

Trails & Open Space Committee

January 5, 2022 • Regular Meeting Minutes

FINAL REPORT

<i>TOS Committee Members</i>			
Karen Aaron VJ Bonnard Richard Bothwell Gayle Dana (Vice Chair)	Lorna Dobrovolny John Groom (Staff Lead) Benjamin Levine (Chair)	Livia Quan Ellen Raynor Graham Reid	Peter Sawyer (Vice Chair) Julie Thornton Dustin Young
<i>Affiliated Staff:</i> Christina Thayer (Trails Manager)			
<i>Liaisons:</i> Courtney Murrell (BOD)			
<i>Subcommittee Members:</i> Nan Meek (EM, EQ), Scot Nicol (EM)			
<i>TDA Staff:</i> Patricia West			
<i>Guests:</i> Andy Buckley (Design Workshop), Merle Fajans, Ben Fish (Design Workshop), Madison Pong (Design Workshop), Cathy Ravano, Jennifer Sanchez			

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1. The meeting of the Trails & Open Space Committee (TOS) was called to order at 3:05 PM with a quorum present.

2. **Non-Agenda Comments:** There were no non-agenda comments.

3. The TOS unanimously approved the previous meeting minutes as presented.

4. **Trails Are Common Ground:** Christina Thayer briefed the committee on the discussions she has been having with Trails Are Common Ground, a non-profit organization that is trying to build a national campaign to promote improved trails culture by reducing conflict, increasing respect, and promoting inclusivity. Trails Are Common Ground may be interested in partnering with Tahoe Donner in order to use our trail system as a pilot program for their organization. Working in collaboration with staff, the TOS, and the community, this pilot program could serve as a model for their national campaign. Further discussion on this topic is expected at future TOS meetings.

5. **Trail Management Objectives:** John Groom briefed the committee on the Trails Management Objectives (TMO) form that he is building for Tahoe Donner. Adapted from US Forest Service practices, this form is intended to: 1) systematically document and categorize the intended purpose and standards for each trail, and 2) provide guidance for management,

maintenance, and improvement on each trail to meet its purpose and standards. Further discussion on this topic is expected at future TOS meetings.

6. TMP Process & The TOS: The committee reviewed the published TMP completion schedule and discussed how the TOS will participate in this process, both to ensure that the committee is effectively involved in the process, and to ensure that the committee delivers the consultants the TOS's informed feedback on a schedule that works for them. To achieve these ends, the TOS will draw from the following “toolbox” as needed:

- **Regular & Special Meetings:** TMP discussions at these meetings will generally focus on deeper dive committee feedback, clarifying and integrating member perspectives, and providing bigger picture strategic advice to staff/consultants.
- **Breakout Groups:** Working in collaboration with staff and/or the consultants, the TOS officers may organize ad hoc breakout groups of less than a quorum to 1) engage with the consultants/staff on particular issues or questions, and/or 2) undertake brief special projects that may arise in the course of completing the TMP.
- **Member Input Opportunities:** Working in collaboration with staff and/or the consultants, the committee will support and/or help organize member input opportunities as needed.
- **Other Meetings:** Committee members may be asked/invited to attend and/or participate in other membership discussion meetings (e.g. with trail oriented clubs).
- **Staff/Consultant Meetings:** As warranted, TOS member officers may participate in occasional staff/consultant status update meetings to ensure that the TOS stays well informed of progress and process, and in order to help identify areas where TOS feedback or assistance would be beneficial.

To better prepare for the possibility of scheduling special meetings during the TMP process, the chair will circulate a scheduling questionnaire to the committee members.

7. Discussion With TMP Consultants: The TOS had a wide-ranging conversation with the consultants, which included discussions about the trail system’s draft vision statement, the TMP’s purpose statement, the TMP’s goals and/or objectives, shifting trends, current and planned outreach efforts, and the TMP’s process and timeline.

The consultants informed the committee that they have begun reviewing the “GPC Trails and Open Space Subcommittee Findings & Recommendations” document, which compiled the work completed by the TOS’s predecessor subcommittee. Noting that the document has proven foundational for their work on the TMP, the consultants asked the committee for clarification and elaboration in a few areas.

The consultants also recognized that portions of the document may be out of date, and asked the committee to consider whether any portions need to be updated to reflect current conditions and the general views of the committee. The committee also considered whether there are any gaps or omissions in the document.

Regarding gaps, it was noted, for instance, that the Findings and Recommendations document did not contain materials pertaining to management needs. The management materials the predecessor subcommittee had produced were largely focused on the need for a Director of Land Management. That need was addressed during the summer of 2021, and the TOS has not discussed management needs since that time.

Following the meeting, the consultants will circulate a questionnaire for committee members to fill out individually. In addition, the consultants invited the individual committee members to review their presentation, and to provide additional comments.

8. TOS 2022 Meeting Calendar: The committee voted unanimously to 1) continue its 1st Wednesday of the month at 3:00 PM regular meeting schedule, and 2) direct the chair to evaluate potential alternative meeting days and times.

9. Incidental Discussions: In December, the TOS discussed organizing a social happy hour for TOS members. The committee will delay those plans until at least February in the hope that COVID infection rates decrease.

10. The TOS meeting was adjourned at 5:00 PM.