

Tahoe Donner General Plan Committee – June 1, 2019 Meeting Minutes

June 3, 2019

At the meeting of the GPC on May 6, 2019, the group discussed Resolution 2008-2 governing committees, and reviewed questions from the Board in a memo entitled Committee Policy & Charters Amendments Options for Clarity and Consistency. It was discussed that 2008-2 is an overall document directed at all committees, and that the GPC Charter would be more specific to the GPC.

These Notes summarize the follow-up discussions of Resolution 2008-2 and Its Application to the General Planning Committee ("GPC"), on June 3, 2019. The prior notes contain more detail about the May 3, 2019 discussions, which were more wide-ranging, as well as additional comments. This summary is intended to reflect the follow up discussions on June 3, and to reflect the points on which there was general consensus or clear positions.

I. Selection of Committee Members

The current policy provides as follows, under "Committee Membership Management:

"4. By November 1 of each year, it shall be responsibility of each committee chairperson to submit to the Executive Assistant, for inclusion in the November board meeting agenda, a compilation of all requests received for either initial appointment or reappointment, along with the committee's recommendation with regard to such requests. At its November meeting, the Board shall receive and consider these compilations and recommendations in anticipation of acting upon them at its December meeting.

5. Where a qualified prospective new committee member has applied and is being recommended for appointment, and the committee's roster of regular members is full, the new member's application should be given preference when requests for reappointment are also being considered.

"6. At its December meeting, the Board shall make the appointments/reappointments it deems appropriate..."

Members at the prior meeting were of the general view that par. 5, which gives priority to new members over all other criteria was not desirable, and this paragraph should likely be eliminated. Instead, the members were of the view that recommendations and selection should be based on specified criteria as follows:

1. The Committee will recommend to the Board from among the applicants based on (1) committee talent mix, (2) qualifications, (3) new applicants, and (4) demonstrated interest. (The overall mix of the committee should be considered in order to balance efficiency, knowledge, continuity and the desirability of new perspectives.)

2. The Board selects from among the applying candidates based on (1) committee talent mix, (2) qualifications, (3) new applicants, and (4) demonstrated interest. The Board will consider, but is not bound by, the Committee recommendations.

The members were in agreement that the Committee should make recommendations to the Board as to member appointments, but that the Board would have the final say and did not necessarily have to follow the recommendations. This seems to be the system contemplated in pars. 4 and 6, so no change would have to be made other than the elimination of par. 5

One member also discussed whether there should be a requirement that an applicant attend a specified number of meetings before applying to the Committee. The Covenants Committee Charter requires that an applicant first attend 3 meetings; I did not see any such requirement in the Finance Committee Charter.

So, there is an open issue as to whether there should be a specific requirement, or if attendance would be one of the factors considered in determining "demonstrated interest." The latter approach provides more flexibility, and does not create what may be perceived as exclusionary or a

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burden to member participation, but the need for an applicant to be familiar with the workings of the committee is also important.

Demonstrated interest should also include a show of willingness by the applicant to put in the time and effort to do the work of the committee.

II. Nominations for Applications

Members were in general agreement that the Board or the Committee could suggest that a member apply for a position, or that any member with interest could self-nominate by submitting an application.

The second section 1, under Committee Member Management, states that

"All prospective new committee members wishing to be appointed, and current committee members desiring reappointment, shall submit [an application] to the Executive Assistant...."

This implies that anyone with an interest can apply, regardless of whether they were recruited by the Board, the Committee, another member or self-recruited, and thus seems to reflect the practice favored by the members.

III. Chairman and Member Tenure

There was also discussion of balancing the need for continuity and for new members through the tenure process. Following up on the prior discussions, there seemed to be general agreement that:

Chairman: Extend the term of the Chairman to two years, with option for an additional one-year [or two-year] term if there are no other members who are seeking the chairmanship, subject to Board approval;

Member Terms: Membership terms, as now, would be for two years and staggered for continuity (see Section 8 of the current policy), but would not be "finite" as section 8 now says, but with so many caveats that it is meaningless and confusing. (So, striking the word "finite" is recommended.) Each member could be reappointed for up to two additional terms, with a required hiatus before rejoining that committee. However, in the event that a qualified applicant is not otherwise available, the hiatus would not be required and the Board could reappoint the member for additional terms.

IV. Duties of Vice-Chair

There was discussion as both meetings as to whether to make the Vice-Chair position more formal as to duties, to take some of the burden off the Chair. Suggestions included having the Chair draft the minutes (as well as the current duty of conducting meetings when the Chair is not present). Members also expressed that it was important not to make the duties so explicit that needed flexibility would be lost.

If the group finds this helpful, it might be better addressed in any revised GPC charter as opposed to 2008-2 so long as permitted under the overall 2008-2 policy.)

Most members did not want to explicitly state that the Vice-Chair would automatically, or likely, be appointed as Chair when the Chairperson stepped down, but to leave this to the decision-making and vote based on the factors and issues at the time

V. Subcommittees Co-Chairs/Members

A number of the members were of the view that a member of the GPC should be a chair or co-chair, or at least be a member of, any subcommittee or task force. This would ensure that the Committee itself, which will ultimately be responsible for any recommendations to the Board, will have representation and be adequately involved.

If desired, a decisions would have to be made as to which document it should be addressed in, i.e., the overall Resolution or GPC Charter.

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There was no enthusiasm for revisiting the title of “sub-committee” for some of the amenity working groups.

VI. Minority Reports

The consensus seemed to be that, in many instances, a range of options with recommendations as to pros and cons would be made to the Board. In such a case, there would be no need for a minority report. However, a Minority Report may be desirable on occasion, or some members may want to present one, and there should be no prohibition on doing so.

VII. Alternates

Most members were of the view that Alternates were not needed on the GPC, and that all members should be voting members. This could mean that the membership on the committee would need to be increased from 9 to 11 members. While this is a much larger number of regular members than the other committees, some thought that this could be helpful given the current workload of the committee and the desire that a Committee member be a chair or co-chair of any subcommittee.

VIII. Training New Members

There was general agreement on the need to train or mentor new members so that they can be up to speed and effective as quickly as possible. It was discussed that this did not need to be a formal provision, but a policy that should be adopted by the GPC. One way to do this would be to assign an experienced member to assist the new member, or have the new member and mentor select each other. In the past, Michael Sullivan has often met with and provided background information to new members to get them up to speed, and this is a good example of the process, which could be more formalized with the work spread out more equitably.

Report Submitted to the GPC by Laura Lindgren