

**MINUTES OF THE RE-SCHEDULED MONTHLY MEETING OF THE**  
**TRINIDAD PLANNING COMMISSION**  
**WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 17, 2012**

**I. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL (6:05pm)**

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

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

*September 5, 2012*

Page 1/3, last paragraph – delete extraneous word “driveway.”

***Motion (Pinske/Vanderpool) to approve the minutes as amended.***

***Passed unanimously.***

**III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

***Motion (Becker/Pinske) to approve the minutes.***

***Passed unanimously.***

**IV. ITEMS FROM THE FLOOR**

B. Twoomey (Berry Road resident) approves the new Gateway improvements in the City but notes that Murphy’s Market had unpermitted planters & banners up over the weekend that were removed when people complained. He also says that Murphy’s Market was told to remove their sign which is not compatible—it is oversized and has been blocking views for 17 years. He would appreciate support in getting the sign removed.

**V. AGENDA ITEMS**

- 1. Land Trust 2012-08:** Use Permit and Coastal Development Permit to remove a large (>12” DBH) non-native holly tree from the property, which poses a potential hazard to adjacent structures and blocks sunlight. Located at 409 Trinity Street (Trinidad Art); APN: 042-031-27

As a board member of the Land Trust, Commissioner Johnson recuses himself from this agenda item as to maintain complete transparency and turns it over to Commissioner Pinske. Planner Parker notes the address was incorrect on the noticing, but that the APN was correct, as was the address on the public notice. She introduces the project.

*Commissioner Comment*

Commissioner Becker asks if the tree interferes with the sidewalk and Planner Parker responds that the Humboldt Transit Authority only listed that it interfered with buses. Commissioner Pinske adds that there was a street light hidden by the tree.

*Public Comment*

N. Silvertree (Trinidad resident) reads and submits a letter from herself and two others from the public in support of keeping the tree.

M. Sterling (381 Ocean) states that the tree has been here as long as she can remember and she cherishes it. She reads three letters from the public in support of keeping the tree.

S. Binnie (487 View), as a previous horticulturalist, gives his opinion of the health of the tree and is in favor of keeping it. If the tree must be removed, he is in favor of adding a condition that another be replanted and cared for.

B. Twoomey supports keeping the tree. He suggests limbing it at the proper time and implanting a condor nest in the tree.

K. Tays (487 View) has counted 35-40 trees being cut since she's been here and feels that people in Trinidad don't like trees. Trinidad is a tree-less town because of the logging culture. The Views & Vegetation Ordinance is draconian in nature and there is no effort in the community to control invasive species. The tree should be limbed and the bus route changed so it doesn't impact the tree. She asks about sensitive species and Planner Parker responds that there have been none documented by the Department of Fish and Game, but Kim states that if no one has looked for them, they may still be there. A condition should be added that a large-size native tree be planted in its place, such as a vine maple.

V. Sackville-Rosen (364 Ocean) thinks that even though the tree is a non-native, because of its age, an exception should be made. The tree charms the area and she was shocked at the bus company's request. She sings into the record.

Carolyn Phillips (607 Parker) is the owner of the Trinidad Eatery has paid to have the tree trimmed before. It blocked the view of the Eatery. She had spoken with Ned Simmons about the tree and he had said that he didn't care if they trimmed the tree or cut it down. The tree is really overgrown and they have no view from the upstairs. If the tree is removed, she'd like to see a tree in its place.

D. Allan (Vice President of the Land Trust) has lived in that house and the tree is invasive and popular with the birds that spread the seed. They didn't mean for this to become a controversial issue. It interferes with the bus and if the Planning Commission decides against it, they will limb it up. The Land Trust is here to serve the community.

#### *Commissioner Comments*

Commissioner Pinske brings up the point of the specific reference to plans in the project to replant with a native-type tree in that particular spot. It should be deciduous to allow light into the building. The house is regarded as a historic structure, the 2<sup>nd</sup> oldest in Trinidad.

Planner Parker adds that historic photographs do not show the tree until 1962. She also responds to Commissioner Becker's question, stating that no, the tree does not pose pedestrian or traffic hazards.

Commissioner Becker also notes that the many of the trees in the area have been cut for hazard reasons, not because people hate them. K. Tays responds that she will research that fact.

Commissioner Pinske questions the cost of removal vs trimming the tree, and D. Allen states that that is not a factor since they thought it possible to do the work themselves. Commissioner Becker asks about the costs of trimming a tree, if there's permit requirement for trimming a tree to a certain height and if they explored the cost of a native tree replacement. D. Allen responds that they favored a vine maple for a replacement tree and the holly would require pruning to size and shape. Commissioner Vanderpool asks if he can take the tree down himself, and D. Allen states that a landscape contractor can do it easily and he describes the process.

The Commission discusses conditions during the motion and amend the motion to what is stated below:

***Motion (Rotwein/Becker) to adopt and approve the project with the condition that a native, deciduous, medium tree species that will grow to about 20 feet be replanted in place of the holly planted as large as reasonably possible.***

***Passed 3-1 (Vanderpool).***

D. Allan comments that the initial reaction from the Humboldt Land Trust was to remove the tree simply based on the reasons stated in the staff report. They will, however, take public comment into consideration, and just because they received the permit does not mean they will cut.

**2. General Plan Update:** Review Draft Public Safety and Noise Elements, Figures, background reports.

Noise and safety is addressed again. Edits and comments are as follows:

- Planner Parker will add a reference of the EOP plan in the Noise & Safety element.
- Address Pier rebuilding in the Noise element
- Remove page 12
- Figure 17 – add City insert, remove the aerial photo, and make the broken vs. solid lines match in the legend
- Figure 18 – add City insert, use CalFire data, boundary lines, clean up legend
- Figure 20 (noise figure) is fine

Planner Parker will print the General Plan to date and look into internal consistency.

Commissioner Johnson asks when the noise ordinance will be developed (references pg 6) and Planner Parker states that the City can do this at any time. Commissioner Johnson suggests recommending the City Council to develop a noise ordinance. Commissioner Johnson also suggests making a recommendation to the City Council to update the EOP. Planner Parker suggests that the City should re-establish a relationship with the Humboldt County Office of Emergency Services. Planner Parker will make sure Gabe has all the background reports at City Hall.

## **VI. CITY COUNCIL REPORT**

None.

## **VII. STAFF REPORT**

Parker reports on the events of the September 26 Special meeting. The Civic Club project was approved by the Council, but appealed to the Coastal Commission. Survey stakes have been located and indicated that the project is within the Civic Club property boundaries.

The General Plan update will be an agenda item at the next City Council meeting. Staff is proposing that the City develop an Historic and Cultural Element for the General Plan update and will inquire to the Coastal Conservancy as to whether there may any funding opportunities for this. Planner Parker will work on the Housing Element for the next meeting.

The Commission discusses canceling the November meeting (Thanksgiving week) and discusses a date for December (19<sup>th</sup>).

**VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting adjourned at 7:47pm.

**Submitted by:**

**Sarah Caldwell**

Secretary to Planning Commission

**Approved by:**

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**Richard Johnson**

Planning Commission Chair