

Trails & Open Space Committee • Regular Meeting Minutes – DRAFT

March 1, 2023 @ 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM Board Room & Zoom

(all agenda times are tentative and subject to change)

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Committee Members

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

John Groom (Staff) Leslie Loveland (Staff)	Benjamin Levine (Board) Patricia West (Staff)	Laura Lindgren (Liaison)
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Subcommittee Members, Prospective Committee Members, Guests

Nan Meek (EC, TDGF) Susan Terrell (ESC)	Carla Brown (DMC)	Amy Porter (PCM)
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I. Opening Business (3:00 pm)

- **Call to Order/Quorum Call:** All members were present with the exceptions of Scott Bauhs (who was late) and Graham Reid. Peter Sawyer recognized that guests in attendance included Nan Meek, Amy Porter, Susan Terrell, and Carla Brown.
- **Member Comments:**
 - Peter Sawyer (13117 Muhlebach Way) informed the Trails and Open Space Committee (TOS) that he has volunteered to sponsor the first ¾ mile of the Truckee to Pyramid Trail and invited TOS members to email him if they are interested in helping him.
 - He also invited members of the TOS to join him at the General Manager's Happy Hour at the Alder Creek Adventure Center tomorrow night (Thursday, March 2, 4:30 pm to 6:00 pm)
- **Approval of the previous meeting minutes (November 2, 2022, January 4 & February 8, 2023).**
 - Corrections to the November, January, and February minutes were made in advance by Gayle Dana and Benjamin Levine. No other comments or edits were given by the TOS. The minutes were approved by consensus.

Last Revised: March 16, 2023

II. Summary from John Groom and Leslie Loveland Regarding Winter Activities (3:10 pm)

Leslie shared with the TOS that the seasonal trails positions have been advertised on the Tahoe Donner Website. She is hoping for many applications.

She and John Groom also shared that the Land Management Department has received approval from the Tahoe Donner Board of Directors to purchase a Ford F350 diesel 4WD Quad Cab truck from the Reserve Replacement Budget. It will serve multiple functions within the Department.

She also shared with us that the Trails Management Plan (working document) is 85% completed. She will share the Trails Management Plan with the TOS but reminded us that it is more of an in-house document than a public one. There will be clear expectations as to what will be accomplished.

She introduced the TOS to the zig-zag wooden rail fencing that she is proposing (and is funded) for the east side of the Equestrian Zone and shared that it would have been too expensive to enclose the entire zone in this type of fencing. It is a split-rail fence sitting on concrete pavers and rebar for the 3,100 (total) linear feet of the circumference of the Equestrian Zone. The cost is estimated at \$70,000, not including labor. The fence on the west side of the Equestrian Zone will be some type of wire fence (TBD). Building the fence will require lots of volunteer labor. Funding for the fence is already in the Reserve Replacement Budget. Leslie stated that it is possible to dismantle and reassemble the fence, but it is designed to withstand Tahoe Donner's snow load, and John shared that the Truckee Donner Land Trust is using this fence on W. River Street, and he will be following up with them as to how it is holding up. He also stated that his intention is to keep labor costs (and hours) to a minimum and that it is designed to be a 'secondary containment' fence and as such, aesthetics are important.

III. Update from the Dog Management Subcommittee (3:15)

Carol Lindsay shared with the TOS that the first meeting of the Dog Management Subcommittee (DMSC) will be taking place on Thursday, March 2, 2023 at 3:00 pm. She has sent out an agenda, and written leash 'law' information from the Town of Truckee, Nevada County, and Tahoe Donner, as well as the Nevada County Incidence List. The March 2 meeting will be a 'meet and greet,' with the real work starting at the end of the month. To a question from a TOS Committee member, Carol shared that the Incident List does not include any human/dog-horse incidents and suggested to the equestrian community that if they know of any such incidents that they contact Alison Herzog at the Town of Truckee to report them and have them added to the Nevada County Incidence List.

IV. Discussion on the Revised Purpose Statement/Charter of the Equestrian Subcommittee (3:25 pm)

- ***Explanation of Procedure and Draft Charter.***
 - Benjamin Levine shared the history of the Equestrian Subcommittee and the reasoning behind bringing the Equestrian issues under the purview of the TOS, shifting these issues from the Equestrian Club and Facilities to the TOS and Land Management (Trails). The idea is to support the refinement of the Equestrian Management Plan (which is part of the Trails Management Plan) and to facilitate communications and messaging (PSA's) around the equestrian community. It will help clarify how equestrian concerns are addressed to management. Krystal Rae Mechum (Manager of the Equestrian Center) and upper Management have reviewed the Revised Purpose Statement/Charter, and it has their buy-in.
- ***Discussion of any changes to the Draft, including Subcommittee membership.***
 - Members and guests discussed the need and advantages of having this Subcommittee.
 - The TOS will be assigning 'Tasks' to the Subcommittee so that equestrian issues will have initial support from the Board to complete those tasks.
- ***Vote to Submit the Revised Charter to the Tahoe Donner Board of Directors.***
 - A motion was made by Ellen Raynor, seconded by Carol Lindsay to send the Equestrian Subcommittee Purpose Statement/Charter to the Tahoe Donner Board of Directors for their approval. The motion passed 11-0, Graham Reid being absent.

V. Discussion of possible Stewardship Subcommittee (3:45 pm)

Peter Sawyer stated that he will write, with Benjamin Levine's help, a Purpose Statement/Charter for a Volunteer Stewardship Subcommittee to facilitate stewardship opportunities within the Association. We will discuss this further at our April meeting.

VI. Discussion of 2023 Project Priorities and Staff Recommendations for Designated Use Trails (3:50)

Leslie Loveland summarized the proposed *revised* Trail Map and designated trails. Leslie reminded us that this is a 'working map' and that things that you see on the map are not 'ground truthed,' in their exact locations, or 'set in stone.' Leslie and John outlined the color coding on the Cal-Topo map and stated that the Tahoe Donner Association, by their calculations, has approximately 35 miles of approved single-track trail and 30 miles of approved roads. The Cal Topo URL and PDF versions of the map will

be shared with the TOS in the coming days. John reminded us that the primary goals of this exercise (which is part of the Tahoe Donner Trails Master Plan) is to provide equestrian trails, safety, and moving bikes onto their own trails (where we can).

While there were many individual designated trails that members of the TOS Committee had individual concerns about, trails issues of more general concern will be included below.

- The first point of discussion was trails that were designated on the map as “leash only zones” due to their being either in Tahoe Donner Common Area or near sensitive habitat. John suggested that, for the purpose of today’s discussion, we take the dog issue off the table because he, Benjamin Levine, and David Mackelian need to determine whether or not he (John Groom) can even change any management within the Common Area.
- Looking at the need for roads, John Groom will be evaluating the entire road system to determine which roads can be transitioned to single track trails or retired completely. In response to a question from the TOS regarding the roads, John Groom stated that only a few non-essential roads will be discontinued and that a lot of the roads are not “designated roads.” The idea is to re-manage some of the roads.
- The new boardwalk on the trail leaving the Alder Creek Adventure Center was discussed because it is only 6’ wide and 38” off the ground. There was concern regarding the safety of hikers and bikers. Leslie Loveland shared that the boardwalk was not built to her liking and that that the project was approved and funded before she and John Groom took their current positions. John shared that if the build of the boardwalk becomes an issue, that the contractor will come back and rectify the situation.
- Leslie outlined the needs of the Alder Creek Trail and stated that there is money to fix the trail between Ski Slope Way and Fjord Road. Because of the cost of the bridges in the section between Fjord and the Campground (there are 17 river crossings), Leslie and John have decided to keep equestrians off this section of the Alder Creek Trail.
- There is money in the Reserve Replacement Fund to repair the Hillside Trail
- Because of the high cost of building a bridge across Alder Creek near the Campground, Benjamin Levine suggested that we might want to ‘socialize’ the idea to get it in the planning and budget process.
- Richard Bothwell gave a shout out to Cal-topo, as the website is designed and run by a Truckee resident. He suggested that Leslie create a ‘dummy trails’ folder with the color coding and names of the trails clearly defined.

Commented [GD1]: Not sure what you mean by re-manage. Do you mean repurpose?

Commented [GD2]: Not sure what you mean by this.

John Groom reminded the TOS that the trail designations that he and Leslie have come up are trying to match up with the TMP surveys to a degree, but that they also recognize that bikers are doing much bigger loops than hikers and equestrians. He stated that figuring out

what percentage of trails are of what categories will be something that he and Leslie will do as we get closer to a ‘finished’ (always in progress) product.

Leslie and John will come up with the best way for the TOS to provide feedback and will share that with the TOS.

IX. Upcoming Meetings and Meeting Adjournment (5:15 pm)

- There being no objections, the meeting was adjourned by consensus and Peter Sawyer reminded the Committee that our next meeting will be on Wednesday, April 5 at 3:00 pm in the Northwoods Clubhouse Board Room and over Zoom.