

# Trails & Open Space Committee

March 2, 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> None			
<i>Subcommittee Members:</i> Nan Meek (EM, EQ)			
<i>Board:</i> Courtney Murrell (BOD), Jim Roth (BOD)			
<i>Other Staff:</i> None			
<i>Guests:</i> Andy Buckley (Design Workshop), Merle Fajans, Ben Fish (Design Workshop), Cathy Ravano			

• • •

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:

- **Graham Reid** asked whether the committee should discuss the future of the potential partnership with Trails Are Common Ground that Christina Thayer had been working on before her departure from Tahoe Donner. John Groom replied with a brief update on the status of the initiative, and suggested that a discussion of the topic may be warranted for an upcoming TOS meeting.
- **Peter Sawyer** reflected on recent social media discussions about the dog waste issue, suggesting that they be understood as a commentary on the limits of top-down enforcement and the virtues of bottom-up mitigation efforts. He stressed that community-based and community-driven efforts are an effective tool for changing the trails culture for the better.

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

4. **Trails Master Plan, Club Meetings:** The TOS briefly discussed high-level takeaways from Design Workshop's meetings with the Equestrian, Hiking, and Mountain Bike Clubs. All club members were passionate about the trails, but also concerned about conflict on the trail system.

Equestrian Club members were specifically and notably concerned about safety. The three clubs also exhibited different confidence levels about how accepted they are on the system: the Mountain Bike Club appeared to be the most confident and secure, the Equestrian Club the least, with the Hiking Club in the middle. Noting that club member opinions were “all over the board,” some TOS members suggested that it may be difficult to satisfy everyone. However, citing the area around the ACAC, signage, and restrooms, other TOS members observed that there appeared to be some commonalities between the various opinions expressed.

**5. Discussion With TMP Consultants:** After reviewing and discussing the five broad “focus areas” that the consultants are using to guide their work, the TOS provided feedback to the Design Workshop consultants in three areas: sanitation, signage and wayfinding, and internal/external connections.

On sanitation, the committee discussed the balance between the need to provide sanitation infrastructure and the desire to provide members with a more natural and wilderness-like experience. TOS members spoke about the architectural and landscape design aesthetics of warming huts and outhouses, asked whether we should be looking at options like solar composting toilets instead of standard vault toilets, pushed for 4-season restroom facilities, and considered whether the creation of sanitation facilities in more remote areas of the trail system might change trail usage patterns. Especially in light of the popularity of the trail system, staff stressed the need to provide sanitation facilities for the sake of watershed stewardship, and noted that the USFS had prioritized the installation of vault toilets for this reason. However, the TOS deferred giving complete feedback until more detailed information can be provided.

The TOS was in general agreement with the consultants about signage. For lack of time, discussion about internal/external connections will be continued at a future meeting.

**6. Upcoming TOS Meetings:** The committee will meet weekly at least through March to provide staff and Design Workshop with timely TMP feedback. Several TOS members requested a committee discussion about dog related issues prior to the launch of the TMP survey. However, the next TOS meeting is expected to focus on the topic of community trail network connections.

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