



**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF
NORTH TAHOE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL
June 13, 2013**

Pursuant to notice given, the regular meeting of the North Tahoe Regional Advisory Council (NTRAC) was held on Thursday June 13, 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 6:02 PM. A quorum was established.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Kupec, Hymanson, Siig, Hill, Chillemi, and Danto

MEMBERS ABSENT: Kojane, Straver, and Vaca

STAFF PRESENT: Kastan and Friedman

2. MAC Member Introductions

a. Introduction of new NTRAC member, Larry Danto

Everyone introduced himself or herself. There were 18 audience members in attendance at the beginning of the meeting.

3. Approval of Agenda

HYMANSON/ SIIG/UNANIMOUS

4. Approval of Minutes of May 9, 2103

HILL/SIIG/Carried with abstention from HYMANSON

5. Supervisor / Tahoe Field Representative Reports

KASTAN reported the Northstar Forest Flyer approval is being appealed by the Aspen Grove Homeowners Association. The appeal will be heard by the Board of Supervisors when they meet in Tahoe in July. Creekside Charter School was going to move into the space previously occupied by Placer County on the west shore, however there were problems with ADA compliance and funding issues with renovations. They have submitted an application for a temporary facility for Squaw Valley Preparatory School. County staff is working on the draft EIR for the Village at Squaw Valley, which is expected to be released in February. Water is expected to be an issue and the Water Supply Assessment should be completed in August.

Plans for the Alpine Sierra subdivision in Alpine Meadows are moving forward and the Board of Supervisors will hear an update on the project at their June meeting. The California legislature voted down the proposed plastic bag ban for the state.

6. Community Reports

NORTH TAHOE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT CHIEF MIKE SCHWARTZ reported on changes within the District, including the return of CalFire support staff to the area. He is concerned about the potential for fire this summer, particularly because of fires in the basin so far. The Chipping Program has been reinstated. In response to questions, Chief Schwartz explained the CalFire resources in the District.

7. NTRAC Member Reports

KUPEC reported the 8th Annual Tahoe City Wine Walk takes place on June 22. There will be a lot of activities in Tahoe City this summer leading to the 150th anniversary of town being celebrated over Labor Day weekend.

8. Public Comment

EDMUND SULLIVAN of Placer County Planning Department reported the Tahoe City Community Plan process is entering a different phase. Crystal Jacobsen will be making a presentation to NTRAC about the status of the North Tahoe Community Plans. Several meetings will be held in June, July, and the fall, including a 3-day Vision Charette in Kings Beach. A consultant is working on the information gathered during the process and an economic analysis to consider revitalization for Kings Beach. SULLIVAN answered questions from the Council clarifying the role of the Tahoe City Plan team and how their work will be used.

9. Information Non-Action Items

A. Update on the Homewood Mountain Resort project – David Tirman, Executive Vice President, JMA Ventures, LLC

ART CHAPMAN updated the group on the status of the project, providing background on the two lawsuits filed after the EIR was certified in December 2011. Of the 9 issues named in the suits, 8 were resolved in favor of Homewood but in one case the Judge ruled that the economics of one alternative needed to be redone and re-circulated for hearings by Placer County and TRPA. Assuming that passes, the first phase of the project is expected to break ground in 2015. Phase one will include a 75 room hotel, a gondola to replace Madden Chair and a new mid-mountain lodge. CHAPMAN reported West Shore Café is open for summer. Lifts will be running to access hiking and biking trails. Homewood received a Golden Eagle award for environmental achievement for its restoration efforts and is the first ski area to receive the award since the 1980s.

B. The Alpine Meadows Bridge project – Peter Kraatz, Assistant Director, Placer County Department of Public Works

PETER KRAATZ reported Placer County has over 300 bridges, of which 14% are structurally deficient to some degree. The bridge at Alpine Meadows Road and Highway 89 is one. JOHN MITCHELL provided an update on the proposed design of the new bridge, raised walkways and bike trails on either side, funding, and permitting status. He explained why the current bridge is “functionally obsolete” and as such, qualifies for the Federal Highway Bridge program, which funds 89% of design costs and 100% of construction. Using PowerPoint, he showed the proposed alignment, renderings of the bridge, and aesthetic details. MITCHELL described the detour available during construction. There is still consideration of a signal light at that intersection, but it depends on funding from Caltrans. Construction of the new bridge should begin next spring and take one season to complete. MITCHELL and KRAATZ answered questions from the Council clarifying the project.

The topic was open to public comment.

STEVE HOCH spoke on behalf of the River Run Homeowners Association saying their concerns include proper notification to neighbors. The proposed design has bike and pedestrian lanes on both sides of the bridge and the Association asked about only having those lanes on one side in order to narrow the bridge to the current size. They have suggested alternatives to the County and hope to be involved in determining aesthetics. KRAATZ said he has been in communication with River Run owners. He explained the center line of the bridge is fixed so even if a sidewalk were only on 1 side, the bridge would not be narrower. Also, the County tries to increase pedestrian and bike mobility whenever possible. That is also one of the mandates for using federal funds and Caltrans wants pathways on both sides.

MERRITT CUTTEN, a resident of Alpine Circle Road, spoke in favor of the sidewalks.

KAREN WILLCUTS spoke in support of the proposed design.

LYDIA ALTIK asked about clearing snow. It was noted the walkways will not be cleared, but the roadway will be up to the curbs.

DAVE WESTALL, President of Alpine Manor II Homeowners Association and a realtor at Alpine Realty spoke in support of the proposed plan.

Public comment was closed. The Council asked questions relating to contingency plans if the project takes more than one season, lifespan of the project, and proposed aesthetic details.

10. Action Item

A. Recommendation on the Martis Valley Trail project – Edmund Sullivan, Senior Planner, Placer County Planning Services, and Wally Auerbach, Auerbach Engineering

EDMUND SULLIVAN reported the Northstar Community Service District (NCSD) is requesting a Conditional Use Permit for the first 1.25 mile segment of the 9.5 mile Martis Valley Multi-Use Trail. The highway alignment has been selected. SULLIVAN described the trail, saying he is in the process of compiling information for the staff report and environmental impacts and mitigations. KUPEC asked why NTRAC is being asked to consider this request, given the trail has been approved. SULLIVAN said this request is per County policy. It was further explained that Park Dedication Fees have been approved, but the Conditions of Approval have not been approved by Planning Commission.

WALLY AUERBACH presented a history of the overall project, challenges in the project area, considerations given to environmental impacts when the alignments were being reviewed, and mitigation measures outlined in the EIR. He described the Phase 1 area, saying construction is scheduled to begin next summer.

KUPEC asked what NTRAC is being asked to vote on. AUERBACH explained the trail is an allowed use in the open space, but only with a Conditional Use Permit, which is being requested tonight. DANTO voiced concern that the information submitted to NTRAC is incomplete and has errors. It was noted this was a draft staff report and probably should not have been submitted to NTRAC at this point. Discussion followed clarifying the location and details of the trail.

Motion to recommend approval of a Conditional Use Permit for Phase 1 of the Martis Valley Trail. HYMANSON/CHILLEMI/UNANIMOUS

11. Future Agenda Items

- 1) Review of the new MAC handbook
- 2) Ron Treabess will review NLTRA Transportation and Infrastructure projects

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

13. Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 8:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Judy Friedman, Recording Secretary