

Trails and Open Space Committee

August 3, 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)
Ben Fish (Consultant)	

1. Opening Business **(3:00)** All committee members with the exception of Graham Reid were either present in person or on Zoom. The meeting met the quorum threshold..

- Member Comments: There were no member comments
- Peter Sawyer had not yet completed the minutes from the July 6 meeting so approval of minutes was tabled until the September 7 meeting.

2. Discussion/Action: TOS Leadership and Committee Membership **(3:10)**

- Election of Vice Chair. No one indicated their interest in becoming Vice Chair of the committee so this item was deferred until September.
- Julie Thornton expressed interest in becoming the liaison to the Long-Range Planning Committee and was approved by consensus.
- The Committee was asked if there was any objection to making the recommendation that Charlene Simmons be appointed to the short-term (expires December 31, 2022) Committee

position. There being no objections, our recommendation will be that the Board approve her appointment at their August Meeting.

- Scot Bauhs was not present at the meeting so we could not move forward on his possible appointment.
- A third person has expressed interest in that appointment as well, but is not present at this meeting as well.

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

Peter explained why a GoogleDoc was not put together in July, and thanked the Committee for letting John Groom know when trash cans need to be emptied and when Poop bags go empty.

Among the trail maintenance issues that have been addressed:

- Trees are being cleared on a regular basis.
- Cinnamon Twist and Mustang Sally have been worked on this summer.
- Chrystal Rae has cleared trees around the Equestrian Center.
- Forestry Crew has been working on chipping
- The boardwalk near the Equestrian Center is well under way.
- Coyote Crossing is still in the planning phases. (Construction should begin summer of 2023). Grant funding will be in place and South Valley Road will have improvement.
- Forestry is only about 20% understaffed.
- Lots of lot clearing is being done, and chipping is trying to keep up.
- Lauren asked about signage. Signage has been postponed until next summer. No user defined trails at this time. Signage will be addressed this winter to make sure we get it right.
- The fact stickers on signs were being ripped off was mentioned.
- E-bikes (even Class I) have been noticed on the Nature Trail
- If committee members feel comfortable engaging with the public they can (but are not obligated) to interact with the public.
- Once the Trails Master Plan is approved signage will have to be a priority
- John and Sally (Nordic Center) are working together for 4-Season signage.

4. Discussion and Recommendation: Trails Master Plan (TMP) Draft. The Committee reviewed the Draft TMP from written comments made by TOS committee members and submitted to Staff and the Chair prior to the meeting. Peter Sawyer made the following introductory remarks: **(3:30)**

I want to thank the members of the Committee for the time and effort that they put into the review of this DRAFT Trails Master Plan (TMP). I would also like to remind us that while we may feel that we represent specific interests on the Trails and Open Space Committee, our obligation in the review and recommendations that we make to the Trail Master Plan should be predicated on what is best for the membership of the Association as a whole.

Because of the length and depth of the comments made by members of the TOS, clear, concise, and structural comments can be dealt with today, Those that are more open ended may require short clarifications, but then we need to allow the consultants and staff to do the work, which will take a whole lot longer than today's meeting allows.

John Groom reviewed all of the Committee's feedback and took notes on the discussion that took place. Comments that required future action were noted in the **Collated Committee Member Feedback** document which was circulated to the committee and will be circulated again (with comments) after this meeting. Highlights of this discussion include:

- Overall philosophy of our trails needs to be clear to the membership.
- Members want peace, quiet, and connection to nature.
- Map legends need to be updated and consistent. Especially colors and symbols.
- C&R's and Covenants (specific areas of Tahoe Donner) need to be clarified especially in regards to dogs and horses.
- This plan should inform a management plan which will be the purview of staff and will come from member input and the budget. Review the prioritization annually.
- Forestry and defensible space will be a priority to the Association.
- Class 1 Trail from Trout Creek to Alder Creek Adventure Center should be prioritized.
- Safety and etiquette should be mentioned more.
- User group interactions (positive) should be emphasized
- Group events requests should be standardized (application process)
- Beef up the statement on e-bikes (opportunities and concerns).
- Class 1 trail from Swiss Lane area to Trout Creek Recreation Center.
- Beefing up the user pages and linking them to outcomes.
- Balance of member input with experts and 'best practices.'
- Single use trails seem to have seen an increase in interest.
- If we don't have a really good catch phrase, no phrase is better than a bad one.

- Make sure expectations are simple and clear.
- Areas of restoration should be mentioned.
- History and Values need to be clarified and reviewed by the Trails and Open Space Committee.

John wanted to highlight:

- Equestrian covenant - we need to work through this at a later meeting and with the Covenants Committee.
- Clarify what trails should be single, multiple, and designated use. Statement of how we should manage mountain bikes and Class 1e-bikes as mountain bikes.

5. Upcoming Meetings **(5:05)**. The committee would like to review the proposed 'final' draft before the next meeting and hopefully have a management plan in place before the Board votes on the plan at the September Board meeting.

- September 7, 2022, 3:00pm

6. Meeting Adjourned **(5:13)** *Thanks to John and the consultants at Design Elements*