

Trails & Open Space Committee
Regular Meeting Agenda Minutes - DRAFT, September 7, 2022

Committee Members

Karen Aaron VJ Bonnard Richard Bothwell	Gayle Dana Lorna Dobrovolny Livia Quan	Ellen Raynor Graham Reid Peter Sawyer	Julie Thornton Charlene Simmons
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Staff Lead & Liaisons

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

	Amy Porter (Member) Scott Bauhs (Member) Carol Lindsay (Member)
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- Member Comments: There were no Member Comments
- Approval of the previous meeting minutes
 July 6 minutes were approved with minor changes.
 August 3 minutes approved with minor changes, individual written comments will be added separately.

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

- Election of Vice Chair: Lorna has given it some thought (deferred to October meeting)
- Action to fill the one Committee vacancy. **Scott Bauhs** was appointed by consensus.

III. Discussion: Summer 2022 Trails Management Issues and Concerns (3:15)

There was a week where trash and dog bags were not maintained as desired. Trails have been cleared of trees, but not a ton of maintenance was completed in August due to staffing shortages. Tahoe Donner hired a new Trails Manager, Leslie Loveland from the Truckee Trails Foundation. She will start work soon. She has a great amount of experience and a natural resource degree and a lot of trail knowledge. She will be a great addition to Tahoe Donner, with a bigger vision to some of the other projects between trails and forestry.

There are still some 2021 Projects and 2022 Projects that have already been funded and have been kept “open.” There is money for signage in the 2022 budget, and Staff will work to see how the current funding fits into the Trails Master Plan as soon as it is approved.

IV. Discussion and Recommendation: Trails Master Plan (TMP) Revised Draft. (3:20) The Committee reviewed the Master Plan (both previously written comments and today’s oral comments).

- It was suggested that a copy editor looks through the whole Master Plan for grammatical errors.
- Comments were made that the legends on all of the maps need to be consistent
- The suggestion was made to move existing page 16 to go before page 7
- Clarification was made in regards to what is “Tahoe Donner Common Area,” “Other Association Owned Property,” and “Open Space.” “Open Space” is not a technical term in the CCR’s (covenants, conditions, and restrictions). It was recommended that “Open Space” not be used as a specific term in the Master Plan.
- A long discussion concerning dogs on trails took place and how current regulations shouldn’t be ignored, but that responsible dog ownership and respect for all trail users (etiquette) is paramount to the trail experience. Livia Quan’s read a written statement that she had sent to Peter and John that summarized the situation, make a case for off leash dogs, and emphasized the importance of etiquette in any further discussion about dogs on the trails.
- Peter recommended that there should be a statement concerning Tahoe Donner dog culture. Ellen Raynor reminded us that there needs to be really precise language about dog regulations in Tahoe Donner and Nevada County and that there is a significant proportion of our Community who are scared of dogs.. John Groom reminded the Committee that we don’t need a long description about dog policy at this time, but we can work with the Covenants Committee to make sure that there is understanding concerning dog policy by our membership. Graham Reid stated that we don’t really need a dog culture paragraph the same way that we have an equestrian culture paragraph. Livia suggested a dog policy statement. John reminded us that we needed to move on. Benjamin reminded us that we had spent too long on dog issues, and that we need to move on. Peter recommended striking the sentences regarding “member surveys,” where member surveys do not justify the statements.
- **The end result is that the Master Plan will recommend that the Trails and Open Space Committee will work with the Covenants Committee to clarify dog policy.**
- The Committee reviewed the Stakeholder and Engagement Summary and Benchmarking Section (C) fairly quickly. The Committee also restated that the legends on the maps need to be consistent and colors need to be clear.

- The Committee reviewed the Trail Plan (D) fairly quickly. The specific maps were reviewed and John and Madison answered questions from the Committee regarding the different maps. Specific mistakes were noted and recommendations for changes were made to each of the maps. Current recommendations take adaptive management into consideration. John stated that it will be important to look at the trails from the ground (field trips) each year. The word “preliminary” should be added to all of the maps. The recommendation was again made to copy edit all of the maps.
- The statement was made that the Trails Master Plan is moving us forward in the right direction, and the idea is that this Plan is moving us in the right direction. Graham made the point that this document is not ready for the Board.
- We finished the discussion of the Trails Master Plan with some issues that Committee members had with the Tahoe Donner Staff and Adjacent Land Management Engagement page (p 30) by noting that the statement that “Equestrian use has declined ...” was unnecessary. The statement that using the XC Center as an example could be used as a model for summer programs and use was misleading, as it might lead people to believe that it would lead to charging for the use of the trails. This might need to be clarified.

V. Upcoming Meetings (4:55)

- Peter suggested that a special meeting be set up to approve the Draft Trails Master Plan and that the meeting be scheduled soon.*

*Note: because of the time it took for Design Workshop to finish their work, this document was not ready until late September, and the Special Meeting was then scheduled for and took place on September 28

VI. Meeting Adjourned (5:00)

- By consensus, the meeting was adjourned.
- Benjamin invited members of the committee to join in on the next Budget Workshop