



Donner Summit Association (DSA) Core Action Team Meeting

2021 Year in Review

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Donner Summit Association (DSA) Core Action Team Meeting **Thursday, January 14, 2021 5-7 PM** **Virtual Meeting Hosted from Sugar Bowl, Norden, CA**

Motions and votes are given in *italics*; action items are in **red bold**. For various reasons, the minutes below do not reflect the strict chronological order of discussions during the meeting.

1. Welcome:

Core Action Team (DSA Board) Attendees: Mark Himmelstein, Jordan Knighton, Pat Malberg, Bill Oudegeest, Chris Parker, Dick Simpson, Mike Spain, John Svahn, and Beth Tanhoff.

Others: Tom Denzler, Tim Kustic and Jeffrey Thorsby.

The meeting was called to order by Pat Malberg at 5:04 PM. Chris Parker had set up a GoToMeeting site so that remote participants could connect by computer, tablet, smart phone, or traditional phone.

2. Informal Status Reports:

Jordan said his family is celebrating the arrival of their third grandchild in the past 14 months. Pat said that today is her 80th birthday; she and Don are looking forward to picking up their new Tesla tomorrow. Chris has tested positive for COVID-19; but he is back at work, feeling fine, and looking forward to the end of the ski season. Mark had no specific news but said he ran an anti-Trump ad in *Sierra Sun*; the feedback, mostly positive, was interesting. He is concerned about the crowds overrunning Serene Lakes in search of recreation. Mike said Soda Springs is starting to find its rhythm — that is, how many customers can be accommodated with COVID-19 restrictions and how to handle mask issues. Soda Springs opened dining for the first time today. Mike added that the ski operation is working well, but he is also distressed by the tremendous crowds looking for snow play around

the Summit. John is doing as well as he could expect. He was puzzled by a call yesterday from the local school district transportation office telling him when the bus would be at his house; he asked whether that meant in-school classes were resuming and the caller didn't have an answer. Beth said on-line distance learning continues to be challenging; she would have preferred if the COVID-19 restrictions had continued through the holiday. Her business is doing well. Tom has been interested in the demographic changes around the Summit; the population of part-timers is much higher this winter than last. Tim is doing well and noted that the first of his kids has just completed college. Dick said he is doing well; his wife was volunteering at a vaccination center today.

3. Approval of Agenda:

Moved (Bill), seconded (Chris), and carried unanimously (MSC-U) to approve the agenda.

4. Approval of Minutes:

No changes to the December meeting minutes were proposed.

MSC-U (Jordan, Chris) to approve the December meeting minutes.

5. Treasurer's Report (Tom):

Pat apologized for not distributing the Treasurer's report to the Board; it came to her and a small number of others and she didn't notice that all members of the Board weren't copied until too late. Tom said Ward prepared this report but that he (Tom) is now doing most of the work. Bank statements have been reconciled and Tom still needs access to a few things; but the plan is for him to take a laptop contributed by Truckee Donner Land Trust (TDLT), install QuickBooks, grab check stock from Ward, and do most of the work from this point forward with Ward retreating to a consulting role.

The Treasurer's report shows that DSA has about \$105K in equity — the checking account plus a CD, which is the first installment of a donation from George Lamson and Linda Cashion.

Chris has signed a new signature card, which needs to be forwarded to Tom so that he can gain signature authority for writing DSA checks. **All other currently authorized signers must also sign the same card for it to become valid; this includes Dick**, who said he is not likely to be at the Summit for several more weeks. John is also a signer; he asked whether someone else should be authorized to sign instead. He has been on the list

because Ward was handling the books and it was convenient to have someone in the same office who could sign checks. The consensus was to leave John on the list.

Pat mentioned that High Sierra Tax Service, operated by Tricia Cook, has been doing DSA taxes recently; and tax time is approaching. **Beth offered to introduce Tom to Tricia.** Dick wondered whether there was any rush since the DSA tax year may not be the same as individual tax years; he figured Tricia would know.

6. Reports from Ongoing Projects, and Proposals for New Projects:

a. The Hub/Shed:

- 1) Chris said he had nothing to report. Bill asked whether Chris had been able to find anyone in the Union Pacific Railroad real estate office who would be willing to sign the permit application needed for the toilet enclosure. Chris said all of his previous contacts in the office had moved to other jobs; the new people promised to call back, but he has heard nothing. **He will call again.**
- 2) Bill does not know the status of the exhibits; Anne-Flore was working on those and she was unable to make this meeting.

- b. Recreation Master Plan: Pat mentioned that the contract for funding from Placer County has been extended through the end of 2021; that gives Stantec more time to complete the Plan, but no one seems to know what is happening at Stantec. Before Christmas there seemed to be enthusiasm at Stantec for completing the Plan, but Chris has heard nothing since then. **He will try to contact them again tomorrow.** Bill mentioned hearing something about a Stantec delivery in the April time frame.

John expressed concern that the Plan may be losing relevance given other activities at the Summit — such as trail planning by USFS and attempts to address the current winter parking/trash/waste problems (see below).

Pat mentioned the recent release of a 200-plus page plan for Donner Memorial State Park (DMSP); it is the result of a process that began in 2006. John said that the Stantec plan needs to mesh with the DMSP Plan, plans for restoration of Van Norden Meadow, and the recently completed plan for winter parking at the west end of Donner Lake.

- c. Parking/Trash/Waste: Donner Summit has been overrun by day visitors since the middle of December; most are just looking for a place to park

while their kids play in the snow for a couple hours. In addition to creating congestion, many leave behind trash and human waste. Although this is a huge issue, which DSA cannot solve by itself, Pat thought it best at least to start a discussion.

Bill mentioned that California has announced a Regional Park Program (RPP) that will provide \$23M in Proposition 68 funds to create, expand, and improve regional parks. He thinks RPP could provide funding for new or improved facilities that DSA has already been considering. Applicants must be counties, government agencies (such as regional parks or open space districts), or 501(c)(3) non-profits (John think municipalities will be strongly preferred, which suggest that DSA seek collaborations). Four workshops to discuss the RPP have been scheduled (January 14, 19, and 28 and February 2; 12:30-3:30 PM each day). **Pat and Jeffrey said they would try to catch one of the workshops.** Proposals are due November 5. Details are in Attachment A to these minutes.

Jeffrey added that Nevada County will be announcing a smaller grants program, also based on Proposition 68; it will have about \$400K, of which about \$100K has already been tentatively allocated to a rehabilitation project. He mentioned that the County Executive's Office has hired a master grants writer who will write or assist in writing proposals; this person might be available to help DSA with an application. Jeffrey said that the Board of Supervisors remains strongly committed to following up on the Soda Springs Area Plan.

Bill suggested using Proposition 68 funds to improve visitor facilities around Van Norden Dam; he thought the dam itself could provide sledding, but John noted that USFS plans call for removal of the dam. Developing parking around Sheep Pens was also mentioned; but there are competing plans in that location as well. John said that TDLT favors distributing visitors along the 80/40 corridor rather than focusing improvement on one or a small number of sites; the Land Trust will be developing an inventory of possible locations. TDLT has some funding that could be applied to this study.

There was discussion of impacts from the recent crowding at the Summit. Part of the problem is that parking restrictions are poorly signed; at the entrance to Serene Lakes, for example, there are signs advising that there is no on-street parking November-May, but there is no signage within the development itself. John noted that, when additional signs are put up, they are frequently taken down almost immediately. Mark would like to see more enforcement; but there has been general agreement that the CHP is the only effective agency for doing so and its resources are limited.

The counties do not have enough personnel, and jurisdiction is complicated. Boreal and Soda Springs have limited parking to drivers who arrive with pre-paid ski tickets; this adds to congestion around the entrances but keeps the parking area itself relatively sane. USFS has assigned staff to control entrance to the Donner Summit Sno-Park; California Parks and Recreation, which manages the site, is unable to do anything. USFS is moving toward opening a Sno-Park on the north side of I-80; studies are being completed, but there are no funds for development.

There was discussion of properties within the DSA area that might be available for purchase and some sort of development. **Beth will send a link to property information; John will talk to Beth about parcels that might be available for purchase.**

In the end, the following seemed to be the actions attracting the most interest; not all are immediate solutions, but many could lead to solutions:

- 1) Deploy dumpsters and portable toilets; depending on location, some might have to be moved for plowing (not easy)
- 2) Contact county supervisors, seeking help
- 3) Convene a second Summit Summit; this will require planning and would not happen until at least summer
- 4) Locate available real estate that could be used for parking and/or recreation
- 5) Add more signs to direct people to or away from parking
- 6) Open the UPRR parking area at the west end of Tunnel 6; Sugar Bowl is already doing this; it has been shown to relieve pressure on Donner Pass Road.
- 7) Follow up on the State and county Prop 68 grant programs

- d. Graffiti Removal Project: Taggers have returned to mark some of the tunnel and shed surfaces that were 'cleaned' as recently as November (photo, right, by Daron Rahlves). DSA will resume graffiti removal activities as soon as the snow melts.



7. Web Design/Cybersecurity:

- a. DSA Logo: Dick said **Pat will ask an acquaintance for help revising the preferred (bridge) logo.**
- b. New Projects Pages on the Web Site: There have been changes in the project pages on the web site; but Dick has not communicated effectively with the volunteer doing the work. **He will seek closer collaboration over the next 2-3 weeks**, focusing on the Hub, graffiti, and Monument pages. The Master Plan page awaits delivery of the master plan from Stantec; the web page is already set up to capture comments from readers.

8. Internal Matters:

- a. Administrative Assistant Job Description: There has been no recent progress. **Mark will contact Beth**; he expects a ten minute phone call can clear up any open issues.
- b. Resignation of Nathan Wieler: Nathan resigned in an email, sent to the Board about a week ago. Dick said Nathan remains interested in the Summit and DSA, but that he will not be committing to anything specific.
- c. Review Committees and Assignments: Pat went through the list of committees and their members. Each committee could use additional members. Pat is particularly concerned about the Fundraising Committee, which is especially short of volunteers. She suggested that Beth take over, but Beth declined — at least until she is no longer doing home schooling. Mitzi Hodges had some promising ideas for merchandise; but Beth thought Mitzi might be completely swamped by her business at the moment.
- d. Next Meeting: The next Board meeting will be Thursday, February 11.

9. Announcements (Pat, others):

Pat and Chris confirmed that they have both volunteered for another term on the Donner Summit MAC. An open seat remains if there is a volunteer with the right residence, ownership, and/or occupational qualifications.

10. Adjournment:

There being no other business, Pat adjourned the meeting at 6:25 PM.

Minutes approved by the DSA Board of Directors at its meeting on February 11, 2021.

signed by DSA Secretary, Richard Simpson, _____

Attachment A — Regional Park Program Grants

Total Amount Available for Competitive Grants \$23,125,000 deadline 11/5/21

Intent

Regional Park Program (RPP) competitive grants will create, expand, and improve REGIONAL PARKS. RPP projects will create at least one NEW RECREATION FEATURE that attracts visitors from at least a 20-mile radius or county-wide population to a REGIONAL PARK. The NEW RECREATION FEATURE(S) will offer nature appreciation, or athletic activities, historical or cultural enrichment, or other recreational activities in an open

1. A PROJECT must involve either DEVELOPMENT or a combination of ACQUISITION and DEVELOPMENT.

While RENOVATION of RECREATION FEATURES may be included, a PROJECT will be more competitive if it creates at least one NEW RECREATION FEATURE and a new MULTI-USE TRAIL (Pages 17-18) (from application guide – link below).

This program is funded by Proposition 68

Eligible Applicants

- Counties
- Regional Park Districts, Regional Open-Space Districts, and Open-Space Authorities formed pursuant to Public Resources Code Division 26 (commencing with Section 35100)
- Joint Powers Authorities where at least one of the members is otherwise eligible on this list
- Nonprofit organizations qualified to do business in California and qualified under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code

Eligible Projects - see more list next page

- Acquisition for new or enhanced public access and use
- Development to create or renovate:
 - Trails, with preference given to multiuse trails over single-use trails
 - Regional sports complexes
 - Visitor and interpretive facilities
 - Other types of recreation and support facilities in regional parks

Regional Parks Program:

General Information https://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=29940 has a lot of links
Including link for email updates: [Sign up for e-mail updates](#)

Application guide

https://www.parks.ca.gov/pages/1008/files/Final_Regional_Park_Program_Application_Guide_10.29.20.pdf

Application Workshops

Regional Park Program (\$23M) and Rural Recreation and Tourism (\$23M)

Application Workshops for both programs start this week. Please sign up at [parks.ca.gov/rpp](https://www.parks.ca.gov/rpp) or [parks.ca.gov/rrt](https://www.parks.ca.gov/rrt).

Maximum request is \$3M and minimum is \$200K No match required

- **Application due date: November 5, 2021**

App info: https://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=29940

All workshops are from 12: 30 pm to 3:30 pm.

Please choose one of the following dates to attend:

- Thursday, January 14, 2021
 - Tuesday, January 19, 2021
 - Thursday, January 28, 2021
 - Tuesday, February 2, 2021
-
- The Project Selection Criteria must be complete at the time of application. All other application checklist items can have a "placeholder" if not complete by the time of application.
 - As the Corps consultation takes time, please reach out early to CCC and CALCC – consultation must have occurred in 2020 or early 2021 for the scope of the Round 4 project.

Technical Assistance Contacts

For technical assistance, applicants are encouraged to send questions to the “Competitive Grant Application/Pre-Award” Project Officer based on the county where the project is located. Please use this link: [List of Competitive Application Project Officers by County](#)

RECREATION FEATURES (eligible examples)

- ACQUISITION of land:

- Combined with DEVELOPMENT of a NEW RECREATION FEATURE. OR

- Already has a RECREATION FEATURE for public use at the close of escrow. For EXPANSIONS, this may include acquiring adjacent land to protect viewsheds or create new access.
- Non-motorized trail (multi-use is encouraged), pedestrian/bicycle bridge
- Equestrian center/Rodeo grounds
- Campgrounds (developed and primitive campsites)
- Aquatic Center/aquatic facilities (fishing, non-motorized boating, swimming, fountains, etc.)
- Amphitheater/performing arts dance, music, theater stage
- Regional Sports Complex

- Athletic fields (soccer regulation or “futbol-rapido”, baseball, softball, football)

- Athletic courts/course (basketball, “futsal”, tennis, pickleball, golf, etc.)

- Year-round complexes

- Winter recreation features: skiing, snowboarding, snowshoeing, etc.
- Summer recreation features: hiking, mountain biking, equestrian, etc.

- Botanical or demonstration gardens and orchards
- Visitor, interpretive, cultural, historical structures
- Open space and natural area for public recreation use
- Skate park, skating rink, bike park, or pump track (non-motorized bike tracks)
- Recreation center/gymnasium
- Dog park
- Jogging and walking loop, parcourse, running track
- Outdoor gym exercise equipment (stations fixed into the ground)
- Picnic/Bar-B-Que areas
- Playground and tot lot
- Plaza, Zocalo, Paseo, Gazebo (open space areas for social, cultural gatherings)
- Public art (mosaics, sculptures, murals)
- Lighting to allow for extended nighttime use of a RECREATION FEATURE
- MAJOR SUPPORT AMENITIES (eligible examples)
A PROJECT may also include MAJOR SUPPORT AMENITIES such as:
- Restroom building, snack shack
- Parking lot, staging area, pathway for access to a RECREATION FEATURE
- Landscaping or lighting that will be constructed throughout the PARK
- While MAJOR SUPPORT AMENITIES are eligible, PROJECTS will be less competitive if more than 50% of the TOTAL PROJECT COST are for MAJOR SUPPORT AMENITIES.
- APPLICATIONS will be more competitive where the combined total cost of NEW RECREATION FEATURES plus RENOVATION of EXISTING RECREATION FEATURES is greater than 50% of the TOTAL PROJECT COST.



**Donner Summit Association (DSA) Core Action Team Meeting
Thursday, February 11, 2021 5-7 PM
Virtual Meeting Hosted from Sugar Bowl, Norden, CA**

Motions and votes are given in *italics*; action items are in **red bold**. For various reasons, the minutes below do not reflect the strict chronological order of discussions during the meeting.

1. Welcome:

Core Action Team (DSA Board) Attendees: Mark Himmelstein, Pat Malberg, Bill Oudegeest, Chris Parker, Dick Simpson, Mike Spain, John Svahn, and Beth Tanhoff.

Others: Tom Denzler and Tim Kustic.

The meeting was called to order by Pat Malberg at 5:09 PM. Chris Parker had set up a GoToMeeting site so that remote participants could connect by computer, tablet, smart phone, or traditional phone.

Chris said there was a lot of snow falling at the Summit; but John said it was light in Truckee.

2. Approval of Agenda:

Moved (Bill), seconded (John), and carried unanimously (MSC-U) to approve the agenda.

3. Approval of Minutes:

No changes to the January meeting minutes were proposed.

MSC-U (Bill, Chris) to approve the January meeting minutes.

4. Treasurer's Report (Tom):

Monthly Report: Tom distributed a report the day before the meeting; he does not have access to account information from the bank, so there was no reconciliation this month. Beth said financial activity during the past month has been light. The bank account has about \$54K; another \$50K is in a CD. About \$350 needs to be deposited.

Plumas Bank: Dick prepared a resolution (see Attachment A) which authorizes establishment of a bank account and identifies the people authorized to make transactions. Once the resolution has been approved, Dick will complete the signature paperwork and send it to the bank. Beth noted that someone other than herself will have to sign her paychecks.

MSC-U (Mark, Bill) to approve the bank resolution.

There was nothing to report regarding fundraising.

5. Reports from Ongoing Projects, and Proposals for New Projects:

a. The Hub/Shed:

Exhibit construction needs to be started. Anne-Flore does not have time to do production, so Bill has taken that over. Bill talked to George Lamson about getting decent-sized photos for the exhibits. George has agreed to provide photos, then insert them into templates prepared by Anne-Flore. When George has one product finished, **John will take that to The Real Graphic Source in Truckee and then do the installation.** Bill said the plywood is cut and ready. Other products will follow (a dozen total are planned) as George completes the photo work.

Pat sent out a ToDo list (see Attachment B), which is self-explanatory so far as the tasks are concerned. **Pat and Bill will work out the steps to follow, then distribute a sign-up sheet.**

Bill said only two of four benches have been 'funded'. Beth would like a list of unfunded projects; she has received inquiries from possible donors, and a list would help her match donors with available naming rights. John would like to be involved about moving the naming-rights project forward.

Nothing can be done about the portable toilet enclosure until Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR) gives permission for a use permit at the site.

Greg Dallas tried to reach someone in the UPRR office, but no contact was made. He and Chris will try again within the next week or so.

Beth asked about setting work dates in the spring. Bill said there is still decomposed granite and concrete work, though the latter will be completed by professionals. Benches still need to be constructed. Some tasks can be completed by a couple volunteers; others might require recruiting a group. There was consensus that we can start picking dates when we know how the snow cover is retreating.

Bill mentioned that George Lamson and Linda Cashion are interested in what kind of inauguration ceremony would be held to commemorate installation of their plaque.

- b. Recreation Master Plan (RMP): Pat said that Stantec provided some nice maps last week, but there has been nothing more. Chris said that Stantec had proposed a meeting early this week to follow up on the maps, but nothing happened. Pat requested that Stantec modify one of the maps, but there has been no response. **Pat will distribute the draft maps to the Board (only).**
- c. Regional Parks Program: Dick, Pat, and Bill participated in workshops about the RPP grant program, which is funded by Proposition 68. Pat contacted John Groom about potential projects on USFS land, but she concluded that USFS is so constrained by 'cultural' issues around the Summit that it will be difficult to get their participation in any RPP proposal. She asked for a list of USFS properties on the Summit that might be suitable for an RPP project, but there has been no response. She also contacted Nicholas Martin, who has a position similar to Jeffrey Thorsby's but in Placer County; Nick would like to meet with DSA and Jeffrey about potential projects at the Summit.

Dick outlined a hypothetical RPP project in notes attached to the agenda for this meeting. He recommended that any DSA proposal be written to the score sheet even if the project is not exactly what DSA would like to see; he is afraid that competition will be very severe for RPP funds and that only proposals with very high scores will be funded. For example, he suggested early thinking about possible partners to get points for working with disadvantaged communities. He also noted that "trails" as opposed to "facilities" will score points.

John said that Truckee Donner Land Trust sometimes partners with Gateway Mountain Center and Headwaters Science Institute; both reach

out to disadvantaged communities in the Bay Area. DSA could do something similar by working with Gateway and/or Headwaters.

Some ideas for a shovel-ready project were tossed out. One could include additional work around the PCT trailhead at The Hub, but property ownership issues will make this complicated. We really need sanitary facilities at The Hub, but recent experience with UPRR illustrates the difficulties when we do not control the property. Also, building toilets will not score many points in RPP. Chris felt that trying to add more parking at The Hub would not be cost effective (and it wouldn't gain many points either).

Beth knows of property on Poma Lane that might be available; she also suggested that we might partner with Donner Ski Ranch. John asked whether The Hub is fully funded; Bill said the current plan is fully funded.

Pat suggested a subcommittee to start work on this. Mark recommended 2-3 people to find partners. Chris reminded the Board that the RMP should identify possible projects. He also said that Truckee Trails Foundation runs into USFS obstacles "all the time" and agreed that it would be nice to get toilets at the Summit, but doing so will require a survey to find where the property lines lie before seeking permission from landowners. John said that the Donner Lake Rim Trail (DLRT) is incomplete partly because of property issues, though he's hoping for some new progress on the east side of the Summit this summer.

Dick asked whether there was cooperation between Placer County Parks and USFS on constructing the Summit section of the Memorial Overland Emigrant Trail (MOET). John replied that DLRT and MOET are the same trail east of Summit, and most of that route is complete or close to complete. There are controversies over where the MOET should run on the west side; but Placer Parks seems to be working reasonably well with USFS negotiating those. **Pat will consult with John, then follow up with a call to Placer County Parks.**

There was consensus that the best subcommittee for pursuing RPP funds is the subcommittee presently working with Stantec on the RMP.

- d. Summit Summit III: Pat felt that a community meeting late in summer 2021 would be a good idea. The timing would (hopefully) allow everyone to crawl out from under COVID restrictions. We could discuss the RMP and also address the winter's problems with crowds, trash, snow players, etc. It would be a chance to bring everyone on the Summit together. Dick

felt that late summer would be too late for substantive feedback to Stantec, but this depends on Stantec's schedule; at the worst, we could discuss repercussions of the RMP as finalized. Pat felt that having a facilitator to manage the discussions would be a good idea; she said that Steve Frisch (President, Sierra Business Council) has done a good job in the past and might be available again.

6. Web Design/Cybersecurity:

- a. DSA Logo: Pat asked Brian Tafel to send her the digital files containing the new logo and certificate; she has not received a reply. Sara Taillon has offered to make edits to the logo so that "ASSOCIATION" is substituted for "CALIFORNIA" in the same font.
- b. New Projects Pages on the Web Site: Dick said he requested some minor changes to the web pages; but he has not checked to see whether Naomi completed them. The 'projects' page for the RMP is ready when Stantec delivers the report; it will be equipped with a blog where readers can enter comments.

7. Internal Matters:

- a. Administrative Assistant Job Description: Mark and Beth have worked out a professional services contract and job description. Mark said a monthly pay rate has been written into the contract even though hourly rates are more common. He suggested that an hourly rate with a maximum monthly total could be substituted in the contract. He noted that Beth's participation in Board discussions and votes would have to be limited because of her dual role as Administrative Assistant for the organization. The contract recognizes that Beth can accept other contracting work per recent changes brought by California AB 5, which went into effect last year.

Beth said she compiled the job description based on a previous document for a similar position and her recent experience with DSA. She estimates that the daily, weekly, and monthly tasks will take about 12 hours per month; annual chores plus work on uncommon but larger projects (such as fundraising events) will take more time. She expects to charge \$350 to \$400 per month if an hourly rate is set; she agreed that \$25/hour would be reasonable.

MSC-U (Dick, Bill) to approve the contract after substituting an hourly rate of \$25/hour to a maximum \$500/month in section 3.01.

MSC-U (Mark, Bill) to approve the job description.

The contract and job description are included with these minutes as Attachment C and Exhibit A, respectively.

b. Next Meeting: The next Board meeting will be Thursday, March 11.

8. Announcements (Pat, others):

None

9. Adjournment:

There being no other business, Pat adjourned the meeting at 6:03PM.

Minutes approved by the DSA Board of Directors at its meeting on March 11, 2021.

signed by DSA Secretary, Richard Simpson, _____



Royal Gorge webcam: 12 February 2021, 2:45 PM PST

Attachment A
Resolution to Establish
a
Donner Summit Association (“Corporation”) Bank Account
and
Designate Authorized Signers
(Christopher Parker, John Svahn, and Elizabeth Tanhoff)

Now, therefore, be it resolved as follows:

That a deposit account or accounts be established with Plumas Bank (“Bank”) and that the Secretary agrees to this Account Agreement and Authorization:

1. That any one of the foregoing may open additional accounts or enter into additional agreements on behalf of the Corporation for other services to be provided by the Bank, whether relating to the accounts or otherwise.
2. That any one of the Authorized Signers is authorized to provide instructions to the Bank regarding an account, sign checks, issue payment orders, make deposits and withdrawals and otherwise transact on the account.
3. That the Bank may pay instruments signed by authorized persons, including those payable to persons who signed them. The Bank may accept for deposit instruments payable to the Corporation whether or not they are endorsed.
4. That the Bank will not be required to recognize and honor a signature withdrawal restriction of more than one signature on checks and other items. The Bank may recognize and honor checks and other items signed by any one of the Authorized Signers set forth below, whether individually or together.
5. That these resolutions continue in effect until the Bank receives written notice in form and content acceptable to the Bank of their rescission or modification by a resolution adopted by the Board of Directors and certified by the Secretary.

This resolution was adopted by the Board of Directors of the Donner Summit Association at its regular meeting on February 11, 2021.

Dated:

Richard Simpson, Secretary

Attachment B

To-Do List – February 11, 2021 Lamson-Cashion Donner Summit Hub

Tasks -- ready for when the snow melts:

- Order and spread additional decomposed granite (cover bare spots and build up around rails)
- Create safety signage for in and around the area (eg. crossing rails)
- Pour concrete bases for bike rack and stage
- Install bike repair station
- Print and install plaques and map
- Create final design for amphitheater awning
- Install amphitheater awning
- Install additional seating rocks for amphitheater
- Secure permits for porta-potty enclosure (Sugar Bowl to get form signed by RR) (As an alternative, have porta-potties without enclosure)
- Who's to "ramrod" the base for the porta-potties?
- Pave access to porta-potties
- Pour concrete base for porta-potties
- Construct porta-potty enclosure
- Install exhibits on kiosks
- Install information case on front of shed (Decide on dimensions)
- Install brochure holders (already on hand)
- Construct/assemble and stain moveable benches using parts on hand
- Design bench brakes and install

Time is flying by, spring is around the corner. This all needs to be completed and finalized by the end of summer.

Attachment C

CONTRACT FOR SERVICES

This AGREEMENT is made this 11th day of February, 2021 between Donner Summit Association, a California non-profit corporation, having a principal place of business at PO Box 864, Soda Springs, California, hereinafter referred to as the Client, and Beth Tanhoff, having a principal place of business at PO Box 64, Norden, California, hereinafter referred to as the Contractor.

ARTICLE 1. TERM OF CONTRACT

Section 1.01. This agreement will become effective February 11, 2021, after approval by the Client's Board of Directors and will continue in effect until either party gives sixty (60) days written notice to terminate this agreement as set forth in section 6.01, herein.

ARTICLE 2. SERVICES TO BE PERFORMED BY CONTRACTOR

Specific Services

Section 2.01. Contractor agrees to perform the services specified in the "Admin/Support Job Description" attached to this agreement as Exhibit A and incorporated by reference herein.

Method of Performing Services

Section 2.02. Contractor will determine the method, details, and means of performing the above-described services.

Employment of Assistants

Section 2.03. Contractor may, at Contractor's own expense, employ such assistants as Contractor deems necessary to perform the services required of Contractor by this agreement. Client may not control, direct, or supervise Contractor's assistants or employees in the performance of those services.

ARTICLE 3. COMPENSATION

Rate

Section 3.01. In consideration for the services to be performed by Contractor, Client agrees to pay Contractor \$25 per hour to a maximum of \$500 per month for services rendered during the term of this agreement.

Date for Payment of Compensation

Section 3.02. For services rendered under this agreement, Client agrees to pay Contactor the sum set forth in Section 3.01 of this agreement, payable once per month on the last day of each month, upon presentation of written invoices by Contractor to Client.

ARTICLE 4. OBLIGATIONS OF CONTRACTOR

Amount of Service

Section 4.01. Contractor agrees to devote that time necessary to perform the above-described services as determined by Client. Contractor may represent, perform services for, and be employed by such additional clients, persons, or companies as Contractor, in Contractor's sole discretion, sees fit.

Hours During Which Services May Be Performed

Section 4.02. Contractor agrees to perform the above-described services either at Contractor's place of business during regular business hours or as mutually agreed between the parties.

Equipment

Section 4.03. Contractor will supply all equipment required to perform the services under this agreement at Contractor's place of business.

Workers' Compensation

Section 4.04. Contractor agrees to provide workers' compensation insurance for Contractor's employees and agents, if required by law, and agrees to hold harmless and indemnify Client for any and all claims arising out of any injury, disability, or death of any of Contractor's employees or agents.

Limited Liability/Indemnity

Section 4.05. Client will indemnify and hold Contractor free and harmless from any obligations, costs, claims, judgments, attorney's fees, and attachments arising from, growing out of, or in any way connected with the services rendered to Client under the terms of this agreement, including any negligent act or omission on the part of Client.

Assignment

Section 4.05. Neither this agreement nor any duties or obligations under this agreement may be assigned by Contractor without the prior written consent of Client.

ARTICLE 5. OBLIGATIONS OF CLIENT

Cooperation of Client

Section 5.01. Client agrees to comply with all reasonable requests of Contractor and provide access to all documents reasonably necessary to the performance of Contractor's duties under this Agreement.

Assignment

Section 5.02. Neither this agreement nor any duties or obligations under this agreement may be assigned by Client without the prior written consent of Contractor.

ARTICLE 6. TERMINATION OF AGREEMENT

Termination Upon Notice

Section 6.01. Notwithstanding any other provision of this agreement, either party thereto may terminate this agreement at any time by giving sixty days written notice to the other party. Unless otherwise terminated as provided herein, this agreement shall continue in force.

Termination on Occurrence of Stated Events

Section 6.02. This agreement shall terminate automatically on the occurrence of any of the following events:

- (1) Bankruptcy or insolvency of either party;
- (2) Sale of the business of either party;
- (3) Death of either party; or
- (4) Assignment of this agreement by either party without the consent of the other party.

Termination by Client for Default of Contractor

Section 6.03. Should Contractor default in the performance of this agreement or materially breach any of its provisions, Client, at Client's option, may terminate this agreement by giving written notification to Contractor. For the purposes of this section, material breach of this agreement shall include but not be limited to the following: failure to perform those services as described in Exhibit A.

Termination by Contractor for Default of Client

Section 6.04. Should Client default in the performance of this agreement or materially breach any of its provisions, Contractor, at Contractor's option, may terminate this agreement by giving written notice to Client. For the purposes of this section, material breach of this agreement shall include but not be limited to the following: failure to pay compensation as required by Article Three.

ARTICLE 7. GENERAL PROVISIONS

Notices

Section 7.01. Any notices to be given hereunder by either party to the other may be effected either by personal delivery in writing or by mail, registered or certified, postage prepaid with return receipt requested. Mailed notices shall be addressed to the parties at the addresses appearing in the introductory paragraph of this agreement, but each party may change the address by written notice in accordance with this paragraph. Notices delivered personally will be deemed communicated as of actual receipt; mailed notices will be deemed received as of five (5) days after mailing.

Entire Agreement of the Parties

Section 7.02. This agreement supersedes any and all agreements, either oral or written, between the parties hereto with respect to the rendering of services by Contractor for Client and contain all of the covenants and agreements between the parties with respect to the rendering of such services in any manner whatsoever. Each party to this agreement acknowledges that no representations, inducements, promises, or agreements, orally or otherwise, have been made by any party, or anyone acting on behalf of any party, which are not embodied herein, and that no other agreement, statement or promise not contained in this agreement shall be valid or binding. Any modification of this agreement will be effective only if it is in writing signed by the party to be charged.

Partial Invalidity

Section 7.03. If any provision in this agreement is held by a court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, void, or unenforceable, the remaining provisions will nevertheless continue in full force without being impaired or invalidated in any way.

Attorney Fees

Section 7.04. Should it be necessary to file an action to interpret or enforce the terms of this agreement, the prevailing party in any such action shall recover their reasonable attorney's fees and costs incurred therein.

Governing Law

Section 7.05. This agreement will be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the State of California.

Executed at Soda Springs, California, on the date and year first above written.

CLIENT: Donner Summit Association

CONTRACTOR: Beth Tanhoff

By _____
Pat Malberg, President

By _____
Beth Tanhoff

Exhibit A

Donner Summit Association

Admin/Support Job Description

Daily

Check email account, reply and forward as needed — check daily if warranted, otherwise weekly.

Weekly

Mail

- Check Donner Summit Association's P.O. box or as needed

Email

- Send out email reminder of any upcoming events

Banking

- Receive checks and donations and record them in Excel. Forward to book keeper and thank you volunteer (Tom Denzler/Pat Malberg)
- Forward on-line donations to book keeper (Tom Denzler)
- Deposit checks at the bank

Social Media

- Check Facebook and Instagram for messages
- Facebook or Instagram post — input from the board

Monthly

- Monthly newsletter

Banking

- Request any checks from book keeper (Tom Denzler) for signature by board members

Record Keeping

- Maintain binders with records, available to public by appointment

Annually

Record Keeping

- Keep track of Board “Core Team” term limits

Compliance

- Coordinate annual compilation
- Maintain governance records

Taxes

- Coordinate tax forms
- Coordinate tax filing with accountant

Insurance

- Renew insurance policy and payment

Web

- Renew domain
- Hosting

As Needed

Fundraising (with the exception of the annual picnic)

- Coordinate the following with regard to fundraising:
 - Create or coordinate the creation of posters and flyers for upcoming events
 - Print fundraising letter
 - Stuffing envelopes
 - Mail fundraising letter
 - Update donation spreadsheet weekly during campaign
 - Mail donation receipts as requested
 - Notify and ensure delivery of thank you notes, written by volunteer

Other

- Create or coordinate the creation of posters and flyers for upcoming events

All records, passwords, and information are to be surrendered to client upon termination of the agreement.



**Donner Summit Association (DSA) Core Action Team Meeting
Thursday, March 11, 2021 5-7 PM
Virtual Meeting Hosted from Truckee Donner Land Trust, Truckee, CA**



The Hub on March 12 (DSCN1221.JPG)

Motions and votes are given in *italics*; action items are in **red bold**. For various reasons, the minutes below do not reflect the strict chronological order of discussions during the meeting.

1. Welcome:

Core Action Team (DSA Board) Attendees: Mark Himmelstein, Pat Malberg, Bill Oudegeest, Dick Simpson, Mike Spain, John Svahn, and Beth Tanhoff.

Others: Tom Denzler, Mitzi Hodges, and Tim Kustic.

The meeting was called to order by Pat Malberg at 5:28 PM. Chris Parker was unable to participate; John Svahn set up a Zoom meeting on short notice as a substitute.

2. Approval of Agenda:

Moved (Bill), seconded (Mike), and carried unanimously (MSC-U) to approve the agenda.

3. Approval of Minutes:

No changes to the February meeting minutes were proposed.

MSC-U (Bill, Mark) to approve the February meeting minutes.

4. Treasurer's Report (Tom):

Monthly Report: Tom distributed a report before the meeting; he said everything is going well, but he still doesn't have access to the bank statements so he can't do reconciliations. Pat suggested getting electronic statements; it could save money and be more convenient. **Tom will work with Beth on these questions.**

5. Reports from Ongoing Projects, and Proposals for New Projects:

a. The Hub/Shed:

Exhibits: John Svahn has taken responsibility for getting a dozen exhibits printed and installed. There are also plaques being made to recognize donors.

Naming Rights: John suggested not finalizing 'prices' until we have examples of what the final products will look like, but some rough guidelines were developed (see below).

A new donor in Serene Lakes has contributed \$5K for naming rights for the third bench at the Hub. Another had previously gone for \$5K and a third for \$10K. A fourth remains unclaimed. Bill said he didn't know how much it has cost to create each bench. Each plaque (about 4x6 inches) will run about \$79.

Discussion followed on the size of donations for various remaining naming rights. Beth said she has received about 10 inquiries. The following is a summary of the conclusions:

the fourth bench	\$10K
bike rack	\$5K
bike stand	\$2K
rocks/boulders	\$1K
central stage	*
awning	*

* Donation amount will be set when costs are better understood.

Work Projects: Pat sent out a ToDo list (see Agenda Attachment B). May 31 is a holiday weekend when we could schedule a work day at the Hub. Dick suggested Saturday with June 5 as backup. Dick asked about the clean-up day; Pat suggested June 12 for the cleanup. Truckee Days and Yuba Clean-up are not expected to conflict.

- b. Recreation Master Plan (RMP): Stantec has submitted its invoice, which needs to be paid. A draft RMP has been delivered to the DSA committee overseeing this project. The committee members have reviewed it and returned comments to Stantec. There will be a meeting with Stantec about possible revisions; but no date has been set yet.

Greg Dallas and John Groom were involved in the discussion. There is a lot of focus on the meadow and cultural issues (which need to be discussed with Tribal representatives). John asked whether Van Norden is dominating discussions; Pat said no, there have been other discussions. The problem with the meadow is where we could put things without impacting cultural resources.

- c. Regional Parks Program: We may miss the deadline for submitting in 2021. There may be another opportunity next year.
- d. Summit Summit III: Before we do a lot of planning for a Summit-wide discussion of critical issues, we need clarity on who might be able to attend and what events might be scheduled. So we will wait to see how COVID-19 continues to play out.

6. Mountain Housing Council:

Anne-Flore and Beth have been attending MHC meetings. They have been asked to report on what DSA is doing to support affordable local housing at Donner Summit. Pat asked whether anyone on the Summit has heard anything; consensus was that DSA has not done anything, and we are not aware of activity by any other group. Beth thought there was a parcel on the Summit that might have had possibilities as a site for new housing; but it is already in escrow.

MHC is also interested in matching potential long-term tenants with available rental housing. There is a screening process to protect both renters and landlords. Pat thought a notice in a newsletter notifying subscribers of housing initiatives might be helpful. **Beth will follow up with a notice.** But she's not aware of much availability on the Summit. John asked whether either county is doing anything to encourage 'granny' units on the Summit. Tom noted that many owners are not residents of either county. **Pat will contact supervisors for both counties to find out what DSA might be able to offer.**

7. Web Design/Cybersecurity:

- a. DSA Logo: Pat has not been able to find the logo file.
- b. Web Site: Beth has tried to contact Nathan about renewing the domain name for the web site, but he has not responded.
- c. Beth has been considering a monthly newsletter. It would include short biographies of key DSA people.

8. Internal Matters:

- a. Administrative Assistant Job Description: Done.
- b. Next Meeting: The next Board meeting will be Thursday, April 8.

9. Announcements (Pat, others):

Nevada County Supervisor Hardy Bullock is holding a meeting to discuss issues associated with a mountain economy. Several people with DSA connections have been invited.

10. Adjournment:

There being no other business, Pat adjourned the meeting at 6:06 PM.

Minutes approved by the DSA Board of Directors at its meeting on April 8, 2021.

signed by DSA Secretary, Richard Simpson, _____



Donner Summit Association (DSA) Core Action Team Meeting
Thursday, April 8, 2021 5-6 PM
Virtual Meeting Hosted from Truckee Donner Land Trust (TDLT), Truckee, CA



Castle Peak from Castle Valley on March 16 (DSCN1256.JPG)

Motions and votes are given in *italics*; action items are in **red bold**. For various reasons, the minutes below do not reflect the strict chronological order of discussions during the meeting.

1. Welcome:

Core Action Team (DSA Board) Attendees: Mark Himmelstein, Pat Malberg, Bill Oudegeest, Chris Parker, Dick Simpson, John Svahn, Beth Tanhoff. and Krista Voosen.

Others: Alisa Adriani, Tom Denzler, Jonathan Cooke Fisher (USFS), John Groom (USFS), Katie Mansfield (USFS), Nicholas Martin (Placer County), and Linda Slattery (TDLT).

The meeting was called to order by Pat Malberg at 5:01 PM. John Svahn had set up a Zoom meeting; connection instructions had been distributed with the agenda.

2. Approval of Agenda:

Moved (Chris), seconded (Bill), and carried unanimously (MSC-U) to approve the agenda.

3. Approval of Minutes:

Dick proposed changing page 1 of the March minutes to show that the meeting had been hosted by John Svahn of TDLT.

MSC-U (Mark, Dick) to approve the March meeting minutes with the change proposed.

4. Treasurer's Report (Tom):

Monthly Report: Tom had distributed the monthly financial statement prior to the meeting. He noted that the Stantec invoice had been paid. There were no questions.

Bank Signatures: Beth is still working on getting the signature issue resolved with Plumas Bank. The good news is that she can now sign checks.

Fundraising News: Naming rights for all four benches at The Hub have now been sold. A Truckee realtor has contributed \$1K for naming rights to one of the rocks at The Hub.

5. USFS Update:

John Groom (Public Service Staff Officer in the Truckee Ranger District) said he appreciated the opportunity to bring DSA up to date on USFS long-range plans for the Summit, including Castle Valley. He has been following the Recreational Master Plan (RMP) activities and is aware of the special problems facing Donner Summit.

USFS wants to add parking in the Summit area, but the agency feels that distributing parking solutions toward both east and west is better than simply trying to add more parking at the Summit itself. Toward that end, USFS is seeking a planning grant from the State to build a sustainable trailhead at the existing Castle Valley gate but in such a way that the logical

concept of the trailhead would extend east to Johnson Canyon and west to Kingvale.

John noted that the Stantec RMP draft does not say much about the history of the Summit. It is important to know where the Summit has been in the past and what have been the controlling forces as it evolved. As a representative of the Summit community, where does DSA think the Summit should be going over the next 20-50 years, and why?

Katie Mansfield is the District's trails planner, and Jonathan Cooke Fisher is the District Ranger; all three want to hear from the Summit community as the new planning activities (both RMP and USFS) move forward. It is important that USFS be viewed as more than the agency that says "no". Pat noted that DSA has begun planning for a Summit Summit III meeting later this year (see below); it could be a venue for hammering out some of the answers to these questions.

Jonathan said he has been in his current position for two years; before moving to Truckee, he spent nearly 15 years in the Tahoe Basin. He has also spent time in Washington, DC, working on recreation management. There is a renewed focus on the Summit – including Van Norden Meadow — in Truckee. Truckee has lived too long thinking that two-lane pullouts are sufficient for recreational parking. The public needs better managed access to public lands. Castle Valley can probably stand on its own, but there are better solutions with integrated trailheads from Kingvale to Johnson Canyon, as mentioned by John. There are a lot of competing factors (such as resident wishes and archeological resources) that must be balanced at the Summit. Jonathan hopes NEPA is not the only reason USFS and Summit stakeholders talk together. Phone calls and e-mails are welcome from anyone anytime.

John Groom elaborated on his earlier Castle Valley comments. He said planning will cover both summer and winter; the majority of planning may actually be for winter — perhaps in a ratio of 60:40. But the focus is broader than just Castle Valley. I-80 is a significant barrier; how can the north side of the freeway be reconnected to Donner Pass Road? Bill has noted that there are a number of tunnels under I-80 that could be exploited to provide north-south connections. Some 'use' trails (such as near Lake Angela) are being considered as links; some of these could be improved and made operational very quickly. Bringing the use trail from Old 40 to the PCT trailhead at I-80 is a bigger project, but it might be completed in a year. Improving the trail down from Forest Service Ridge to Serene Lakes might be categorized as heavy maintenance and wouldn't necessarily take a lot of time.

Alisa asked if John could explain more about what is being considered on the 'west' side. She said people stop at the first snow they see when driving up I-80 in wintertime; they don't go to Castle Valley. Often the driver will see a car parked off the freeway and figure that is good enough recreation for their party; one parked car leads to many parked cars, and trash and sanitation problems follow.

John said he doesn't want to build a parking lot for 500-700 cars in Castle Valley; but USFS knows a big parking lot in Truckee could be filled every weekend. Can we build trailheads on the western approach that could siphon off people as they come up from lower elevations? Do local residents want to push people away from the Summit; or is there a way to welcome them without suffering harm? This conflict needs to be considered thoughtfully. Currently there are many more people heading up than can be accommodated.

The State grant, if awarded, will give USFS three years to plan. Alisa thinks most of the visitors aren't so interested in the setting; their needs are modest. They simply want a place to play in the snow (with bathrooms and trash collection). These are not necessarily the places that snowmobilers, skiers, and snowshoers seek. John said there might be a better way to provide them with a good experience than providing access to public lands. Alisa wondered whether this puts the problem into the hands of county governments.

Mark asked whether USFS could tell DSA what is planned for restoration at Van Norden Meadow. Jonathan said the agency expects to release a scoping document in May; this puts off construction until 2022 in the best circumstances. He would like to release some level of recreation planning that could be carried out in parallel with the restoration.

6. Supervisor Hardy Bullock Meeting:

Pat said about 45 people attended a meeting called by Nevada County Supervisor Bullock to discuss challenges facing mountain community economies. The first presentation was by Jeffrey Thorsby of Nevada County. Then Katie Hawkins spoke on equitable access, and Colleen Dalton talked about visitor codes of behavior. There was an emphasis on how to inform people who visit about what to expect in the mountains and how to act responsibly. "Leave no trace" has been encouraged for several decades; is there a local variation that could be created and promoted?

No one from Donner Ski Ranch participated, but Pat has provided contact information for the Tuttle to Supervisor Bullock. Bill wants them to be

involved because DSR has a lot of parking. One possible incentive would be to start charging for parking; that is happening at some locations in Truckee.

Pat noted that the mayor of Truckee is distributing an e-newsletter called “News You Can Use from Truckee”. Bill and Pat think a DSA subcommittee would be good to study possible follow-up activities. The top issues identified by participants during Supervisor Bullock’s meeting were: parking, congestion, illegal access, fire, and traffic.

7. Mountain Housing Council:

Beth said there’s not much to report; meetings are quarterly, with the next being later this month. MHC is trying to get DSA more involved. DSA will include MHC information in future DSA e-mails; there are benefits to locals who are willing to rent housing. There are pairing services to match people looking for housing with landlords willing to provide it. MHC has both a web site (<https://www.mountainhousingcouncil.org>) and a newsletter for those wanting more information.

There are multiple projects in Truckee to provide housing opportunities. Tahoe-Truckee Sanitation District has made its connection fees scalable to encourage development of smaller residential units since they would presumably generate smaller volumes of trash. MHC will distribute a survey to employers and employees next week to get an update on housing needs; the last survey was in 2016, and the housing situation has changed a lot in the past five years. Tahoe Truckee Community Foundation and Sierra Business Council have also been in contact with Pat.

8. Joint MAC Meeting:

There was a joint meeting of three Placer County Municipal Advisory Councils (Donner Summit, North Tahoe, and Squaw Valley) on April 1 to discuss housing. The meeting was mainly to receive a presentation by Patrick Dobbs (Placer County Planning Services Division) about code amendments. The Planning Commission meets May 27 to discuss the code amendments, which could go to the County Board of Supervisors on July 6. The changes will encourage mixed use and multi-family housing, greater floor areas, cluster housing, and making living and working closer. There is more information at <https://placer.ca.gov/housing>. The other MAC presentations were focused on Tahoe so Pat took few notes.

9. Reports from Ongoing Projects, and Proposals for New Projects:

a. The Hub/Shed:

Exhibits: Bill said John Svahn has sent the exhibits for printing; the test exhibit was “striking” when printed, and the full set has now been sent. John will install them when they come back. Plaques for the front of The Shed have been shipped but not yet received. Naming rights for all four benches have been sold; two more plaques have to be ordered for the last two benches. The last bench will honor the donor’s father, who participated in building Cal Lodge; Pat thought this was an excellent example of tying new activities to Donner Summit history.

Chris asked whether we have the elevation drawing for the site. **Bill will send it if he can find it.**

John noted that he fell from a snow bank onto the pavement when he was checking the example exhibit. Anyone in the area should be careful with snow and ice.

There is still no plan for the portable toilets. Chris said Greg Dallas has gotten nowhere trying to get someone at the railroad (UPRR) to respond to our request for help getting a use permit. Sugar Bowl has other issues that need UPRR attention, so it is not simply a DSA problem.

To Do List: DSA’s Work Day has been scheduled for May 29; the list of tasks attached to the agenda will provide a start. Beth has notified some of the people on her list about the work day. The awning is still unknown. Rocks for seats will have to wait for more melting. Pat suggested 9-noon and 1-4 shifts, and Beth will use these for recruiting.

John Svahn noted that some graffiti removal equipment is in the “dungeon” storage area at Royal Gorge. We can move it to The Shed when temperatures warm. John Groom offered to recruit USFS people and equipment to continue graffiti removal on May 29; and he offered to take over the entire project if DSA was feeling negative pressure from taggers. But Pat didn’t want to do graffiti removal on the same day that work on The Hub was resuming. **She offered to talk to USFS separately to set something up.**

b. Clean-up Day:

We need posters and an agreement with Cheryl at the Soda Springs General Store to support the clean-up day on June 12. Beth was

contacted by the County regarding Adopt-A-Highway; DSA can join that program but will need to sign an organizational waiver. Beth noted that Adopt-A-Highway thinks we are still the Donner Summit Area Association.

c. Recreation Master Plan (RMP):

Kate Gray is back on the Stantec team; Bernadette is still involved. They met today with Chris and others about remaining questions such as how to treat 'use' trails and what we want to achieve in terms of trail development. There will be a meeting tomorrow at 2 PM to discuss maps in the report. John Svahn thought that Kevin Starr should be involved in tomorrow's meeting. Pat thinks something about history could be added, but Bill thought there was already some history included, though indirectly.

Chris said there is a question about additional billing for work beyond the original contract. Stantec has been asked to provide justification, including whether the additional work was covered by the contract language and, if not, why not. Bill said that Greg Dallas has indicated that Sugar Bowl could contribute if no other funding source can be found.¹ All agreed that obtaining additional funding from the Placer County TOT program to cover an overrun was unlikely.

Dick asked about the public comment period. Bill said we aren't there yet.

- d. Summit Summit III: Pat thinks a third Summit Summit would be a good place to get public comment on the RMP. COVID-19 may not be an issue in the late summer. Bill thinks this would be a good idea; but there was general agreement that getting the plan out sooner than late summer would be better. In that case, posting the RMP on the DSA web site could prompt public comments and the Summit Summit could be used to hammer out conclusions.

10. Announcements (Pat, others):

California Forward: There will be a one-hour webinar about bringing broadband to rural areas on April 15 starting at 11 AM. Pat would like someone from DSA to participate; **both Krista and Dick volunteered to look into registration.** Sierra Business Council is involved in coordinating broadband; there may be County funding in the short term and later federal funding if the President's infrastructure plan passes Congress.

¹ Greg Dallas indicated in an e-mail after the DSA Board meeting that Sugar Bowl could contribute if Stantec provided sufficient justification; but he did not expect Sugar Bowl to be the sole contributor in that case.

There will be a follow-up to the Bullock meeting tomorrow.

Nick Martin, John Groom, and Pat will meet on April 20 to discuss Placer County issues.

John Groom reported a good meeting with representatives of the Washoe Tribe regarding the Overland Trail route in Van Norden Meadow. Tribe members are still in COVID quarantine, so USFS will follow up with a few Tribe members at a time.

Pat would like to add short biographies of Board members to the web site.

Pat has been in touch with Brian Tafel who will work with her on creating a refrigerator magnet with the new DSA logo that can be distributed. Brian recently ran into a tree while skiing, so the magnet will not be done soon.

Next Meeting of the DSA Board: May 13.

11. Adjournment:

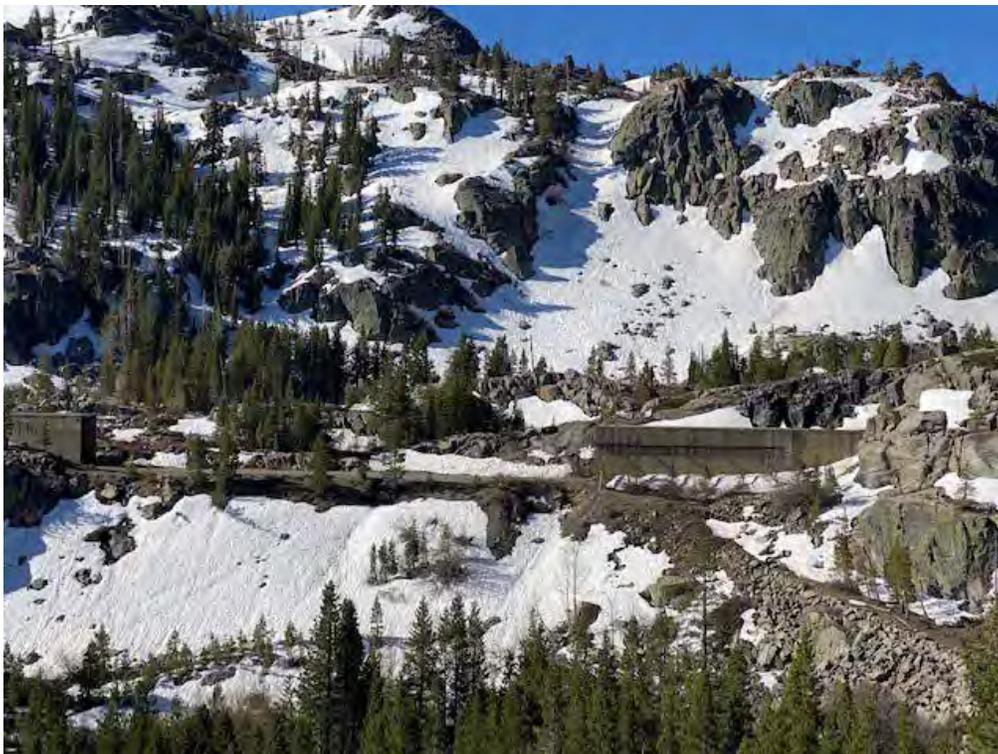
There being no other business, Pat adjourned the meeting at 6:08 PM.

Minutes approved by the DSA Board of Directors at its meeting on May 13, 2021.

signed by DSA Secretary, Richard Simpson, _____



Donner Summit Association (DSA) Core Action Team Meeting
Thursday, May 13, 2021 5-6 PM
Virtual Meeting Hosted from Sugar Bowl, Norden, CA



East side of Donner Summit in early May (photo courtesy of Greg Dallas).

Motions and votes are given in *italics*; action items are in **red bold**. For various reasons, the minutes below do not reflect the strict chronological order of discussions during the meeting.

1. Welcome:

The meeting was called to order by Pat Malberg at 5:04 PM.

Core Action Team (DSA Board) Attendees: Pat Malberg, Bill Oudegeest, Chris Parker, Dick Simpson, John Svahn, Beth Tanhoff. and Krista Voosen.

Others: Colleen Dalton (Visit Truckee-Tahoe), Tom Denzler, Mitzi Hodges, Shandon Lloyd, Nicholas Martin (Placer County), and Jeffrey Thorsby (Nevada County).

2. Approval of Agenda:

Moved (Bill), seconded (Krista), and carried unanimously (MSC-U) to approve the agenda.

3. Approval of Minutes:

MSC-U (Bill, Krista) to approve the April meeting minutes.

4. Treasurer's Report (Tom):

Monthly Report: Tom had distributed the April financial statement prior to the meeting. He noted that revenue included about \$12K in donations and \$9957 in reimbursements from Placer County. Expenses included a 50 per cent deposit on graphics for exhibits at The Hub and about \$400 for supplies needed for installation. He hopes to have problems associated with renewing his license for Office software resolved by tomorrow so he can resume using Excel for future reports.

Bank Signatures: Tom believes problems in getting Plumas Bank to accept new DSA signatures have been worked out. He is receiving bank statements from Beth, which allows him to complete monthly account reconciliations.

Fundraising: Naming rights for all benches, the bicycle tuning station, and two boulders have been sold. The bike rack, one kiosk, the awning, the central stage, and at least four boulders are still available; but no price has been set for some of the items because the associated costs are still not known. Krista suggested that a list showing what is available and at what cost could be useful; she is interested in acquiring naming rights for the bike rack. Pat noted that a partial list had been included with the minutes from the March Board meeting.

Pat said that Royal Gorge celebrates its 50th anniversary this year; that could be cause for a fundraiser to help with Summit Station renovations (not DSA). Pat asked for comment from **Chris, who said he liked the idea and would bring up the matter with Greg Dallas.**

5. Briefing on Visit Truckee-Tahoe:

Colleen Dalton (cdalton@visittruckeetahoe.com) is CEO of Visit Truckee-Tahoe (VTT). She made a presentation at Supervisor Bullock's monthly meeting, and Pat invited her to summarize for DSA.

VTT is a 501(c)(6) organization specializing in destination marketing and management (DMMO). It used to be under the Chamber of Commerce; but it is now independent, and it is implementing its five-year Truckee Tourism Business Improvement District (TTBID) plan. Its mission is to protect, preserve, promote, and enhance Truckee as an authentic mountain town. VTT wants to balance the environment, community values, and the tourism economy. Forty per cent of the VTT web site (<https://www.truckee.com/ttbid/>) covers Sustainable Truckee issues, which is a significantly larger fraction than most similar organizations have on their web sites.

Sustainable Truckee is a VTT initiative to promote Truckee's natural and historic assets through education and outreach to visitors and residents. The Trail Host Program will post 'ambassadors' to popular trailheads and assembly areas to welcome visitors with a warm and inclusive message, encourage safety and wildfire prevention, educate and inform visitors about expected behavior, and invite engagement in making the program work. There will be 75 ambassadors spread over Truckee, North Tahoe, and South Tahoe. Four will be sponsored by VTT with partnerships in program development with USFS and Truckee Trails Foundation. VTT will have hosts at two fixed sites (Sawtooth and Donkey Ridge) and two roving hosts who will cover 15-20 sites. Volunteers can be added and managed by any other Truckee organization. VTT will coordinate uniforms and signage at no cost.

The Sustainable Truckee – Outdoor Recreation Collaborative (STORC) brings together five entities (VTT, Nevada County, Truckee Donner Land Trust, Truckee Tahoe Airport, and the Town of Truckee) in a program under the direction of Katie Hawkins intended to find solutions to challenges brought on by population pressures.

Shandon asked about enforcement. Visitors were 'poaching' Royal Gorge trails during winter; when challenged, some made threats with knives. Colleen said the ambassadors will have radios or cell phones to report bad situations, but they are not expected to do enforcement.

Nick asked about boundaries. Colleen said VTT jurisdiction extends well beyond the Truckee town boundaries. She plans to work from the western parts of Donner Summit to Hirschdale. Pat added that it is important to

have a consistent message across the region and that DSA will recruit volunteers to participate in the Trail Host Program at the Summit.

6. Placer County Summit Support

Nick said he started working for Placer County in January and he wanted to provide an update on recent activities. He has spoken with Pat several times about ‘pressure points’ at the Summit and with John Groom about the role of USFS. Nick is interested in what we can do in preparation for the 2021-22 winter season and beyond. What is productive for local business, what practices are easy for visitors to follow, and what reduces impact on residents?

He has identified a couple possible funding sources that might be used in this effort; he is following up by looking into details, but he is finding that almost everything is complicated. For example, reducing litter seems simple — you add trash receptacles. But what constitutes an acceptable litter receptacle? Should they be animal resistant? Should they be removed in winter to facilitate snow removal? Who pays for them? Does rental or purchase make more cost sense? How are they serviced? Are there ways to prevent their use for household garbage? Beyond litter is the question of human waste. So far, Nick has been chasing down sources of Placer County trash receptacles rather than thinking about buying or leasing them. He thinks the American Rescue Plan may have funds that could be used if they are needed later.

John Groom has asked guide services operating at the Summit for input on trash and human waste. Where should facilities be located? How can recreation access be improved this summer given that the rebuilding of Donner Pass Road (DPR) resumes on May 17? As last year, the road will probably be open for through traffic on weekends; is that the best use of the time, or should the road be closed seven days so the project can be finished faster? During construction, many of the popular turnouts (which could host trash receptacles or portable toilets) will be occupied on weekends by parked construction equipment and supplies; so opportunities for recreation at climbing sites will be limited whether the road is open or not.

Jeffrey said he will be coordinating with the DPR construction effort; there may be opportunities to work with the contractor regarding trash collection. It would help to have a two-county approach on this problem. Krista noted that there is a trash receptacle at the Soda Springs Store; but it is small and could be easily missed. The real question, assuming we get more receptacles, is how to convince visitors to use them. Shandon added that she would like

to see a more pro-active stand by Soda Springs regarding clean-up in their overflow parking areas, which are heavily used by snow play visitors¹.

7. Mountain Housing Council:

Pat mentioned that a housing questionnaire had been sent by MHC to employers, but she didn't know the results. Beth, who is the DSA representative to MHC, had stepped away and was not available to elaborate.

8. Broadband Webinar Report:

Krista and Dick participated in this webinar in mid-April; Krista sent her notes to Board members shortly after (people who did not receive a copy can request one from krista@serenelakes.com). The webinar focused on technical, cultural, social, economic, and jurisdictional issues associated with expanded broadband access. The most interesting advances have been technical — micro-trenching is a technique for burying fiber only two feet under a paved surface by carving a 2-inch-wide trench. But to be cost-effective, micro-trenching needs to be used over a wide area with a relatively dense population. It has been used successfully in underserved neighborhoods in Los Angeles where permitting across jurisdictional boundaries was greatly simplified for the project. More conventional technologies are being applied in rural parts of Nevada County, but success there requires subsidies. Spiral Fiber in Nevada City is wiring 15000 homes and 400 businesses in rural areas with help from grants. Jeffrey said Nevada County's Board of Supervisors has identified broadband as a priority and has allocated \$50K to fund studies of expansion.

Krista said Sierra Business Council asked her how many new full-time residents had moved to the Summit recently; she referred them to the post office and doesn't know whether SBC got an answer. If there are more permanent residents, there will presumably be more demand for high-speed internet. However, AT&T is not installing new DSL at the Summit and is not continuing DSL service when homes change hands. This forces new residents to go to satellite services. Jeffrey said that OASIS submitted a proposal for Nevada County funding of a wireless broadband system; it was not funded in the most recent round, but he hopes they will resubmit.

¹ In a post-meeting e-mail, Mitzi noted that she has been chasing trash in the Soda Springs area all spring. Except for the area around the PG&E substation, her assessment is that most of the area south of the railroad tracks is "in pretty good shape".

9. Reports from Ongoing Projects, and Proposals for New Projects:

a. The Hub/Shed:

Exhibits: John said the kiosk exhibit panel for the PCT trailhead should be ready tomorrow and it could be installed by Saturday.

Awning: Chris recommended using Sugar Bowl to make the 20x20 foot shade structure. Dan Goddard can do the metal work. The site has been measured, but it is not clear yet whether the awning supports would be anchored to soil or granite. Once that has been determined, Chris can prepare a budget and the work can move forward.

Sitting Rocks: Chris recommended waiting until the awning design is complete before moving more rocks into place.

Permits: Bill is waiting for Sugar Bowl to contact UPRR about the use permit required by Placer County. DSA can't do anything about building the toilet enclosure until UPRR agrees. According to Chris, there was a massive layoff in UPRR's Nebraska corporate office; that may explain why no one answers the phone when Sugar Bowl calls.

Inauguration: Pat proposed having an official dedication of The Hub on Independence Day weekend. SummitHaus will be open. There will be nothing competing at Donner Lake. **Pat can provide a cake.** Tables and chairs are available. We should invite everyone who has been part of The Hub, including all donors. Bill said George and Linda are interested in coming.

Work Day at The Hub (May 29): Activities will start at 9 AM. Pat said 28 cubic yards of decomposed granite have been delivered; it needs to be spread around during the work day. Everyone should bring a shovel. Wheelbarrows will also be needed; anyone with a three-foot landscaping rake should bring it. Screwdrivers and pliers will be needed for some installations. Norm Saylor will be there with a tractor.

b. Clean-up Day: (June 5)

We meet at 9 AM at the Store, then spread out to clean along Donner Pass Road from Cisco Grove to Rainbow Bridge. Trash bags and gloves will be provided; but bring your own gloves if you prefer. DSA will provide \$200 to Rainbow Lodge in exchange for hot dogs and drinks for volunteers around noon. Beth has already announced the event in an e-mail blast;

but **it needs to be announced several more times to ensure good turnout.**

c. Graffiti Removal

Sugar Bowl staff has already done some graffiti removal; there is more to do, but there is nothing specific on the DSA calendar yet. Shandon asked whether we can get Sugar Bowl Academy involved; with DSA providing the organizational cover, they might be willing to help with the work.

She will inquire about their interest in graffiti removal and the Clean-up Day.



Hub exhibits after installation (and a thundershower) on May 14
(photo provided by Bill Oudegeest).

d. Recreation Master Plan (RMP):

Stantec was supposed to deliver the plan yesterday; Chris said he hadn't seen anything, but Bill announced that he had just received a copy after checking his e-mail. **The RMP committee needs to jump on this and provide immediate feedback.** By consensus, any request for Prop 68 funding needs to be based on a convincing RMP.

- e. Summit Summit III: Jeffrey thinks Supervisor Bullock would be available on most Fridays and weekends; so **Pat will try to schedule this convocation on such a date in August.** Supervisor Gustafson's availability needs to be checked since having both supervisors present is important. Chris thinks we should decide whether the RMP is ready for prime time before submitting it for discussion during this event.

10. Internal Matters

Board Memberships: Anne-Flore Dwyer has resigned from the Board, leaving ten members. Six of the ten (Jordan Knighton, Bill Oudegeest, Chris Parker, Dick Simpson, Mike Spain, and John Svahn) have terms ending in December 2021; the other four (Mark Himelstein, Pat Malberg, Beth Tanhoff, and Krista Voosen) have terms ending in December 2022. DSA can have a Board with as many as 15 members; new members can be appointed any time (subject to the limit of 15), but there are conveniences to having half of the terms ending on alternating Decembers.

Board Elections: DSA bylaws specify that officers should be elected at the annual meeting in June. **Board members willing to serve another term should make their availabilities known by the June meeting.** Officers can then be chosen from among the Board members who will still be serving in January.

11. Announcements (Pat, others):

Mitzi Hodges has drafted new logos; she could do bumper stickers that could be mailed out. Pat asked whether this was a direction DSA should go. Chris said he liked the idea of stickers, but he wondered whether we could get a design that is circular rather than square. **Pat will discuss with Mitzi, then follow-up.**

Krista announced that the parking area in front of her office (and the Store) is being repaved.

Pat made several additional quick announcements. (1) There will be no Fourth of July events this year in the Truckee/North Tahoe region. (2) There will be free green waste disposal for eastern Nevada County on June 4 and 25 at Truckee Rodeo Grounds. (3) The Placer Parks and Trails Master Plan findings are worth reading, as they reflect strengths, challenges, and needs similar to those we are facing on Donner Summit. (4) Placer County is offering pre-approved plans for Accessory Homes at no cost to homeowners. (5) The June 10 DSA Core Action Team agenda will include a presentation by Alecia Weisman and Rachel Hutchinson regarding the Van Norden Restoration project.

12. Adjournment:

There being no other business, Pat adjourned the meeting at 6:30 PM.

Minutes approved by the DSA Board of Directors at its meeting on June 10, 2021.

signed by DSA Secretary, Richard Simpson, _____



**Donner Summit Association (DSA) Core Action Team Meeting
Thursday, June 10, 2021 5-6 PM
Virtual Meeting Hosted from Sugar Bowl, Norden, CA**



Part of the Hub Work Day crew on May 29 (photo courtesy of Beth Tanhoff).

Motions and votes are given in *italics*; action items are in **red bold**. For various reasons, the minutes below do not reflect the strict chronological order of discussions during the meeting.

1. Welcome:

The meeting was called to order by Pat Malberg at 5:03 PM.

Core Action Team (DSA Board) Attendees: Mark Himmelstein, Jordan Knighton, Pat Malberg, Bill Oudegeest, Chris Parker, Dick Simpson, Mike Spain, and Beth Tanhoff.

Others: Tom Denzler (DSA CFO), Rachel Hutchinson (USFS), Tim Kustic (SLPOA), Nick Martin (Placer County), and Alecia Weissman (SYRCL).

2. Approval of Agenda:

Moved (Bill), seconded (Chris), and carried unanimously (MSC-U) to approve the agenda.

3. Approval of Minutes:

MSC-U (Bill, Beth) to approve the May meeting minutes.

4. Treasurer's Report (Tom):

Monthly Report: Tom had distributed a spreadsheet before the meeting with details. He summarized by saying that DSA received about \$7k in donations toward Hub projects during the past month and spent about the same amount, also on Hub projects.

Fundraising: Pat wondered whether DSA should send a fundraising appeal letter. Beth recommended waiting until the end of the year; but Pat noted that is the time when many other organizations send their appeals. Bill suggested Labor Day, and there seemed to be agreement that would be a better time.

5. Briefing on Van Norden Meadow Restoration:

Rachel Hutchinson (USFS) and Alecia Weissman (South Yuba River Citizens League) presented half a dozen slides summarizing plans for the meadow (see Attachment A, a one-page summary). There will be a longer presentation in late July or early August accompanied by a field tour; look for announcements. The primary concern in restoring the meadow is channel erosion, which lowers groundwater level, causes vegetation loss, and reduces the soil's ability to absorb carbon.

The plans for the next three years are as follows. During summer 2021, USFS and SYRCL plan to complete an archeological survey in the meadow, prepare NEPA and CEQA documents, and remove some small trees from a limited area. They will also improve the PG&E road that enters the meadow

from the west so that it can be used for the majority of construction vehicle traffic in 2022.

The bulk of the work will be carried out in summer-fall 2022. This includes removing parts of the earthen dam and moving the dirt to the meadow where it will be used to infill the existing river channel to modify water flow. Although most of the vehicle traffic will be on the PG&E road, some will be on Old Lincoln Highway. During 2022 they will also remove some invasive species such as canary grass.

The following year (2023) will be wrapping up road work and removing some conifers. This will also be the start of post-restoration monitoring, which will include hydrology, vegetation, avian, and aquatic components as well as carbon storage. There will be some activity near Sheep Pens in 2023.

Jordan asked about the significant aspects of archeology. Rachel said USFS has not completed surveying the meadow. It is already known that the meadow has been important to the Washoe Tribe; they have provided the Washoe name for it (Yayalu Idteh), which Rachel is trying to include in presentations. The Washoe administered medicine in the meadow before Europeans arrived. Artifacts from several episodes of dam building in the 1880s through the early 1900s have been discovered. Remnants from the first dam surfaced when the meadow was completely drained as part of the most recent dam modifications.

Jordan also asked about interpretive learning. Trail alignment work is ongoing, but USFS is hoping to add several interpretive sites, at least on the meadow periphery. These would highlight history, restoration, and the importance of meadow habitat. USFS and SYRCL plan to work with DSA's Recreation Master Plan Committee so that everything is coordinated.

Beth asked about camping in the meadow. Rachel said camping is generally allowed but that USFS plans to add new restrictions in about ten days. While touring the meadow today she saw 10 people camping and warned them of the new rules.

Pat asked for a copy of the presentation. She would like something that could be posted on the web site and/or included in the minutes even if it is not the final plan. **Rachel and Alecia agreed to pass along the presentation.**

6. Placer County Update:

Since the last DSA Board meeting, Nick has been working on ways that the County can help with trash, congestion, and related issues at the Summit.

He has met with Jeffrey Thorsby (Nevada County) and John Groom (USFS) about working together. He thinks he has found unspent funds that could be reallocated to provide dumpsters and portable toilets for Donner Summit. He hopes to have a decision tomorrow.

Nick has also met with the contractor rebuilding Donner Pass Road; they believe they have found a couple locations where dumpsters and toilets could be located that will be out of the way of the road work. Nick asked whether there might be a possibility of jointly providing facilities at Summit Haus and nearby; Chris said Sugar Bowl was agreeable.

Chris said there has been progress negotiating with UPRR about developing the land area that Sugar Bowl is leasing from the railroad. This could allow construction of the enclosure for the portable toilets that have been proposed by DSA. After the meeting, Greg Dallas clarified by e-mail that additional structures such as restrooms and shade structures will be on hold until Sugar Bowl receives authorization from Union Pacific. Sugar Bowl will re-evaluate the use permit from Placer County once that authorization has been received. Sugar Bowl will not jeopardize its relationship with Union Pacific by getting ahead of its authority to alter structures on leased Union Pacific lands.

The enclosure is a precursor to permanent pit toilets; but a survey is needed to establish property boundaries. Construction of permanent toilets will require drilling and blasting into the granite. Chris knows someone who might be able to help with this work.

Nick asked how many pit toilets would be ideal. Chris said the sponsored portable toilet at the PCT trailhead overflows on busy weekends. Sugar Bowl will provide two toilets at Summit Haus starting July 3, with one reserved for weekends. With service once per week, it seems that 3-4 would be about the right number for the Summit area. Pat noted that, as use increases, there will be a need for more.

7. Mountain Housing Council

Beth said she is waiting for results of the housing survey being conducted by MHC; she has no other news.

8. New Bridge on Soda Springs Road:

Mike said Nevada County has a grant to replace the bridge, which is not up to current seismic standards and floods frequently during wet winter storms. The new bridge will be a couple feet higher. Construction includes installing a bypass dirt road and bridge that can be used this summer. Pavement

scrapings from the road work on Donner Pass Road will be used for the bypass road, then the scrapings will be incorporated into the unpaved parking surfaces for the ski area. Work is currently paused because a pair of mating swallows have nested under the existing bridge; work will resume when the young birds have left the nest. In the meantime, engineers are modifying the design to accommodate sewage flow from Serene Lakes and drainage from Soda Springs' main parking lot that were not recognized in the original design.

9. Reports from Ongoing Projects, and Proposals for New Projects:

a. The Hub/Shed:

Work Day (May 29): Pat said the work day was very successful; most of the work was completed in the first hour and a half. Three gallons of 'graffiti barrier' were applied to the Shed and nearby objects, making it easier to clean them if they are tagged again.



Norm Saylor (beside the bucket on the front-loader) gave a 5-minute history of Donner Summit as the May 29 Work Day wrapped up (photo by Beth Tanhoff).

Awning: Jordan said nothing can be done about the awning until the use permit and building permit are issued by Placer County. However, based on what Chris said (above), there may be enough from UPRR to begin moving forward again once authorization has been received. Chris expects the structure will be about 30x30 feet with posts at the four corners and a single post in the middle, which will stretch the awning

tight. Dan Goddard can do the metal work, but he is busy right now working for Truckee Donner Land Trust at Frog Lake. When this is a little farther along, **Chris will coordinate with Jordan about colors.**

Seating Rocks: Once the awning is in place, Ron Gregg should be able to move seating rocks into place. Pat asked whether we understand costs well enough to recruit donors with naming rights. Boulders are currently going for \$1k, and Bill said the naming plaques can be had for \$79; so \$500 was set (by consensus) as the price for a named seating rock. Chris suggested \$2k for the stage.

Pat wondered whether Sugar Bowl homeowners might be interested in purchasing rights to the second kiosk, a nice balance to the kiosk sponsored by the Lake Mary Homeowners. Chris said there is a new hospitality lead at Sugar Bowl who might be able to help. Greg Dallas, by e-mail after the meeting, clarified that all DSA requests for funding or support should be directed to him.

Dedication: The dedication is set for July 4 at 4 PM; there will be cake, bubbly, and a ribbon cutting. Attendance will be by invitation only because of the alcohol. Pat and Beth will send out invitations to donors and partners, VIPs, and selected others. Mark suggested inviting major donors George Lamson and Linda Cashion to cut the ribbon; **he volunteered to make the arrangements.**

Brochure Distribution and Message Board: Beth said Gateway Mountain Center (GMC) has asked permission to place their brochures in the distribution racks at the Shed. GMC is a non-profit and has donated \$1k for a boulder. After discussion, it was agreed that this was acceptable.

Beth wondered whether locking the message board would be a good way to control the posted materials. Although Beth offered to be custodian of the message board key and would respond promptly to telephone requests, Bill said he thought taking offensive messages down was a more practical way to control content, and there were no objections.

- b. Clean-up Day (June 5): The clean-up day attracted 41 volunteers. Pat said she and Don picked up three truckloads of trash that volunteers had collected and left beside Donner Pass Road. This filled several dumpsters provided by local businesses. Dick wondered whether there had been intentional scheduling of DSA's clean-up day with Truckee Day, which is the first Saturday in June. He thought synchronizing again next year might be advantageous.

- c. Graffiti Abatement: Application of ‘graffiti barrier’ around The Shed was mentioned above. Pat said she asked a climber whether much new graffiti had been added to the railroad tunnels and was told that things looked good. Pat felt DSA could concentrate on other issues in the near term.
- d. Recreation Master Plan: Chris has requested comments from John Groom (USFS) and Kevin Starr (TDLT). Other comments have been received and forwarded to Bernadette at Stantec. One remaining problem is aligning projects proposed in the RMP with activities already underway on different schedules, such as USFS replacement of the bridge in eastern Summit Valley. Chris is hopeful that the final version of the RMP will be available in time for discussion at Summit Summit III (see below).
- e. Summit Summit III (August 21): The date chosen is good for Nevada County Supervisor Bullock, and Donner Trail School is available on that date. Nick Martin said it should also be good for a representative from Placer County. Jeffrey Thorsby has offered to help with planning, including obtaining staff help. Pat appointed herself, Chris Parker, and Bill Oudegeest to a committee that will oversee planning; their first meeting will be during the week of June 22, after Chris returns from travel.



Sign-in table for the Clean-up Day June 5 (DSCN1458.JPG).

10. Web Site and Internet:

Dick said there has been nothing new regarding the web site.

Regarding internet, he has been approached by Dave Babcock representing Sky Fiber in Reno; they want to establish a presence on the Summit by

offering an alternative to AT&T and SuddenLink. Dave has contacted several businesses on the Summit, including Sierra Lakes County Water District, which is on the verge of signing new contracts with other providers. Dick asked whether anyone on the Board had heard of problems with existing options. He and Krista Voosen participated in a webinar on bringing wideband to remote communities in mid-April. They were told that AT&T was pulling back from providing wideband services in remote areas. But Dick contacted a Serene Lakes neighbor who works for AT&T who said he was unaware of such a policy. The neighbor said he would investigate, but Dick has heard no more. No one on the Board mentioned any bad experiences. Beth said that a new provider should be able to explain how the new service would work given conditions and resources on the Summit. On the other hand, she said competition couldn't hurt.



Checking the bike repair stand during the Hub Work Day May 29 (photo by Beth Tanhoff).

11. Internal Matters:

- a. Board Membership: The two-year terms of Jordan Knighton, Bill Oudegeest, Chris Parker, Dick Simpson, Mike Spain, and John Svahn expire at the end of December. Pat asked whether any of the incumbents wanted to drop off the Board, and no one replied.

MSC-U (Mark, Dick) to reappoint the members of the Board whose terms are expiring to additional two-year terms.

- b. Officers: The terms of Pat Malberg (President), Bill Oudegeest (Vice President), Beth Tanhoff (Treasurer), and Dick Simpson (Secretary) expire at the end of this month.

MSC-U (Mark, Dick) to re-elect the current officers to another term by acclamation.

- c. Future Meetings: Pat noted that we have had good turnout and productive meetings when using the virtual format; but she misses the in-person contact and would like to resume face-to-face (F2F) meetings. Bill suggested hybrid meetings as a way to retain attendance while restoring some F2F contact. Chris said the Sugar Bowl conference room has been closed for 18 months, but it might be available after June 15; it has both seating and internet. Others suggested Donner Ski Ranch, but there were questions about internet access. Pat said we can decide later.

The next meeting will be July 8; location and format (virtual, F2F, hybrid, ...) will be decided later.



More testing of the bicycle repair stand during the May 29 Work Day (photo by Beth Tanhoff).

12. Announcements

Pat announced that Placer County Supervisor Gustafson was hosting a virtual town hall meeting which was scheduled for 6 PM, immediately following the DSA meeting. Among the agenda items, one local project may be of special interest: Sugar Bowl's Tube Park, a proposal for construction and operation of a snow tubing park with a parking facility. The public comment period on the tubing park application for a Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) ended on June 11.

13. Adjournment:

There being no other business, Pat adjourned the meeting at 6:15 PM.

Minutes approved by the DSA Board of Directors at its meeting on July 8, 2021.

signed by DSA Secretary, Richard Simpson, _____



Donner Summit from the northeast (DSCN1532.JPG).

Attachment A

VAN NORDEN MEADOW RESTORATION PROJECT



The Van Norden Meadow Restoration Project is a collaboration between The Tahoe National Forest, The South Yuba River Citizens League (SYRCL), and several other partners who have been working together since 2013.

After nearly a decade of scientific data collection, careful planning, and consultation with local stakeholders and the Washoe Tribe, The Tahoe National Forest & SYRCL are working to restore Van Norden Meadow (Yayalu Idteh in Washoe) to enhance the resiliency of one of the largest meadows on the west slope of the Sierra Nevada.

Once restored, Van Norden Meadow will:

Recharge groundwater to improve water storage & wetland habitat

Improve water quality by restoring functional sediment & temperature regimes

Serve as crucial habitat for terrestrial & aquatic species

Protect culturally significant spaces for the Washoe Tribe

Enhance the aesthetic value of a multi-use space for recreationists

Function as a carbon sink by taking carbon out the atmosphere and storing it in the ground



Project Timeline



WANT TO LEARN MORE? VISIT WWW.SYRCL.ORG/VANNORDEN & JOIN US ON A FIELD TRIP!



Donner Summit Association (DSA) Core Action Team Meeting
Thursday, July 8, 2021 5-6 PM
Hybrid Meeting Hosted from Sugar Bowl, Norden, CA



Lamson-Cashion Hub at Donner Summit (photo by Bill Oudegeest)

Motions and votes are given in *italics*; action items are in **red bold**. For various reasons, the minutes below do not reflect the strict chronological order of discussions during the meeting.

1. Welcome:

The meeting was called to order by Pat Malberg at 5:08 PM. Chris Parker had arranged for use of the Sugar Bowl Conference Room; he also set up GoToMeeting for those who were participating remotely. *Italics* in the following lists denote attendees physically at Sugar Bowl; **bold** denotes people participating remotely by GoToMeeting (video or phone).

Core Action Team (DSA Board) Attendees: **Mark Himelstein, Pat Malberg, Bill Oudegeest, Chris Parker, Dick Simpson, Mike Spain, John Svahn, and Beth Tanhoff.**

Others: *Tom Denzler, Chris Leman, Shandon Lloyd, Nick Martin* (Placer County), and **Jeff Thorsby** (Nevada County).

2. Approval of Agenda:

Moved (Bill), seconded (Chris Parker), and carried unanimously (MSC-U) to approve the agenda.

3. Approval of Minutes:

MSC-U (Bill, Beth) to approve the June meeting minutes.

4. Treasurer's Report:

Monthly Report: Tom distributed a financial report the previous day. DSA has a positive \$107K balance in its bank account. Pat asked about the Transaction List by Customer; Tom said that is a list of donations. Sales receipts are "Quicken talk" for receipts. A short discussion followed about which donations were sponsorships (for example, to obtain naming rights for benches) and which were simple donations.

Beth has sent the annual Statement of Information to the Secretary of State. She, and several others, thanked Tom for his efforts in maintaining the books.

Fundraising: Swag sold at the July 4th Hub celebration brought in about \$1200. Pat suggested setting up a swag and information table on weekends at the Hub. Mitzi will put up swag at her shop in Soda Springs; but Cheryl (at the general store) is inundated with T-shirts and doesn't need more. Pat jokingly asked whether there is a design for a T-shirt celebrating the DSA graffiti removal project.

5. Mountain Housing Council (Beth):

On June 25 a survey was distributed to determine whether there is a housing crisis facing the workforce in our mountain area. A meeting to brainstorm solutions for such a crisis was held June 22. There have been a series of discussions since. Many businesses in the Truckee and Tahoe area are having trouble finding employees because affordable housing is in such short supply.

Proposals include the following: (1) philanthropic donations; (2) an employer-based co-op housing model; (3) acquiring existing property; (4) regulatory relief such as rent control and/or deed restrictions; (5) tiny homes; (6) a governmental declaration that there is such an urgent situation; and (7) identifying summer sites that could be used for trailers, tents, or simple camping.

An effort is underway to redefine ‘achievable local housing’, which is for people at low income levels. Because of the influx of people who can live in Truckee and work jobs remotely, the area’s median income has risen, and that has pushed the threshold for low-income relief programs upward. **Anyone with input for the discussion on definition of ‘achievable local housing’ should contact Beth**; the next meeting is July 15. Beth noted that many meetings last a day; she is rarely able to participate for more than a few hours.

Pat asked whether there was anything in the MHC report that is specific to Donner Summit. Beth said deed restrictions might affect medium-term rental availability. In the future, developers could obtain tax and other credits for building housing at the Summit; but there is no such program today.

Beth said there are three construction projects of interest in Truckee. Coldstream Commons near Donner Memorial State Park will open 48 one- and two-bedroom units this fall for households making less than \$43K per year. Truckee Artist Lofts is in downtown Truckee and will be completed this summer; it has 76 rental units from studios to three-bedroom apartments for income-restricted tenants. Meadow View Place will provide 56 1-3 bedroom units in the Schaffer Mill subdivision, across Highway 267 from the airport, opening in early 2022. It is a joint project with Placer County.

Jeffrey said Nevada County is looking toward working with local agencies and may be able to bring some federal funding. Nick said Placer County’s Board of Supervisors will meet at the North Lake Tahoe Conference Center on July 27; he expects several emergency housing items to be on the agenda. Pat added that anything happening at the county level is of interest to DSA.

6. Bridge and Road Construction:

Mike said crews have completed the bypass road, then removed the old bridge over the South Yuba River. The temporary bridge is much better quality than he expected; and there is no need for traffic control, which had been in early plans. The contractor has started building the new bridge, which will

be a couple feet higher. The higher elevation presents some issues for parking at Soda Springs Resort, but Mike expects those to be worked out and that the new bridge will be much better under flooding conditions. Mike thinks the project may be completed earlier than predicted.

Work on Donner Pass Road is harder to judge. Mark said it is “the biggest disaster ever seen”; tires are being punctured when motorists drive on the rough surface. Pat drives 10-15 mph to get through the bumps. Mark said he has heard a rumor that the asphalt plan doesn’t meet federal requirements for the bike lane. He said some people are using Old Lincoln Highway to bypass the construction; OLH is dusty but not so hard on vehicles. Jeffrey said he has not heard complaints about the Donner Pass Road work. The Federal Highway Administration is running the project; Nevada County Public Works is the lead local agency. He will bring these comments back to the project.

7. Van Norden Meadow Update:

Dick said he received an update from Rachel Hutchinson of USFS a couple days ago. The Forest Service has sent people to Van Norden Meadow to enforce 14-day camping limitations. Truckee Ranger District has been trying to get the area designated as closed to dispersed camping, but that decision has become bogged down at Tahoe National Forest Headquarters.

Staff is working to finalize the proposed trail alignment, which includes both developed trailheads and interpretive platforms, around the meadow. Staff is also hoping to begin scoping for the NEPA document within a few weeks. A field tour has tentatively been set for Saturday, August 14; but the date needs to be confirmed and a start time set.

Others noted that PG&E has been improving roads around their substation near the dam; this is apparently for PG&E purposes, but USFS is expected to take advantage of the upgrades when they begin moving dirt in the meadow.

8. Reports from Ongoing Projects, and Proposals for New Projects:

- a. Shed II – July 4 Dedication: Pat said the celebration was a wonderful experience; nearly a hundred people attended. George Lamson and Linda Cashion cut the ribbon, symbolically opening the Hub. There was extra cake, which went to passing hikers. Dick wrote an article about the event for *Sierra Sun*; but **he needs a contact at the paper to receive it. Beth will provide contact information by e-mail. Dick will then arrange to have something similar posted on the DSA web site, and Beth will send it to her e-mail list.**



Ribbon cutting at the Hub dedication; left to right Pat Malberg, George Lamson, and Linda Cashion (photo by George Lamson).



Master of ceremonies Bill Oudegeest at the Hub dedication (DSCN1622.JPG).

- b. Shed II – Other: **Chris Parker will arrange to have a remaining pile of dirt moved.** This will allow extension of the handicap path toward the

portable bathroom staging area. A dumpster was delivered, but it's not in the right place. **Nick will investigate.**

- c. Graffiti Removal: The next remediation activity will be on July 29. Sugar Bowl can provide a truck-mounted sprayer, and Don Malberg will bring his pickup. The plan includes up to 50 volunteers. **Beth will create a sign-up web page with shifts starting at 9 AM and 1 PM; she will include a request for donations, and Dick will send Beth photos that could be included. Pat will order 50 gallons of paint next week, then inventory rollers and other equipment.** John offered to provide additional painting equipment; Pat requested 'thick' rollers.

Pat wondered whether Graffiti Barrier could be used; it costs \$150/gallon, but it allows washing away graffiti rather than requiring overpainting. Chris Leman asked whether there has been any evaluation of art quality; Chris Parker replied that there is zero tolerance for graffiti on exteriors of snowsheds and tunnels. John added that there is graffiti on boulders and petroglyphs.



Return of graffiti above China Wall. Left: October 2020 after painting over graffiti (DSCN0969.JPG). Right: July 2021 (DSCN1600.JPG).

- d. Recreation Master Plan: Chris Parker said there is nothing new. He will meet with USFS Friday to get their final comments on the Plan. USFS has sent a counter-proposal regarding meadow trails that is different from the trails shown in the RMP. Pat said this needs to be worked out before Summit Summit III.
- e. Summit Summit III (August 21): Beth agreed that there will be swag available at the community meeting. Nick Martin and Sarah Holyhead participated in the latest planning meeting. Nick, Steve Frisch, and Kristin York will be at the next meeting.

Pat hopes to have tables with information so people can self-educate before the first session begins. There will be presentations on key issues for both summer and winter followed by a panel discussion by representatives from land stewardship agencies. The planning committee is open to other suggestions; the committee will distribute its draft program after the next meeting with Steve.

Jeffrey said he had spoken with his executive office; they want to support the meeting with financial aid and staffing.

Pat wants to do a site visit. **Beth will investigate possibilities with her contact at the school.**

9. Internal Matters:

- a. Future Meetings: The next meeting was confirmed for August 12.
- b. Officers: Dick noted that he had referred to Tom in the June minutes as the DSA CFO, but that's actually not correct. According to DSA bylaws, we have an elected Chief Financial Officer. But we have been electing Beth and calling the position Treasurer. We have never elected a CFO. Beth said she was willing to step aside as Treasurer.

MSC (Bill, Mark) to elect Tom DSA Treasurer.

The motion carried with Dick voting no; he said the correct path starts with revising the bylaws. Dick added that DSA just elected Tom to a non-existent position and that we no longer have a CFO. **He will make a proposal to resolve this problem at the August meeting.**¹

10. Announcements

Pat asked whether we can do something about the RVs that are scattered all over the Summit. She wondered whether they can be parked legally where they have settled; one has been in a crack south of The Shaft for weeks. Chris Parker suggested moving the dumpster there. Jeffrey said RVs generally need to be in designated areas in Nevada County. If an RV is on private property and the vehicle has been there 'permanently', it's a code

¹ After the meeting, Dick reviewed the bylaws. Tom is not on the DSA Board; but there is no bylaw requirement that officers be on the Board. Officers may be changed at the discretion of the Board. Tom's election is as valid as any other in DSA history; but there is no recognized officer position called Treasurer. Dick's proposal in August will address this problem.

issue. But the vehicle near The Shaft is on Placer County land owned by Union Pacific Railroad.

Pat said that the abandoned railroad bed below Old 40 is a mecca for people to park their vehicles. We should think about sanitation, signage, etc. John said that when the Land Trust owned Van Norden Meadow, TDLT would call the sheriff about illegally parked vehicles. However, deputies said it would be difficult to cite such vehicles unless the location was within view of a no camping sign.

The Pacific Crest Trail Association is having a Skills College in the Truckee area on July 24-25. Pat recommended it to anyone interested.

Beth asked whether DSA should be thinking about fundraisers in the near future. Pat said we can send a fundraising letter, then added that there is a donation box at Nancy's Gallery. A fundraising letter could be designed around the list already posted at the Gallery explaining the various ways donations help to support DSA. There may be support for another beer fest in October. Pat noted that there is presently no DSA Fundraising Committee, but no one stepped forward to volunteer.

Pat offered thanks to Bill and others for their help on July 4th

11. Adjournment:

There being no other business, Pat adjourned the meeting at 6:10 PM.

Minutes approved by the DSA Board of Directors at its meeting on August 12, 2021.

signed by DSA Secretary, Richard Simpson, _____



Donner Summit Association (DSA) Core Action Team Meeting
Thursday, August 12, 2021 5-6 PM
Virtual Meeting Hosted from Sugar Bowl, Norden, CA



Summit Valley (Van Norden Meadow) from the PCT (DSCN1708.jpg).

Motions and votes are given in *italics*; action items are in **red bold**. For various reasons, the minutes below do not reflect the strict chronological order of discussions during the meeting.

1. Welcome:

The meeting was called to order by Pat Malberg at 5:06 PM.

Core Action Team (DSA Board) Attendees: Mark Himmelstein, Pat Malberg, Bill Oudegeest, Chris Parker, Dick Simpson, Mike Spain, and Krista Voosen.

Others: Tom Denzler (DSA CFO/Treasurer), Tim Kustic (SLPOA), and Jeffrey Thorsby (Nevada County).

2. Approval of Agenda:

Moved (Chris), seconded (Bill), and carried unanimously (MSC-U) to approve the agenda.

3. Approval of Minutes:

MSC-U (Bill, Mike) to approve the July meeting minutes.

4. Treasurer's Report (Tom):

Monthly Report: Tom had distributed a spreadsheet before the meeting with financial details. A \$15K reimbursement from Placer County does not need to be paid to vendors; they have already been paid, so the reimbursement can go into DSA's bank account.

People are still signing up for sponsorships (naming rights) at The Lamson-Cashion Hub.

Fundraising: Pat has discussed a possible fundraising letter with Beth. They agree that a letter listing about ten ways a contribution can advance DSA goals would be good. Pat hopes to draft a letter in a couple weeks; they will then need help stuffing envelopes in time for a late August mailing.

Nancy Oudegeest is now a member of the Placer County Capital Projects Advisory Committee (CAPCom). CAPCom discussed whether it should administer both TOT and TBID funds. Greg Dallas thinks that the CAPCom committee should stay independent of North Lake Tahoe Resort Association (NLTRA) and continue to report directly to the Board of Supervisors. The CAPcom committee, as presently structured, gives Donner Summit solid representation between the Donner Summit specific seat and the ski area seat.

Pat spent about an hour yesterday listening to a discussion about a \$2M Community Resiliency Grant Program in Nevada County. Because the funding source is the federal government, there is a lot more paperwork in the application process. Pat counted representatives from 79 non-profits on the call. Given the likely competition and administrative red tape, she doesn't think an application from DSA is worth the trouble. No one on the DSA Board objected.

5. Mountain Housing Council:

Reporting for Beth, Pat said that a short-term rent moratorium has been extended 45 days.

6. New Bridge on Soda Springs Road:

Mike said progress has been good and he expects the bridge to be finished on schedule. The abutments have been completed and work on the deck is moving along. Details of how vehicles transition from the elevated roadway to the Soda Springs parking lot are a little fuzzy; but Mike is not worried. He noted that drainage from the Soda Springs parking area to the South Yuba River should be better once the project is completed.

7. Van Norden Meadow Restoration:

Dick said the Restoration Plan has been released (see http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/nepa_project_exp.php?project=60387). USFS is seeking a 'negative declaration' so that the agency does not have to complete a full EIR. He is somewhat ambivalent about the negative declaration since the scale of the parking and trail construction is significant, while there are good reasons for moving forward with the project in a timely manner.

Dick noted that USFS and South Yuba River Citizens League (SYRCL) will be giving an educational tour of the site starting at 9:30 AM on both August 14 and September 10; pre-registration is required with alecia@yubariver.org at least two days in advance of either date.

Chris added that the trail plans in the Restoration Plan and in the DSA Recreation Master Plan are similar but that USFS wants trails on the south side of the meadow to be higher on the north facing slope of Forest Service Ridge. On the north side the USFS trails are more into the meadow than in the DSA plan. In both cases, USFS appears to be providing a wider buffer around culturally sensitive sites.

USFS is planning to remove the older spillway (closer to Soda Springs Road than the recently rebuilt spillway); they can then put in trailhead parking and have a viewing platform. Large fractions of the old dam will be removed and used to fill the existing river channel, restoring the meadow's water table in the process.

8. Reports from Ongoing Projects, and Proposals for New Projects:

- a. The Hub/Shed: Bill said there are six boulders at The Lamson-Cashion Hub and that all naming rights for the boulders have been claimed by donors; he asked for guidance on how donors and boulders should be matched. After several minutes of discussion, it was decided that Gateway Mountain Center should have Boulder #5 (numbered from Donner Pass Road, DPR) since it had the best potential for kids to 'boulder', that Truckee Realtors should have Boulder #1 since it is most visible from DPR, and that **Bill should decide the rest.**

Bill has been approached by leaders of a scout troop who are looking for an Eagle Scout project that would benefit DSA. Several Board members suggested building a bench, similar to benches installed by Truckee Donner Land Trust (TDLT) around the Summit. Tim Kustic said that his son led such a project on Thauvette's Frolic in Serene Lakes; they used plans provided by State Parks through TDLT and obtained materials from Truckee Tahoe Lumber. Tim can provide information to anyone interested. The Board agreed that this would be a worthwhile project.

Road base was delivered to The Hub; Norm Sayler spread it around. Branches have been removed from the area where the enclosed toilets will be located. Chris said the shade structure is moving along.

- b. Graffiti Abatement: Seven volunteers painted over graffiti on the morning of July 29; Mike Spain brought "an army" of Boreal people in the afternoon, but their work was cut short when storm clouds moved in. Mark wondered whether the current approach is working, since new graffiti appear almost immediately. He thought that using 'graffiti barrier' might be more effective, despite its cost. He also suggested a 'contest' among taggers for the best design, though it was unclear how this would reduce graffiti. Pat said that graffiti barrier costs \$150/gallon and is most cost effective on smooth and flat surfaces in frequently targeted areas, such as around The Hub.
- c. Recreation Master Plan: Except for those on the DSA committee working with Stantec, Board members had received the RMP only two days before the meeting. Dick said he had read about 40 pages and found a lot of

information in an attractive layout but that the content was confusing. For example, the RMP refers to a Frog Lake Trailhead in several places; but no map shows it, and its location is not described in the text. Chris said the Frog Lake problem had been mentioned several times to Stantec but that it had never been corrected. Dick would like to edit the RMP on behalf of DSA; it would take some time and would require assistance from others with knowledge of the technical information behind the plan. He's concerned that public release of the RMP will only confuse readers. Others voiced similar concerns, but it wasn't clear how to wrest control of the document from Stantec since this appears to be their final product. Chris said the document is not in a consumer-friendly format but that he can get it in a format that could be edited.



Retagged wall in the auto tunnel near China Wall less than two weeks after overpainting by DSA volunteers and Sugar Bowl employees (DSCN1717.jpg).

- d. Summit Summit III (August 21): Dick said he found the recent flurry of releases about SSIII confusing so far as start time was concerned. The draft agenda and text announcement of the meeting both say the event starts at 9:30 AM. But Naomi Plasterer's draft web page and an announcement from Beth (e-mailed less than an hour before the start of the Board meeting) both say it starts at 9 AM. Jeffrey said the Zoom link is up and ready to go, so the start time can be changed. **But there was consensus to stick with the 9:30 start, change the web site, and have Beth send a corrected announcement to her list.**

It was also agreed that Naomi's web page should not include a link to the RMP, which will be embargoed until after SSIII. There were several suggestions on how to proceed with the document including clearly labeling the current version 'draft', releasing a 'supplement' with updates based on DSA and community comments later, taking the document in house for additional editing, and sending it back to Stantec. Jeffrey said he would not accept a product if the contractor had not responded to legitimate change requests. The Board took no specific action regarding

the document, leaving it in the hands of the committee working with Stantec.

Dick noted that we need to work with Naomi on management of the comment section of the web site. The comment box has already been implemented, but we haven't decided who receives the comments and who responds. As designed a couple months ago, all comments would go to Naomi and she was not eager to handle them.



Hikers retrieving brochures at The Lamson-Cashion Hub (DSCN1718.jpg).

9. Internal Matters:

- a. Future Meetings: The next Board meeting will be September 9.
- b. Bylaw Revision: Dick had distributed a proposed revision as part of the agenda. It renames the Chief Financial Officer to be Treasurer, and it cleans up a couple typo-like errors. There was no discussion.

MSC-U (Dick, Chris) to approve the Bylaw revision.

10. Announcements

Pat announced that Placer County Supervisor Gustafson was hosting a virtual town hall meeting, scheduled for 6 PM, immediately following the DSA meeting. Among the agenda items was affordable housing.

Mike noted that the Castle Peak 100, a 100 km foot race beginning and ending at Donner Ski Ranch, is scheduled for August 14 starting at 5 AM.

Pat said that SYRCL is scheduling a week-long Yuba River clean-up starting on September 11. DSA has contracted to carry out four clean-ups during the year. We did a big one in June, and Pat has done a few herself since. Dick suggested scheduling a DSA clean-up day on September 11, and Mike offered to accept trash at the Soda Springs dumpster. There was consensus to go ahead with this plan.

11. Adjournment:

There being no other business, Pat adjourned the meeting at 6:06 PM.

Minutes approved by the DSA Board of Directors at its meeting on September 9, 2021.

signed by DSA Secretary, Richard Simpson, _____



Left: Asters, east side of Mt. Lincoln (DSCN1677.jpg). Right: Red fir cones, west side of Mt. Judah (DSCN1705.jpg)



Donner Summit Association (DSA) Core Action Team Meeting
Thursday, September 9, 2021 5-6 PM
Virtual Meeting Hosted from Sugar Bowl, Norden, CA



Rachel Hutchinson, Jonathan Cook-Fisher, and Alecia Weisman explain plans for Van Norden Meadow restoration during the August 14 SYRCL/USFS tour (DSCN1731.jpg).

Motions and votes are given in *italics*; action items are in **red bold**. For various reasons, the minutes below do not reflect the strict chronological order of discussions during the meeting.

1. Welcome:

The meeting was called to order by Pat Malberg at 5 PM.

Core Action Team (DSA Board) Attendees: Mark Himmelstein, Pat Malberg, Bill Oudegeest, Chris Parker, Dick Simpson, Mike Spain, John Svahn, Beth Tanhoff, and Krista Voosen.

Others: Tom Denzler (DSA CFO/Treasurer), Shandon Lloyd, and Nick Martin (Placer County).

2. Approval of Agenda:

Moved (Bill), seconded (Chris), and carried unanimously (MSC-U) to approve the agenda.

3. Approval of Minutes:

MSC-U (Bill, Mark) to approve the August meeting minutes.

4. Treasurer's Report (Tom):

Monthly Report: Tom had distributed a spreadsheet before the meeting with financial details. Bill and Tom have reconciled the Hansen Brothers invoice.

5. Fundraising (Pat):

After editing by Board members, the fundraising letter went out to over 400 people with known e-mail addresses. Printed letters were stuffed into envelopes (by Pat, Don, and Beth) and mailed to another 150 people, most of whom have purchased property between Cisco Grove and the Summit in the past 2-3 years. Membership application forms were included with the USPS mailing; the supply of forms has been exhausted and will need to be replenished. About 10 donors have already contributed \$2685; roughly half are new donors. Pat is expecting more contributions via regular mail now that the printed letters are reaching addressee's mailboxes. Pat has sent thank-you letters to the donors who have already responded.

Pat noted that Truckee Brokers contributed \$1000 to support graffiti abatement separately from the fundraising appeal.

6. Graffiti Abatement (Pat):

John asked whether the graffiti protection material that was donated by Truckee Donner Land Trust (TDLT) and that he dropped at the Summit a couple months ago was received. Pat said that it had been, and it has already been applied to the kiosks.

Pat said that there may be another graffiti removal day. In the meantime, individuals can work by themselves. There are materials in The Shed; if more are needed, donors have contributed enough to cover more purchases.

John said that boulders within the parcel still owned by TDLT at the bottom of Summit Canyon have recently been hit hard by taggers.

7. Mountain Housing Council (Beth):

MHC held a virtual meeting August 25. There were reports from partner projects, discussion of the new “Achievable Housing for All” process, and opportunities for community feedback. Results from a survey on housing options are at <https://padlet.com/jsanford37/mbqrnk8ps35ef21e>. Additional comments can be entered through that link until September 30, the date of the next meeting. The next meeting (4-6 PM) will feature the Regional Housing Implementation Plan and a discussion of next steps in tackling housing solutions for our area. If interested, register at https://epsys.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_-yHTePt9THqemP7nGjLzcQ

The Placer County moratorium on short term rental (STR) permits has been extended until March 2022. Many new homeowners in the county will not be able to apply for short term rental permits until the moratorium is lifted. However, (1) anyone with an STR permit in 2020 who didn’t renew in 2021 can apply for a new permit; (2) anyone purchasing a property with a currently valid STR permit can get a renewal under the new owner’s name; and (3) anyone who started the STR application process prior to the July 27 Board action will see that process completed. Nick Martin noted that there may be a draft update to the ordinance at some point during the winter; if so, a new ordinance would not go into effect until at least 60 days later. He added that there has been no talk of banning short-term rentals (as has happened at South Lake Tahoe); this just affects issuance of STR permits.

8. Bridge and Road Work Status (Mike):

Mike said the deck on the new bridge has been completed; work has started on the ramps at both ends of the bridge. Progress has been good, but there is still a lot to do.

Pat said that most of the paving on Donner Pass Road (DPR) has been completed; but traffic delays on the road have been 30 minutes and longer, which is irritating motorists. Mike said he has waited at the railroad tracks 30-40 minutes before being allowed onto DPR. Mitzi Hodges sent an e-mail to the Board before the meeting noting that irritated motorists sometimes express their frustration by speeding. Beth said there is a State law banning road construction delays of more than 15 minutes; when she mentioned this to workers on the project, she was told that they were not going to change and that she was free to file a report. Pat suggested that Jeffrey Thorsby

might be alerted to this situation; documenting the complaints in these minutes could be helpful.



The DSA Secretary waited for Donner Pass Road traffic control from 2:26 to 2:41 PM in front of Donner Summit Lodge on September 10. About 20 cars at a time were led through by a pilot vehicle (DSCN1763.jpg).

9. Van Norden Meadow Restoration (Dick):

Dick said the second of two tours of Van Norden Meadow by South Yuba River Citizens League (SYRCL) and USFS has been postponed because of the closure of USFS lands to non-essential work. The tour was to explain the meadow restoration and recreation plan described at

http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/nepa_project_exp.php?project=60387

A new tour date will be announced when the forest re-opens. Presumably the deadline for commenting on the adequacy of the plan remains September 15. Tree removal on the dam has begun, after a week's delay while access was sorted out (the property belongs to TDLT, so is not subject to USFS closure).

10. Reports from Ongoing Projects, and Proposals for New Projects:

- a. The Hub/Shed: Paving is scheduled for late September or early October. Now that the summer season is over, Bill suggested that we add covers (at least tarps) to benches and displays to protect them from winter weather. Additional plaques have been mounted on boulders, benches, and the bike repair station. Pat said scrap lumber has been removed from The Shed, allowing for better storage of the things that remain.

Nick said Tahoe Truckee Sierra Disposal (TTSD) has asked whether we want to remove the dumpster provided by Placer County at the Hub. Because of the end of summer and the forest closures, TTSD is picking up very little trash when they empty the dumpster. The County has budgeted for service until snow flies; but it could save money by terminating the service early. Beth asked that the dumpsters be left in

place until after the DSA clean-up on Saturday (below). Pat thought the dumpster should be left “a little longer”.

- b. Recreation Master Plan: Dick has been editing Section 4 (especially the inventory of trails and trailheads) of the Stantec report, which he found difficult to read and digest because of inconsistent and unconventional names adopted by Stantec. Without having done any field checking, he has compiled a new Word version of Sections 4.0 and 4.1 and sent copies to Chris, Kevin Starr (TDLT), and Katie Mansfield (USFS). The tentative plan is to get together in about two weeks to hammer out remaining question areas. In the meantime, he will do some field work and try to discover the names used by USFS within USFS lands and the names used by State Parks within Parks jurisdictions (**John will provide contact information for Nathan in State Parks who can help with the latter**). Chris has provided a map and guidance for names being used by Sugar Bowl within its boundaries. Dick expects that Bill may have some historical insights on names and routes used by the pioneers.

Bill wondered who will be taking responsibility for updating the report as a whole; Dick offered to take that on by expanding his current Word document, but there were concerns about contractual and funding issues remaining from the Stantec effort. Chris thinks those can be worked out and that DSA will end up with rights to all of the important artifacts from the work; but he warned that the document itself is in a format that can only be revised using special publishing software.

Discussion then turned to how comments on the report should be handled. Dick noted that Naomi has reported no comments coming in through the web site. Dick has since entered a test comment himself, asking anyone who sees his comment to send him an e-mail; he has received no e-mails. John has heard comments about trails around Royal Gorge; but those usually devolved quickly into complaints about e-bikes. Pat received comments from Emily Wexler before the report was released. If there are not many comments, Dick thinks revising the document will not necessarily be difficult after the editing step; but everyone agreed that no comments received does not mean no one is interested. Perhaps after some time, and perhaps after a revised (more readable) version is posted, comments will flow more freely. In the meantime, Dick is offering to take on the editing job if it can be done with existing tools (such as Word).

- c. Summit Summit III (August 21): After the meeting, there were lots of favorable comments about its content. Pat felt that there wasn't enough time for discussion during the meeting, but she found many of the comments captured in the Chat to be valuable. She noted Ken Hall's

question about a second egress route from Serene Lakes as being especially important.

- d. Path Forward from RMP and SSIII: Pat suggested that there could be a Summit Summit III reprise in 3-4 months, using questions and comments from the SSIII Chat to build an agenda.
- e. Summit Cleanup (September 11): This activity will start at the Soda Springs Store at 9 AM Saturday. There has been no effort to register participants; Beth will send a reminder asking people to sign up. DSA's effort is loosely coordinated with a week-long SYRCL Yuba River clean-up that begins Saturday; SYRCL has obtained permission to work on National Forest lands. SYRCL's week ends with a national clean-up day (<https://www.nationalcleanupday.org>) September 18.

11. TOT Grant Applications (Pat/Bill):

Pat had asked Board members to think of projects that could be funded with new Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT) money. She suggested that improved wayfinding is one possibility; Placer County has already said that improved signing could be one area for new proposals. But Bill noted that we have included signing in previous proposals and are still waiting for permission from Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR) and USFS to install signs around the Hub. Pat argued that an accident is likely if we don't help visitors find their way to the Tunnels, for example. Chris was less pessimistic; he said Truckee Trails Foundation has received funding for signs on USFS property; he thinks District Ranger Jonathan Cook-Fisher is very interested in improvements in this area and might be convinced to prioritize such work. Sugar Bowl is in the process of installing new signs, and some will be on USFS property.

John thought that a request for funds to complete the DSA Master Plan would be useful; Chris agreed. Depending on how the end game with Stantec plays out, we will probably need help polishing the final product.

Pat asked for volunteers to write a grant request. Beth did not volunteer; but she said she knows someone who might be willing to help. **She will check.**

12. Internal Matters:

- a. Future Meetings: The next Board meeting will be October 14.

13. Announcements

- a. Paving at The Store: Krista said that her plan to have the parking area in front of the Soda Springs Store paved this fall has fallen through. Herbeck had originally agreed to do the work after completing the DPR rebuild; but now they are saying they have fallen behind schedule and won't be able to do Krista's job. Bill said Shaefer will be bringing equipment back to the Summit; they might be able to help. Chris said Hansen Brothers has been very responsive; they have mostly been hauling on the Summit, but they are a paving company at heart. Beth offered a third alternative. Krista just closed on the building resale; having the parking lot paved was part of the deal and that now needs to be revisited. Someone thought that Mitzi might like to have some of the potholes fixed in front of Tinkers Station if Krista can find a new paving company.

Pat noted that the new road surface is much higher than the parking area at the DPR high point; there is a drop-off when vehicles leave the roadway to get to The Shed.

- b. Rainbow Lodge: Managers Janelle and Larry Hicks have moved on; Larry was offered his dream job in their former home town, and he couldn't turn it down. New, interim managers Spencer and Emily Sharpton will test the waters and decide in October whether to take the job permanently.
- c. Donner Party Hikes have been postponed to 2022.

14. Adjournment:

There being no other business, Pat adjourned the meeting at 5:57 PM.

Minutes approved by the DSA Board of Directors at its meeting on October 21, 2021.

signed by DSA Secretary, Richard Simpson, _____



**Attachment A to November 2021 Agenda
Donner Summit Association (DSA) Core Action Team Meeting
Thursday, October 21, 2021 5-6 PM
Virtual Meeting Hosted from Sugar Bowl, Norden, CA**



New bridge on Soda Springs Road in early October (DSCN1944.jpg).

Motions and votes are given in *italics*; action items are in **red bold**. For various reasons, the minutes below do not reflect the strict chronological order of discussions during the meeting.

1. Welcome:

The meeting was called to order by Pat Malberg at 5 PM.

Core Action Team (DSA Board) Attendees: Jordan Knighton, Pat Malberg, Bill Oudegeest, Chris Parker, Dick Simpson, Mike Spain, John Svahn, Beth Tanhoff, and Krista Voosen.

Others: Tom Denzler (DSA CFO/Treasurer), Tim Kustic (SLPOA), and Nick Martin (Placer County).

2. Approval of Agenda:

Pat said that the TOT grant application and Stantec status are intertwined and suggested that they be discussed together at item 9b1.

With that change, Bill moved and Mike seconded approval of the agenda. The motion was carried unanimously (MSC-U).

3. Approval of Minutes:

MSC-U (Bill, Chris) to approve the September meeting minutes.

4. Treasurer's Report (Tom):

Monthly Report: Tom said there were not many updates this month. A dozen donations totaling about \$4000 were received. Since there were almost no expenses during the month, the balance in the bank account increased by roughly \$4000. He completed financial statements so that DSA's tax preparer could file the most recent returns. Beth added that extensions for the tax filing and 501(c)(3) registration renewal had been submitted and approved.



Early snow on Castle Peak (DSCN1969.jpg).

5. Fundraising (Pat):

Pat had expected checks from supporters who received hard copy fundraising letters; but only one has come in since the September Board meeting. The return from people who received e-mail requests was higher.

Beth said that only stickers are available for purchase through the web site; but she has handled half a dozen orders. More items will be available shortly, and **she will arrange for photos so they can be properly advertised.**

Beth is involved with her local elementary school, which is doing silent auctions through its web site. She wondered whether that was something DSA could do after soliciting donated items. She imagined that season

passes to local ski areas, a winter of driveway plowing, or a propane refill might be good auction items. Pat noted that auctions were a staple of the July 4th picnics, which are no longer being held. Several people mentioned that success depends critically on getting good donated items and then effectively publicizing the auction. **Beth said she would continue to look into possibilities.**

John suggested that Board members make meaningful donations to DSA; 100 percent participation by the Board would look good. Pat agreed.

6. Mountain Housing Council (Beth):

The next quarterly MHC meeting is tomorrow (October 22); see Attachment A for the agenda and links to related material.

On September 29 Truckee's Town Council adopted a 45-day moratorium on the issuance of new short-term rental registrations; renewals of existing registrations are not affected.

MHC now has a draft regional housing plan.

Pat noted that about 300 units of affordable housing have been added in Truckee in the past 3-4 years; that's more than San Francisco has opened in the same period.

Nick said Placer County has been working diligently on updates to its short term rental ordinance, which expires on March 31, 2022. Staff will take some options to the Board of Supervisors (BoS) on December 14. They are seeking a better balance between competing interests. The public can participate in the meeting (find the Zoom link at <https://www.placer.ca.gov/7055/> 2021). Placer County is working with Nevada County to minimize differences across their common border. A community survey will be distributed in about a month. Nick may have a link to the survey at the November DSA meeting.

7. Bridge and Road Work Status (Mike):

Mike said the bridge work was going well until the weather changed. The temporary bypass has been removed, and traffic is now flowing across the new bridge. Granite Construction planned to pave approaches to the bridge this week. After snow fell Sunday night, they tried to brush it away, then put down a 2-inch layer of asphalt yesterday. But it didn't bond correctly because of the cold temperature and moisture. Mike is afraid that Granite will quit for this season, leaving vertical offsets in the pavement at both ends of the

bridge (not good for snowplows). A few days of warm, dry weather might be enough for Granite to resume; but the forecast includes more snow Monday.

Dick said that closures on Donner Pass Road (DPR) were to end on October 15, but they have been pushed back to October 29. It is not clear what work is continuing, but flag people continue to hold traffic at various spots along the road.



New pavement on Donner Pass Road opposite the Sugar Bowl gondola (DSCN1778.jpg).

8. Van Norden Meadow Update (Dick):

Dick said USFS and SYRCL have rescheduled the second public tour of the Van Norden restoration and recreation area for Friday, October 29, 9:30 AM to noon¹. Coffee and muffins will be provided for attendees. The second tour was originally scheduled to be a repeat of the August tour; but the delay in the second tour because of fire danger and smoke issues may lead to new information being presented. Since August, ‘thinning’ of small trees on the dam has been completed. The thinning looks more like a clear cut; but John said USFS/SYRCL decided to remove all of the trees in one operation rather than bringing the foresters back a second time. The plan was to remove all trees eventually so that dam material could be used as channel fill.

9. Reports from Ongoing Projects, and Proposals for New Projects:

- a. Shed II: Bill said that Shaeffer has completed its DSA paving at the Summit. There has been damage to locks restraining the benches/carriages, so new ‘kryptonite’ locks have been substituted. Bill tried to move the bike station to winter storage but discovered it is held in place using a ‘proprietary’ nut; he is looking for the companion tool. Overall, The Shed has been getting lots of use, and visitors have voiced many favorable comments.

¹ People interested in attending should e-mail alecia@yubariver.org in advance.



Treeless Van Norden Dam viewed from the east (DSCN2044.jpg).

b. Recreation Master Plan (RMP):

- 1) Stantec Status: Bill said Stantec thinks DSA owes them money; but payment would put us well over budget. Since RMP funding comes largely from Placer County's Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT) program, we don't have money to pay their claim (even if we agreed with it). Pat has suggested that DSA apply for a new TOT grant to support completion of the RMP and upgrade the web site; the application was submitted to meet an October 12 deadline. Stantec supported this effort by rewriting Bill's draft application but without respecting the length restrictions. Because of time pressure, DSA submitted its original draft, improved by editing from a friend of Pat's at Lake Mary.

Bill noted that the public is consuming large quantities of brochures being dispensed at The Shed. But many people also navigate using QR codes. He suggested that the DSA website be upgraded so that visitors could use their smart phones to access the web information while exploring the Summit. The TOT proposal totals \$49.5k, including \$5k in matching funds from both Sugar Bowl and Truckee Donner Land Trust (TDLT). The amount of TOT funding requested is \$39.5k. \$15k would be used to develop the new web interface; the remainder would be spent on enhancing and completing the RMP. Naomi Plasterer put Pat in touch with Jessica Kennedy, who does web work in Yosemite; Jessica provided an outline for the work and the cost estimate. Beth asked why we need a new web site; but Bill explained that we may be able to use the existing one. The \$15k will be used to organize and format the RMP-based information so that it is suitable for use in the

new application. Beth suggested a thank-you gift for Jessica (such as a T-shirt); **there was consensus to send one.**

The TOT request, if recommended by the screening committee, goes to the Placer County Board of Supervisors in December. If approved by the BoS, there are several additional steps before money becomes available (possibly in early spring 2022).

Bill is preparing to submit the 5th reimbursement request for Shed work. He needs to turn in a progress report at the same time. Chris said Dan Goddard is too busy to do DSA work, but a design for the metal work could be created with fabrication possible when the snow is gone.

- 2) DSA Revisions: Dick said he completed a rewrite of the trailhead and trail inventory sections (sections 4.0 and 4.1) of the RMP several weeks ago; he sent the draft to Chris, Kevin Starr (TDLT), and Katie Mansfield (USFS) asking for comments. He has received nothing back; but he has had no time to do more work. Chris said he is playing catch up after much travel. He is preparing for a Sugar Bowl Corporation meeting in early November; then he should have time to work on the RMP.



Parking at the Loch Leven Trailhead (DSCN1773.jpg)

Dick suggested better coordination among the several people working on getting information to the public. Presumably material such as in RMP sections 4.0 and 4.1 would be used in the new web application; but it would help to know what would be used and how. He also noted that he had volunteered to help rewrite the RMP; but he has no publishing software, so would have to work with Microsoft Word. He has no way to recreate the Stantec maps, and they need a lot of revision. Bill didn't think Word would provide the professional look needed in the final RMP; he thinks appearance is important in such a document. Chris said we should get the original files from Stantec.

- 3) RMP Comments from Web Site, etc.: There haven't been any comments submitted through the web site. We have solicited comments in several other ways; a few responses have come through informal channels. Beth suggested broadcasting a message that this is the last chance for comments; but there were several objections given that we don't have a production schedule ourselves (see next paragraph).
- c. Path Forward from RMP and Summit Summit III: Dick asked whether there is a deadline for releasing the final version of the RMP. Pat said there isn't. Bill noted that Stantec has "gone dark" three times already; it would be hard to develop a schedule without their cooperation. Bill wants the Stantec stamp on the final Plan, and John agreed; the final RMP would have more credibility with Stantec's endorsement.
- d. Summit Cleanup (September 11): Pat had nothing to report.
- e. Graffiti: Pat contacted Shandon Lloyd whose daughter attends Sugar Bowl Academy. SBA has previously participated in fighting graffiti and we are hopeful that they will join us again this spring

Dick bought six new, thick rollers, which **he will put into the Shed. Tim is willing to store the unused paint over the winter.** Pat noted that we have more paint than last year.

10. Internal Matters:

- a. Future Meetings: The next Board meeting will be November 18; ordinarily, we would meet on November 11, but that is Veterans' Day and only three weeks from this meeting. There were no objections to November 18. Pat said the following meeting would be on December 9; rather than having a regular meeting, she suggested a celebratory event at the Nancy O Gallery and Glass. Bill indicated that Nancy was willing to host; **Pat will do some planning.**

11. Announcements

- a. Capital Project Advisory Committee: Nancy Oudegeest has been the DSA representative to this committee, but her term is expiring. Pat wondered whether we should seek a second term for Nancy; if not, whether we could nominate someone else. Bill thought the seat had been promised to a representative closer to Tahoe; but Nancy said she was willing to serve another term. The nominee should be a business person, and the nomination must be submitted by November 12. **Nick will check eligibility.**

Placer County Broadband: Placer County has \$10M for broadband infrastructure from the federal government; there may be additional funding from other government sources. The County is seeking input from community members on how to spend the funds. A survey is available at <https://www.placer.ca.gov/broadband>. Beth will send a blast alerting community members to the survey.

Paved Parking at the Store: Krista said that Herback was going to pave the parking area in front of the Store; but they backed out when the Donner Pass Road project fell behind schedule. Mitzi Hodges plows that lot and was worried that her machinery would be damaged since preparation work (such as digging out boulders under the surface) had already been carried out. The new owner of the building was able to recruit Lucas Paving to do the job; it cost a little more than Herback quoted, but it is done and Krista said it looks good.

Nick asked for thoughts on pulling the dumpsters at the Summit; or, should they be left in place over the winter? They are receiving much less use these days; but Chris attributed some of that drop-off to the DPR road closures. There is currently a dumpster at Rainbow Bridge and another on Placer County land near Summit Haus at the Summit. Chris suggested removing the dumpster at the Summit but keeping the one down the east side. Pat noted that the portable toilet at the PCT trailhead needs to be removed within the next few days. Chris suggested that Pat work with John Swartz of Sugar Bowl about snow removal around The Shed.

12. Adjournment:

There being no other business, Pat adjourned the meeting at 6:08PM.

Minutes approved by the DSA Board of Directors at its meeting on November 18, 2021.

signed by DSA Secretary, Richard Simpson, _____

Attachment A

Next MHC Quarterly Meeting
Friday, October 22nd
8:00 -11:00 am
[Registration Required](#)

PRE READING

Please review all the linked documents below. If you have edits or comments, please submit them to me by the end of day Wednesday, October 20th.

- [MHC October 22nd Quarterly Meeting Agenda](#)
- [Summary Notes](#) from the July MHC Council Quarterly Meeting
- [UPDATED definition of Achievable Housing](#)
- [MHC Emergency Proclamation Regarding Housing](#)
- [MHC Statewide Policy Working Group 08.23.21 Meeting Summary and SB10 Support Letter](#)
- [MHC Statewide Policy Working Group 2021 Legislative Bill Tracking List](#)
- [MHC Housing Funders Network 08.05.21 and 10.06.21 Meeting Summaries](#)
- [MHC Supportive Housing & Homeless Working Group 07.28.21 08.25.21 09.22.21 Meeting Summaries](#)
- [MHC Regional Housing Implementation Plan Public Review DRAFT](#)
- [MHC Regional Housing Implementation Plan Executive Summary](#)

As always, meeting summaries, partner updates, resources, and pertinent info can be viewed on the MHC website: <https://mountainhousingcouncil.org>. For current information, follow us on [Facebook](#).



Lamson-Cashion Trail and History Hub after light dusting of snow (DSCN2046.jpg).



**Donner Summit Association (DSA) Core Action Team Meeting
Thursday, November 18, 2021 5-6 PM
Virtual Meeting Hosted from Sugar Bowl, Norden, CA**



Trapped vehicle in Castle Valley after the 'atmospheric river' storm of October 24-25 (DSCN2075.JPG). Two weeks later the truck was gone although there was still 2-3 feet of snow on the road.

Motions and votes are given in *italics*; action items are in **red bold**. For various reasons, the minutes below do not reflect the strict chronological order of discussions during the meeting.

1. Welcome:

The meeting was called to order by Pat Malberg at 5:01 PM.

Core Action Team (DSA Board) Attendees: Jordan Knighton, Pat Malberg, Bill Oudegeest, Chris Parker, Dick Simpson, Mike Spain, John Svahn, Beth Tanhoff, and Krista Voosen.

Others: Tom Denzler (DSA CFO/Treasurer), Tim Kustic (SLPOA), Nick Martin (Placer County), and Jeffrey Thorsby (Nevada County).

2. Approval of Agenda:

Chris moved and Dick seconded approval of the agenda. The motion was carried unanimously (MSC-U).

3. Approval of Minutes:

MSC-U (Bill, Dick) to approve the October meeting minutes.

4. Treasurer's Report (Tom):

Monthly Report: Tom said October was another quiet month. DSA paid \$2500 for final paving at the Summit and a lesser amount for the seasonal portable toilet. There were a few donations. Tom and Beth are following up now that the extension for filing tax returns has been approved.

5. Fundraising (Beth):

Beth thinks having an 'event' tied to an on-line auction makes the latter more attractive. Pat suggested more discussion over the holidays.

6. Mountain Housing Council (Beth):

Beth missed the quarterly MHC meeting at the end of October.

There has been an emergency proclamation about threats to quality of life in the community resulting from lack of affordable housing. MHC is seeking long-term solutions.

A doctor from UC Davis discussed protection of housing from wildfires in a webinar. A developer is trying to construct affordable housing on a parcel on Donner Pass Road opposite Soda Springs Road. Sugar Bowl is closing on the purchase of Kingvale Lodge, which will provide additional employee housing.

Placer County: The Board of Supervisors (BoS) voted on amendments to housing regulations regarding housing density, tiny homes, and other issues. One goal is to promote public transit so workers don't have to travel so far to reach their jobs. There were objections to some of the amendments on grounds they would make Placer County too much like southern California. The BoS will vote February 22 on short-term rental (STR) ordinance changes. Nick noted that a County-wide flash survey on STR issues was winding up; results can be found at

<https://www.flashvote.com/placer-ca/surveys/rentals-input-11-21>

Nevada County: Jeffrey didn't see any meetings on housing coming up in his calendar. Bill and Beth received a notice from Nevada County about a proposal restricting camping in the County's Scenic Corridor Combining Districts (see Attachment A). Comments are due by December 10. Jeffrey said DSA could comment as an organization or as individuals. Enforcement would fall to the Sheriff. John said USFS is working on its own position regarding camping in Van Norden Meadow; the ordinance would apply only to property under County jurisdiction, which would include Nevada County's right-of-way along Old Donner Pass Road. Mike said Soda Springs Mountain Resort sees a lot of people who just park in the resort's lots after hours (usually Lot 3). Then Soda Springs is challenged by code enforcement officials because such camping violates its County use permit. John said 'no camping' signs have to cite a penal code section for enforcement to be effective. **Pat will collect opinions by December 3 and draft a letter to the County if that appears to be the Board's preferred action.** Mike suggested that a position statement would be more effective than calling out past problems.

7. Bridge and Road Work Status (Mike):

Mike said the new bridge on Soda Springs Road is done. Paving and guard rails have been completed, and the dirt parking lots are ready for winter use. Road striping will be completed Monday. Some pavement testing may still be needed; this could be something that will be wrapped up in the spring.

Pat said most paving into driveways along Donner Pass Road (DPR) is done. Striping in the Sugar Bowl parking lot has been completed. Mike agreed that the DPR work is finished for this year; but Pat said she waited 20 minutes to get through one section today for no apparent reason. Tom said concrete around manholes is still being poured.

Jeffrey said Nevada County has a new public works director; he will try to get the new director to join in a future meeting. Pat said an update on DPR plans for the east side of Donner Pass would be appreciated.

8. Reports from Ongoing Projects, and Proposals for New Projects:

- a. Shed II: Bill has prepared The Shed and surrounding area for winter. Visitors are looking at the exhibits, and there has been almost no trash to pick up. Pat said lots of people were parked at The Hub yesterday afternoon.

b. Recreation Master Plan (RMP):

- 1) New Placer County TOT Grant Request: Bill presented DSA's proposal to the Placer County TOT Committee. He handed out copies of the RMP; the cover had been modified to include Placer County and TOT Cap Comm logos. He and Pat thought it went very well; there were few questions following the presentation, but a couple people came up afterwards with what appeared to be favorable comments. The Committee was deciding on recommendations at the same time as the DSA Board was meeting. Insider information suggested that the DSA proposal had received the fifth highest points in the preliminary evaluation, but late word indicated that only \$34K in new funding would be recommended to the BoS.

Bill said he has been having fun completing reimbursement requests and quarterly reports for past grants; but he is willing to share this fun if the new funding is approved. No one stepped forward immediately, but John made an offer later that might be interpreted as interest. Dick asked whether someone is in line to do the web work; Pat said her contact in Yosemite (who has also done a Mammoth Mountain web site) had provided enough information to make a cost estimate; but we have until March to choose someone to do the DSA work. The budget for the web upgrade is \$15K; but it may not have been funded if the TOT Committee recommendation noted above is correct.

- 2) Stantec: Stantec had estimated that it would take \$44K to complete their work on the RMP. There were questions about who would be drafting a statement of work for Stantec and who would follow up with Stantec to make sure the work was completed. **Chris will touch base with Bill and Pat; John said he would be happy to work on Stantec issues.**
- 3) DSA Revisions: Pat said we have some time to get the updated RMP onto the web site. Dick is ready to get back to revising the inventory section; but he needs feedback from Chris, Kevin (Starr), and Katie (Mansfield) and he has no way to edit the Stantec maps. Pat doesn't think we need a lot more. Bill said we told Stantec what we were proposing, and they agreed to the \$44K cost estimate. Bill said he would be uncomfortable going back to the TOT Committee a third time for additional money; but he has the ability to do layout if someone else provides content. **Chris will distribute a list of outstanding issues tomorrow.** Pat suggested sharing the TOT application, which even she has not seen in final form. **Bill will send the PDF to Dick, who will distribute it to his list.** Bill said he found it interesting

that competitors for Placer County TOT funds included both the federal government and the State of California.

- 4) RMP Comments from Web Site, etc.: There was no discussion of this topic.
- c. Graffiti: Tim has moved liquids (paint, Graffiti Barrier, etc.) from The Shed to his garage, where they can be kept from freezing.

9. Internal Matters:

- a. Future Meetings: Pat suggested that the Board continue to hold its meetings on the second Thursday of each month; there were no objections. She would like to resume face-to-face meetings as soon as possible; Chris, Mike, and Nancy Oudegeest have offered venues.
- b. Next Meeting: December 9 will be a holiday party (starting at 5 PM) at Nancy O's; the business portion of the meeting will be brief. Attendees don't need to bring anything; Pat will handle those arrangements. A few kids will be present. Pat would like to have a discussion of the benefits to be derived from a Donner Summit Visitor Center (VC). Jeffrey noted that Nevada County is very mindful about the Stantec report and that \$500K is potentially available to support VC construction. The County is looking to develop a master recreation plan for the entire county; it would be nice to have a strategy for getting Donner Summit opportunities into the plan. Pat asked whether Jeffrey could ask Supervisor Bullock whether he has ideas for Donner Summit. Chris said he talked to the Supervisor recently, and he was very supportive of pushing forward with a Summit initiative.

10. Announcements

Summit Dumpster and Toilet Support: Pat thanked Placer County for providing both during the past summer season. Nick noted that there are possibilities for continuing a dumpster during winter; but complications introduced by snow have to be considered.

Pines to Mines Trail: John announced that this project, which involves a number of organizations and government agencies, has taken a big step forward. Jeffrey said the Nevada County BoS has agreed to fund the required NEPA study for this trail which would connect Nevada with the western foothills. Chris said Truckee Trails Foundation will coordinate the effort; he will sign the necessary documents on behalf of TTF. John added that Truckee Donner Land Trust is working on funding to acquire five sections around Truckee to enhance trails in the area.

Swag: Beth has found a photographer who will take pictures of merchandise that can be posted on the DSA web site. **Naomi (Plasterer) will update the web site; Dick will alert Forrest (Smith).**

Forelorn Hope Reprise: There will be a 'phase 2' — the ultra-athletes who went from Truckee to the Central Valley early this year will recreate the journey of the rescue party in February 2022, going from Johnson Ranch to Donner Lake. Dick asked about private property issues that came up during the first phase; Bill said those have been worked for Phase 2.

Sierra Club Huts: Pat noted that the Sierra Club has closed and locked Benson Hut; a sign warning of the closure has been posted at the PCT South trailhead. Dick added that Ludlow Hut (off the west side of Lake Tahoe) is also closed and locked. However, the Sierra Club is in the process of opening Peter Grubb and Bradley Huts for limited operations this winter. Reservations will be required (<https://www.clairtappaanlodge.com/backcountry-huts>).

Royal Gorge Anniversary: Pat noted that a group from Serene Lakes is preparing a celebration of the 50th anniversary of Royal Gorge in late spring. Maureen Bragdon and Lorrie Poch are leading the effort.

11. Adjournment:

There being no other business, Pat adjourned the meeting at 6:12PM.

Minutes approved by the DSA Board of Directors at its meeting on December 9, 2021.

signed by DSA Secretary, Richard Simpson, _____



COUNTY OF NEVADA
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AGENCY
PLANNING DEPARTMENT

950 MAIDU AVENUE, SUITE 170 NEVADA CITY, CA 95959-8617
(530) 265-1222 FAX (530) 265-9851 <http://mynevadacounty.com>

Trisha Tillotson
Community Development Agency Director

Brian Foss
Planning Director

Date: November 10, 2021
To: Interested Parties
From: Nevada County Planning Department
Subject: **Proposed Zoning Code Amendments Related to Camping Outside of Established Campgrounds (PLN21-0292; ORD21-2)**

To Whom It May Concern,

Based on direction from the Board of Supervisors and in consultation with the United States Forest Service (USFS), Nevada County Community Development Agency, and Nevada County Sheriff's Department, Planning Staff has prepared a public review draft of a zoning text amendment that would restrict camping in our Scenic Corridor Combining Districts outside of established campgrounds and those areas approved by Use Permit, and prohibit camping in the public road right of way and on county properties. The USFS and County Staff reviewed this draft language on November 4, 2021 and approved the proposed amendments for public review and comment. Attached is a track changes version of the draft ordinance for your review and comment. **Please provide your comments in writing to the address listed below by 5:00 p.m. on December 10, 2021;** email is acceptable.

Thank you for your input,

Kyle Smith, Associate Planner
950 Maidu Ave. Suite 170, Nevada City, CA 95959
Kyle.smith@co.nevada.ca.us
ph: (530) 265-1610

Enclosure

Proposed Zoning Code Amendments Related to Camping Outside of Established Campgrounds (PLN21-0292; ORD21-2)

Sec. L-II 2.7.7 Scenic Corridor Combining District (SC)

- A. **Purpose.** To protect and preserve the scenic resources of areas which are adjacent to highways and roads which have been identified as having high scenic quality and requiring protection for the benefit of residents and visitors.
- B. **District Regulations.** In any district with which the SC District is applied, the land use regulations of the base district shall apply unless otherwise made more restrictive in this Article. The boundaries of the SC District shall be defined by the zoning district map based on an adopted scenic corridor study.
- C. **Applicability.** The provisions of this Section shall apply to all Development Permits, Use Permits, and subdivisions. Where an adopted Area Plan or Specific Plan includes specific scenic corridor standards for the subject property, the adopted Plan standards shall take precedence.
- D. The following standards shall apply to all applicable projects within the Scenic Corridor
1. A Scenic Corridor Analysis shall be required for all applicable development. The Analysis shall be submitted on forms provided by the Planning Department and shall describe the scenic and/or historic resources of the project setting, how the development will ensure compatibility with the scenic nature of the surrounding area, and how it will minimize impacts to identified scenic resources. If a Scenic Corridor Study has been adopted for the subject corridor, the Analysis must be consistent with the adopted study.
 2. Solid fencing within the front yard setback is prohibited. Fencing within the scenic corridor shall be landscaped to buffer its view from the roadway or adjacent properties. The scale, color, and materials used should be compatible with the site and surrounding viewsheds.
 3. All structures and improvements shall comply with Section 4.2 Community Design Standards.
 4. Signs shall be designed to ensure compatibility with the scenic and natural character of the area. Monument signs shall be constructed with natural materials in colors compatible with the natural surroundings. No internally lit or neon-type signs shall be allowed.
 5. Required parking shall not be allowed within the front yard setback.
 6. Required landscaping may be increased up to 50% if needed to ensure the aesthetic quality of the proposed development.
 7. All development shall be clustered in such a manner to ensure that impacts to the scenic corridor are minimized. Proposed parcels within a subdivision shall be clustered away from the corridor.
 8. The front yard setbacks established for the base district shall be considered a minimum and shall be reviewed for conformity with the form and aesthetics of the corridor.
- E. **Approval.** The action taken by the Planning Agency shall be final unless appealed to the Board of Supervisors in accordance with Section 5.12.
- F. The following uses shall not be permitted within the Scenic Corridor Combining District: overnight occupancy by any person or persons in any campsite, tent, vehicle, or trailer except within those areas officially designated as campgrounds or camps or areas designated by special use permit by Nevada County.

Chapter 4 Article 5 ~~Reserved~~ County Property and Right of Way Prohibitions

Sec. G-IV 5.1 County Property and Right of Way Prohibitions

- A. No camping, use of camp facilities, use of camp paraphernalia, warming fires, cooking fires, or cooking devices are allowed on County right of way, including but not limited to public highways, roadway shoulders, sidewalks, bicycle paths, unless otherwise designated by the enforcement official.
- B. No camping, use of camp facilities, use of camp paraphernalia are allowed on County Property, unless otherwise designated by the enforcement official.



Donner Summit Association (DSA) Core Action Team Meeting
Thursday, December 9, 2021 5-6 PM
In-person Meeting Hosted by Nancy O Gallery and Glass, Soda Springs, CA



Castle Peak from Russell Kustic's first bench, Royal Gorge (DSCN2216.JPG).

Motions and votes are given in *italics*; action items are in **red bold**. For various reasons, the minutes below do not reflect the strict chronological order of discussions during the meeting.

1. Welcome:

The meeting was called to order by Pat Malberg at 5:20 PM.

Core Action Team (DSA Board) Attendees: Mark Himmelstein, Pat Malberg, Bill Oudegeest, Chris Parker, Dick Simpson, and Beth Tanhoff.

Others: Tom Denzler (DSA CFO/Treasurer), Nancy Oudegeest, Naomi Plasterer (DSA web design), Ann Reisenauer, and Andrew Schwartz (Central Sierra Snow Lab).

2. Approval of Agenda:

Dick moved and Mark seconded approval of the agenda. The motion was carried unanimously (MSC-U).

3. Approval of Minutes:

MSC-U (Dick, Chris) to approve the November meeting minutes.

4. Treasurer's Report (Tom):

Monthly Report: Tom had distributed a set of spreadsheets before the meeting. November was another quiet month. Beth has been contributing \$55 dollars from each of her real estate sales to DSA; there was a round of thanks. Pat asked whether Tom could provide his reports in a different format; she has difficulty printing and studying the spreadsheets. Tom will run some tests to see what works better.

5. Confirm Endorsements by E-mail Since the November Meeting

Pat was asked by Sierra Business Council to write a letter supporting their position on congressional redistricting. SBC would like to see the eastern parts of Nevada, Placer, and El Dorado Counties in one district. Pat did an e-mail poll and found a majority of Board members in favor; she could not reach the others. No one was opposed, and no one objected during this meeting.

Pat was asked by South Yuba River Citizens League to write a letter supporting their grant request which will be used for habitat restoration in the Van Norden Meadow area. She did another e-mail poll and found no one opposed; no one voiced objections at this meeting either.

Both letters have been sent.

6. DSHS Donation

Bill said a major donor has offered funds for a project at the Donner Summit Historical Society. DSHS has been working on a financial shoestring, and it has not had any projects of this scale waiting for funding. Bill has suggested using the donation for a clean-up of the Museum, and the DSHS Board has agreed that would be a good idea. Norm Sayler, owner of the property, has given his OK.

Bill imagines that the donation would be used to reorganize DSHS holdings and refurbish the Museum. Everything would be moved out, then the most attractive items would be returned, possibly as a set of rotating displays. He could see a couple computer terminals which would allow visitors to browse the image collection (which is now on-line) and print copies they would like to take away. He noted that the floor is warped and that there is no insulation;

Roger Drosd is a building inspector, and he has offered to provide suggestions. **Bill will follow up with Roger.**

Bill mentioned that Nevada County has set aside \$500K for a visitor center (VC) at Donner Summit; Jeffrey Thorsby repeatedly reminds DSA that the funds are available. It is not clear what constraints would be applied, but using some of the \$500K to convert part of the Museum to a visitor center is a possibility. Bill wondered whether DSA would be interested in pursuing the renovation and conversion in a partnership with DSHS. The Board agreed in principle.

Nancy has been operating her Gallery as a part-time visitor center. She said there have not been a lot of visitors; but the traffic has been noticeable. Her impression is that the people who drop in are looking for personal attention; in many case, they have simply not seen the signs advertising businesses like the Store. Visitor questions include: Where is the Store? Where are there rest rooms? Where are the tunnels? Where is the DSHS Museum? Where is the parking (for snow play)?

A couple years ago DSA was on the verge of applying for Placer County funds to purchase (and renovate) Tinkers Station; but the Board couldn't develop a plan for operations and maintenance, so aborted the effort. Some of Nevada County's VC money would have been used. Norm Sayler already owns the DSHS unit; so there may be more margin in this new proposal.

Discussion followed on additional facilities — several people thought that offering a coffee service would be an attractant, though there are permit and code issues to solve. Naomi suggested parking a food truck in the front so that the Museum itself would not need food service permits. Chris cautioned that there are maintenance issues — not every day will be warm, sunny, and filled with happy visitors; and you have to worry that the coffee machine might freeze on bad days. Bill said that depending on volunteer staffing is fraught with problems; the museum in the railroad station in Truckee is supposed to be open seven days per week per its funding grant; but the operators have only been able to recruit enough volunteers to staff it three days per week. Selling DSA swag was suggested as a revenue maker; but it won't pay for staffing.

7. Reports from Ongoing Projects, and Proposals for New Projects:

- a. Status of the TOT Grant Application: Pat had forwarded an e-mail saying that completion of the Recreation Master Plan (TMP) was being recommended to the Board of Supervisors for \$34.4K but that \$15K requested for putting the RMP information on the web site was not going

forward. Dick said the application was not very specific about what Stantec would do to complete the RMP and that it would be desirable to have a work statement with Stantec about what would be covered. Chris said that is a topic of ongoing conversations. Dick then noted that he has had conversations with a neighbor in Serene Lakes about what the web work would entail; he hoped to talk with Naomi on the same subject after this meeting. He thinks it may be possible to move forward on the web upgrade without the \$15K, though the leap would be smaller. This could obviously fall within the scope of the existing Web/Computer Committee (Dick, Pat, Beth, and Naomi).



Nancy O Gallery and Glass after the December meeting (DSCN2243.JPG)

- b. Graffiti: Mitzi Hodges distributed an e-mail to the Board and interested others about a week before the meeting. She asked about enforcement of graffiti bans and then suggested that there may be more effective ways to discourage tagging than simply painting over the marks. Several in the meeting voiced agreement. Ann said she had seen a news article recently about using plants (e.g., ivy) to cover exposed surfaces, making them harder to tag. Chris suggested contacting Colleen Dalton of Visit Truckee Tahoe; she has thought about these things and is funded to work on such problems. **Pat said she would seek an appointment with Colleen.** Nancy added that petroglyphs around Donner Summit have been threatened by graffiti and wondered whether enlisting help from Native American communities might be useful.

review recent activities and plan future initiatives. Chris will lead the discussions. Beth and Pat will provide food.

10. Announcements

- a. Forest/Fire: Pat mentioned FOREST⇌FIRE, which is an inter-disciplinary, multi-sensory installation connecting art, the humanities and science. It debuts at the Truckee Community Recreation Center Friday, December 10, 5-7 PM.
<https://wildfiretoday.com/2021/11/29/interpretive-exhibit-about-forests-and-fire-opens-in-truckee-california-december-10-2021/>

Bob Hambrecht is a full-time resident at Sugar Bowl. He is looking for ways to coordinate forest fire and forest management on Donner Summit (see Attachment B). He is seeking interest from DSA, which the Board agreed to supply.

- b. Merchandise: Beth said the DSA virtual store is back in operation (<https://www.donnersummitca.com/shop>). Naomi has updated the web site using pro bono photographs. Shipping prices are changing, but everything else seems to be ready.
- c. Forelorn Hope Reprise: There will be a 'phase 2' — the ultra-athletes who went from Truckee to the Central Valley early this year will recreate the journey of the rescue party on February 14-18, 2022, going from Johnson Ranch to Donner Lake.

11. Adjournment:

There being no other business, Pat adjourned the meeting at 6:21 PM.

Minutes approved by the DSA Board of Directors at its meeting on January 13, 2022.

signed by DSA Secretary, Richard Simpson, _____

Attachment A



DSA Core Action Team

*Mark Himelstein
Jordan Knighton
Pat Malberg, President
Bill Oudegeest, V. Pres.
Chris Parker
Dick Simpson, Secy.
Mike Spain
John Svahn
Beth Tanhoff
Krista Voosen*

P. O. Box 674
Soda Springs, CA. 95728
December 9, 2021

Kyle Smith, Associate Planner
(Kyle.smith@co.nevada.ca.us)
Nevada County Planning Department
950 Maidu Ave. – Suite 170
Nevada City, CA. 95959

Re: Proposed Zoning Code Amendments Related to Camping Outside of
Established Campgrounds (PLN21-0292; ORD21-2)

Others

*Tom Denzler, Treas.
Beth Tanhoff, Admin.*

Dear Mr. Smith:

Thank you for your note of November 10 advising of the proposed zoning code amendments.

Insofar as camping within the Scenic Corridor Combining District at Donner Summit can have negative impacts on resident, visitor, and property owner experiences, health, and safety, the Donner Summit Association endorses the proposed Amendments described in your letter. This position was adopted at the DSA Board of Directors meeting earlier today.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Richard A. Simpson, Secretary
Donner Summit Association

The Donner Summit Association is nonprofit public benefit corporation organized to provide education, advocacy and opportunities to strengthen and protect the fragile alpine environment, culture, heritage and future of the Donner Summit Area, and to carry on other charitable activities associated with this purpose as allowed by law.

DONNER SUMMIT ASSOCIATION
P.O. BOX 674, SODA SPRINGS, CA 95728

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

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Attachment B

To: Patricia Malberg <pmalberg@tgc.org>
Subject: Donner Summit Fire Management Idea
Date: Dec 9, 2021 9:58 AM

Patricia,

We were introduced I think through Chris Parker last year and then met briefly during a summit clean up session, as we were working with Peter Mayfield. I've been meaning to track you down regarding this idea for a couple of years, but only now am getting some traction. I have been looking for ways to coordinate fire and forest management on Donner summit. I have gotten to know a software company called Vibrant Planet (<https://www.vibrantplanet.net/>) that models forests at a very detailed level and then creates modeling tools for understanding fire risk and how forest treatments and forest management can help address those risks. They have just completed a project in the Middle Truckee Watershed working with the Truckee River Watershed Council which includes the entire watershed down the 89 corridor and around Truckee. That work has resulted in a broad plan which identifies key areas where forest treatments are needed and is a great planning tool at a "landscape scale".

I have been convinced that this kind of tool can be super helpful at a community level and have wanted to focus on Donner Summit. Vibrant Planet, given the economics of how they collect and map the data, would like to map the entire Tahoe National Forest, including Donner Summit, and has garnered support from the USFS to do that. We together recently talked to the Tahoe Truckee Community Foundation about supporting that work, along with a community-level project on the Summit. That process would involve getting the main players on the summit into a room to look at a model, track the work being done/in process and develop an integrated plan that could mitigate fire risk across the summit.

Obviously you could be a critical player in this work, and I would love your thoughts on who should be involved. I was thinking of SLOPA, the Land Trust, Sugar Bowl, the Forest Service, CalFire and I am sure there are a number of others as well. I know each of these groups is doing a fair amount of work already - am I wrong to think that some kind of broader, inclusive analysis would help assure that they are all aligned?

I'd like to get a critical mass of folks to support the idea, and maybe a few entities to agree to fund a portion of the work, in order to get the wheels turning. Or maybe this work is already being done? I'd love to find time for a quick chat about the idea, if nothing else to see if I'm not crazy.

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Robert Hambrecht
bob.hambrecht@gmail.com
c: 415 608 4581
skype: bobham66