

Trails and Open Space Committee

July 6, 2022 - Regular Meeting Minutes

Committee Members

Karen Aaron	Gayle Dana	Ellen Raynor	Julie Thornton
VJ Bonnard	Lorna Dobrovolny	Graham Reid	
Richard Bothwell	Livia Quan	Peter Sawyer	

Staff Lead & Liaisons

John Groom (Staff)	Benjamin Levine (Board)	Laura Lindgren (LRPC)
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Subcommittee Members and Guests

Nan Meek (Emeritus & Equestrian)	Amy Porter (Member) Maddie Holes (Member) Merle Fajans (Member) Skyler ? (Member)
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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 minutes of the May 20 and June 1 meetings without corrections.
4. Election/Appointment of TOS Positions:
 - Committee Vice Chair: Deferred until the August meeting to give Committee members the opportunity to think about standing for Vice Chair.
 - Appointment of Liaison to the Long-Range Planning Committee: Deferred until the August meeting to give Committee members the opportunity to think about standing for Vice Chair.
 - Discussion of the need to fill the two Committee vacancies. One through the end of the calendar year, and one through December of 2023. Scott Bauhs introduced himself as the

organizer of the TD Trail Runners. He wants to be involved to represent the running community. He was advised as to the formal application process and will come back to the Committee in August as soon as the Committee Application and the Supplemental Application need to be filled out. The short appointment can be done as soon as we decide. Motion was made by Ellen, seconded by Lorna is seconding to go to an on-line form. The motion passed unanimously. Charlene Simmons expressed interest in the short-term appointment and will fill out the necessary paperwork. She can be appointed as soon as her application is approved by the Board

5. Discussion: Summer 2022 Trails Management Issues and Concerns **(3:20)**

- Discussion will include, but not be limited to major capital projects, staffing issues, and volunteer possibilities.

John Groom spoke about unexpected trail closures and staffing issues. John has had to be cutting trees off the trails himself because he hasn't properly trained personnel to carry out that duty. TOS can help staff by alerting John to when trash cans and poop bag holders need to be emptied/refilled. At this time the major help needs to come from TOS Committee members, with the general membership coming into a program later. Peter Sawyer suggested that a GoogleDoc type sheet could be produced to help track where Committee members have gone and cleaned up trails. This is a function of having enough staff. The committee could be the 'eyes and the ears' of the trails. John is being very flexible in new hires and is taking folks on part time where he wouldn't normally do that. Peter is reaching out to other Trails organizations as far as garbage pick-up and poop bag dispensers are concerned. He will also work with David in order to see what Tahoe Donner would be able to do. Livia suggested that the TOS can help in letting Staff know when the trash needs to be emptied and the poop bag dispensers need to be replenished. Certain areas need to be emptied/filled on an every other day basis. John suggested that Peter and he work on a GoogleDoc together.

John offered the Trails manager position to an applicant, but since he couldn't work until October, John withdrew the offer. John is still working on staffing this position. John mentioned that Tahoe Donner is being proactive in recruiting staff.

Other issues of concern by the Committee included:

- Trail closure a signage on the Nature Loop.
- Trees down on Broken Spoke.
- Coyote crossing closures.
- Large fort behind the Rec Center.
- Access to the trails from the Alder Creek Adventure Center was also discussed as well as Congestion around the Alder Creek Adventure Center on summer weekends.

6. Discussion: TMP Draft, Rollout, and Timeline **(3:50)**

- The TOS will discuss TMP related topics selected by staff.

The draft document is close to ready. The TMP is being reformatted so that pedestrians, mountain bikers, and equestrians all have pages with existing conditions and recommendations with the community input in an appendix. John and the consultants are still working on how the Downhill Ski Area fits into the plan and how the restructuring around the Alder Creek Adventure Center affects how the Equestrian Center.

A special meeting should be added to the calendar, with the understanding that the Committee will have time (one week) to review the TMP. Peter, John and Gail will get the comments and bring them to the meeting. The need for a secretary at that meeting was discussed.

7. Upcoming Meetings **(4:25)**

- Reminder of future meeting dates and discussion of possible need for Special Meetings.

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be Aug 3, 2022.

Benjamin Lavine was thanked by the Committee for all of his hard work in bringing the Trials and Open Space to the forefront of the Tahoe Donner Community. His steadfast commitment to the Association has been tremendous!

8. Meeting Adjourned **(4:30)**