



DSA Core Action Team
Thursday, August 15, 2019 5:00 PM PDT
Summit Haus, Donner Summit, CA

Motions and votes are given in *italics*; action items are in **bold**.

1. Welcome

Core Team Attendees: Sue Busby, Pat Malberg, Bill Oudegeest, Chris Parker, Dick Simpson, Mike Spain, and John Svahn.

Staff: Beth Tanhoff (DSA Administrator)

Guest: Jeff Thorsby (Nevada County Senior Administrative Analyst)

The meeting was called to order at 5:08 PDT by Pat Malberg.

2. Approval of Agenda

John Svahn asked to provide an update on Van Norden Dam and he asked to discuss graffiti cleanup on the Summit. Both were added to the end of the agenda. Pat wanted to discuss what happens to DSA 'swag' now that Nathan Wieler is leaving the Summit; she added that at the end (but it was not discussed).

Bill moved and John seconded the agenda as amended; the motion passed without objection.

3. Approval of Minutes from July 11, 2019

No changes to the minutes were proposed.

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www.donnersummitca.com
A 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization
E.I.N.: 87-0806766

Bill moved to approve the July minutes; the motion was seconded by Sue and passed without opposition. Chris abstained since he was not present at the July meeting.

4. Financial Report

Sue said DSA had about \$52K at the beginning of July and about \$23K at the end. Most of difference was \$28K paid to Sierra Business Council (SBC) for the Feasibility Study. **Sue and Ward will provide a more detailed report later.**

5. Bylaws

Bylaws had been circulated by Dick prior to the meeting. There was discussion on several points. (1) Bill suggested that the quorum be set to 40% of the number of Directors, but no one else supported this position. (2) There is a range in the number of Directors authorized (between 5-15). DSA could fix the number within that range; or, the number could float as Directors come and go. In the latter case, a quorum would be a majority of however many Directors held seats at any given time. There was no consensus on a fixed number, so the number will be allowed to float. (3) There was agreement that terms for Directors run from January to December 24 months later. (4) Pat went through the list of the current Core Team members; one and two year terms were assigned as follows:

Terms ending December 2020:

Tommy Christy
Pat Malberg
Maria Montano
Cheryl Paduano
Krista Voosen
Nathan Wieler

Terms ending December 2021:

Sue Busby
Jordan Knighton
Bill Oudegeest
Chris Parker
Dick Simpson
John Svahn
Mike Spain

Mike wondered whether it would be desirable to include a sunset clause — that is, a Director would be considered to have resigned after missing three consecutive meetings. **Dick said he would look into possible wording; Chris offered to provide wording from the Tahoe Trails bylaws, which have such a provision, and Mike may have something he could provide.** There may be some collateral issues — such as about notification of meetings and making sure Directors provide up-to-date contact information — that would need to be cleared up for 'sunsetting' to work.

Chris moved and Sue seconded approval of the DSA bylaws as presented. The motion passed without opposition.

6. Monument Grant

Pat handed out a sign design from Mike Hann; it is not complete, but it provides a concept that could be fabricated and installed. The sign would be mounted to the right of the Monument as seen from the gas station. It would be metal with lettering cut through. Dimensions would be (very roughly) 3 feet high by 5 feet wide. The sign would be supported by posts made from old railroad rails with the post ends buried in a concrete base. Several people noted that the sign needs to have a light background if the lettering is to be visible against the dark forest. Even then, it may not be very visible at night. Chris questioned the font, and there were objections to including any graphics. In the end there was consensus that the font should be the same as in other DSA materials, all letters should be capitals — WELCOME TO DONNER SUMMIT, there should be no graphics, and the letters should be cut through.

Bill expressed concern about moving this forward since the grant money needs to be spent this year. Mike Hann has a company that he's looking at for fabrication; John said he could provide contact information for Dan Goddard Construction, the firm that makes metal trail signs for Truckee Donner Land Trust (TDLT).

7. Trail and History Hub Grant

Norm Sayler has excavated a trail from the Summit parking area to the Tunnel #6 central shaft. The path needs some manual smoothing; eventually it needs to be paved, but that may have to wait. One potential paving contractor visited the site last week.

Bill sought estimates for paving between Donner Pass Road and Old Donner Summit Road where Placer County ended its paving. He received two responses; one bid for \$67K would have done a more elaborate job, but he favors a bid from Shaeffer Paving for \$57K. This would only pave the 20 foot wide section of road and the handicapped parking spaces; but he thinks that would be good enough. Bill revisited the budget and thinks we could afford \$57K by tightening up some of the other tasks included in the T&H Hub proposal. Shaeffer wants a commitment, and Bill thinks they could do the work this year; if we wait, it may not be possible to schedule the work until 2020. Mike said Shaeffer did a "beautiful" job at Boreal, and he has them scheduled to pave Lot 1 at Soda Springs Mountain Resort.

Chris moved to accept the Shaeffer bid, and John seconded. The motion passed without opposition.

Mike Hann has provided a drawing for an upgrade of The Shed. It includes four vertical supports of the overhang plus benches between pairs of posts. Chris thinks the overhang has made the building unique; adding supports will change its character and attractiveness. Two rafters have been reinforced, thanks to in-kind donations from Mt Lincoln and the "lumber company" worth over \$1K. Replacing nails with screws would make the structure more sound. **Chris said he might be able to get a quote on fasteners.** Sugar Bowl doesn't have a cherry picker with the needed reach to work on the roof; but Steve Bennet who lives at Sugar Bowl might be able to provide one; Bob Landsinger or Jim Kuenzi might also be able to help. DSA would also need an operator; Bob Landsinger could do it, and Tim Morris might be a backup if Bob is not available. There was consensus that this work should be done as soon as possible.

8. Visitor Center

If DSA wants to move forward with locating its visitor center at Tinkers Station, Krista recommends a commercial appraisal, which would cost about \$1K. Bill noted that switching the visitor center from Norm Sayler's property to Tinkers Station has agreement in principle from both Nevada and Placer Counties, but that change would also require agreement from Placer County's CAP Committee. Chris asked whether Tommy Christy should recuse himself from Board discussions on this topic; there was agreement that he should. Jordan is working on a ballpark estimate for converting Tinkers to a visitor center.

Jeff Thorsby said Bill made a wonderful presentation to the Nevada County Board; but he's not sure that the County can move forward more quickly than the current schedule allows. Bill said no rezoning is needed if the building remains commercial on the first floor and residential upstairs. SBC is working on a business plan and is revising the Feasibility Study to cover the Tinkers case (at no additional cost). John asked whether the Feasibility Study could look at the side-of-highway issue — that is, is Tinkers on the wrong side of Donner Pass Road to serve as a visitor center?

Bill Moved that DSA spend up to \$1500 for a professional appraisal; the motion was seconded by Chris, and it passed without opposition.

9. Master Plan Update

Pat asked for authorization to sign the latest funding agreement with Placer County; it would support development of the public use and recreation master plan for Donner Summit

Dick moved to authorize Pat to sign the agreement; Mike seconded the motion and it passed without opposition.

Chris has met with Stantec; they had previously provided useful information regarding development of a master plan, and they are aware of recent events. The current master plan concept would be embellished compared to the original; Chris said Stantec has people in house who can do the new work. Chris asked for a response and expects something within a couple weeks. Chris believes DSA will get a good product; Stantec has done quality work that Chris knows about. The grant money is available through 2020, so there is no great rush.

10. Web Site

Beth read an e-mail from Alyssa Adriani, daughter of Charlie Jones, who has owned property near Devil's Peak for 40 years. In the past, the family has allowed small groups of cooperative hikers to cross their land (for example, to climb Devil's Peak) with the understanding that each permission was for a single day and that no approach to the homesite was allowed. Recently, several web sites have begun publicizing hikes on the property, including swimming in the family pond "when the owners are not present." As a result, the family has had to take a stronger position and all requests for access are being denied. DSA's web site is one that promotes "adventures" on the Jones property (<https://www.donnersummitca.com/devils-peak>).

Reaction from the Board was immediate and united. Chris said DSA needs to do three things: (1) take down the Devil's Peak web pages, (2) make private property issues more prominent, and (3) put TDLT in contact with owners of vulnerable private property. Bill added that we don't have control over our own DSA web site. There was general agreement that Forrest has taken a cooperative approach to posting DSA materials but that he often defers to Nathan for permission, which has not always been timely. There was consensus that the Board needs to regain control of the web site. Mike said Soda Springs Mountain Resort hires an outside firm to maintain its web site, and that has worked well. John said TDLT uses Small Pond in Truckee, and Dick said the Serene Lakes water district recently did an upgrade with a small Truckee firm. **Bill asked for "web site" to be a discussion item on**

the September agenda. In the meantime Board members should review the web site and report good and bad points.

11. Donner Summit Fest

The replacement DSA fundraiser will be October 5, 12-4 PM at Clair Tappaan Lodge (CTL). Entry will cost \$30 for adults and \$10 for children; signups will be through EventBright. There will be a fun run at 11:30 from CTL to Lytton Lake and back (about one mile each way), a 'bounce house', and a 'history hunt'. The Blues Monsters will provide music. There will be lots of beer, brats, and sauerkraut from CTL. Costs to DSA will include the food provided; DSA gets proceeds from both a live and silent auction. Many activities can be carried on inside if the weather is bad.

12. Van Norden Dam Update

John said work on the dam begins on September 3 and should last three weeks. Residual water in the lake will be pumped out, then the spillway will be lowered 4-1/2 feet. Mike said Soda Springs will regrade their adjacent parking lots after the work has been completed.

13. Graffiti Abatement

John said that TDLT recently oversaw a graffiti abatement and trash removal project at Donner Summit that involved about 70 people. Artwork on concrete was painted over using rollers donated by Ace Hardware in Truckee, and paint stripper was used on granite. Another group will continue the work in a couple weeks, and TDLT is working with a climbing coalition for more work later. But John said he doesn't think this is the best use of Land Trust resources; instead, he thinks it would be a good match for DSA. Chris said DSA could get a 'beautification easement' from Union Pacific Railroad; UPRR has met with Greg Dallas on similar issues, and Chris thinks an agreement with DSA could be reasonably straightforward. USFS believes that creating a 'new canvass' frequently will discourage taggers, and there will be less graffiti over time if walls are kept clean. One day per month might be sufficient. **There was agreement to put this on the agenda for the September meeting.**

14. Announcements

A. The Donner Summit Hikes are scheduled for September 14-15, 2-3 days after the September Core Team meeting. Participants will meet at Judah Lodge early Saturday, then take off on one of seven different hikes punctuated with history lessons and tales of the West. Participants return to

Sugar Bowl for a delicious lunch and more stories. DSA could hand out its new brochure and advertise the Donner Summit Fest. The Donner Summit Hikes are sponsored by Donner Summit Historical Society. Bill said there may be 200 hikers and 30-40 leaders. The Margie Powell hike last weekend drew 45 on Saturday and 20 Sunday.

Beth received an invoice for the next 12 months of insurance coverage. The premium is \$2808, and Beth wondered whether it should be paid in full or in installments. There was consensus to make a one-time payment.

15.Future Meetings

The next Core Team (Board) meeting will be September 12 at 5 PM. Location is TBD.

16.Adjournment

There being no other business, Pat adjourned the meeting at 6:47 PM.

Minutes approved by the Core Action Team at the meeting on September 12, 2019.

Minutes signed by Secretary, Richard Simpson _____