

# Trails & Open Space Committee

October 6, 2021 • Regular Meeting Minutes

DRAFT REPORT

| <i>TOS Committee Members</i>   |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|--|
| Karen Aaron<br><del>VJ Bonnard</del><br>Richard Bothwell<br>Gayle Dana (Vice Chair)                        | Lorna Dobrovolny<br>John Groom (Staff Lead)<br>Benjamin Levine (Chair) | Livia Quan<br>Ellen Raynor<br><del>Graham Reid</del> | Peter Sawyer (Vice Chair)<br>Julie Thornton<br><del>Dustin Young</del> |
| <i>Affiliated Staff:</i> Christina Thayer (Trails Manager)   |  |  |  |
| <i>Liaisons:</i> Courtney Murrell (BOD)  |  |  |  |
| <i>Subcommittee Members:</i> Nan Meek (EM), Lynette Powell (EM), Charlene Simmons (EM), Susan Terrell (EM) |  |  |  |
| <i>TDA Staff:</i> None   |  |  |  |
| <i>Guests:</i> None  |  |  |  |

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1. The meeting of the Trails & Open Space Committee (TOS) was called to order at 3:00 PM with a quorum present.
2. **Non-Agenda Comments:** There were no non-agenda comments.
3. The TOS unanimously approved the 9/1 and 9/20 meeting minutes as presented.
4. The TOS unanimously approved the Equestrian Subcommittee Purpose Statement as presented.
5. The TOS received a brief update on the 2022 Tahoe Donner budget process.
6. **Volunteer Stewardship:** The TOS discussed planning needs for potential 2022 volunteer stewardship initiatives on Tahoe Donner's trails and open spaces.

While the potential for new construction volunteer trail building may be limited in 2022, staff anticipates ample opportunity for volunteer stewardship addressing maintenance and improvement needs. Planning should also include opportunities for non-trail work stewardship.

Committee members emphasized the need to make projects meaningful and attractive for volunteers. Staff emphasized the value of matching volunteers with projects that support their trail usage preferences.

In addition to leveraging the TOS to support volunteer efforts, there is also interest in working with trail-oriented clubs to organize volunteer stewardship within their membership.

All stewardship opportunities must align with Land Management Department needs and planning. Working with staff, clubs, and other bodies, the TOS may need to help ensure coordination and alignment. The precise role that the committee will play in supporting and coordinating volunteer efforts must be defined, but requires further discussion.

As a next step, individual committee members will work with the Trails Manager to draft a tentative schedule and volunteer stewardship project list for the summer of 2022. This tentative plan will be brought back to the TOS at a future meeting to determine how the committee can most effectively support the plan.

**7. Master Plan:** The TOS reviewed the recently circulated RFP with staff, and was updated on the status of consultant responses. Staff expect to bring a contract to the Board for approval at the next regular board meeting.

The RFP suggests that staff will assemble a “working group” to interface with the consultants on a more frequent basis. The TOS briefly discussed the composition of that working group and how it will relate to the committee.

The TOS also broadly discussed the committee’s role in the master plan process, and how best to involve trail-oriented clubs in upcoming conversations.

Staff recommended discussing public use of Tahoe Donner’s trail system with the committee in the future. This discussion could include a more precise inventory of the Association’s legal obligations to provide public access to the trails.

In the course of discussion, committee members touched upon a number of specific topics that could be addressed in the master plan:

- Permitting pedestrian and bicycle use of the golf cart paths, particularly during the winter months when the golf course is closed
- Guidance on the management of dogs on the trails
- Utilizing the downhill ski hill for trail system-related purposes
- Potential strategic land purchases

- Winter open-space recreation
- Active transportation amenity connectivity
- Potential Class 1 Trails/Bikeways
- Utilizing areas beyond TD's boundaries to improve TD's trail system experience, without necessarily acquiring those properties
- Nature Trail at Northwoods crosswalk concerns
- Public use of the trail system
- Outside sharing of GPS data/mapping
- Utilization of neighborhood common areas for trail system purposes

8. The TOS meeting was adjourned at 5:05 PM.

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