

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE TRINIDAD CITY COUNCIL**  
**MONDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2015**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

- Mayor Fulkerson called the meeting to order at 4:00PM. Council members in attendance: West, Miller, Fulkerson, Baker, Winnett.
- City Staff in attendance: City Manager Dan Berman, City Clerk Gabriel Adams.

**II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

*Motion (Miller/West) to approve the agenda as written..* **Passed unanimously.**

**IV. ITEMS FROM THE FLOOR**

**Susan Rotwein – Trinidad**

Invited the public to attend the upcoming Blessing of the Fleet on Thanksgiving day.

**IX. DISCUSSION AGENDA**

1. Discussion/Decision regarding reconsideration of City Letter on Homan Subdivision.

City Manager Berman explained that the project proponent Dr. John Homan was not notified of this item on the prior November 10<sup>th</sup> agenda, and has requested that the City hear both sides of this issue and reconsider their letter accordingly. The original November 10<sup>th</sup> staff report stated that a coastal development permit for a 6 lot subdivision fronting Stagecoach Rd. and Anderson Lane has been approved by the County Planning Commission, upheld upon appeal to the Board of Supervisors, and is now being appealed to the California Coastal Commission. The appellants are requesting that the City send a letter to the Coastal Commission as follows:

*Whereas the views from Trinidad Head and coastal points south are of unique national significance, and important to the City's tourism economy, we hereby request the California Coastal Commission to require modifications to the subdivision that will fully protect the natural unbroken forested character of this ridgeline in all public coastal viewpoints including Trinidad Head and coastal points south.*

At that meeting, the public heard comments from the public (only the appellants), and the Council agreed to a) *send the letter that includes the statement italicized in the staff report, and b) recommend the Coastal Commission consider FOCC alternative that preserves the treescape on the affected ridgeline.* The decision passed unanimously.

Public comment included:

**John Homan – Trinidad Area Resident, Project Applicant**

12 years ago we approached the county to subdivide our 19 acre parcel. This project has been reviewed by the City Council and Planning Commission and the County Board of Supervisors and Planning Commission. We've met with our opponents, hired many expensive consultants, and made changes to the project as requested in response to all the feedback received. We changed the parcel size, driveway locations and septic locations. I met with the City Manager onsite a few months ago and showed him around. He assured me that the City has not intentions to comment further on the issue. On October 13, Robert Vogel met with Julie Fulkerson and requested that the City send a letter to the Coastal Commission. The greenest County Planning Commissioner called out Friends of College Cove's (FOCC) propaganda. Why did the City Planner not notify the Council that this issue has already been dealt with? I've spent over 20 hours on site with Coastal Commission representatives, who scrutinized my project beyond what the City has. Vogel and FOCC have presented gross inaccuracies. I would like the city to rescind the letter they wrote, and wait until the Coastal Commission makes a formal response and let them do their job.

**Robert Vogel – FOCC**

The issue we present is an effort to preserve the viewshed of the coastline looking north from Trinidad.

**Paul Hasselquist – Trinidad Area Resident**

I started working on a project on Stagecoach Road years ago that this same group of people tried to stop. They got what they have, and don't want to let anyone else in. John Homan is an excellent community member and has done everything to satisfy his neighbors, but they still harass him.

**Peter Martin, Charles Netzow, Steve Saunders, Kim Tays**, all support FOCC and don't want the letter to be rescinded.

**Tom Lindquist** – Trinidad Area Resident

The Council should rescind the letter, apologize to Mr. Homan for the mistake, and stay out of this. There are over 7 clear-cuts along the ridge surrounding Strawberry Rock... has anyone noticed this? Homan has done back flips for everyone, he's an outstanding member of this community, and the hypocritical complainers are ridiculous. They cut their trees too.

Council comment included:

**Baker:** We represent our constituents. They expressed interest in the view surrounding the Trinidad area. But I don't like how we ended up here and I feel that the issue has been mishandled. I respect Mr. Lindquist's comments, and support keeping the revised letter more general.

**Fulkerson:** This meeting was called to give Mr. Homan a voice. We apologize for not notifying him of the previous meeting (AND the Planning Commissioner applicants). Mr. Homan and I discussed potential revisions to the letter that he would support (read aloud).

**West:** I apparently don't know enough to be making judgments on this project. I support rescinding the letter and not rewrite it until we have Coastal Commission input.

**Miller:** I disagree. Vogel's presentation was clean and true. There is not enough time for alternatives to be discussed. I based my decision on the information I had to work with.

**Winnett:** Have we talked with our City Planner about this? As Council members, we rely heavily on Staff. We don't have enough understanding of the project over the last 10 years to intervene with a heavy hand. We have a planner that we should have heard from. I will support the revised letter if it was more general, not naming the Homan subdivision specifically, but rather a preference to consider overall.

*Motion (Miller/West) to rescind the letter written last week to the Coastal Commission, and send a new revised letter as proposed by Fulkerson. **Passed unanimously.***

## 2. Discussion/Decision regarding Planning Commissioner Appointment

Mayor Fulkerson explained that the recent resignation of Commissioner Kathleen Lake has left the Commission with one vacant position for a term through December 2016. As of the Wednesday, November 04 deadline, the City received (3) letters of interest for (1) vacant position from residents Cliff Poulton, Doren Morgan, and Ben Hawkins. The applicants all live in the city limits.

Only one applicant was present at the November 10 meeting, so the Council agreed to postpone the decision until all applicants were available. All three were present.

The Council asked a series of questions to each applicant:

1. What made you want to apply.
2. What qualities do you possess that make you a good fit?
3. How would your role on the PC help resolve the local transient population?
4. What would you do with your position to affect the health and livability of Trinidad?

**Ben Hawkins:** Want to serve the community I live in. General Plan and law enforcement are of interest. I'm a good listener, not reactionary, I've lived here for 13 years and have construction experience. I would like to see more housing opportunities in Trinidad. Water quality isn't good, VDU's are a problem, and affordable housing is important.

**Doren Morgan:** I want to serve the community and preserve what I love about it. I grew up in Arcata, sold my house in Arcata, and moved to Trinidad. I served on an HOA and social boards in Sacramento. I understand the importance of enforcing regulations. I have management experience and many years of real estate experience. I don't think I can help the transient population as a Planning Commissioner, but I do appreciate and will continue

to support the local sheriff. I've seen the divisiveness that the VDU issue has caused in Trinidad and I would like to participate in advising policy decisions. I can contribute, reach compromises, and continue to support families as they continue to move to Trinidad.

**Cliff Poulton:** The VDU controversy has caught my attention and I thought the Planning Commission would be a good place to start volunteering my time. Cell Towers and undergrounding utilities are also concerns. I'm a licensed contractor, Public Works Superintendent for the City of Arcata, and have experience in many Planning Commissions – including the City of Trinidad's. Transient population seems mainly to be a law enforcement issue.

Council comment included:

**West:** Length of time living in the community is a deciding factor for me.

**Baker:** Experience is my priority, and Cliff seems to have the most.

*Motion (West/Baker) to appoint Cliff Poulton as Planning Commissioner to serve through December 2016.*

**Passed unanimously.**

### XIII. ADJOURNMENT

- Meeting ended at 6:20 pm.

Submitted by:

Approved by:

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**Gabriel Adams**  
City Clerk

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**Julie Fulkerson**  
Mayor