

MINUTES OF THE REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETING OF THE
TRINIDAD PLANNING COMMISSION

Wednesday, January 16, 2019

I. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL (6:03 pm)

Commissioners Present: Graves, Johnson, Stockness, Lake, Kelly
City Planner Staff: Parker
City Staff: Zetter

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

October 30th, 2018

Commissioner Johnson asked whether the City Engineer was done with their review of the Circulation Element. Planner Parker answered affirmatively. Commissioner Stockness requested an update on the Emergency Action Plan and Brown Act Training. Staff indicated they would get back to her.

Motion (Johnson/Stockness) to approve the minutes as submitted.

Passed (3-0), with 2 abstentions; Kelly and Lake abstain.

November 13th, 2018

Commissioner Lake clarifies a comment that she made as member of the public at that meeting. It was generally agreed that staff should listen to the recording and amend the minutes as needed. Commissioner Graves suggests that everyone speak clearly into the microphone.

Motion (Johnson/Stockness) to approve as amended, pending further staff investigation and edits.

Passed (3-0), with 2 abstentions; Kelly and Lake abstain.

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion (Stockness/Johnson) to approve the agenda. Passed unanimously (5-0).

IV. ITEMS FROM THE FLOOR

J. Cuthbertson (City Resident) asked if Planning Commissioners are getting their required ethics training. Commissioner Stockness advised that yes, and the classes are now available online. Commissioner Graves clarified that the online classes are not optional.

Resident J. Cuthbertson also stated that there was an issue regarding Council's vote on the Reinman rezone. J. Cuthbertson further questioned whether ex parte communication had been disclosed, and that it is illegal. Commissioner Graves confirms that there was no ex parte communication, and that had been stated at the meeting. J. Cuthbertson advised that two of the Council members spoke to the

City Planner Parker provided information on both the Trails and STR Committees that the City Council created. Parker advised that the Council is requesting a Commissioner appointment for both committees. Commissioner Graves met with Mayor Ladwig about the Committees but did not obtain any additional information other than what was provided in the packet. Commissioner Kelly asked if anyone knew any more about these two committees.

Commissioner Lake explained that an ad hoc committee of the Council recommended that the City create an STR advisory committee to serve as a liaison between the City Council and the public. She expresses her interest in being on the STR Committee, as she has background knowledge going back 15 years to the original the VDU Committee. She advised that her husband, Councilmember Tom Davies was a part of that Committee. Commissioner Lake stated that she has an understanding of what the community's concerns are. She nominates herself.

Public Comment:

A. Grau (City Resident) opined that the nominee should be a resident of the City. He also stated that it should be someone that is familiar with the issues.

D. Cox (City Resident) also advised that it should be a City resident on the STR committee. She stated that Commissioner Lake has lived the "Ocean Ave" experience and is knowledgeable about the STR ordinance.

Commissioner Discussion

Commissioner Graves suggests starting with the appointment to the Trails Committee. Commissioner Kelly stated that she is interested in being a part of the Trails Committee, as she has a unique perspective from living next to a trail and has working with the Land Trust.

Motion (Stockness/Johnson) to appoint Commissioner Kelly to the Trails Committee. Passed unanimously (5-0).

Commissioner Graves stated that he agreed that ideally the STR appointment should be a Commissioner that lives within the City limits. However, he added that it would also be beneficial to have a fresh set of eyes. Commissioner Graves is worried that Commissioner Lake is jaded from spending so much time on the issues already. Commissioner Lake reiterated that she would be a good choice, because she has the community's best interests at heart.

Commissioner Stockness requested to know if Commissioner Graves was interested in the position. Commissioner Graves advised that being on the Committee is not his first choice, but he would consider it. Graves noted that the Council has allowed Planning Commissioners from the greater Trinidad area, recognizing that there are common

City Planner Parker advised that there is no new information to add. She put this item on the agenda as requested to ensure that the public has adequate access to the material.

Commissioner Comments/Questions

Commissioner Stockness questioned if the water section of the circulation element is going to be discussed. Parker advised that a discussion will take place after the water supply assessment(s) is complete.

Commissioner Lake requests updates and information on the following: next steps; the last Council review; why draft zoning language was submitted to the Coastal Commission before the City Council. Commissioner Lake notes that there has been limited public comment, and there has not been enough public outreach. She feels there is a lack of communication between staff, the Planning Commission and the City Council; she suggests a joint meeting between the Council and Commission. Commissioner Lake also requested a copy of the General Plan be kept in Town Hall. She also requested a schedule, so members of the public can know when certain issues will be discussed. Commissioner Stockness suggests that the meetings be printed in local newspapers.

Commissioner Graves advised that more meetings would consume additional staff time. Commissioner Lake recommends ad hoc committees to work on the General Plan update. Commissioner Kelly stated that it seems two issues are being discussed – keeping the General Plan on schedule, and ensuring open dialog with the public. Kelly recommended that staff be given additional resources. Commissioner Graves noted that the Planning Commission is updating an almost complete General Plan to incorporate new data, not starting from scratch. Commissioner Johnson stated that Graves makes a good point, and that it is important to understand that the Planning Commission has approved and the City Council has seen almost every element already.

Commissioner Lake asked when the Elements went to Council. Parker stated that City Council reviewed them from 2009 to 2013 when the previous drafts were completed. Commissioner Graves suggested developing a schedule to help increase public participation. Graves advised that it has been his experience that Council waits until the Planning Commission is ready to give their recommendations. The topic of a City Council liaison was discussed between the Commissioners.

Commissioner Kelly advised that when she reviewed other General Plans there has been an executive summary, which is more accessible to the public. She acknowledges that while there is an introduction, an executive summary would quickly inform the public what the City of Trinidad is truly working towards. She also opines that the vision statement is not proactive.

Public Safety is the next general plan element and that staff continues to conduct Tribal consultation.

Commissioner Graves asked about who staff is working with on the Cultural Element. Parker confirmed that the City is working with the Rancheria and the Yurok Tribe. Commissioner Stockness asked about TAS involvement. S. Laos noted that they are members of the Yurok Tribe.

Planner Parker stated that the Van Wycke Trail project CEQA document will be on the February 20, 2019 agenda for comment only. She also noted that she would not be in attendance, but someone else from her office would be; in addition, she has requested that someone from the City Engineer's office also attend.

VIII. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Commissioner Lake requested trainings and / or information regarding City policies on the Brown Act and ex parte communications.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned at 8:12 pm.

Submitted by:
Angela Zetter
Administrative Assistant

Approved by:



John Graves
Planning Commission Chair