

MINUTES OF THE RESCHEDULED MEETING OF THE
TRINIDAD PLANNING COMMISSION
WEDNESDAY, February 6th, 2013

I. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL (6:00pm)

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

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

December 19, 2012

Reminder: there are no November minutes. Commissioners request that first names are used in the minutes for review purposes.

Motion (Pinske/Becker) to approve the minutes.

Passed unanimously.

Commissioner Johnson reminds staff that finalized minutes to date need to be signed.

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion (Pinske/Becker) to approve the minutes.

Passed unanimously.

IV. ITEMS FROM THE FLOOR

None.

V. AGENDA ITEMS

- 1. Caltrans 2012-09:** Grading Permit, Design Review and Coastal Development Permit to complete a seismic retrofit of the Trinidad Road (Westhaven) Undercrossing on U.S. Highway 101. Most of the work will be occurring with the Caltrans right-of-way, with some work also within City rights-of way. Aesthetic treatments will be included on the walls of the undercrossing.

Planner Parker introduces the project and gives background. CalTrans representatives present include Kim Floyd, project manager, Frank Callinan, bridge engineer, and Brenda Harwell, project engineer.

Commissioner Pinske comments on crosswalk lines and temporary lighting. The project engineer confirms that the lighting will be returned to its current state.

Commissioner Johnson recommends the staff report refer to the April 2012 public meetings that already reviewed and approved the design review.

Planner Parker notes that the phone lines may or may not have to be removed when the sidewalk is worked on, and if they are, it will not be at the City's expense. The project engineer agrees. The City also has the authority to issue a Coastal Development Permit. The City will also have to rely on the City Engineer's review of the project for recommendations on issues such as stormwater. Commissioner Johnson suggests adding a cultural monitor condition to the project based on the Caltrans proposal.

Public Comment

Brad Toomey (Himalaya Dr) asks if the artwork has been refined. The project manager responds that it remains as to what the City Council and Gateway committee approved.

Brad Toomey (Himalaya Dr) comments on the homeless problem in the crevasses of the bridge. The project engineer states that the design will be left as it is. The Gateway committee also commented on that. The bridge engineer adds that they are working toward a good project, but issues exist everywhere with people and debris.

The project manager thanks the public for working with them on the designs.

Motion (Pinske/Rotwein) that based on the information submitted in the application included in the staff report and public testimony, I move to adopt the information and findings in this staff report and approve the project as conditioned in the staff report and with the additional condition of using a cultural monitor.

Passed unanimously.

2. General Plan Update: Housing Element review and discussion.

The Commission enters into a workshop mode.

Planner Parker relays that the City Council voted to do the intermediate version of the Housing Element because of reality and the small community and resources of Trinidad. Planner Parker also notes that the facts in the Housing Element are from the American Community Studies and based on general statistics, and thus not reliable.

Commissioner Johnsons notes that there are a lot of implied studies/requests throughout the document. Planner Parker assures him that there is little data left to get. The Commission finds multiple errors and unbelievable statistics. Commissioner Becker agrees that the City is not in a position to fund data research, but she feels uncomfortable leaving the data as it is. Planner Parker understands, but based on state-mandated requirements, the City is at a loss. She suggests meeting the requirements as best they can. Commissioner Rotwein suggests a disclaimer in the beginning of the housing element.

The Commission realizes that they have to re-review the Housing Element, and focus on suspect, important and noteworthy data while recognizing trends and constraints. The Commission notes where suspect data occurs and this data relates to Native American populations, natural gas, renter occupied homes, female-headed households, prices of homes, etc. Commissioner Johnson would like to explore the statement about multijurisdictional agreements.

The Commission might want to look at other housing elements, especially of those cities constrained by septic and high property values.

VI. CITY COUNCIL REPORT

The Council approved Mike Morgan's use permit amendment. Tsunami signs and the General Plan were discussed. Planner Parker will reach out to the tribes regarding the Cultural Resources Element.

VII. STAFF REPORT

The next meeting will be February 20.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 7:36pm.

Submitted by:

Sarah Caldwell

Secretary to Planning Commission

Approved by:

Richard Johnson

Planning Commission Chair