

SUMMARY MINUTES OF A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE TRINIDAD CITY COUNCIL
FEBRUARY 01, 2006

I. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

Mayor Lin called the meeting to order at 5:00pm. Present were Councilmembers Bowman, Marlow, Heyenga, and Cuthbertson. Also present were City Attorney Jeff Guttero and Police Chief Ken Thrailkill.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Lin led the Pledge of Allegiance. The Council then adjourned to Closed Session at 5:02pm.

III. ADJOURNMENT TO CLOSED SESSION

1. Pursuant to Government Code, Section 54956.9

(a). Conference with Legal Council - Anticipated Litigation

1. Request for information

2. Pursuant to Government Code, Section 54056.8

(a). Real property negotiation

1. Appointment and conference with negotiators for real property on Trinidad Head from the Federal Government.

IV. RECONVENE TO OPEN SESSION

The Council reconvened to open session at 5:31pm. The Mayor reported out the following:

1. Anticipated Litigation - nothing to report; no litigation yet

2. Real property negotiations - nothing to report; no negotiations yet

V. APPROVAL OF AGENDA]

Motion (Heyenga/Cuthbertson) to approve the agenda as submitted. Passed unanimously.

VI. CONSENT AGENDA – None

VII. AGENDA ITEMS

1. Discussion/Decision regarding meeting with HSU Marine Lab Director. (Heyenga)

Heyenga introduced the item by referring to an email from the Mayor describing a meeting with the new Marine Lab Director, L. Scott Quackenbush, Professor of Biological Sciences. Heyenga was concerned about the mention of a "park" on Trinidad Head, when no such plan had ever been discussed by the Council. The Mayor introduced Dr. Quackenbush who explained that his meeting with the Mayor was a casual get-acquainted meeting and that no specific plans had been proposed.

Dr. Quackenbush described some of his goals for the Marine Lab and some ways professors and students might use Trinidad Head. His ideas included public access, low impact student activities (e.g. whale watching) and signs for natural features. Money is not yet available to make any plans a reality.

Council comments/questions:

Cuthbertson emphasized that any ideas or plans for Trinidad Head should come to the Council first so the Council is in at the beginning.

Bowman asked if HSU is aware of the importance of water quality in the bay, since the Marine Lab discharges sea water there. Dr. Quackenbush assured the Council that he has made the University administration aware of the issues and what the Marine Lab is doing. He noted that since the Marine Lab has been discharging sea water into the bay for over forty years and the kelp beds are still there, the impact of the discharge seems negligible. However, the Lab faces the same water quality requirements as the City and the Trinidad Rancheria.

The Council thanked Dr. Quackenbush for his attendance and comments.

2. Discussion/Decision on request from Coastal Commission for Council position statement. (Heyenga)
Heyenga reviewed the request from Management Plan Project Officer Su Corbaley of the California Coastal Conservancy. She asked for a formal statement of the Council's position on wanting the Draft Management Plan to go to the public without prior public workshops. Heyenga read a proposed statement.

Dr. Thomas Gates from the Yurok Tribe explained that the Tribe also wanted to get the Draft Plan out as soon as possible. He suggested that instead of specify the end of February that we simply say that the Draft would go to the public as soon as the Management Plan Team agreed on a draft that was ready for the public. Mayor Lin suggested adding a statement that prior public workshops would delay the process.

Motion (Heyenga/Bowman) to send the following statement to Ms. Corbaley as soon as possible:

The Trinidad City Council wants the Public Comment Period for the 12.5 acres Draft Management Plan to begin as soon as possible. Thorough public discussion and consequent Council action depend on having the document at the earliest possible date. Therefore, the Council members have unanimously agreed to rescind their statements favoring workshops prior to a Draft being presented to the public. We feel prior workshops would simply delay the process. We suggest the Conservancy set a goal to have the Draft ready as soon as the Management Plan Team agrees on a draft that is ready for the public.

Passed unanimously.

Mayor Lin agreed to be the one to send the statement.

VIII. ITEMS FROM THE FLOOR

Dr. Tom Gates, Yurok Tribe

Dr. Gates reminded the Council that Trinidad Head is a sacred site to the Yurok Tribe. The Tribe is a sovereign government and needs to be consulted at the beginning of any process involving the Head. He specifically referred to the recent application for to install a cellular communications pole. Heyenga noted that a recent Council proposal to study Trinidad Head specifically included the Yurok Tribe, since the Council understands the cultural and religious importance of the Head to the Yurok Tribe.

Cindy Lindgren

Mrs. Lindgren asked about the nature of the closed session item on litigation. Mayor Lin explained that while he could not discuss specifics, the litigation did not involve Trinidad Head.

VIII. REQUEST FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Cuthbertson said that the issue of cutting trees above the Tsurai Village site would be on the next agenda. Lin reported that the Arcata/Eureka Airport manager would attend the next meeting to discuss airport expansion.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Council, Mayor Lin adjourned the meeting at 6:25pm

Submitted by:

Approved by:

Dean Heyenga
Councilmember
02/02/06

Chi-Wei Lin
Mayor