

JENNIFER JENNINGS
CANDIDATE STATEMENT

If elected to the Tahoe Donner Association Board of Directors, I will urge the Board to:

- institute fully interactive Board meetings so that all Tahoe Donner members can participate in Board discussions
- accurately describe the matters on the Board's meeting agenda
- post the Board meeting agenda and all backup materials on the Tahoe Donner website at least seven days before the meeting
- hold closed Board sessions only where authorized by law and only when needed to protect the Association or member or employee privacy rights
- review the operations of the Architectural Standards program to reduce the burden on homeowners and focus on those items which provide benefit to Tahoe Donner property owners
- consider reducing the member assessments when budget surpluses occur
- develop a more positive, collaborative relationship with the Town of Truckee

Tahoe Donner members are the owners of the Association, yet on important matters we are not being consulted. In 2016, the Board purchased Crabtree Canyon for \$500,000 without any notice to the members. (The Board later ratified the purchase in public after it was pointed out that purchasing the land in closed session made it legally vulnerable.) As a member, I would have supported the purchase, but other members might have opposed – we were all silenced by the Board's secret action. Recently, at April's Board meeting, without the support of the relevant member committees and under the agenda item titled: "Tahoe Donner Seasonal Employee Housing Status Update," the General Manager sought Board approval for purchasing property within Tahoe Donner and constructing housing for seasonal employees. The recommendation was not disclosed until a few days before the meeting and was accompanied only by a one-page financial analysis. Fortunately, members were alerted via social media and committee members objected. The Board did not approve management's recommendation. The issue of seasonal employee housing should be addressed, but management made no effort to inform, much less engage, the membership at large before urging the Board to approve an expensive and long-term obligation.

I believe the lines of communication need to be strengthened and the balance of power needs to be reset as between management, the Board and the members. At members' insistence, the Board meetings are finally being streamed live. We need to go a step further and allow members from remote locations to speak directly to the Board during meetings. The routine use of closed Board meetings needs to stop. If there is no compelling reason to exclude the members, the meetings should be open. The valuable work of the member committees should be respected and the committees should include more "off the hill" members.

I will evaluate every significant proposal to insure that the membership has been informed and given the opportunity to comment. If that has occurred, I will consider whether the proposal would improve the member experience or contribute to the long-term viability of the Association.

My husband and I purchased our Tahoe Donner home in 2011 and moved here full time in 2013. We feel very fortunate to live in such a beautiful environment. I enjoy the Tahoe Donner amenities and I am active in the hiking club. I am currently: a member of the Tahoe Donner Giving Fund Committee, Board member of the Truckee Trails Foundation, Read Up volunteer with the Nevada County Library, Secretary of newly-formed Tahoe Truckee Democratic Club, member of Truckee Community Emergency Response Team and guide-in-training for the Tahoe Rim Trail Association.

I am an environmental lawyer and graduate of UC Berkeley School of Law. I have been appointed to the governing bodies of three entities - by Governor Jerry Brown, the Sacramento County Board of Supervisors and the State Bar Board of Governors. In addition, Governor Schwarzenegger appointed me to the position of Public Adviser at the California Energy Commission where I advised the Commission on how to increase public involvement in its activities and advised individuals, non-profit organizations and local governments on how to participate in the Commission's power plant siting proceedings. I also worked as an attorney for state environmental agencies and as a lobbyist/attorney for environmental organizations.

I have a wealth of experience on boards and I feel confident that I could work with my fellow Tahoe Donner Board members, and equally important – with the membership.

I would appreciate your vote for the Tahoe Donner Board. The new Board will make important and expensive decisions, including reconstructing or replacing the downhill ski lodge, modifying Trout Creek, and addressing employee housing. Tahoe Donner is a great place to own a home; we can make it even better.

If you want to discuss any of the issues facing Tahoe Donner, come meet me in the lobby at Northwoods Clubhouse from 10 a.m. to noon every Saturday through June 24 (with the exception of June 10). Or contact me via e-mail to ask a question or arrange another time to talk: jfjennin@gmail.com. I look forward to hearing from you.

Thank you,

Jennifer Jennings

