

Trails & Open Space Subcommittee

May 23, 2019 • Meeting Minutes

<i>Association Members</i>			<i>TD Staff</i>
VJ Bonnard Richard Bothwell Dave Cohen Sue Crum Gayle Dana Kathy Englar Brenda Gilbert Jayne Hahn	Jennifer Jennings Guy Joaquin Benjamin Levine (Co-Chair) Paco Lindsay Carole Mahoney Nan Meek (GPC) Steve Miller (GPC) Scot Nicol	Bill Phelps Marina Phillips Lynette Powell Livia Quan Charlene Simmons Michael Sullivan (GPC) Susan Terrell Julie Thornton	Robb Etnyre Annie Rosenfeld (Co-Chair) Christina Thayer Brian Yohn
<i>Guests:</i> John Maciejewski, Jeff Shellito			

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At this meeting the Trails & Open Space Subcommittee (TOS) took the following actions:

1. The TOS approved the 04/25/19 meeting minutes with one modification.
2. The TOS was informed that the Board approved permitting for the Nature Trail repairs, and was updated on the status of the Bermgarten Rustic Trailhead project. Additionally, the TOS was informed that on 04/26/19, Benjamin Levine and the TCRC Subcommittee chair met with a Golf Subcommittee co-chair to discuss the Nature Trail/Trout Creek Trailhead concept. A working group including representatives from the TOS, TCRC, and Golf subcommittees may be convened to research the concept.

3. First Discussion: Trails & Open Space Survey

The TOS began planning for a survey at the end of the summer of 2019. Before the next TOS meeting, TOS members will be asked to suggest questions and topics. A small TOS working group will then take charge of the survey design process. The survey is anticipated to be in the range of 10 to 15 questions and will include questions both about trail user demographics and about member attitudes regarding trails and open space policies and preferences.

4. Second Discussion: Land Acquisition & Outdoor Recreation

With the aim of identifying criteria that could be used to evaluate future land purchases from a recreational perspective, the TOS reviewed Tahoe Donner's history of land purchases and discussed potential future land purchases. These recreational criteria are expected to be incorporated into the updated Trails Master Plan to supplement any existing criteria pertaining to fire prevention and Tahoe Donner's operational needs.

The potential land purchases discussed included adjacent private properties and private inholdings within Tahoe Donner. Additionally, the US Forest Service owns a number of small

parcels that are either inholdings within Tahoe Donner or adjacent to Tahoe Donner. Within 10 to 20 years, these parcels may be made available on the federal land exchange. The US Forest Service has identified Tahoe Donner as a potentially qualified buyer and/or manager for these parcels.

The TOS identified the following recreational criteria:

- The general advantage of controlling lands with direct or indirect recreational value to Tahoe Donner and its members.
- Business and operational considerations related to Tahoe Donner's existing cross-country center and/or any other recreational enterprises that Tahoe Donner may choose to operate in the future.
- Environmental threat.
- Development threat.
- Alleviate trail connectivity blockages or gaps.
- Trail system expansion opportunities.
- Remedy trail alignment constraints, problems, and deficiencies. For example:
 - Areas where trail alignment options are adversely constricted.
 - Potential hindrances and/or obstacles to a Class 1, four-season bike/walk trail from the ACAC to the Trout Creek Trailhead as discussed at the TOS's April 2019 meeting.
- Protect and preserve the character of Tahoe Donner's trails and open spaces. For example:
 - Create a buffer between Tahoe Donner and properties where hunting is permitted.
 - Create a buffer between Tahoe Donner and other properties (e.g. the Donner Euer Valley Corporation's 7C Ranch) to reduce disturbance and/or encroachment in general.
- Increase consistency for trail rules, access, and rules enforcement. For example:
 - Reduce motorized vehicle encroachment from nearby properties.
- Prevent incompatible or adverse property use by other potential owners.

Regarding US Forest Service lands that may become available on the exchange, there appears to be no potential threat either to the natural character of these lands or to the public's access to these lands. This is because the US Forest Service will not sell these lands without guaranteeing both the land's conservation value and continued public access. As such, it may be in Tahoe Donner's interest to prefer that conservation organizations purchase certain parcels if those parcels be offered on the exchange. Further, even if parcels are not offered on the exchange, Tahoe Donner may be able to secure some additional recreational value on US Forest Service lands through Special Use Permits.

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Next TOS Meeting

TOS Regular Meeting: June 27, 2019, 3:00 PM at The Northwoods Clubhouse.