

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE TRINIDAD TRAILS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 2017 AT TRINIDAD TOWN HALL, 409 TRINITY STREET

I. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

Mayor Pro Tem Rotwein called the meeting to order at 3:30 pm. In attendance: committee members Kenny, Morehead, Brown, Rotwein; member of public: Laos; City staff Price-Hall. Absent: Kitchen, Myers, Cuthbertson

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Kenny/Brown moved to approve minutes of September 26 meeting. Motion passed.

III. ITEMS FROM THE FLOOR - None

IV. STAFF REPORTS

Rotwein - Van Wycke Trail should be moving forward with CEQA completed by January Trail meeting.

V. COMMITTEE MEMBER REPORTS

Morehead: If Gallindo Street Trail comments at last City Council meeting are correct, why hasn't the trail been shut down yet? Should this committee have a recommendation on this issue?

Laos: The information about the Gallindo St trail should be vetted to determine what is factual. The City manager met with the Rancheria about this issue and the Rancheria is doing some research on the issue with the THPO and a professional to determine what information is verifiable. There is a lot of work to be done in terms of making a recommendation.

Rotwein: It is prudent for the City to meet with the Rancheria and others to determine the facts.

Laos: She looked through all the Rancheria meeting records and could not determine that the TAS had brought up the issue prior to the current time.

Kenny: Appreciates that City and Rancheria personnel are doing due diligence on this issue.

Rotwein: The Trail Committee is the place to develop a recommendation about the Gallindo Street trail issue after fact-finding has been completed.

VI. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

1. Evaluation tool for monitoring trails

Kenny revised the trail monitoring report based on feedback from committee members. The part of Field Observation question 5. "Is there a management plan for the trail?" should be moved to the pre-field notes.

Rotwein: Should cultural resources be mentioned?

Laos: Rather than in the trail monitoring report, a brief paragraph should be added in the management plan that the city regulations should be followed, and there should be instructions for encounter of a native artifact – there could be instructions about moving to the side and burying in place.

Rotwein – The Trail Report form is for City and committee use, rather than for the public. The Committee agreed that the Report should be taken for a trail test with the members taking the same trails as assigned at the 06/12/17 meeting: Trinidad Head – Susan, State Park – Jonna, Underwood – Gail, Harbor – Gail, Old Home Beach/Axel Lindgren trail – Ben, Old Wagon Road – Jim, Parker Creek – Gail. Zach expressed interest in walking all the trails.

The Committee agreed to note things that aren't on the trail (e.g. bluff or beach) that should be brought to staff or another agency's attention. The Report could have check boxes for each of the trail landowners: Rancheria, City staff, State Parks, BLM, TCLT.

2. Recommendation: Memorial Bench Policy

Rotwein summarized the basic points to be determined: memorialize not advertise; have plaques available for ten year increments; how to address existing donors; number of plaques per bench; cost for a plaque. Maximum of 2 plaques per bench? Have a 10 year grace period and if the donor does not re-donate, that will be the end of it. There could be 2 plaques if one is grandfathered in. The transition would occur as benches are maintained or replaced.

Discussion about memorializing people only versus people and community groups/organizations: Brown would like to see more than just people remembered, like Trinidad community groups, especially if there are not enough people purchasing memorials. Morehead objected to the idea of memorializing only people because the Land Trust would not be able to have a plaque to recognize the contributions of their members to the trails. The committee agreed it was not appropriate to have for profit business plaques, or non-Trinidad area groups.

Discussion about number of plaques: agreed there should be a consistent rule and a maximum of 2 plaques on a bench for \$500 each plaque, and one plaque on a bench for \$1000.

Several edits were suggested: Add "annually" to second paragraph; "Benches will be available for memorializing individuals, families, or Trinidad area community service based organizations";

Recommendations:

The existing donors that cannot be contacted will be grandfathered in for a ten year period with that bench available for sharing with a new plaque. The original donor will have the opportunity to donate for a new 10 year period. After ten years, the plaque for that bench will be available for purchase.

There will be a maximum of 2 plaques on a bench.

Kenny – As a side note: near the informal trails by Marine Lab at Trinidad State Beach, there is now a rock with someone's name, birth and death dates. Doesn't believe this should be allowed. This will be referred to State Parks.

3. Vegetation Management Policy

Price-Hall provided a summary of the Public Works staff trail vegetation maintenance: during the growing season they try to trim trails to maintain 4-5 feet every 2 – 3 weeks, schedule allowing. They are trying to balance cutting enough to keep the trail cleared, and avoiding cutting sensitive plants or needing to do more substantial trimming due to excessive growth. There are complaints on both ends of the spectrum. Suggested that the Trinidad Head trails General Maintenance Guidelines would be a good starting point for a policy, with specific concerns noted such as sensitive plants or timing of work.

Proposed recommendations could include:

- Address trimming and getting rid of invasive species beyond the trail right of way, except on Trinidad Head where no work beyond the trail right of way is allowed.
- Annual trail maintenance including vegetation management and general trail maintenance. Should determine what the annual trail maintenance would look like on areas where trail meets the beach?
- Identify all groups that can help with trail maintenance – Rancheria, trail groups, ccc, swap

Discussed deficiencies about existing trail view maintenance. Ben thinks it is still too tight around the views. Places like the start of the trail with overgrown salal hedges obstructing the view – can

something be done with that? Ben will check the guidelines and see if additional trimming would be allowed.

4. Discussion/Recommendation: Signage Design

Committee agreed to table this item for a future meeting.

5. Dog Policy on Trinidad Head

Allowing dogs on leashes on all trails provides consistency through-out town.

Kenny/Brown moved to recommend changing the Trinidad Head Ordinance to allow dogs on a leash. Motion passed.

The sheriff has been directed to enforce the leash law, so this would be extended to the Head. The Rancheria currently follows the City policy about dogs. Trails versus beaches: Hard to enforce the leash laws on the beach because of the mean low tide line.

6. Discussion/Recommendation: Informational Kiosks

This item was tabled for a future meeting.

VII. REQUEST FOR FUTURE ITEMS

January meeting: Draft vegetation management document; memorial bench policy; trail monitoring tool test results. The trail reports can be used to inform trail maintenance and vegetation maintenance recommendations, including invasive species recommendation. The goal would be to have these recommendations ready by the March trail committee meeting.

February: Land Trust to propose new Bruno-Groth redwood forest trail to parker creek trail within City limits.

The signage design item could be put off until some of the other agencies have worked on this.

Dates: No December meeting. Keep meeting on the 4th Tuesdays. Next meeting will be Jan 23, 4 – 5:30 pm at the Land Trust office. Meetings Feb 27 and March 27, with these meeting locations to be determined.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned at 5:00 P.M.

Submitted by:

Rebecca Price-Hall
City Staff

Approved by:

Susan Rotwein
Mayor Pro Tem