

Trails & Open Space Committee Meeting Minutes DRAFT

November 5, 2025 @ 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM Mezzanine Room - Northwoods Clubhouse (and 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

John Groom (Staff) Laura Lindgren (LRPC Liaison)	Denise Gauny (Board Liaison) Leslie Loveland (Staff)	Annie Rosenfeld
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Guests

Alan Sachs	Keith Jackson
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I. Opening Business (3:05 pm)

- **Call to Order/Quorum Call:** Peter Sawyer called the meeting to order at 3:05 pm
- **Member Comments:** There were no member comments.
- **Comments by the Committee Chair:** Peter Sawyer reminded those committee members whose terms are expiring to let him know whether or not they are reapplying, so that he might inform the board of any open positions.
- **Report from the Liaison to the Long Range Planning Committee:** Laura Lindgren was not present at the meeting but had informed Peter Sawyer in advance that she had nothing to report as the Long Range Planning Committee had not met in October.
- **Report from the Tahoe Donner Board Liaison:** Denise Gauny shared with the committee that Miguel Sloan had been recognized by the board at their October meeting for 30 years of service to the Association. She also reported that the board had discussed Accessory Dwelling Units and Junior Accessory Dwelling Units as well as changes to architectural standards related to siding on homes. The discussion of siding regulations will be carried over to the board's November meeting.
- **Approval of previous Meeting Minutes:** The October 1, 2025 meeting minutes, with changes recommended by Gayle Dana, were approved by consensus.

II. 2026 Task List Update (3:10)

Peter Sawyer shared with the committee his updated and edited review of the 2025 task list in preparation for the 2026 Task List. Amongst the highlights of his presentation were the following:

1. The first two annual tasks (Master Plan implementation and Budget) support had been completed.

2. Peter is in the process of completing the third task by updating the Committee Charter on the website, updating the Leadership Plan, Succession Plan, and Personnel Report so that it can be presented to the board and corrected/updated on the website. He, John Groom, and Denise Gauney are in the process of completing the DRAFT 2026 Trails and Open Space Task List.
3. Annual Task #1 was completed when the 2025 Trails Implementation Plan was approved by the board on June 19, 2025.
4. Annual Task #2, the Land Management Plan, has just begun. It currently aligns with Tahoe Donner's 2026 Annual Strategic Objective #3. The task should be continued into the 2026 calendar year and completed in 2026.

John Groom spoke to the committee about the timeline of this project and how and when input from the Trails and Open Space Committee will be needed.

5. Annual Task #3, Stewardship. Update on stewardship efforts was given to the Trails and Open Space Committee by Leslie Loveland (Trails Manager) on Oct. 1, 2025 and is also on today's agenda. A commitment was given by the General Manager and the board to provide time/money for a Membership Outreach Coordinator (full or part time) during the 2026 budget discussions. This "Special Task" should be continued into the 2026 calendar year.
6. Peter proposed that an annual task in alignment with the board's Strategic Objective #1, 'Enhancing Member Enjoyment' be added as our new annual task for 2026.

After discussion by the committee it was agreed that this task is already covered by the TOS 2025 Annual Task #3 and it would be much better to add the board's Strategic Objective #4, 'Develop New Tahoe Donner Community Plan' as our new annual task. Denise Gauney agreed to provide the language for this task as it will align with the annual tasks of all other Tahoe Donner committees, with the exception of the Long Range Planning Committee, whose task it will be to prepare the Plan for the board.

III. Trails Manager 2025 Season Recap (3:30 pm)

Leslie Loveland provided the committee with a slide show that highlighted many of the 2025 Trails Department accomplishments and followed up on some of the work that had been completed during the 2024 trail season. Among the highlights were:

- The clearing of 36 miles of trails and 40 miles of roads.
- The rerouting of Lower Cinnamon Twist (Project #3, 2022 TMP)

- Completing the Fools Gold Extension (Project #20, 2022 TMP)
- Rerouting and maintaining lower Flying Squirrel
- Kiosk installations
- Restoring the horse paddocks in the Euer Valley
- Removal of dead and dying trees (particularly from TD Downhill and Cross Country areas)
- Nature Loop maintenance and repair
- Hosting education and stewardship events, tours, and site visits (32 projects, over 1100 participants)
- Reviewing past projects (East Perimeter boardwalk, Downward Dog restoration, and many smaller projects)

This slideshow can be found on the website as “2025.11.05 Stewardship Review.pdf (as a supporting document to the November 5 meeting).

John Groom then presented the 2025 Stewardship Review. He shared with us that excursions that centered around going to a location and doing an activity had the most participation and that the tours of forestry projects were less well received. The most popular events are those that take folks down into the Euer Valley by bus! It was also noted that demand or participation does not necessarily translate into impact or outreach. Discussion by the committee centered around how to evaluate which activities should be continued, dropped, or modified.

This Review Document can be found on the website as “2025.11.05 Trails Department End of Year Summary.pdf” (as a supporting document to the November 5 meeting).

IV. GIS App and Mapping Information Session Follow-up (4:20pm)

This agenda item was continued to the next Trails and Open Space committee meeting as the staff that were going to present this information, Lindsay Ryan (Asst. Forestry Manager) and Pol Salmon (Def. Space Supervisor/GIS Analyst) were unable to attend this meeting.

V. Budget Update (4:20 pm)

John Groom shared with the committee that the budget process went well and that the budget includes slight increases in all of the budget areas where he had requested more funds.

VI. Status of the 2025/2026 Land Management Plan (4:30 pm)

John Groom felt that this item had been covered sufficiently in Agenda Item II (4) and that there was no need for further discussion.

VII. Meeting Adjournment (4:35 pm)

Peter Sawyer adjourned the meeting by consensus. He reminded the committee that our next scheduled meeting will be on Wednesday, December 3, 2025 at 3:00 pm, in the Mezzanine Room of the Northwoods Clubhouse (and on Zoom).