

Trails & Open Space Committee • DRAFT Regular Meeting Minutes

August 7, 2024 @ 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM Board Room & Zoom

(all agenda times are tentative and subject to change)

Committee Members

Karen Aaron VJ Bonnard Richard Bothwell	David Cahill Gayle Dana Carol Lindsay	Kevin O'Neil Livia Quan Ellen Raynor	Graham Reid Peter Sawyer Julie Thornton
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Staff, Staff Leads, & Liaisons

Denise Gauney (Board) John Groom (Staff)	Laura Lindgren (Liaison) Leslie Loveland (Staff)	
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Guests

Tara Christison Merle Fajans (Zoom)	Dan Gomez Jennifer Gomez	Eric Lawrence Min Yi
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I. Opening Business (3:00 pm) *Peter Sawyer*

- **Call to Order/Quorum Call:** 3:00 pm, Kevin O'Neil was the only Committee member absent.
- **Member Comments:**

Peter Sawyer stated that there were two open letters sent to the TOS committee by Association members who have asked that the letters be read at this meeting. Peter was advised by Staff that reading the letters would set a precedent which the Association did not want to set.

Jennifer Gomez spoke in opposition to the Family Flow Trail stating concerns about safety for equestrians and hikers/runners, especially for the children's pony rides. She was especially concerned about the blockage of the Equestrian Center gate and the impact of bikers on parking and horse trailers. She also expressed her concerns that the newly constructed Flow Trail is not part of the 2022 Tahoe Donner Trails Master Plan.

Karen Aaron wanted to know if the Committee members will see the two letters written to the TOS Committee by Association members regarding the Flow Trail. Peter Sawyer assured the Committee that he would send the letters in an email to the members of the Committee.

Laura Lindgren spoke of her concern regarding green waste near Tahoe Donner homes in light of a recent house fire on Ski Slope Way. John Groom addressed the issue and stated that the work

on defensible space probably saved the adjacent homes. He also shared that Truckee Fire is now in charge of picking up the green waste piles and is doing it in a timely manner.

Min Yi stated her concerns about the Family Flow Trail with regards runners and hikers.

Peter Sawyer addressed the safety concerns on trails and stated that Staff and the members of the Trails and Open Space Committee were aware of these concerns and that signage will be improved at the trail crossings. Leslie Loveland added that signs to highlight trail crossings near the new Flow Trail are on order but have not arrived yet.

- **Comments by the Committee Chair:**

Peter Sawyer encouraged the members of the Committee to get more involved in the Tahoe Donner Stewardship and Forestry events.

- **Report from the Liaison to Tahoe Donner's Long Range Planning Committee (LRPC):**

Julie Thornton reported that the Class I Bike Trail is moving ahead and that the Marina project is going to add bike parking. The LRPC is turning its attention toward the Northwoods Campus report which will be presented at the next Tahoe Donner Board of Directors meeting. Once adopted, Julie will report on the final draft.

- **Report from the Tahoe Donner Board Liaison:**

Denise informed the Committee that Tahoe Donner has hired Jason Hajduk-Dorworth as the new Director of Administration Services. She also updated the Committee on a number of Projects including the Downhill Ski Lodge, the Golf Cart Path Replacement, the Beach Club Marina Improvement, the Glacier Way Trailhead Improvement, the Maintenance Yard, and Coyote Crossing (delayed until 2025). Preliminary discussions are being held in regards to a Request for Proposals (RFP) for the preliminary planning of the Class 1 Bike Trail between the Trout Creek Trail and the Alder Creek Adventure Center.

She also commented that the July 4 events in Tahoe Donner were very successful and well attended. The Board of Directors is also working on a revised Amenity Access Policy and has held workshops and member forums, is in the process of addressing member comments and legal concerns, and is poised to publish the information for the 45 day Member comment period.

- **Approval of previous Meeting Minutes (July 10, 2024):** Minutes were approved by consensus.

II. Trail and Open Space Work Update (3:21 pm): *John Groom and Leslie Loveland*

Leslie updated the Committee on the work done to date including the Sundance Hut repair, and mastication work around the Moondance Hut area. She also relayed to the Committee that all the kiosk maps have been installed except for the Alder Creek Adventure Center and a new kiosk near the Hansel Trailhead. She updated the Committee on other trail projects and her involvement (and Forestry's) involvement in presentations to some of the Children's Camps.

John Groom updated the Committee regarding mastication procedures on the trails. Carol Lindsay asked a question regarding the progress of a bridge over Alder Creek at the Campground. John advised the Committee that Staff is currently working on permits and partners. David Cahill asked about the collapsed bridge on Mother Lode and continued work on Flying Squirrel and was informed that the bridge is scheduled for replacement and that Flying Squirrel is still being worked on by the contractor.

III. Discussion of 2025 Land Management Budget (3:35 pm) *John Groom*

John Groom discussed the Land Management Operating Fund budget and Capital budget, showing the Committee how budgeting goes forward eight years and is primarily dedicated to maintenance. He also reviewed the Land Management Development Fund budget, explaining that a lot of the work is scheduled for the next 2-3 years. John will be providing the Committee with a list of "areas of concern" with the idea that the Committee can tour these areas and give feedback in the prioritization and implementation of these projects. John responded to questions and concerns from the Committee in regards to the budget.

John stated that the 'final' Land Management budget will be submitted to the Tahoe Donner Board of Directors this week, and that he and the Trails and Open Space Committee Chair (Peter Sawyer) will have input before the Board finalizes the budget. In response to a question from Peter Sawyer, John stated that there is enough funding in the budget to complete the scheduled projects.

IV. Other Business (not agendized - 4:40 pm)

There was concern voiced from a guest at the meeting that the trails are primarily for mountain bikes. Peter Sawyer responded that Tahoe Donner needs to better articulate the Trails Master Plan to the membership. He stated our goal is to make sure all users are safe. He also stated that mountain biking is much more popular than it was 10 years ago. John Groom shared with the Committee that there are now trail counters on some of the trails and that mountain bikers are by far the #1 user group out of the Alder Creek Adventure Center.

Another guest had a question about a “bike park” being built at the Downhill Ski Area. Peter stated that while a Bike Park at the Downhill Ski Area was proposed in the 2022 Trails Master Plan, there are currently no available avenues for permitting for that use.

Peter recommended that the Trails and Open Space Committee agendize a discussion of the equestrian concerns and the Equestrian Center and zone. He also recommended that the Equestrian Subcommittee meet and discuss their concerns and report back to the Committee.

In response to the question from Julie Thornton regarding the *Flying Squirrel Trail* asking “What went wrong,” Graham Reid made the point that we should separate the current concerns and issues surrounding the trail from the process that was followed to build the trail. He asked whether or not the process failed us. That is a discussion that we should have after the current concerns are addressed.

V. Upcoming Meetings and Meeting Adjournment : (4:59 pm) *Peter Sawyer*

Peter reminded the Committee that our next meeting would be Wednesday, September 4, and then adjourned the meeting by consensus.