

INFORMATION



Purpose:

To outline the steps staff will be taking to determine if the membership is supportive of discontinuing motorized vessel launching at the Beach Club.

Background:

The drought of 2015 provided the association with a unique opportunity. Low water levels in Donner Lake resulted in the inability to operate the boat ramp at the Beach Club in a normal capacity. Staff was forced to close the ramp to motorized vessel launches for the summer season. Surprisingly, the feedback received over the summer months was overwhelmingly in favor of keeping the ramp closed "forever". Staff presented this information to the board in November 2015. The presentation is attached to this information paper.

Discussion:

The question staff would like to answer...is the elimination of motorized vessel launching at the Beach Club an actual reduction of the service level at this facility. While those members who do use the boat ramp to launch their motorboats would no longer be able to do this (estimated at 130-140 unique members), the rest of the membership who does not use this service will experience less vessel traffic in the water adjacent to our rental area and kiddy swim area, less vehicle traffic on the ramp itself, and more parking availability in the parking lot and along Donner Pass Road.

Recommendation:

Staff's recommendation is to move forward with an effort to solicit feedback about this potential change to the Beach Club operation. The plan follows:

Week of Jan 18 – Staff to develop a survey that provides the membership with high level information about the experience of last summer.

Jan 25, Feb 1, 8, and 15 – Weekly News email. Provide a link to an online survey asking the membership to provide feedback.

Week of Feb 22 – Compile feedback to provide a summary to the board at the February meeting with a recommendation for the upcoming season.

Timing of a decision is important to be sure staff will meet long lead time publishing requirements for the summer season publications. Late March would be the latest we would need a decision to make these deadlines.

Prepared By:

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TAHOE DONNER BEACH CLUB MARINA BOAT RAMP

2015



HISTORICAL UTILIZATION

- 465 launches
 - 490 launches
 - 665 launches
 - 525 launches
 - 322 launches*
 - 211 launches*
- ▶ 6 year average - 446
 - ▶ 2009-2012 average - 536
 - ▶ Estimated # of unique member launches per summer- 130-140



2015 IMPACTS

2015 drought resulted in the boat launch ramp being closed to motorized vessels this summer.

Staff allowed double parking in the 11 trailer spaces, and DPR parking was much more efficient.

Ramp was used by the membership to launch non-motorized vessels – canoes, kayaks, stand up paddleboards, and small sailboats.

Bus service was not utilized aside from the 4th of July where we saw significant utilization – 435 riders over the weekend. Less than 10 for the rest of the summer.

SUMMARY OF OBSERVATIONS

at ramp users (motorized vessels):

- ▶ Upon announcing the closure of the ramp for the season, staff received 6 complaints from the membership upset with the decision.
- ▶ One member requested that we continue to hold our trailer parking for trailer so they could launch at the public ramp.

SUMMARY OF OBSERVATIONS

on boat ramp users (includes non motorized users):

- ▶ Pleased with the reduced traffic flow both in and out of the water – less congestion and noise.
- ▶ Pleased with the additional parking availability.

SUMMARY OF OBSERVATIONS

off:

- ▶ “Many more members happy that the ramp was closed versus angry that it was closed.”
- ▶ “Much less stressful to work the water line location.”
- ▶ “No arguments between TDA members or family members this summer.”
- ▶ “Day Camp drop off was much smoother.”
- ▶ “The parking lot was much less congested. The boat inspections always caused jams during busy periods.”
- ▶ “I’m concerned about the backlash if we close it moving forward”

SUMMARY OF OBSERVATIONS

Comment cards summary – 21 cards submitted referencing the ramp

- ▶ TD staff at the marina are awesome this summer. All the kids and Ali are so helpful also I am so glad there is no boat launching.
- ▶ The rental station should be moved to the other end of the beach so that rentals and boat launching are separate (for safety).
- ▶ Please seriously consider eliminating boat launching. It has been so nice to not have power boats this summer. The water is safer for swimmers & kayakers and the lake experience is so much more pleasant and peaceful without power boats coming in and out.
- ▶ We really enjoy coming to the beach club at Donner Lake. Its great to swim near the floating dock across the little island. I wish the jet ski boats were not permitted so close to the swim area. I recommend expanding the swimming area
- ▶ Its great having no boat trailers this year. More peace and safer fun and plenty of parking. Please continue no boat launching in the future. Thank You
- ▶ Make the boat ramp longer.

SUMMARY OF OBSERVATIONS

Comment cards summary - Continued

- ▶ A wonderful full service beach with family friendly atmosphere. Please keep the boat launch closed, the extra parking is great.
- ▶ Keep the boat launch closed and expand the beach. Parking is much better and safer without the boats in and out.
- ▶ The Marina is not in a total frenzy like it usually was in the past when motor boats was allowed so much. Better now!
- ▶ We are really enjoying the lake without the cross traffic from the boats. Helps parking.
- ▶ Boat ramp should have certain hours, it takes up too much space.
- ▶ T.D. Beach Club Marina is awesome. Staff is amazing. Always willing to assist with kayaks, sup, etc. Clean & welcoming. The lack of power boats and Jet Skis made for less congestion this summer. When the lake is back up I would like to see T.D. have a launch fee. Pay for each launch or have a seasonal charge. Also, every guest in the boat pays a guest fee. That is fair! I pay \$150.00 to have a kayak at the Marina & do not use the beach. I just launch my kayak for sup & pay for every guest to put their sup in the lake.

SUMMARY OF OBSERVATIONS

Comment cards summary – Continued

- ▶ This season the beach is really quiet. Would it be possible to close the boat ramp also next year?
- ▶ It's been so much nicer without all the chaos of the boats at the boat ramp this year. Next year would it be possible to restrict boat access on the ramp until later in the morning? Say after 10:30 a.m.?
- ▶ Please, please keep the boat ramp closed from now on. It's so peaceful and quiet now, no yelling, truly a place to come and relax and enjoy what Tahoe Donner is all about.
- ▶ Great facility Boat ramp should be drowned out so it cant be used.
- ▶ More chairs , overall this is a great experience Food service is great, restrooms were clean. Over the past few years it was rough to watch power boats being launched in the swimming area next to my kids.
- ▶ Continue to keep the boat ramp CLOSED. More space for the paddle boards
- ▶ Boat rentals being moved away from boat launch. Otherwise this is a awesome place.
- ▶ I like the marina without the motor boat launch.
- ▶ Once again the whole crew did an outstanding job. It would be so much more pleasant to keep the boat launch closed.