

Trails & Open Space Committee Meeting Minutes

February 5, 2025 @ 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 Eric Lawrence	Carol Lindsay Kevin O’Neil Livia Quan	Graham Reid Peter Sawyer Julie Thornton
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Staff, Staff Leads, & Liaisons

Denise Gauney (Board) John Groom (Staff) Ben Gruder	Jason Hajduk-Dorworth Laura Lindgren (Liaison) Leslie Loveland (Staff)	Annie Rosenfeld (GM)
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Guests

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I. Opening Business (3:00 pm): *Peter Sawyer*

- **Call to Order/Quorum Call:** Peter Sawyer called the meeting to order at 3:06 pm with 8 members present.
- **Member Comments:** There were no member comments.
- **Comments by the Committee Chair:** Peter Sawyer commented that this year will be one of challenges and opportunities, and that the Trails and Open Space Committee must remember that we can’t please everyone all of the time, that we can’t only listen to the loudest voices or the largest numbers, and that we must do our best to be fair and reasonable as we chart the future of Tahoe Donner’s trails and open space.
- **Report from the Liaison to Tahoe Donner’s Long Range Planning Committee (LRPC):** Laura Lindgren commented that the LRPC is reviewing all projects to provide recommendations during the annual budget process. The LRPC also provided input on longer term initiatives, specifically a mobility plan, traffic calming, and alternative transportation (Class 1 bike trail), as well as assisting in the creation of member surveys and developing a long-range planning process with member input.
- **Report from the Tahoe Donner Board Liaison:** Denise Gauney informed the committee that they are moving forward on a study to develop a third egress. She is the Chair of the Measure T Oversight Committee and will be attending those meetings. The new Tahoe Donner amenity access policy is going well, with documentation being the biggest concern. It’s a three-year roll out. All of the Tahoe Donner 2025 Task Lists have been approved. The board also received an update on the WorkForce Housing Plan. They also reviewed the 45 day review period of the Election Rules.
- **Minutes of the 12/4/24, 12/18/2024 and 1/7/2025** meetings were approved by consensus.

II. Trail and Open Space Work Update (3:21 pm):

John Groom and Ben Gruder updated the committee on the 2024 home owner and Association defensible space (667 acres last year). There are nearly 1,000 acres proposed for 2025. The defensible space program has gotten more aggressive over the last few years. Mastication of the area south of Ski Slope Way is a major project with Forest Service and private property owner cooperation. It is being replanted as a shaded fuel break in Jeffrey Pine because of the low water conditions and southern exposure. Ben explained how the process works and how the trees provide fire resilience. John Groom would like the Trails and Open Space Committee to do a number of site tours this summer to better understand what the Land Management Department is doing in terms of defensible space and fire mitigation. The maps that the committee saw today are part of the area he would like us to tour.

III. Land Management and Trails Implementation Plan Timeline Discussion (3:50 pm)

John Groom is looking for concurrence by the committee on signage today as part of the Trails Implementation Plan. He is working on a story map of all the efforts that Tahoe Donner is taking to manage the land. The committee will see more regarding the Implementation Plan later in the winter and spring.

IV. Sign Plan Presentation (3:54)

Leslie Loveland updated the committee on the Sign Plan. She worked with the Communications Department to provide different colors for summer and winter signage. Today's discussion is about the general layout and formatting of the signs. Leslie gave a PowerPoint presentation to the committee prior to the meeting showing the standardization of Tahoe Donner Signs. Signs will be in "Tahoe Donner blue," using existing font, color, and difficulty ratings that are all already TD specs. Specific feedback requested was given in the following areas. General consensus on the feedback is given in *italics*:

- **Does TOS support the TDA signage hierarchy described in this plan?** *Yes, no objections.*
- **Does TOS support the removal of signs that are attached to trees? Utilization of blue carsonites (with blue wayfinding attached) as reassuring markers for trails and at confusing intersections?** *Trail signs implemented last year are a huge improvement. Three members suggested that a brown carsonite would be preferable to the blue. Brown carsonite with blue wayfinding signs attached is most consistent with the Tahoe Donner signage family. There was general agreement on the color blue for signs, and the removal of signs attached to trees.*
- **Does the Trails and Open Space committee support a focus on downloadable maps which will be uploaded annually and cost less than the annual printing of the large kiosk maps? Kiosk signs - bigger map, less verbiage.** *Feedback: Change certain kiosk signs every year in the most populated trails (Glacier, ACAC). In other areas, trail users can download or use paper maps. We will continue to distribute paper maps that are updated*

yearly. A discussion took place as to whether or not it would make sense to only have the area that people are at on the sign instead of the whole TD map (e.g., Glacier Way specific trails on the Glacier Way sign)? A discussion of cell coverage took place with the consensus being that we may want to note to users to download maps while they have cell coverage.

There was also a discussion of how best to convey etiquette information to the public.

We are looking at providing etiquette popups when users are accessing downloadable maps. Requesting feedback on a link to etiquette and to provide etiquette on the map. John recommends not to have stand alone etiquette signs. There are better ways to convey etiquette than putting all that verbiage on a sign. There was some discussion on how to get etiquette messages across (ie. humor, videos run on a loop at ACAC). John and Leslie will work with the Communication Department on how they can help us consolidate etiquette concerns that are more enjoyable to read.

There was also a discussion on the desire to sign the dirt roads, utilizing the existing single-track posts.

The cost will be approximately \$4,000 to sign the roads. Equestrians would like the roads signed. Summer roads will adopt the winter names. We have 377 signs! That is a lot of signs. Pushback on the idea that we need more and more signs. What about confusing areas? John Groom stated that he would rather engineer out of a confusing area than using signage.

V. Equestrian Listening Session Debrief and Next Steps (4:45 pm) *Peter Sawyer*

John Groom informed the committee that the Equestrian consultant will be meeting with the Equestrian Subcommittee and the Trails and Open Space Committee soon at a date to be determined.

VI. Peter Sawyer shared the Revised Trails and Open Space Committee Charter (4:50pm)

Peter and a Trails and Open Space Committee Working Group rewrote the Charter to better reflect our current meeting schedule and to remove language that is no longer necessary, He presented the *Revised* Charter to the committee.

A motion was made by Kevin O'Neil and seconded by Livia Quan to accept the changes to the Trails and Open Space Charter as presented by the Chair and to pass it on to the board for approval on their Consensus Calendar. The motion passed by a vote of 8-0.

VII. The Meeting was Adjourned at 4:54 pm by consensus. Our next meeting is Wednesday, March 5, 2025