



DSA Core Action Team

Tom Denzler, CFO
Elissa Hambrecht
Pat Malberg, President
Bill Oudegeest, V. Pres.
Chris Parker
Dick Simpson, Secy
Mike Spain
John Svahn
Beth Tanhoff

Others

Beth Tanhoff, Admin.

Core Action Team (Board) Meeting

Thursday, October 16, 2025 4:30-5:50 PM

Sugar Bowl: Village Hall (Snowshed Room)¹

Agenda

1. Welcome
2. Approval of Agenda
3. Approval of September minutes (Attachment A)
4. Financial Report (Tom)
5. County/Other Reports
 - a. Nevada County (Shavati Karki-Pearl)
 - b. Truckee CCC (Pat)
 - c. Placer County (Audrey Vaughan)
6. New/Ongoing Projects
 - a. October Films at Tunnels (Dick)
 - b. Gould Park/Campground/Trail Day (Pat)
 - c. Logo (Dick)
 - d. Summit Fest (Beth)
 - e. Reprinting Brochures (Bill, Pat)
7. Internal Matters
 - a. Admin Support/Reorganization (Dick)
 - b. Calendar (future meetings)
 - i. Confirm November 20 at TBD
8. Announcements (Pat, others)
 - a. Forestry tour — postponed (Dick)
9. Donner Summit Economic Round Table (Kimberly Parker)
 - a. Starts at 5:00 PM
 - b. Ends at 5:50 PM
10. Adjournment

Donner Summit Town Hall (starts at 6 PM, Judah Lodge)

- a. Starts at 6 PM at Judah Lodge
- b. See <https://www.donnersummitca.com/latest-news>

¹ See page 2 of this agenda



Venue:



This meeting will be in-person at Sugar Bowl's Village Hall — home of the Sugar Bowl Ski Team. Park on the top level of the Sugar Bowl garage on Donner Pass Road, then take the gondola to the Village. Exit the gondola building and proceed to the right (see map). The meeting will be in the Snowshed room on the 2nd floor (to the right) of the Village Hall.



Remote Connection: If there is a remote connection, it will be via a personal mobile phone or tablet, set up in real time; quality will be marginal:

Join Zoom Meeting

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Donner Summit Association (DSA) Core Action Team Meeting
Thursday, September 18, 2025 5-6 PM
In-person meeting at Soda Springs Mountain Resort



Modular housing units, temporarily stored in the parking lots at Soda Springs Mountain Resort (DSCN8541.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 at 5:10 PM by Pat Malberg, who requested that attendees introduce themselves. There was no Zoom connection.

Core Action Team (DSA Board) Attendees: Tom Denzler, Pat Malberg, Bill Oudegeest, Dick Simpson, Mike Spain, and Beth Tanhoff.

Others: Steve Carle (Serene Lakes Property Owners Association) and Kari Sinoff (Sierra Business Council).

2. Approval of the Agenda:

Dick asked to add one item to the agenda under County/Other reports — an update from Kari Sinoff about bringing broadband to Donner Summit. Bill asked to add a second “brochure” topic.

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

3. Approval of Minutes from the August Meeting:

MSC (Dick/Mike) to approve the August meeting minutes. Bill, who did not attend the August meeting, abstained.

4. Financial Report (Tom):

Monthly Report: Tom distributed a report prior to the meeting; he said there were only a few things worthy of note. Insurance premiums have almost doubled in the past two years. Tom acknowledged that insurance costs have risen everywhere, but he thinks we should investigate alternatives. Dick suggested talking to Dennis Fisco, who helped SLPOA find less expensive insurance. Tom noted an occasionally repeating donation from American Online Giving Foundation; he does not know where this originates. He also said that DSA's license for QuickBooks (\$115/month) has expired; he has located TechSoup, Intuit's QuickBooks for non-profits. It appears to offer similar functionality and costs only \$80/year. **Tom will investigate further.**

DSA Swag: Tom and Dick chatted with Mitzi Hodges this afternoon about "merchandise". She suggested using the Soda Springs General Store for local sales. For on-line sales, Mitzi knows of vendors who not only create the products but also receive orders, collect payment, and handle shipping. They want a cut of the sale, but this works for many small operations like DSA. Mitzi will try to learn more from a contact in Reno. Tom noted that DSA has considered rewarding donors with swag; but "rewards" must have small value compared to the donation. It is possible that DSA's new Administrative Assistant would be willing to handle merchandise; but the tax reporting is considerable for any sale activity we do in-house, and that is one reason we are looking for alternatives.

5. County and Other Reports:

Nevada County: There was no representative from Nevada County present, so there was no official report. However, Pat said Kimberley Parker wants to develop the economy at Donner Summit, and Supervisor Hardy Bullock is onboard with that idea. Jessica Penman (Truckee Chamber of Commerce) and Jackie Calvert (Visit Truckee Tahoe) are also enthusiastic. Kimberly also told Pat that there is increased interest in "filming" at Donner Summit; permitting this would increase the frequency of road closures, and that could draw negative response from locals. There was consensus that devoting time to the economic development question at the October 16th Board meeting

might be worthwhile; in fact, preliminary plans to do this have already been made. Pat thinks this would be a good meeting to schedule at Sugar Bowl; **she will check with Chris**. Dick thought Truckee might be more convenient for attendees, so **Beth will check availability of her office**.

Convene, Champion, and Catalyze Forum Report: There was no meeting in September, so there is nothing to report.

Placer County: There was no representative from Placer County, so there was no report.

Nevada County Broadband Grant: Nevada County has approved a Last Mile Broadband Grant application for Oasis Broadband to provide high-speed fixed-wireless internet service on Donner Summit, reaching approximately 120 connections. The project will deliver minimum speeds of 300/100 Mbps using Tarana technology. Oasis has already identified multiple access points and is seeking an additional site to extend service into the Serene Lakes area. They have contacted Sugar Bowl to schedule a meeting about potential locations. Kari Sinoff suggested it would be helpful for Oasis Broadband to attend the DSA October 16 economic development-focused meeting to give an overview of the project and answer questions. Dick recalled hearing that AT&T was wiring Sugar Bowl for high-speed internet, worth noting as this moves forward.

6. Ongoing Projects

Railroad Tunnel/Chinese Camp Celebrations: Nothing new.

October Films: October Films is producing a six-part documentary for CNN in time for the 250th anniversary of the USA; one part will be about opening the West. Kimberly Parker referred them to Dick for information about access to the railroad tunnels. Dick put them in touch with Ted Gong who provided a contact in the Roseville UPRR office. The filming is tentatively planned for about a 10-day window in mid-October.

Gould Park/Campground: Pat heard from Marc Henry that the walking trail on the north side of the Yuba River has been marked. Dick and Pat have visited the site and concluded that the trail is consistent with the concepts discussed earlier with Placer County Parks. The trail through the “ruins” is a little hard to follow, but the work needed to make it attractive should not be large. Toward the bridge, the route goes through thick brush, and that would be more difficult to improve. Pat suggested a DSA “work day” to make some improvements; but Bill wanted more commitment from the County in terms of signage and other improvements before doing the work. **Pat will talk to Erika Seward about County “commitment”**; in the meantime, a work day was tentatively scheduled for October 11 10 AM to noon.

CSSL Visitor/Snow Center: Dick said that he and Beth had discussed (separately) a proposal from Andrew Schwartz, lead scientist and manager of the Central Sierra Snow Laboratory, to construct a “snow” visitor center. This is in response to an increasing number of requests from educators who would like to bring students to CSSL to learn what happens there and what its researchers study. Andrew imagines a new (or expanded) building which would be mostly for research but which could accommodate visitors. Andrew has asked whether DSA would support such a proposal. Dick offered Andrew time on the October agenda to make a presentation; but that now conflicts with the “economic development” theme proposed for October (see above). Pat wondered whether Andrew could offer a tour of the existing facilities to DSA; **Dick will inquire.**

DSA Logo: Dick is concerned that DSA is losing control over its logos; he suggested that we register at least the one that says “Donner Summit Association”. The “Donner Summit California” version has appeared on DSA swag for years; and it appeared unexpectedly on the recently published “Serene Lakes Hiking Map”. Mike said that Soda Springs’ “Planet Kids” facility has recently been challenged by someone who has registered that name, so there is logic behind registering names, logos, trademarks, etc. Searching for conflicts is part of the registration process, which can be educational aside from its legal value.

There are several options for registering — nationally or by state, two logos versus one, using a web service rather than finding and filling out the government forms, etc. **Dick will continue to investigate with the expectation that some sort of registration will follow.** The Board agreed that no decision on how to proceed was needed until we have more information on procedure, costs, etc.

Bill noted that the hiking map is part of a memorial to a woman who was killed by a drunken driver. Her family is using the project as part of their grieving process. He said that the DSA Board should approve any outreach to the family or map publisher (greeninfo.org).

Flower Brochure: At the last meeting there was some confusion about reprinting SLPOA’s flower brochure with the DSA logo. Those questions have been resolved; there is no objection from either SLPOA or George Lamson and Linda Cashion, who created the original brochure. Pat asked how much it would cost to reprint the brochure, but this led to the next topic.

Other Brochures: Bill has been ordering replacements for all brochures that are available at The Hub; in two cases, he has added the DSA logo prior to the new printing. He was expecting to be reimbursed by DSA, but that has not happened. He thought all of the approvals had been granted. Pat noted

that the original brochures were funded by the Donner Summit Historical Society, and she thinks that it would be appropriate for DSA to pick up the costs of the new printings.

The discussion then turned to costs for printing. Bill said costs depend on the quantities ordered and the complexity of the brochure — that is, a brochure with more panels costs more than a simple brochure. Tom noted that the brochures being distributed don't refer potential donors to DSA — some have the DSA logo, but the only contact information is the DSHS web site URL. Mike noted that Soda Springs used to print 20,000 brochures for the ski resort; but they are now posting QR codes and the demand for hard copy brochures has dropped to where he thinks 3000 may be sufficient. **Bill will determine which brochures need to be reprinted. Pat will research printing costs in the past.**

SummitFest: Chase Cambron and Elissa Hambrecht were doing a lot of volunteer work, but both have been sidelined; so Beth is looking for more volunteers — especially for point-of-sale and food service work. Tom delivered beer today; it is being chilled in the Soda Springs refrigerator. Donors have contributed many “amazing” items for the auctions. Mike expects the housing modules, which have been sitting in Soda's parking lots for a couple weeks (see photo, page 1), to be mostly out of the way by Saturday. Sinclair Broadcasting contacted Dick about an interview regarding the event; Beth volunteered, but the timing was short and nothing could be arranged for this year.

7. Internal Matters

Admin Support: Dick has contacted Helen Lummis, who appears to be a great match for the DSA Administrator job. She will be doing similar work for SLPOA. **He will continue negotiations with Helen regarding the job description, compensation, etc.** — perhaps leading to a DSA Board e-vote on a contract before the October 16th meeting.

Work Day at The Shed: Both Pat and Beth recommended a work day at The Shed. Rodents have attacked some of the items stored there, and there needs to be a general clean-up and reorganization. Workers should wear gloves and dust masks. But nothing was scheduled.

Future Meetings: The next meeting will be October 16; **Pat will try to schedule Sugar Bowl with Chris.** If the parties can agree, there will be a round table discussion on economic health and development at Donner Summit (see Section 5, paragraph 1, above).

Media Cooperation: Bill asked whether DSA would be interested in a free ad in the next SLPOA newsletter. Dick noted that Kathy Neuberger had

approached him with a related inquiry a couple weeks ago; Kathy edits during summer, and Bill edits during winter. **Dick offered to put something together for the October 1 deadline**, promoting DSA's News web page. Bill suggested that we consider contributing something for the January issue, which goes to all Serene Lakes property owners, not just SLPOA members.

8. Computer/Web Site

Long-Term Digital Storage: For several meetings Mike has been prepared to give a training session on the Microsoft Office package that is available to DSA. But the meetings have run long, and the training has been postponed each time. Now he suggests a separate training session at a time that is mutually convenient to all of the interested parties. Dick suggested that Helen be included since she will be using some of the tools, and it makes sense to have her included as we transition administrative functions to a more consolidated platform. **Mike will follow up.**

Web Site: Dick said the "Shop" page has been closed temporarily while we decide how to proceed with swag sales. A pop-up function has been added; it is currently being used to remind visitors of SummitFest. He has received instructions on use from NextPixels; but he hasn't had a chance to try them. He will practice when he deactivates the SummitFest pop-up.

9. Announcements:

Forestry Tour: Pat and Dick received an invitation from Alisa Adriani, who requested a letter of support for a forestry grant proposal several months ago. She didn't get the grant; but she has obtained other funding and wanted to show what her family has been doing with the money. All attending (except Beth, who is too busy) expressed interest. Dick will contact Alisa about schedule.

10. Adjournment:

There being no other business, Pat adjourned the meeting at 6:59 PM.

Minutes approved by the DSA Board of Directors at its meeting on October 16, 2025.

signed by DSA Secretary, Richard Simpson, _____