

MINUTES OF THE CONTINUATION MEETING FROM FEBRUARY 23, 2011
TRINIDAD PLANNING COMMISSION
TUESDAY MARCH 1, 2011

I. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

Commissioners Present: Becker, Fraser, Johnson, Vanderpool
Council Liaison: none
Staff: Planner Parker, Caldwell

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

It was noted that the agenda was not posted on the website.

III. ITEMS FROM THE FLOOR

None.

IV. AGENDA ITEMS

1. **Continuation of Item #2: Rancheria 2011-02:** Design Review and Conditional Use Permit to install a tsunami warning siren near the Seascapes vacation rental. The purpose of the project is to warn beachgoers, harbor users and boaters of a tsunami hazard as part of the Remote Community Alert Systems Program funded by the Office of Emergency Services and in coordination with the National Tsunami Hazard Mitigation Program. The siren will be mounted on a telephone pole approximately 35 ft. in height. Located at 1 Bay St.; APN: 042-071-08.

Staff re-introduces the project, reminding the Commission that the original proposal was considered unacceptable. The Staff Report is the same and this meeting is to assess the new plans for the tsunami siren following collaboration with the community, Michael Hostler (Program Director with the Trinidad Rancheria), and Dan Larkin (County representative from the Office of Emergency Services).

Michael Hostler discusses the new specifications. The siren will be located near the originally proposed location, west of the vacation rentals. It will be on a 4x4 slab and will not exceed the seven foot height limit. There will be screenage under the siren and over the siren holes. The controller box will be as close to the house power source as possible. Antennas will be not higher than the roofline and in an area hidden from view from the parking lot and viewshed of homes. There will be a 12" excavation of the hillside where the slab will be and it will be protected with two bollards so vehicles cannot harm the pole.

Commissioner Fraser inquires as to the height of the antennas and Dan Larkin states that they are 30"x30", situated vertically with three arms going out to the sides.

Responding to Commissioner Becker's question as to if there will be a sound compromise for beach-goers, Dan Larkin explains that people on the near beaches will be reached. A 45' pole is optimal for sound travel, but the desired effect with this design will generally occur.

Michael Hostler and the Commission discuss the schematic of the new specs. Michael Hostler also states that they will try to fulfill the request of the cultural monitor onsite, but

if the specified individual is unavailable, they will be replaced with someone of the same qualifications. Planner Parker remarks that the original request was just more of a general request.

Public Comment

Stan Binnie (487 View)

States that for the record he was not opposed to the tsunami siren. He thanks everyone for a productive and amicable design meeting and appreciates the Commission for their support.

Kim Tayes (resident)

Agrees the situation worked out well. She advocates for a compliance check-list to be completed by the building inspector before construction begins. She would like it signed and submitted for the record. (She passes out a compliance check-list template with suggested wording.) She feels that in the past the City has approved projects that have been built differently than what was agreed upon. Therefore she would like specifications put in writing so no future changes can be made unless it has gone through a Planning Commission meeting and public comment. She also hopes the sirens are kept a green color so they fit into the background and addresses her concerns about public education.

Robert Vogel (Stagecoach Dr)

Echoes Kim Tayes' comments. He stresses the value of the Trinidad Head and surrounding beauty. He would like to improve the project notice process.

Dan Larkin

Describes the project process and timeline. He also educates the community and Commission about different types of tsunamis and emergency services.

Commissioner Becker

Inquires as to if there are existing funds for changes to the siren.

Dan Larkin

States that there is zero funding for future changes. As for the current changes, he hopeful there will not be an additional cost. If there is, he imagines it will be small. He goes over the testing process, highlighting that the three northern counties will be testing at the same time, same day. The long-term plan for this is to get sirens up and down the CA, OR, WA coastline. He goes into detail about what happens with the siren when it is tested or sounded during an emergency.

Commissioner Becker asks if he's happy with the placement.

Dan Larkin

Thinks that the new design is not optimal, but it will still reach most of the intended people. It definitely won't reach College Cove.

Michael Hostler

Offers up a utility pole in the Rancheria's possession. More sirens are available. With the purchase of a controller box and the \$500 it costs to refurbish the sirens, there exists the possibility of placing a siren at a new site. He agrees that College Cove needs protection.

Commissioner Comments

Commissioner Johnson

Believes that this was a good example of the community working with an applicant. This was a balance of public safety and design.

Trever Parker

Appreciates the public's compliance checklist, but reminds them that the City of Trinidad has a standard checklist process in place. This project involved electrical work, so it will need a building permit and that has a checklist already; it is part of the building permit.

Commissioner Becker asks if the public's conditions can be incorporated into the checklist.

Trever Parker

A standard process for projects exists, but she will pass the conditions of approval on to the Building Official. She suggests incorporating the conditions into the motion.

Commissioner Johnson outlines the motions to be approved and bundles the public's conditions of approval into the motion.

Commissioner Fraser wonders if they should include the dimensions of the antenna and asks what a "standard" antenna is. Dan Larkin specifies, stating that it is a single spire.

Michael Hostler also adds that they want to keep the controller box as close to the power source as possible, but that there may not be enough space on the front porch, so it may vary in location.

Trever Parker also mentions that the public education may be a separate motion and recommendation to the City Council.

Michael Hostler invites a City representative to attend Redwood Coast Tsunami Working Group meetings to help disseminate information to the public.

Motion (Johnson/Becker) based on the information submitted in the application as modified with additional information provided this evening (March 1, 2011), and included in the staff report and public testimony, I move to adopt the information and findings in the staff report and approve the project as amended and including the 11 conditions of approval.

Passed unanimously.

Motion (Becker/Fraser) that Staff write a memo to the City Council that suggests working with the Office of Emergency Services to create public outreach and education and recommend that a City Council representative be identified to attend Redwood Coast Tsunami Working Group meetings.

Passed unanimously.

V. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 7:28pm.

Submitted by:

Approved by:

Trever Parker

City Planner

Richard Johnson

Planning Commission Chair