

Trails & Open Space Committee • Regular Meeting Minutes

October 2, 2024 @ 2:00 PM - 5:00 PM Alder Creek Adventure Center, 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 Rayner	Graham Reid Peter Sawyer Julie Thornton
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Staff, Staff Leads, & Liaisons

Denise Gauney (Board) John Groom (Staff)	Eric Lawrence Leslie Loveland (Staff)	Laura Lindgren (Liaison) Annie Rosenfeld (GM)
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Terry Chang Lorna Dobrovolny	Jenifer Gomez Steven Miller	Min Yi
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I. Opening Business (3:00 pm) *Peter Sawyer*

- **Call to Order/Quorum Call**
Peter Sawyer called to order at 3:04 pm
- **Member Comments**
None
- **Comments by the Committee Chair:**
In response to members comments regarding public access to our trails, Peter Sawyer read Page 7 of 2022 Trails Master Plan verbatim, reminding both the Committee, Staff and Members why our trails are open to the public.
- **Report from the Liaison to Tahoe Donner’s Long Range Planning Committee (LRPC):**
Julie Thornton reported that the LRPC is currently focused on the budget, the Glacier Way Trailhead parking lot paving, the Marina Deck Expansion, and the Northwoods Campus report.
- **Report from the Tahoe Donner Board Liaison:**
Denise Gauney acknowledged that there have been many Member comments regarding the new Flow Trail. The Town of Truckee gave the Board an overview of TART Connect operations through the winter and spring of 2025. She also mentioned that Measure E is a general bond initiative with some funds earmarked for Tahoe Area Regional Transit and wildfire prevention. There was discussion by the Committee as to why the measure was not specific to TART

funding. Denise responded that the Town of Truckee felt that such a measure would have been too specific and would not have garnered the votes necessary to pass. Discussion about how much tax revenue the Town of Truckee gets from the County followed. Denise also reported that the Amenity Access Rule change was still within the 45-day Member comment period and that the LRPC's Northwoods Campus Report was finalized and approved by the Board.

- **Approval of previous Meeting Minutes (September 4, 2024)**

Richard Bothwell inquired as to whether or not there was a reason that Committee member's comments were not attributed to that Committee member in the minutes. After discussion, it was decided that in future meeting minutes they would be, but for the approval of the September 4, 2024 Meeting minutes, there was no need to go back and edit them. After this discussion the Committee approved the September 4, 2024 Meeting Minutes by consensus.

II. Trail and Open Space Work Update (3:15 pm): *Leslie Loveland*

Leslie Loveland reviewed the work the Trails crew has done using a slide presentation. This included major trail work on Whoop-It-Up and White Lightning as well as improvements to Downward Dog. Leslie highlighted that there is a new sign on Bamgarten at the boat storage yard and that the Glacier Way Trailhead will also get a new sign. There are new larger signs on the Alder Creek Adventure Center Kiosk and at the Hansel Trailhead (at the mailboxes) Kiosk.

There was a member comment regarding etiquette signage. Leslie stated they are waiting for more money and Phase 2 signage still has approximately 130 signs to erect, many that include etiquette (including dog leash signs).

Leslie stated that there had been no new counting of the trail counting data and that there are up to 900,000 encounters to count. This count includes wildlife, falling branches, and pinecones. Flying Squirrel had zero one-wheelers on the trail! The Sundance Hut has been repaired with a larger deck. There are now two accessible picnic tables at the Glacier Way Trailhead

Julie Thornton commented on the great work the trail crew has done this year and the money that Leslie has saved by repurposing materials and using Trail Crew labor.

Leslie commented that if the signs do not designate a specific trail user group and direction of travel, the trail is open to all user groups and is multidirectional.

A member commented that she would like to see the font larger so she can read the trail signage from her horse.

III. Discussion of Draft 2025 Trails and Open Space Committee Task List (4:00 pm) *Peter Sawyer*

Peter Sawyer reviewed the Task List with the Committee with discussion about what had and had

not been accomplished.

Task #1: *Support the Board and Land Management Department's goal of enhancing Tahoe Donner's forest management and environmental stewardship.*

John Groom feels this task was accomplished after discussion with the Committee regarding the 2016 Land Management Plan and work on the 2025 Land Management Plan. A revised website for the 2025 Land Management Plan along with a story map will be online soon.

Task #2: *Support the consistent and effective implementation of the Trails Master Plan.*

Leslie will be writing a Trails implementation Plan and the Trails and Open Space Committee will see projects before they are implemented. This information will be shared with the Board.

Task #3: *Work in concert with the Board and Land Management Department to support sufficient funding for the stewardship, maintenance, and improvement of Tahoe Donner's land-holdings and trail system.*

This involves funds for the stewardship and improvement of land and trails and involvement of the Trails and Open Space Committee in this process. Peter feels this task has been accomplished since he has been involved in the budget process with Staff and the Board.

Task #4: *Work with staff, clubs, trail users and other bodies to support and assist with trails and open space oriented volunteer and stewardship opportunities for members.*

Peter feels the Trails and Open Space Committee members need to participate more fully and to and recruit members for stewardship opportunities.

Task #5: *Review the Charter for consistency with current committee needs and operations and recommend changes to the Charter if necessary.*

Peter asked that the committee members look at the Charter before our next meeting and to make suggestions for the 2025 tasks.

Richard Bothwell commented that he doesn't think that the Committee missed a task in the construction of the Flying Squirrel Trail.

Graham Reid suggested that we form a working group to carve out the Tasks and make sure the Tasks and Charter align. General Manager Annie Rosenfeld suggested updating the Charter.

One member commented that she thinks the Tasks are too vague and there is a cap on money used to create and maintain trails.

John Groom commented that there are fewer trails than in past years because some of the trails

around the Alder Creek Adventure Center were user-generated and have been decommissioned.

IV. 2022 Trails Master Plan Implementation Presentation/Discussion (4:45 pm) *John Groom & Peter Sawyer*

This agenda item was postponed due to time constraints.

V. In Depth Review of 2024 Trail Use Data (4:45 pm) *John Groom and Leslie Loveland*

John Groom presented the recent trail camera results for counting user groups. There were definitely trails that were preferred by some user groups and not others. The data is preliminary, and the actual counting has not been done except for a couple of trails. True Grit is primarily used by Bikers. The Nature Trail by hikers. The majority of the trails with cameras are used by bikers. This is raw data and not the final count.

There was a member comment that bikers can do loops on the trails and possibly be counted several times.

Peter Sawyer commented that his choice of where to hike is often informed by where he will encounter the fewest mountain bikes. His comment was echoed by one member in the room.

VI. Upcoming Meetings and Meeting Adjournment [Wed., Nov. 6, 2024] (5:20 pm) *Peter Sawyer*

Peter Sawyer adjourned the meeting by consensus.