

Trails and Open Space Committee Meeting DRAFT Minutes

May 7, 2025, 3:00-5:00 pm @ The Northwoods Clubhouse Mezzanine Room & Zoom

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, AND LIAISONS

Joey Cañas (Staff) Denise Gauney (BOD) John Groom (Staff)	Laura Lindgren (LRPR) Leslie Loveland (Staff)	John Mitchell (Staff) Annie Rosenfeld (GM)
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GUESTS

Jennifer Gomez Merle Fajans	Lisha Rudd Tara Christison	
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I. Opening Business (3:04 pm):

- Peter Sawyer called the meeting to order with a quorum of ten at 3:04 pm.
- Member Comments: Jennifer Gomez criticized the Trails and Open Space Committee for not taking the concerns of the equestrian community seriously. As a boarder, she feels that she is paying more than her share and feels that there is a lack of understanding regarding equestrians in general and the Equestrian Center in particular.
- Peter Sawyer (Chair) thanked the staff (John Groom, Leslie Loveland, and Joey Cañas) and the Trails and Open Space Working Group for their hard work on the 2025 DRAFT Trails Implementation Plan. He also thanked Leslie Lovland for her efforts in regards to Tahoe Donner's stewardship program. He reminded the Trails and Open Space Committee that part of our responsibility is to help her in these efforts.

- Peter Sawyer (on behalf of the Long Range Planning Committee's Liaison - Laura Lindgren) reported that the LRPC is continuing to work on the process of planning long range projects, including those related to mobility.
- Denise Gauny (Board Liaison) reported that there is now state-wide legislation on how HOAs manage our common space. She added that there is funding for the fuels reduction project along Northwoods. The board reviewed changes to Tahoe Donner's architectural standards policies regarding the materials homeowners can use, including new fire resistant siding. There is now an agreement between the Tahoe Watershed Council and Tahoe Donner that allows the Watershed Council to come onto Tahoe Donner property. She also gave us an update on the progress of the Downhill Ski Lodge (slightly behind schedule, but catching up), informed us that the Land Management Department now has 41 employees, that there will be a new member orientation on August 16, and that the only two Board of Directors candidates (Benjamin Levine and Jay Wertheim) were certified by the Board by proclamation, as no election was necessary.
- The February 5, 2025 meeting minutes were approved by consensus.

II. Stewardship Program Update (3:17 pm)

Peter Sawyer shared that Tahoe Donner has already had four events, with another postponed (make-up TBD). Leslie shared that everything is up on three different sites within the Tahoe Donner Website: News + Events/Community Calendar and Members/Land + Forestry/Land Management/Land Management + Forestry Events. The SignUpGenius page can be accessed from both sites when signing up for an event that requires registration. She will be adding two more Trail Stewardship Days on this list soon.

III. Coyote Crossing and Glacier Way Updates (3:22 pm)

John Mitchel, Director of Capital Projects, shared that the Glacier Way restroom will be installed soon. The study of Class I Bike Trail from the Alder Creek Adventure Center to the Trout Creek Trailhead is scheduled to start this summer. The Euer Valley Project - Phase 1 is also scheduled to start this summer. The work on South Euer Valley Road is scheduled to be done in June with the work on the boardwalk at Coyote Crossing following that. There will be some closures involved in the construction.

IV. Summer 2025 Program and Project Update (3:31 pm)

Leslie Loveland shared that the Land Management Department is fully staffed for this summer, with Forestry having started on May 5, and the Trail Crew and Defensible Space Crew starting on May 12.

Leslie has a full returning Trail Crew (6) this year with the potential of adding a seventh member. The Nature Loop interpretive signs will be going up soon. The upcoming 2025 Trails Management Plan calls for the monitoring of all the roads and trails, taking note of reroutes, erosion, and the clearing of culverts. The large wooden trailhead signs (10) are being reinstalled. Work will take place this summer on the Nature Loop, Fool's Gold, and the area around the Alder Creek Adventure Center, retiring many of the user generated trails. The sign order (310) is on hold due to tariff issues with the Canadian company that produces our signs.

V. 2025 DRAFT Trails Implementation Plan Discussion (3:43)

Gayle Dana presented a short description of the process that the Trails Implementation Plan (TIP) Working Group went through over the past month and complemented John Groom, Leslie Loveland, and Joey Cañas on all the work they have done. The document provides the framework for the long term implementation of the 2022 Trails Master Plan. After the Working Group met twice with staff, changes were made to the TIP.

Annie Rosenfeld explained that after the last meeting of the Working Group, it was determined that the DRAFT 2025 Trails Implementation Plans contained too much on policies to be a useful document, so the policy section will be moved to an appendix and the plan will take center stage. John Groom also suggested that a lot of the policies that were included in the TIP were actually Land Management Policies and therefore did not belong in the TIP. The TIP will therefore undergo more revisions and be presented to the Committee at a later date.

Committee members discussed the idea that a companion document written in plain, understandable language accompany the TIP, as most of the Tahoe Donner membership will not read the entire document.

John detailed that one of the major changes from the 2013 and 2022 Trails Management Plans is the shift from user preferred to user designated trails. The Committee discussed ways that we might make this clear to the general membership/public. One suggestion was that we be very explicit as to who is and isn't allowed on specific trails. This will be more easily accomplished with the interactive trail maps that will be part of the 2025 Trails Implementation Plan.

VI. Upcoming Meetings and Meeting Adjournment [Wednesday, June 4, 2025] (4:50)

Peter Sawyer adjourned the meeting by consensus and reminded the committee members of our next meeting.