



**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF
NORTH TAHOE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL
May 9, 2013**

Pursuant to notice given, the regular meeting of the North Tahoe Regional Advisory Council (NTRAC) was held on Thursday May 9, 2013 at the Kings Beach Event Center in Kings Beach, California.

1. Call to Order

LOLLY KUPEC called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM. A quorum was established.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Kupec, Koijane, Siig, Hill, Chillemi, and Straver

MEMBERS ABSENT: Hymanson, Vaca, and Danto

STAFF PRESENT: Montgomery, Kastan, and Friedman

2. MAC Member Introductions

Everyone introduced himself or herself. There were 10 audience members in attendance at the beginning of the meeting.

3. Approval of Agenda

SIIG/CHILLEMI/UNANIMOUS

4. Approval of Minutes of April 11, 2013

SIIG/HILL/Carried with abstention from CHILLEMI

5. Supervisor / Tahoe Field Representative Reports

SUPERVISOR MONTGOMERY reported the BOARD OF SUPERVISORS heard the appeal from the Center for Biological Diversity on the Cabin Creek Biomass Facility approval. The Center's attorney stated the County had resolved all their issues and so the appeal was rejected and the project will be moving forward. The Board met in Tahoe in April. The Placer County Successor Agency and Department of Public Works approved a project manual to remediate contaminated sites so the property previously held by the Redevelopment Agency can be sold. The Board received updates from the North Tahoe Business Association, the Tahoe City Downtown Association, the Placer County Community Plan Team, and the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency Regional Plan Update. The Board reviewed some of the projects in the area, including the proposed Alpine Sierra Subdivision request and another land division on Deer Park Drive in Alpine Meadows. Northstar Highlands II is scheduled to go before the Planning Commission on June 13. The Design Review Committee is hearing a request for a front setback variance at Powderhorn Drive on the west shore.

MONTGOMERY reviewed items that will be heard by the Planning Commission, but not NTRAC because they are administrative. The 1994 Landscape Design Guidelines are being updated. Also, the County is working on amendments to the Targeted General Plan in order to keep document current. These changes will not consider policy or amendments.

SUPERVISOR MONTGOMERY answered questions about upcoming meetings and events.

6. Community Reports

There were no Community Reports given.

7. NTRAC Member Reports

KOIJANE announced upcoming Squaw Valley Institute events.

8. Public Comment

ELLIE WALLER, a member of the North Tahoe West Area Plan Team, reported the group is moving along with the Community Plan Updates for that area and suggested this group request a presentation from the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency about the area plans and memorandums of understanding that will be required.

ANN NICHOLS reported Cal-Neva has been purchased by a developer who intends to upgrade the existing site. She reported on her observations at last night's Tahoe City Area Plan Team meeting, saying it is a confusing process and difficult to get information from the Placer County website on the process.

JENNIFER MERCHANT announced the upcoming Kings Beach Charette process. There will be public meetings, prior to a 3-day workshop.

9. Action Items

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

KASTAN distributed some of the written comments that have been submitted regarding this project. GERRY HAAS presented the project to the Council, saying it will be heard by the Planning Commission on May 23. He showed pictures indicating where the Flyer will be located and explained details. Of the 11 letters received, 7 were primarily from Aspen Grove homeowners and voiced concerns having to do with noise, traffic, and environmental impacts. HAAS explained why staff recommended a Mitigated Negative Declaration be required, rather than an Environmental Impact Study.

The Council asked questions clarifying the request, including impacts to the area, details on where the project is located, and how the ride operates. KOIJANE expressed concern that approval of this ride may lead to more "amusement park" type rides proposed at ski areas. HAAS said that anything else would go through this same approval process. In response to a question from KUPEC, HAAS said the course could not be expanded without modifying the use permit. Discussion continued.

The topic was open to Public Comment.

ELLIE WALLER voiced concerns about how the noise impacts were analyzed given the conservation zone in which the project would be located. She said approval could open the door for all other kinds of negative declarations for activities and suggested no approvals be given until this use is considered in the Master Plan. WALLER stated the National Forest is not the place for an amusement park.

JEFF STEVENS, General Manager of Northstar Property Association, said they consider this as a stand-alone project and not necessarily leading to other activity. The Association had many questions of Placer County and after meetings with both the County and the Applicant, feel their concerns have been heard and support the current location. The Association feels this is a good addition to the resort.

ANN NICHOLS, representing the North Tahoe Preservation Alliance, feels this is piecemeal planning and this project should be considered with everything else being considered for Northstar. This project has been termed an "accessory use" and NICHOLS said that needs to be clearly defined.

The applicant, ANDREW STRAIN, addressed questions from both the Council and the public. He explained how environmental concerns have been addressed and said this will offer more activities to the changing market place. Guests want more to do and this will help the Resort stay competitive. He addressed the issue of public lands, saying the location of the Flyer is on private land.

Public Comment was closed and the Council continued to consider the request.

Motion to deny recommending approval of the Northstar Forest Flyer project. STRAVER/CHILLEMI
AYES: STRAVER, CHILLEMI, and SIIG
NOES: HILL, KOIJANE, and KUPEC

The Council asked for a more detailed definition of an “accessory use.”

B. Recommendation to change name of “Coon Street” to “Raccoon Street” in Kings Beach - letter from Jeff Birkenstein

The Council discussed this request made at a previous meeting.

Motion to recommend not renaming “Coon Street” to “Raccoon Street” KOIJANE/SIIG

AYES: SIIG, CHILLEMI, KOIJANE, and HILL

NOES: STRAVER and KUPEC

Motion carried.

10. Information Non-Action Item

A. Transportation Update – Jan Colyer, Executive Director, Truckee North Tahoe Transportation Management Association (TNT TMA)

KASTAN announced Jan Colyer’s retirement from TNT TMA. She is moving to Roseville. JAN COLYER distributed the Summer Transit 2013 report showing all transit services being provided this summer, including the trolleys and water shuttle. The schedule begins June 27, 2013. She answered questions regarding each service. New this summer will be a trolley operating from the South Lake Tahoe “Y” to the Tahoe City Transit Center. Along with various stops along the way, service includes Emerald Bay.

11. Future Agenda Items

KUPEC asked for an update on the Placer County Community Plan Tahoe City Area Team, Homewood Mountain Resort, and the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency Regional Plan Update.

RON TREABESS will be asked to update the group on the 5 year Infrastructure and Transportation funding requests.

KOIJANE asked for an update on the plans for Fanny Bridge and Tahoe City Wye.

12. Date and Time of Next Meeting – June 13, 2013 at the Tahoe City Public Utility District Board Room, 222 Fairway Drive, Tahoe City, California

13. Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned 8:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Judy Friedman, Recording Secretary