Recommendation that C2 can be omitted with the further recommendation that placement be on the right-hand side (north).

The concern and comments from the TAS are appreciated, but the Commission feels that Policy 69 covers the issue. The Commission understands the concern over the Galindo Street trail, but believes this is a subject that should be taken up with the City Council.

Passed unanimously.

- 2. Chamber 2013-05:** Design Review to place five (5) banners, measuring up to 22" x 48" tall, on existing light poles on Main and Trinity Streets. One location will have a banner featuring Chamber of Commerce activities and the other four will feature Trinidad's commercial fishing fleet. In addition, up to four (4) commercial fishing fleet banners are proposed to be placed on existing poles within the Harbor parking area. Banners are proposed to be in place between approximately May 1 and Labor Day each year. Located on existing light poles within City of Trinidad Main Street and Trinity Street Rights-of-Way and in the Harbor Area.

Following the project introduction, Planner Parker lets the Commission know that the Trinidad Rancheria has been involved in this project. Applicant representative Rotwein confirms that the Rancheria is in support of placing the banners in the harbor area.

Commissioner Comment

Commissioner Johnson questions the process if another organization wants to put up banners and Planner Parker responds that it would be the same. The timing of the banners was discussed. Commissioner Johnson and representative Rotwein discuss the design of the Chamber signage such that they will not distract drivers at the intersection; banners should not try to convey too much information with small font. That banner could replace that large banner that goes across the road. The signs are two-sided.

Public Comment

Public comment supports the banners. One comments states that the banners would be less distracting at the Main intersection; better than people waving signs.

Representative Rotwein states that this will showcase local, wild-caught seafood. These banners have been up at the Eureka Fish Terminal and Woodly Island and they have withstood the wind.

J Kitchen (Trinidad Retreats) thinks they make the town more welcoming and informative. She likes the seasonality of the banners.

Motion (Pinske/Rotwein) to adopt and approve the project as conditioned in the staff report.

Recommendation that the City Council continue with policy efforts regarding banners (maintenance, responsibility, pole use, other applicants, etc.).

Passed unanimously.

3. General Plan Update: Status report and discussion

Planner Parker asks for questions and comments. She's reorganizing data, but hasn't gotten to the policies or far enough to provide an updated draft. She checks in on the Commissioners' tasks of looking at policies and data incorporation, validating data, comments.

Commissioner Johnson asks about the timeline, and Planner Parker states that the Housing Element is the last of the State requirements. She is organizing the formal consultations with tribes for the Cultural and Historic Element and the rest of the General Plan. Parker's current strategy would be to keep the Cultural element somewhat general, using the County's will be used as a model; this should help the process move more quickly. Community Design was requested as an element, but it is currently addressed in Design Review and View Protection. It can be addressed in the General Plan or generally in the Zoning Ordinance. Following this, the Zoning Ordinance and CEQA still need to be dealt with. Then the whole package must be certified by the Coastal Commission. This is projected to take a couple years.

The Commission and Planner Parker discuss incorporating the Tsurai Management Plan into the General Plan and decide it may be better to keep it as a separate document and incorporate it by reference into the General Plan.

Planner Parker updates the Commission on the first Tsurai Management Team meeting.

Planner Parker and the City Manager also met with the Coastal Commission about the VDU/ADU appeal fees, amendments, etc. Taking Coastal Commission comments early in the process makes the General Plan easier to process when finalized.

VI. CITY COUNCIL REPORT

The Council is working on the budget; the Planning budget is a balance of Planner time and City money. They discussed LCP amendments.

VII. STAFF REPORT

One permit projected for next month's meeting.
Due to dog activity, Commissioner Rotwein and Commissioner Pinske request Commissioner packet delivery modifications.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 7:04pm.

Submitted by:

Sarah Caldwell

Secretary to Planning Commission

Approved by:

Richard Johnson

Planning Commission Chair