



**STAFF REPORT:** Formation of the Tahoe Donner Gardening Club and Bylaws

**RECOMMENDATION:**

By motion, the Board of Directors authorizes:

1. The formation of the Tahoe Donner Gardening Club as a chartered club of the Association, and
2. The adoption of the Tahoe Donner Gardening Club Bylaws as presented.

**BACKGROUND:**

Tahoe Donner member Kate Fanter has submitted an application and bylaws to create a new club. Ms. Byus has her Master Gardener certification and has professionally done garden design and landscaping work. She currently has a small club with friends and wants to expand so members can share knowledge, experience, and each other's gardens.

This staff report has been prepared for the board of directors to consider authorizing a new chartered Tahoe Donner club.

**ANALYSIS:**

Staff has worked with Kate Fanter on how the club will operate within the existing Tahoe Donner policies. The proposed Gardening Club aims to foster a sense of community among Tahoe Donner residents through educational and enjoyable gardening activities.

To recruit members, the club plans to advertise through the Tahoe Donner newsletter and permitted community postings. The club's primary goal is to help members learn more about gardening and improve their enjoyment of their own and surrounding gardens. Its mission is centered around fun and knowledge, offering a welcoming space for all residents to engage in gardening. Expected outcomes include building camaraderie, sharing gardening knowledge, and encouraging members to support one another in their gardening endeavors.

Club membership will have two classes: full members who are residents and their immediate family members with a valid and current Member ID Card, and associate members, which can include non-Tahoe Donner club members, like other Tahoe Donner clubs. The club does not offer a membership cap at this time.

Planned activities include guest speakers, field trips, and possibly a community gardening project to enhance members' skills. Meetings will be held monthly throughout the growing season, primarily at the Northwoods Clubhouse, with opportunities for members to host hands-on sessions at their gardens. At this stage, the club will focus on educational activities, with members bringing their gardening tools if necessary

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

There is no fiscal impact.



**ALTERNATIVES:**

Not applicable.

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Prepared By: Erin Moore, Interim Executive Assistant

Reviewed By: Annie Rosenfeld, General Manager

Board Meeting Date: March 13, 2025



## Tahoe Donner Association Charter Club Application

**Proposed Name of Club:** Tahoe Donner Gardening Club

**Contact Person:** Kate Fanter: [kate.fanter@evrealestate.com](mailto:kate.fanter@evrealestate.com) or 515-865-8216

**Please tell us a bit about yourself and why you want to create this club:**

I'm interested in starting a gardening club for members to share knowledge, experience and each other's gardens. I've done a small one in TD with friends for a few years now, and when I posted an inquiry on Facebook, there were several interested folks. I got my Master Gardener certification and have done garden design and landscaping work professionally in the past.

I also envision inviting some guest speakers, field trips, and potentially community projects.

**Contact Address:**

12072 St. Bernard Dr. (fka Kate Fanter Byus)

**Purpose of Club:**

- a. For members to learn more about and better enjoy gardens of their own and surrounding areas
- b. To foster camaraderie, encouragement and shared knowledge
- c. FUN!

**How many members will serve as Club Board of Directors?**

Initially 3? As a fledgling club I'd like to see how many members we can recruit and assign accordingly.

**Who will be eligible for membership?**

Tahoe Donner residents - I'm fine opening up to Truckee residents if that is allowable and we feel we need more members.

**Will there be fees or dues for club members? If so, how much?**

I'm open to a small fee to solidify "commitment". \$50? Funds can be used towards programming. I'd love to understand what has worked for other clubs. I also feel there should be a "commitment" from members to attend 4+ meetings of the ~7 scheduled.

**What is the frequency of club meetings?** Year one I propose a planning meeting/orientation in April, then Monthly meetings through the growing season of May-Oct. Perhaps a holiday get together.

**Where do you hope to hold your club meetings:**

Planning meetings at the Northwoods Clubhouse and/or via google meets and most growing season meetings at member gardens or garden site.

**Anticipated effective date?**

April 2025

**Any additional comments?**

*If there is anyone I could chat with about best practices or expectations for TD clubs, that would be appreciated!*

# TAHOE DONNER GARDENING CLUB

## BYLAWS

### ARTICLE I – NAME

Section 1. The name of this club is the Tahoe Donner Gardening Club.

### ARTICLE II – PURPOSE

Section 1. This Club is organized to accomplish the following purposes:

- a. To promote enjoyment and recreation to its members in connection with gardens of their own and surrounding areas;
- b. To foster camaraderie, appreciation and encouragement for gardening in the Sierra Nevada Mountains;
- c. To encourage the sharing of knowledge and experience for the good of all.

Section 2. The Club shall be operated exclusively for the purposes enumerated in Section 1 of this Article II, and its organization and activities are not designed for, and shall not result in, financial or pecuniary gain or profit for the members thereof.

Section 3. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary set forth herein, use of any Tahoe Donner facilities by the Club and its Members shall be in accordance with the Rules and Regulations established by Tahoe Donner Association.

### ARTICLE III – DIRECTORS

Section 1. The Club shall be governed and managed by a Board of Directors consisting of three (3) of its Full Members.

Section 2. A Director shall serve a term of two (2) years, or until their successor is elected or the Director resigns. Candidates for election to the Board shall be nominated from among the Club's Full Members by any Full Member, including the candidate, him/herself, during the 2 month period before the annual membership meeting.

Section 3. A Director may resign for any reason by tendering notice of such to the Board. Immediately upon a Director's loss of Full Member status, his/her Director's seat shall be declared vacant. Vacancies on the Board shall be filled by majority vote of the remaining Directors appointing any Full Member of the Club to serve for the remainder of the vacant term.

Section 4. Meetings of the Board shall be held as frequently as is determined necessary by the Board. Special meetings of the Board may be called by the President or any other (2) Directors. A majority of the Directors then serving on the Board shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

### ARTICLE IV – OFFICERS

Section 1. The officers of the Club shall be a President, a Vice President, and a Communications Officer. Said officers shall be appointed by the Board from among the Directors.

Section 2. The President shall preside at all meetings of the Board and of the membership.

Section 3. The Vice President, in the absence of the President, shall preside at all meetings of the Board and of the membership.

Section 4. The Communications Officer shall record meeting minutes and manage Club communications.

Section 5. If the Board adopts a dues structure for Club members, the Board shall appoint one of its officers to serve in a dual officer role as Treasurer. Directors appointed to this dual officer role shall have a single vote at meetings of the Board and of the membership.

Section 6. The Treasurer shall maintain adequate records of, and be ultimately responsible for, all funds and accounts of the Club. All checks issued by the Club shall be signed by the Treasurer and one other officer designated by the Board.

#### ARTICLE V – MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. The Club shall have two classes of membership: Full Members include those who have been issued valid and current Member Photo ID Cards or Resident Tenant Photo ID Cards under Tahoe Donner Association's Amenity Access Rule; Associate Members include all others.

Section 2. At least sixty percent (60%) of the Club's membership shall at all times be Full Members. No new Associate Members shall be permitted to join while Full Members number less than 60% of the total membership.

Section 3. Full Members shall be entitled to vote at Club membership meetings; Associate Members shall have no voting rights.

Section 4. The Board may adopt a required dues structure for Club members, provided that Board approval of such dues is accomplished at a duly noticed meeting and notice of the meeting includes specific notice that the Board will consider such dues.

Section 5. Following reasonable notice and an opportunity to be heard, the Board may revoke the membership of any Member whose conduct is determined to be contrary to the best interests of the Club.

#### ARTICLE VI – MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

Section 1. Meetings of the membership shall be called by the President, the Board, or by five percent (5%) of Club Full Members.

Section 2. Notice of membership and Board meetings shall be given to all Members, if reasonably practicable, at least fourteen (14) days in advance thereof.

Section 3. Those Full Members present at any membership meetings shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business, provided that at least any two (2) officers or those members who called the meeting are present.

Section 4. The annual meeting of the membership shall be held during March each year, at such time and place as may be determined by the Board. Directors shall be elected and the Board shall then appoint officers at the annual meeting.

Section 5. The place of board meetings and Membership Meetings, including the annual meeting, may be virtual, provided the meeting notice specifies the means of virtual communication that will be used to conduct the meeting.

#### ARTICLE VII – COMMITTEES

Section 1. All committees of the Club shall be established, and their members shall be appointed, by the Board.

Section 2. The Board shall determine the responsibilities and authority of all committees.

#### ARTICLE VIII – AMENDMENT

Section 1. These Bylaws shall only be amended by the affirmative vote of at least two-thirds (2/3) of the Full Members present at a duly called meeting of the membership; notice of the proposed amendment shall be provided in the notice by which the meeting is called.

Section 2. Amendments to these Bylaws shall become effective upon their approval by the Club's Full Members and the Tahoe Donner Association Board of Directors.

#### ARTICLE IX – EFFECTIVE DATE

Section 1. These Bylaws shall become effective upon their approval by the Tahoe Donner Association Board of Directors.

Approved by the Tahoe Donner Association Board of Directors on: \_\_\_\_\_