



**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF
NORTH TAHOE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL
April 11, 2013**

Pursuant to notice given, the regular meeting of the North Tahoe Regional Advisory Council (NTRAC) was held on Thursday April 11, 2013 at the Tahoe City Public Utility District Board Room in Tahoe City, California.

1. Call to Order

LOLLY KUPEC called the meeting to order at 6:01 PM. A quorum was established.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Kupec, Hymanson, Kojane, Siig, and Hill

MEMBERS ABSENT: Chillemi, Vaca, Danto, and Straver

STAFF PRESENT: Montgomery, Kastan, and Friedman

2. MAC Member Introductions

a. Introduction of new NTRAC member, Katherine Hill

Everyone introduced himself or herself. There were 26 audience members in attendance at the beginning of the meeting.

3. Approval of Agenda

HYMANSON/HILL/UNANIMOUS

4. Approval of Minutes of March 14, 2013

HYMANSON/SIIG/Carried with abstentions from HILL and SIIG

5. Supervisor / Tahoe Field Representative Reports

SUPERVISOR MONTGOMERY presented the February Labor Force Data for Placer County. She reported the Grand Jury has done an analysis that concludes a new Sheriff's Station has not been built at North Lake Tahoe due to many administrative factors. A new facility is a priority for Placer County and there are some funds available for design, but a site has not been identified.

The PLACER COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS will meet in Tahoe April 22 and 23 with public receptions being held at Garwoods and the Gatekeeper's Cabin. The architectural model for the proposed Village at Squaw Valley is available for viewing. The application for the Timberline Twister in Squaw has been withdrawn. The Mountain of Springs bluegrass festival is scheduled in Squaw Valley on April 28. MONTGOMERY reviewed the active projects moving through the environmental process. There has been an application for a sub-division development in Alpine Meadows that will eventually be heard by NTRAC. Approval of the Cabin Creek Biomass Project was appealed and is scheduled to be heard May 7.

MONTGOMERY reported the California Department of Finance approved the final dissolution of the Redevelopment Agencies. The bond funding allocated for the Kings Beach Commercial Core Improvement Project (KBCCIP) remains in place. MONTGOMERY explained what may happen with properties owned by RDA.

6. Community Reports

KRISTIN MANN, Community Service Office for Placer County Sheriff's Office announced the Prescription Take Back Day on April 27, 2013 at the old Tahoe City Fire Station.

CHIEF SCHWARTZ of the North Tahoe Fire District announced Calfire is returning to the Tahoe Basin this summer, which is a good thing given the predictions for an early, long, and dry fire season.

7. NTRAC Member Reports

KOIJANE announced upcoming events hosted by Squaw Valley Institute.

8. Public Comment

PETER KRAATZ of PLACER COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS updated the group on the Highway 89 Water Quality Improvement Project, which was begun last summer. Although this is a Caltrans project, Caltrans cannot begin work until Southwest Gas completes their line work. Much more outreach is being done to advise the public of the construction schedule and traffic impacts.

9. Information Non-Action Items

A. The Northstar Forest Flyer project – Gerry Haas, Senior Planner, Placer County Planning Services, and Andrew Strain, Vice President of Planning and Governmental Affairs, Northstar California

GERRY HAAS reviewed the application for this project, which has been revised as the project has been relocated to address noise issues. The Council asked questions to clarify details of the proposed project. It was noted that Northstar has a letter from the Property Owners Association stating approval of the changes and new location. MONTGOMERY said that although she was inundated with public comment with the last application, she has not received any feedback this time, other than approval from the Property Owners.

The topic was open for Public Comment.

ELLIE WALLER asked why this project was not included in the Northstar Master Plan as another form of recreation. She voiced concern about the visual impacts, noise, and the location of the project vis-à-vis the conservation areas. WALLER suggested a Mitigated Negative Declaration is not a high enough level of environmental review.

There were no additional comments on this item.

B. The SR 89 / Fanny Bridge Community Revitalization Project Status – Peter Kraatz, Assistant Director, Placer County Department of Public Works

PETER KRAATZ introduced ALFRED KNOTTS from Tahoe Transportation District (TTD). TTD is the lead agency for this project and KNOTTS is Project Manager. Many agencies are involved and there has been a fairly robust outreach effort to inform the community and get input. KRAATZ gave a history of the project, saying the Notice of Preparation (NOP) comments have been received and the environmental documents are being prepared. KNOTTS provided additional information on TTD, noting accomplishments in the Basin. He said environmental studies are being prepared based on a variety of data collected, including cultural and biological. Six alternatives with a variety of alignments are being considered by Wood Rogers, who is doing the engineering. KNOTTS described the components and alignments being discussed and said an Administrative Draft should be done by the end of this calendar year.

KNOTTS and KRAATZ answered questions clarifying the reasons for the project and possible alignments and components. It was noted the main issues are reducing traffic on the west shore and addressing Fanny Bridge, which is at the end of its engineered life span.

The topic was opened to Public Comment.

ELLIE WALLER asked about the public outreach. KNOTTSS said there were meetings with property and business owners in the Tahoe City area, as well as public meetings. There is still a need to re-engage. WALLER asked if operating and maintenance funds have been identified if this becomes a Placer County project. KRAATZ said if the roads are local County roads, funding will need to be identified.

JIM SAJDAK said he believes the documents published are misleading to those who don't know the area and questioned some of the statistics in the report. He does not believe a bridge through 64 Acres is necessary and that the existing bridge could be upgraded, which would retain the esthetic value. He voiced concerns about specific components in the project.

Public Comment was closed. KOIJANE said there is a need to get people out of cars and onto public transportation. She believes those considerations will be made and the project will not be overbuilt unnecessarily.

C. Update on the Old Tahoe City Fire Station – Jennifer Montgomery, Placer County District 5 Supervisor

MONTGOMERY said that although the Fire Station is currently an asset of North Tahoe Fire District (NTFD), it will revert to County control on July 1, 2013. NTFD has provided a lot of information on costs to operate and maintain the building. There are many problems with the current building; for example, it is not ADA compliant. All of those issues will be considered as the County grapples over what will happen to the structure and location in both the short- and long-term. There are many options the County is in the process of exploring but the bottom line is no decisions have been made. There was a land grant in the 1860's giving the land to the "citizens of the City of Tahoe," but since there is no "City of Tahoe," state courts held the owner is Placer County. Discussion followed as the Council asked questions clarifying the ownership and potential uses of both the land and the building. MONTGOMERY said it is her understanding the County also owns the Community Center on the site. It was noted there were some community meetings held before the purchase of the Golf Course to evaluate uses. MONTGOMERY said the site was also considered in the Master Plan. There was interest in making it open space, but the County will insure whatever happens on the site will serve the community. Discussion continued as potential uses were considered.

The topic was open to public comment.

CINDY GUSTAFSON, General Manager of Tahoe City Public Utility District, provided some history of the property. She said she believes that in the mid-1970s the Community Center was quit claimed to TCPUD, which has been paying insurance and maintenance on the building, but because it sits on that property, it may be owned by the County. TCPUD has been operating Common's Beach for the County since the mid-1940s and the County reimburses about 1/3 of the actual costs. TCPUD taxpayers contribute approximately \$131,000 annually. Based on recent visioning processes, there is strong desire to make the property self-sustaining and TCPUD would very much like to work with the County on this process.

GARY DAVIS noted the community forums held to determine the future of this property and he believed NTFD was required to cover the costs to tear down the old station. MONTGOMERY said an extensive search has been done and there is no formal documentation to memorialize that NTFD was to remove the building.

JAMIE ARRNO asked who owned the adjacent parking lot. MONTGOMERY said Placer County does.

WALLY AUERBACH said it is his understanding that the Courts determined the property is to be held in trust by Placer County for the people of Tahoe City, not that the County actually owns the parcel. He questioned the chain of ownership. MONTGOMERY explained the determination made when the local court was dissolved. She said part of the investigative process is to create the analysis of the level of ownership.

Public comment was closed and the Council continued to ask questions clarifying the future of the property and how the decisions would be made. HYMANSON and KUPEC urged MONTGOMERY to keep the community involved. MONTGOMERY said she will bring information back to NTRAC as it becomes available.

10. Future Agenda Items

- Water Taxi
- Northstar Flyer
- Coon Street as action item
- Relocating the Tahoe City Sheriff's Substation

11. Date and Time of Next Meeting – May 9, 2013 at the North Tahoe Event Center, 8318 North Lake Blvd., Kings Beach, California

12. Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 7:43 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Judy Friedman, Recording Secretary