

Trails & Open Space Committee Meeting Minutes

December 4, 2024 @ 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM Northwoods Clubhouse Mezzanine 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)	Annie Rosenfeld (GM)
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Guests

Nan Meek	Lorna Dobrovolny	
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I. Opening Business (3:02 pm): *Peter Sawyer*

- **Call to Order/Quorum Call: *Peter Sawyer*** The meeting was called to order with 9 of 12 members present
- **Member Comments:** Karen Aaron was asked to make a member comment regarding the Equestrian Committee Meeting that took place on November 18, 2024 as it had not been agendized.

Seven subcommittee members were present. Crystal Rae Mecham, Equestrian Manager for TD provided an update on her meeting with the Pegasus Equestrian Consultant. The Subcommittee identified seven priorities that they have and re-introduced themselves to the subcommittee.

- **Comments by the Committee Chair: *Peter Sawyer***

The Chair congratulated Leslie Loveland for being named Tahoe Donner Manager of the Year

- **Report from the Liaison to Tahoe Donner's Long Range Planning Committee: *Julie Thornton***

The LRPC has been working on the 2024 task List. They are working on the 5-year strategic plan. It was also noted that they are having difficulty recruiting younger members

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

The Board Liaison reported that there have been recent changes to electronic voting in HOA's (AB1360) She also reported on the presentation by the Truckee Watershed Council of the Euer Valley Project - Phase 2 and the Board's focus on Staff housing. The Board also approved the 2025 Task Lists of the Giving Fund and Covenants Committee. She reported that the Board was given a tour of winter operations and updates on the Marina Deck Expansion, Glacier Way Trailhead, and Downhill Ski Lodge projects

- **Approval of previous Meeting Minutes (November 6, 2024) *Peter Sawyer***

The minutes of the November 6, 2024 meeting were approved by consensus after discussion of minor changes that will be a part of the final draft.

II. Trail and Open Space work update/Euer Valley Projects - John Groom and Leslie Loveland (3:20 pm)

Leslie walked the Nature Loop with Peter and removed the summer interpretive signs. Four trail cameras will be erected for wildlife monitoring this winter . Leslie is working on the Trails Implementation plan, which includes a 5-year implementation plan and outlines of trail construction standards. She and the Communications Department are in the process of designing new Glacier Way Trailhead signs, and she is close to finishing the summer use data and shared that the data can only be used as a baseline because she has nothing to compare it to.

John Groom discussed consulting with California Fish & Wildlife for construction of trails which may require wildlife monitoring. Leslie is doing much of this monitoring in house.

Peter requested that the Trails and Open Space committee members watch the Watershed Counsel presentation, Euer Valley- Phase 2, from the November Board meeting. John Groom discussed the presentation and answered questions from the committee.

III. Discussion and approval of 2025 Task List, Personnel Report, and Revised Trails and Open Space Committee Charter. (4:00pm)

The Charter was put on hold until the Charter Working Group can review the recommendations from the Board and Tahoe Donner Management. The Working Group will meet before our next meeting and present an updated Charter to the Committee.

The Chair stated that the 2025 Task List Working Group had met and made the following changes to the previous draft. The first three tasks are ongoing tasks that we have had on our

Task List in previous years, they are now split out as “Annual Tasks,” and the Quarter in which they need to be accomplished is stated. The “Special Task” involves two “Plans” and one task.

- **Annual Task #1:** “Support the consistent and effective implementation of the Trails Master Plan.” - ongoing throughout the year.
- **Annual Task #2:** “Work in concert with the board and Land Management Department to support sufficient funding for the stewardship, maintenance, and improvement of TD Land holdings and trail system.” - to be completed in Quarters 2 & 3
- **Annual Task #3:** “Review all TOS documents for consistency with current committee needs and Operations and recommend changes, if necessary,” - to be completed in Quarter 4

- **Special Task #1:** “Land Management Plan Update.” - this will be ongoing throughout 2025 and involves the Trails Implementation Plan, the Non-timber Harvest Plan, and the overhaul of the Tahoe Donner Website as it applies to the Land Management Department.

The Board Liaison requested that we make the Trails Implementation Plan (TIP) a separate Annual Task. Land Management Staff let the committee know that the first part of the TIP is completed and will be shared with the TIP Working group and the committee. The Board Liaison also asked that the Annual Task having to do with Stewardship be moved to be a separate Special Task. The Chair will meet with the 2025 Task List Working Group to modify the Task List in order to get it to the Board for their December meeting.

Personnel Report

The Chair went over the current make-up of the committee and how he wrote the “current demographics” paragraph. The committee discussed the challenges to bringing in a committee member that meets the demographic make-up that we desire. We should explore other ways to encourage Tahoe Donner members to participate with the committee without being a committee member. The Chair stated that we can take another look at this later. The Board Liaison asked that we modify the Personnel Report to indicate that we will have three openings with three current committee members reapplying and two completed applications.

IV. Discussion of Land Management and Trails Implementation Plan (4:35pm)

The Land Management Plan will be completed next year, early 2026 after consultants have completed their recommendations.

V. Discussion of Long Term use of the Alder Creek Adventure Center. (4:40 pm)

The Equestrian Town Hall is meant to get feedback specifically focused on the Equestrian Center.

VI. Update on the Equestrian Center Town Hall (4:45 pm)

John Groom suggested members be present to include representatives from the Trails and Open Space Committee, the Equestrian Subcommittee, and the Hiking, Mountain Biking, and Running Clubs. The Committee questioned whether or not the Clubs were good representatives of their respective user groups. It was suggested that we find a different way to include these members. The attendees will be vetted by the General Manager and the Director of Land Management. They will be working on pieces of a larger discussion. This will be focused on the trail system. Discussion followed as to who would be best to invite to this meeting. The General Manager invited the committee members to suggest folks to invite.

VII. Upcoming Meetings and Adjournment (5:00 pm)

Peter Sawyer suggested that we have no meeting in January, unless an alternative date is warranted because of the Equestrian Town Hall at the beginning of January. The meeting was adjourned by consensus at 5:03pm.