

## Trails & Open Space Committee • Regular Meeting Minutes - DRAFT

January 4, 2022 @ 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM Board Room & Zoom

*(all agenda times are tentative and subject to change)*

### Committee Members

Karen Aaron Scott Bauhs VJ Bonnard	Richard Bothwell Gayle Dana Lorna Dobrovlny	Livia Quan Ellen Raynor Graham Reid	Peter Sawyer Carol Lindsay Julie Thornton
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### Staff Lead & Liaisons

John Groom (Staff) Leslie Loveland (Staff)	Benjamin Levine (Board)	<a href="#">Laura Lindgren</a> (LRPC)
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### Subcommittee Members and Guests

	Merle Fajans (Member) Amy Porter (Perspective Committee Member) Mitch Rohrer (Perspective Committee Member)
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## I. Opening Business

Call to Order/Quorum Call: It was determined that we had a quorum.

Member Comments:

Benjamin Levine commented that since its inception, the major task of the TOS Committee has been to complete the Trails Master Plan. He encouraged the Committee to think about what its tasks will be over the next few years and to keep the document in mind during this process. He also congratulated the Committee on the completion of the Trails Master Plan.

Approval of the previous meeting minutes. Peter Sawyer had not yet completed the November 4 Meeting minutes.

## **II. Discussion: TOS Leadership and Committee Membership (3:10)**

Introduction of the new class of the Trails and Open Space Committee was made. These members include Julie Thornton, Karen Aaron, Richard Bothwell, and Carol Lindsay whose terms will expire at the end of 2025 (Class C)

Amy Porter and Rich Rohrer were introduced as guests interested in positions on the Trails and Open Space (TOS) Committee. Amy is eligible for Committee membership, while this is Mitch's first meeting with the TOS.

### **Election of Officers**

Peter Sawyer was reelected Chair by consensus.

Benjamin Levine stated that it would be a good idea if one of the Vice Chairs is not in their last year of Committee membership. He encouraged Class C Committee Members (Julie Thornton, Karen Aaron, Richard Bothwell, and Carol Lindsay) to seriously consider running for Vice Chair. He doesn't want anyone to get 'stuck' in the position of Chair because none of the Vice Chairs is willing to step up to Chair. He also stated his opinion that it is always good to get new people in positions of Tahoe Donner leadership. Gayle Dana stated that she has no desire to take on the role of Chair of the Committee and that if in the near future anyone desires the role of Vice Chair that she would consider stepping down to give that person the ability to become Vice Chair. After some discussion, Lorna Dobrovlny and Gayle Dana were reelected Vice Chair

## **III. Discussion and Review of Trails Master Plan 'Victories' List (3:20)**

This list appears as an attachment and was reviewed and edited by the Committee

## **IV. Discussion and Review of the Board Approved 2023 Task List (3:30)**

This list appears as an attachment and reviewed by the Committee Peter Sawyer reminded the Committee that the items under Item #1 in the list are prioritized and should be the basis of our upcoming meetings. Items #'s 2 and 3 are ongoing and should always be on our 'radar.'

Leslie will outline more winter possibilities in Agenda item #6, but Peter asked if any of the committee members or guests had been out on the trails and what their impressions had been.

- Peter Sawyer stated that he had snowshoed Glacier and that it was well tracked and easy to get out to the picnic table.
- Merle Fajans had hiked the Bermgarten trail and found it wonderful.
- Richard Bothwell had ski tracked from Bergarten and said that he left a nice trail for those who came after him.
- Karen Aaron talked about limited areas where dogs can be walked off road and away from the Tahoe Donner Cross Country Center. Peter Sawyer stated that Glacier Way sees lots of dogs and is tracked well enough that they have good footing.
- Livia Quan stated that the Bergarten trail is beautiful and Peter Sawyer echoed that sentiment.
- John Groom expressed his concern that the trailheads need to be plowed better and that signage and perhaps some engineering needs to take place. He needs to follow up with Maintenance about when they plow and stated that there needs to be better communication to the membership about when the trailheads are being plowed.
- Scott Bauhs mentioned that the Golf Course is covered with snowshoe and ski tracks and that the possible use of the golf course for winter recreation is mentioned in the Trails Master Plan.
- Benjamin Levine mentioned that Tahoe Donner Policy states that the Golf Course is off limits.
- There was discussion about the fact that a lot of golf courses in snowy communities are used for winter recreation activities in their 'off season.'
- Merle Fajans mentioned that there may be a business side of this discussion that we are not thinking about as free winter access to the Golf Course could take away revenue from the Cross Country Center and/or Snowplay.
- Peter Sawyer mentioned that the mores space that we can open up to the public for winter recreation, the better.
- John Groom said that he and Leslie Loveland would talk to the current Golf Course Superintendent about the possibility of winter use.
- Benjamin Levine said that he would pursue the issue from the Board's perspective.

## **V. Discussion of Joint Covenants/TOS Subcommittee on Equestrian and Dog Issues (3:45)**

Peter Sawyer asked for volunteers within the Committee that would be willing to be part of a Working Group on Dog Management issues. The TOS Committee should consider itself the primary Committee when it comes to dog management and equestrian issues with Covenants only coming in when they are needed

Benjamin Levine reminded the Committee that there is an already chartered Equestrian Subcommittee. Membership on the subcommittee includes: Karen Aaron (Chair), Lorna Dobrovolny, Nan Meek, Sue Crumb, Timothy Crum, Sue Anderson, and Susan Terrell. He stated that we should work on getting a Purpose Statement/Charter for a Dog Management Working Group/soon to be (pending Board approval) a Dog Management Subcommittee. Benjamin has already written a DRAFT Purpose Statement/Charter that can act as a starting point for this Working Group/Subcommittee. The previous Dog Working Group consisted of: Gayle Dana, Nan Meek, Livia Quan, Cathy Ravano, and Ellen Raynor.

Benjamin reminded the Committee that Subcommittees cannot have a quorum of Committee members, so having half of the members of the Subcommittee persons that are not on the Committee is a good idea.

When Peter Sawyer asked who amongst the Committee members would like to be on the Dog Management Subcommittee the following Committee members stepped forward. Carol Lindsay, Livia Quan, and Gayle Dana stated that they would like to be on the Subcommittee.

Livia Quan stated how glad she was that we were tackling this issue so early in the year and that she would like to see plans in place before the summer.

Peter Sawyer will send out an email asking if any other members of the Trails and Open Space Committee would like to be on the Equestrian and/or Dog Management Subcommittees.

## **VI. Discussion of Stewardship Opportunities and Committee Engagement (3:45)**

Leslie Loveland stated that she is planning on having regular and consistent volunteer days this summer and asked the Trails and Open Space Committee to try and be well represented at these events.

Other ideas for the summer include placement and removal of the Nature Loop signs and looking after the picnic tables and benches on the trails.

Peter is still working on a Winter Trails GoogleDoc and will get this out to the members of the Committee soon

Leslie Loveland stated that she has a lot of ideas that she will roll out to the Committee in the coming months.

Peter Sawyer challenged the Committee to do at least one volunteer day this summer and to invite their friends.

John was approached by the folks in charge of the Truckee to Pyramid Trail as to whether or not the Tahoe Donner Association would adopt a section of the trail. This would require a group of 6 - 10 volunteers four to six hours twice a summer.

Carol Lindsay expressed her support for the idea.

Peter Sawyer proposed that the Trails and Open Space Committee adopt the first  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile of the Truckee to Pyramid Trail.

Discussion followed that included:

We need to get our own house in order first.

We need to show Tahoe Donner's commitment to the Truckee Community to get the Truckee Community to help us.

There was no vote on the proposal as it was not agendized for this meeting

Benjamin Levine spoke about the history of the Tahoe Donner Trails Club as an outgrowth of the first Trails Master Plan. The Trails Club was established to get Tahoe Donner members working on Tahoe Donner trails. Only Tahoe Donner members could be in the Trails Club. Benjamin also stated that he needs to get together with John Groom and Leslie Loveland to go over what he did to bring people to the Club's volunteer days and what did and didn't work in the past. He would like to hand off the Trails Club to the Trails and Open Space Committee, by first establishing a Working Group within the TOS Committee.

Peter Sawyer closed the discussion by asking the members of the Committee to think about doing trail work outside of Tahoe Donner

**VII. Possible Site Visits (availability and timeline). (4:15)**

Peter Sawyer stated that he hoped that we can have fewer monthly meetings going forward and have more site visits to see what is happening on the trails.

**VIII. Upcoming Meetings and Meeting Adjournment (4:30)**

By consensus the Committee decided that meetings will stay on the first Wednesday of the month at 3:00 pm. With that, the meeting was adjourned.