



Donner Summit Association (DSA) Core Action Team Meeting

2025 Year in Review

TABLE OF CONTENTS

January 16, 2025	_____	2
February 20, 2025	_____	6
March 20, 2025	_____	11
April 17, 2025	_____	16
May 15, 2025	_____	23
June - No Meeting	_____	
July 17, 2025	_____	28
August 21, 2025	_____	36
September 18, 2025	_____	43
October 16, 2025	_____	49
November 20, 2025	_____	56
December 18, 2025	_____	62



Donner Summit Association (DSA) Core Action Team Meeting
Thursday, January 16, 2025 5-6 PM
In-person meeting at Soda Springs Mountain Resort



Donner Peak with Railroad Tunnels and Snow Sheds (DSCN7447.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 5:00 PM by Pat. Chris set up a phone connection, but no one connected.

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

Others: Steve Carle (SLPOA)

2. Approval of the Agenda:

Dick asked to remove “Holiday Party” from the agenda.

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

3. Approval of Minutes from the December Meeting:

MSC (Dick, Elissa) to approve the December meeting minutes.

4. Financial Report (Tom):

Tom distributed a summary financial report before the meeting. December was another quiet month.

At the December meeting, the Board asked Dick to look into publicizing Powdr Corp's Play Forever Fridays in *DSA News*; Dick has done that. Mike said both Soda Springs and Boreal parking lots are now overflowing with customers on Fridays and people are signing up a week ahead. Pat sent a thank you to Boreal for their donation from the program.

5. County Reports:

Nevada: There was no County representative present, so there was no report.

Placer: There will be a Donner Summit Municipal Advisory Committee (DSMAC) meeting next week. The agenda lists three topics of possible interest to people on the Summit. Dick has included the meeting in the latest *DSA News*. Bill said the Ice Lakes Lodge item is not a big deal; possible subdivision of the property has been public knowledge for a year. Proposed Cisco Grove Campground upgrades are less well known and potentially more interesting.

6. Ongoing Projects

West Van Norden Planning: Alecia Weisman asked for a sketch of the proposed site for a Nevada County Board of Supervisors discussion. There has been no news from that discussion.

Gould Park: Pat, Bill, and Dick met with Placer Parks Planning earlier today. Adding parking on the north side of the river would require additional studies and new approvals because of explicit restrictions in the 2004 approval. It was agreed to revise the vision/goals by moving several facilities to the south side of the river and striking mention of additional parking on the north side. DSA can propose incremental changes; larger changes could be aspirational and part of a larger proposal developed later — a “master plan” from which the specific upgrades that fit within the 2004 scope are implemented now.

Bill thinks the informational signs would cost \$2000 apiece, or slightly more. The proposed artists' corner should be described using 2004 language. JKAE will come back with a preliminary design as a pro bono project. Then DSA should come up with topics for the new signs; Bill suggested selecting topics at our next meeting. We could hold a community meeting to brief locals on plans. **Beth will see whether she can find names and addresses of nearby property owners.** We can bring plans to the DSMAC meeting next week to talk to Cisco Grove Campground representatives.

7. Computers and Web Site

Long-Term Digital Storage: Mike asked whether the six people he sent user names and temporary passwords had been able to access the Microsoft 365 system. Pat, Beth, and Tom have not tried yet. Bill wasn't able to get to the DSA system because he already has Microsoft 365; Mike said he needs to log out of his existing account before trying to connect to the new one. Dick hasn't been able to get past the multi-factor authentication (MFA) step because he doesn't have a smart phone. Mike said he has disabled MFA, but that doesn't seem to be making any difference. Mike would like to get Dick connected because Dick has more time and can help others; **Mike and Dick will continue researching these problems.**

Switch to WordPress: Dick said Jeannie and Forrest continue to work on the transition. Jeannie requested Stripe and Mailchimp account information, which Beth provided earlier today. Jeannie has also reordered some of the Adventure page information on the SquareSpace site so that winter activities come up first.

8. Internal Matters

2024 Accomplishments/2025 Goals: Pat led a discussion of DSA's 2024 accomplishments and goals for 2025; the discussion substitutes for the annual "tune-up" which has been held in recent years.

Pat's list of accomplishments (augmented by others) includes:

- Regular updates to the DSA web site *News* page.
- Web site upgrade supported by funding from Nevada County
- Continued and improved cooperation with Nevada and Placer counties.
- Meeting with Nevada County Supervisor Hardy Bullock.
- Meetings with Placer Parks (and its Parks Commission) at Gould Park
- National Historic Landmark designation of Summit Camp (a campaign initiated and led by the 1882 Foundation)
- Appointment of Elissa Hambrecht as a DSA Board member
- Completion of the June Summit Cleanup
- A successful September Summit Fest
- Securing Sugar Bowl help in removing tunnel graffiti

- Scheduling a Board meeting at Rainbow Lodge
- Supporting Nevada County's speed limit reduction on Donner Pass Road to 25 MPH
- Supporting construction of a new timber mill on Hwy 89 north of Truckee
- Publication of the final version of the Recreation Master Plan

Pat's list of goals for 2025, also augmented by others, includes:

- Progress on the Gould Park project.
- Outreach to more people in the Summit community.
- A June 7 Summit Cleanup (synchronized with Truckee's cleanup)
- A September 20 Summit Fest (avoids a similar event at Palisades Tahoe the following weekend)
- Completion of a 1-2 page 'letter' describing what DSA does.
- A couple paragraphs about DSA in the next SLPOA newsletter (Bill will do).
- Progress on the Overland Emigrant Trail
- Winter toilets and parking for climbers and backcountry skiers.
- Dog poop collection stations.

Future Meetings: Chris offered to host the next meeting at Sugar Bowl on February 20. He will find a suitable location — possibly in the Village Hall.

9. Announcements:

Chris is meeting with Erika Seward about trails and development at Sugar Bowl tomorrow.

Bill has been browsing newspapers from 1947; he noted that toilets and parking were issues then as they are now.

10. Adjournment:

There being no other business, Pat adjourned the meeting at 6:01 PM.

Minutes approved by the DSA Board of Directors at its meeting on February 20, 2025.

signed by DSA Secretary, Richard Simpson, _____



Donner Summit Association (DSA) Core Action Team Meeting
Thursday, February 20, 2025 5-6 PM
In-person meeting in the Snowshed Room at Village Hall, Sugar Bowl



Village Hall, Sugar Bowl (DSCN7590.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 5:02 PM by Pat Malberg. Chris Parker set up a Zoom connection.

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

Others: Steve Carle (SLPOA), Lindsay Romack (Placer County, by Zoom)

2. Approval of the Agenda:

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

3. Approval of Minutes from the January Meeting:

MSC-U (Dick, Elissa) to approve the January meeting minutes.

4. Financial Report (Tom):

Tom distributed a summary financial report before the meeting. January was another quiet month. There were \$700 in donations, including a \$500 donation from Tom's brother.

DSA had unspent funds in an account set up by Placer County for a project that has since been completed. The County asked about disposition of the remaining funds, and we have returned them.

Dick asked about billing from NextPixels for the web site transition; only \$30 was shown in the January report. Tom said an invoice for about \$1700 will show up in the February report.

5. County Reports:

Nevada: There was no County representative present, so there was no County report.

Bill provided Pat with notes from the Convene, Champion, and Catalyze (CCC) meeting on February 5. CCC is a leadership forum for sustainable Truckee. Bill, Pat, and Chris are members, but only Bill was able to attend. Bill learned that Nevada County will have two marijuana dispensaries; one will be in Soda Springs. Also discussed were attempts to get better travel on Donner Pass Road and I-80. Pat wondered whether DSA should include a separate CCC report in each agenda; both groups meet monthly, and CCC seems to touch topics that are of importance to The Summit. **Dick will add a CCC report to the next agenda.**

Placer: Lindsay Romack reported by Zoom. An item on the next Board of Supervisors (BoS) agenda (March 4) is a report from staff on the County's Housing Action Plan, which should be of interest to people at Donner Summit. Staff will take feedback from Supervisors and return a revised Plan; the final is expected to be adopted at the BoS meeting in May. The March 4 agenda will be posted at <https://www.placer.ca.gov/10065/2025> at least 72 hours before the meeting. Lindsay said the County is working to enable remote comments from its Tahoe City office in time for the March meeting.

Staff at the Community Development Resource Agency are working on the County's 2050 General Plan. To obtain community input, there will be workshops and surveys. One workshop will be in Kings Beach on April 30

starting at 5 PM (jointly with the Discover and Discuss event; see next paragraph). Two virtual workshops are scheduled — one on February 26 starting at 6 PM and another on April 5 starting at 10 AM. To learn more about the workshops and the Plan itself, go to <http://www.Placer2050.com>.

The Discover and Discuss event at the North Tahoe Event Center in Kings Beach will be 5-7:30 PM. Format will be in-person “open house” with stations where County staff and partners will answer questions and receive feedback on programs and other topics. Food, child care, and Spanish translation will be available.

Pat said the most recent Donner Summit Municipal Advisory Committee meeting drew very few people. Meetings are difficult to schedule, and she wondered whether they should be continued. Lindsay said there may be more virtual “town hall” meetings. Supervisor Gustafson held such a meeting last week; she was aware that there would be some scheduling changes. Town halls provide opportunities for community members to express opinions; but no votes are scheduled, so there are no Brown Act complications.

6. Ongoing Projects

Historic Sites, Plaques, etc.: Bill said three different groups are making plans to commemorate three different aspects of the Summit railroad tunnels. The 1882 Foundation succeeded in obtaining National Historic Landmark designation for Summit Camp, where (mostly) Chinese laborers lived during tunnel construction. The National Railroad Historical Society has prepared a plaque that Bill thinks should go on the exposed part of the vertical shaft over the middle of Tunnel 6. The American Society of Civil Engineers wants to mark the anniversary of completion of the Transcontinental Railroad (May 10). Each group is thinking about a ceremony in a different location on a different date; there could be advantages to combining these activities. Ted Gong has called a meeting in Sacramento tomorrow to discuss 1882 Foundation plans. **Pat will attend and will try to broaden the discussion to include coordination.** A combined event might draw more attention. Suggestions included publicity in *Sierra Sun* and *Moonshine Ink*, public service announcements on KTKE (101.5 MHz radio), county newsletters, and music from a band and/or choral group.

West Van Norden Planning: Nothing new.

Gould Park: There will be another virtual meeting of the ad hoc Gould Park committee on February 25. Pat distributed copies of sketches developed during the last meeting. Jordan Knighton imagines the artists’ corner to be a platform, possibly with multiple levels between Hampshire Rocks Road and the South Yuba River. Plans for expanded parking on the north side of the

river have been shelved since they conflict with permissions granted during original park development in 2004. Trying to override those permissions would require new studies and permits (and significant additional costs). The bicycle repair station would be adjacent to the existing vault toilet and paved parking. Non-cycling visitors would be expected to walk to the north side on an existing Cisco Road sidewalk that has fallen into disrepair (repair should be made by Placer County Public Works and would not be part of this project). There could be walking trails on the north side with small signs to aid navigation. If the design presented on February 25 appears to be satisfactory, DSA will present those results to Placer County Parks for review. At some point, it would be desirable to have a meeting with Gould Park neighbors to discuss the plans and receive feedback. **Beth will compile a list of local property owners so we can contact them at an appropriate time.**

7. Computers and Web Site

Long-Term Digital Storage: Tom has obtained access to the DSA Microsoft Office system and has asked about creating folders that can be shared — how to do it and what levels of sharing are appropriate. Mike suggested that most sharing could be among the six DSA license holders but that the check register might be restricted to Tom and Beth. In the meantime, Pat has successfully accessed the system. She was puzzled to find that Microsoft seemed to know about all of her personal folders and files; this may need a separate set of solutions. Possibly related to Pat’s discovery, Tom, Mike, and Dick each have at least two accounts with Microsoft and keeping the DSA business separate from the other accounts has been a little tricky. **Tom, Mike, and Dick will try to sort this out.** Mike’s time is limited for the next 2-3 months, but he can do simple troubleshooting.

Switch Web Site to WordPress: Dick said that Jeannie and Forrest (at NextPixels) have made good progress on transferring the existing web pages to a platform that uses WordPress; the expectation is that the WordPress version should be live by this time next month. The SquareSpace auto-renew has been canceled; our subscription there will end on March 31. Board members were given a link to the new staging area, but Dick has not received any feedback from people who have tested it. He has found a few bugs, but they have been minor and were quickly fixed by the NextPixels team. The DSA Store still needs to be added; Jeannie and Beth are working on that.

Jeannie has questioned references to “membership” in DSA on the existing web pages. After discussion, it was agreed that we have never had “members” and that visitors should be encouraged to support DSA, including through donations, but that the concept of “member” should be removed. Dick noted that there are other content issues that need to be corrected and/or updated; this will be done after the transition has been completed.

8. Internal Matters

Future Meetings: Janet Tuttle has offered to host the March 20 DSA meeting at Donner Ski Ranch.

9. Announcements:

Beth received a thank you card from Truckee Donner Land Trust for support during the past year. The card included a very nice photo of Rainbow Bridge.

Pat passed around a pair of photos from 1948-49 when she was skiing at Sugar Bowl.

10. Adjournment:

There being no other business, Pat adjourned the meeting at 5:52 PM.

Minutes approved by the DSA Board of Directors at its meeting on March 20, 2025.

signed by DSA Secretary, Richard Simpson, _____



Gathering for the meeting in the Snowshed Room (DSCN7951.JPG).



Donner Summit Association (DSA) Core Action Team Meeting Thursday, March 20, 2025 5-6 PM In-person meeting at Donner Ski Ranch



Donner Ski Ranch (DSCN7643.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 5:00 PM by Pat Malberg. Chris set up a Zoom connection, but no one connected.

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

Others: Steve Carle (SLPOA)

2. Approval of the Agenda:

Steve noted that the month on the agenda should be March not February.

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

3. Approval of Minutes from the February Meeting:

MSC (Bill/Pat) to approve the February meeting minutes. John abstained, noting that he had not participated.

4. Financial Report (Tom):

Tom distributed a summary financial report for February before the meeting. NextPixels submitted an invoice totaling \$1710 for web work. Intuitive Surgical made a donation of \$800. Otherwise, there was little activity.

5. Reports:

Nevada and Placer Counties: There was no representative from either county present, so there were no reports.

Convene, Champion, and Catalyze Forum Report: Pat said 52 people attended the March meeting either in person or virtually. (1) The main topic was how to address homelessness. An estimate of inadequately housed households in the CCC area is more than 4000. (2) Supervisor Hardy Bullock and County Chief of Staff Jeffrey Thorsby attended a meeting of the National Association of Counties in Washington, DC. They wanted to bring a rural perspective to DC — in particular, how funding freezes affect local economies. For example, the loan needed to construct the Alpenglow Timber Mill north of Truckee has been frozen. More broadly, there will be impacts on recreation and firefighting. Health care reimbursements will be delayed more; they are already two years in arrears. (3) Colleen Dalton met with Congressman Kevin Kiley about the impact of recreation on Nevada County's budget.

Discussion: John said land stewardship funding is being frozen or redirected. He wondered whether DSA, as the Summit's *de facto* voice and advocate, should become more vocal about this issue. For example, the Truckee Donner Land Trust is ready to start work on the southern half of the Donner Lake Rim Trail, but there is no one in the local Forest Service office to issue the necessary permits.

Bill noted that silence is sometimes taken to be consent. Although federal funding discussions today are tightly tied to politics, there are observations and conclusions that can be stated in an apolitical way. Chris added that now might be a good time to argue that fees collected by the local USFS office should be retained for local projects rather than sent to Washington. **Chris and John offered to look into past correspondence to find example statements that DSA might make.**

6. Ongoing Projects

Railroad/Tunnel/Camp Celebrations: Pat attended a meeting last month in Sacramento organized by the 1882 Foundation. The purpose of the meeting was to plan a celebration of designation of Summit Camp as a National Historic Landmark. Among others, Ted Gong (1882 Foundation), Phil Sexton, Dave Dupuy (Truckee Donner Historical Society), Scott Baxter (archeologist behind the NHL request), and a representative from Union Pacific Railroad were there. Ted wanted a two-day celebration, the first day in Sacramento (proposed date of July 19) followed by a day at Donner Summit (July 20) to install the plaque (which does not yet exist), commemorating the NHL designation.

There are two other groups considering related events. The National Railroad Historical Society has already prepared a plaque that Bill thinks could be installed near the vertical shaft at the midpoint of Tunnel 6; but the Society seems to have other ideas and is not communicating. Sugar Bowl has an easement for some parts of the Lamson-Cashion Trailhead property, so the NRHS plaque could be mounted in any of several locations there. The American Society of Civil Engineers wants to celebrate the Transcontinental Railroad itself; they have scheduled a dedication on June 21 for which invitations have already been sent.

Ted Gong had hoped to bring the three groups together in a single celebration; but ASCE already has their plans for June 21 and seemed offended not to have been invited to the Sacramento meeting. There is no more definite plan for the other dedications at this point; **Pat will keep in touch with Ted Gong and Dave Dupuy for updates.**

West Van Norden Planning: Pat contacted Alecia Weisman, who said Shavati Karki-Pearl (Nevada County liaison with DSA and South Yuba River Citizens League) has been very busy. Alecia estimates that it will take six months for the County to oversee a design project for West Van Norden; a Request for Proposals is needed first, and that has not been released. If the RFP were to go out soon, professional design work could be completed over winter 2025-26, and limited construction could begin in summer 2026. **Pat will contact Nevada County to see whether there is a way to move the RFP forward.** The design cost would come from the \$500K previously earmarked for the Donner Summit Visitor Center. Alecia estimates that construction of the boardwalk and trailhead would cost \$3M.

Gould Park: Beth obtained a list of nearby property owners from Placer County in both Excel and label form. There are 91 owners between Cisco Road and Rainbow Road. The question now is what to do with the list. We could post Gould Park plans on our web site, then invite comments. We could also invite locals to an informational briefing (possibly with finger food at a

place like Rainbow Lodge). Our Vision Statement could be tailored to this initiative and sent to residents with the invitation. Beth has a contact who could help with graphics. The Gould Park subcommittee's next meeting will be a with Placer County representatives at 9 AM on March 27.

Fuels Reduction Project Support: Alisa Adriani, whose family owns property in the Kingvale area, has requested a letter of support (LoS) for a project designed by her forester. The project will be jointly with Auburn Ski Club and would reduce fuels along I-80. Funding is unclear, but there was agreement among Board members that fuels reduction has a public benefit. Steve mentioned that PG&E has \$100K for fire reduction along Soda Springs Road; SLPOA is willing to provide \$30K in matching funds if the Soda Springs Road project is approved.

*MSC-U (Bill/Chris) to approve the template LoS (provided by Alisa) which **Dick will edit** to reflect Board uncertainties in project details.*

7. Computers and Web Site

Long-Term Digital Storage: There is no new information. Tom has been able to use the system but is still having some problems. Mike can help once he gets some free time (after April 20). He thinks there may be some permission boxes that must be checked.

Switch Web Site to WordPress: Beth needs to do some research on shipping options. Per last month's discussion, references to "membership" will be removed in the new web site, and the number of recommended donor levels will be reduced. A "set your own donation amount" option will be included, and a check box to subscribe to the DSA newsletter will be added. The new site could be launched as early as tomorrow with best-effort implementations where fine tuning is still needed. Users should see little difference in web site appearance; the switch to WordPress is to simplify maintenance.

8. Internal Matters

Future Meetings: The April 17 DSA Board meeting will be in the Village Hall at Sugar Bowl. John may not be available, and Tom will be in Mexico. April 24 was considered, but it had at least as many obstacles.

9. Announcements:

Bill put a DSA report, written by Pat, into the SLPOA newsletter. There was also an article from TDLT.

The Nevada County Recreation Fair will be May 3. John thinks a DSA table would be nice, but no action was taken.

Placer County has received a Conditional Use Permit application from the DeSilva Group for a temporary concrete batch plant to be located at 41855 Nyack Road in the Emigrant Gap community. The plant would support the Caltrans approved Monte Vista Pavement Rehabilitation Project and would include the concrete batch plant, an aggregate loading bin and stockpiles, a concrete washout area, and curing storage tanks. Operation of the plant is anticipated between July 2025 and December 2026, with its deconstruction and removal from the site anticipated for December 2026.

Beth said there is a new Mexican restaurant/bar in Nyack.

SLPOA Board member David Parisi is a professional traffic engineer; he has drawn up an informal proposal to reduce speed limits on Soda Springs Road. David has been working with Placer and Nevada County Public Works staff and now wants to go one step higher, such as to Supervisor Bullock regarding speeds on the road segment which is in Nevada County. Beth thought that the fact that school buses travel Donner Pass Road was an important factor in getting the speeds reduced there. She thinks there may be four (unmarked) school bus stops in Serene Lakes, which could be used in arguing for reduced speeds. Chris thought talking to Jeffrey Thorsby might be more useful than trying to go directly to Supervisor Bullock.

10.Adjournment:

There being no other business, Pat adjourned the meeting at 6:11 PM.

Minutes approved by the DSA Board of Directors at its meeting on April 17, 2025.

signed by DSA Secretary, Richard Simpson, _____



Board members gather for their meeting at Donner Ski Ranch (DSCN7644.JPG).



Donner Summit Association (DSA) Core Action Team Meeting
Thursday, April 17, 2025 4:30-5:30 PM
In-person meeting at Judah Lodge, Sugar Bowl



Judah Lodge (DSCN7712.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 4:30 PM by Pat Malberg. Chris set up a Zoom connection; Beth connected.

Core Action Team (DSA Board) Attendees: Elissa Hambrecht, Pat Malberg, Bill Oudegeest, Chris Parker, Dick Simpson, Mike Spain, and Beth Tanhoff (by Zoom)

Others: Steve Carle (SLPOA), Katya Christian (Sugar Bowl), and Don Malberg.

2. Approval of the Agenda:

Dick had distributed three versions of the agenda. The second included addition of a report from a meeting about the Truckee Donner Recreation Master Plan and the broadening of an existing item about 'railroad' celebrations to include a report on plaques to be installed as part of those celebrations. The third agenda version added a discussion about Firewise Communities and a discussion about portable toilets supported during summer months by DSA.

Elissa moved and Bill seconded approval of the third agenda. The motion was carried unanimously (MSC-U).

3. Approval of Minutes from the March Meeting:

MSC-U (Dick/Chris) to approve the (fabulous) March meeting minutes.

4. Financial Report (Tom):

Tom had distributed a summary financial report for March before the meeting. There was less than \$30 in expenditures and a \$100 donation and \$1 merchandise purchase in income.

5. Reports:

Nevada County: There was no representative from Nevada County. However, Shavati Karki-Pearl reported several Nevada County items to the CCC Forum (see below). Shavati has been very busy organizing the County's first Recreation Fair.

Convene, Champion, and Catalyze Forum Report: Pat said there were 49 people on the CCC call this month; most were concerned about cuts in federal funding and the impact of those cuts on facilities and services.

State Parks is receiving a lot of applications for jobs from recently separated federal employees. In many cases, applicants are significantly overqualified for the positions being advertised. The Parks Department is concerned that these potential new employees may return to federal employment if their court challenges are successful.

Both Truckee Donner and Truckee Donner Land Trust said that approved projects are on hold because USFS has not been able to issue permits — for example, there are no longer enough biologists to certify environmental compliance. Truckee Trails Foundation was planning to spend \$20K on trail maintenance this summer; USFS has had no funding to do the work itself in recent years, and now the grants to private groups (such as TTF and Pacific

Crest Trail Association) have been suspended. TTF will conduct a fundraising campaign — possibly in partnership with the Big Day of Giving (May 1). Elissa cautioned that another group she is affiliated with opted out of Big Day because of high fees charged to participating organizations.

Pines to Mines was expected to progress this year; it has been in the works for at least 8 years and is now stalled again. Nevada County has briefed Congressman Kevin Kiley on this impact. The Trail Ambassador Program may be expanded this summer because less enforcement is expected from USFS. Nevada County Supervisor Hardy Bullock said County Resolution 25.112 outlines the County's anticipated needs and provides proposed solutions; it focuses on food insecurity, veterans' benefits, and assistance to the poor. Placer County Supervisor Cindy Gustafson wrote to Congressman Kiley expressing deep concern about the funding cuts and their negative effects on her county; she noted that 65% of Placer County's land area is under federal jurisdiction, including 80% in the Tahoe Basin.

Supervisor Hardy told the Forum that federal employees cannot comment on the funding issues; he finds this very frustrating. He will host a 'listening session' on housing on May 13.

Truckee Donner Parks and Recreation District: TDPRD held a Master Plan focus group on April 10; Bill participated in that one, and Dick is registered for a second session on April 21. Bill had hoped to show TDPRD the DSA Recreation Master Plan; but there was no opportunity. The TDPRD Plan seems to be aimed at permanent residents whereas ours addresses needs of both locals and visitors. Bill said that TDPRD hopes to complete its Master Plan by September.

Placer County: There was no representative from Placer County, and there were no other reports.

Truckee Fire District: Dick said that he joined a virtual briefing by Truckee Fire yesterday on how to set up Firewise Communities; Truckee Fire is looking for people to organize a community in Soda Springs and/or Norden. There are already Firewise Communities in Serene Lakes, Sugar Bowl, Kingvale, Towle Mountain, and Plavada.

Katya said that Sugar Bowl was approached by Truckee Fire; she and at least one other person have set up the Firewise Community that comprises both Sugar Bowl and Lake Mary. She found that the process was relatively simple — write up an assessment, draft an action plan, request certification, and then repeat. The key is active involvement from property owners; they need to be educated about program requirements and put in touch with resources. Sugar Bowl has made major contributions, so that threshold requirements have been met many times over. Katya thinks that the

boundaries of the Sugar Bowl/Lake Mary community could be extended to include more of Norden and Soda Springs and still easily meet the requirements without added investment. That can serve as a positive stimulus for getting more people more involved.

Beth would like to see a Soda Springs Firewise Community; she is particularly concerned about her neighborhood where there are many undeveloped (and overgrown) lots between I-80 and Donner Pass Road. She doesn't have the "bandwidth" to organize Soda Springs herself. But **she agreed to work with Katya**; help from others, such as Tom and Jean Applebaum, might also be available. For communities (or individuals) willing to apply, there are Measure T grants and several reimbursement programs available.

6. Ongoing Projects

Railroad Tunnel/Camp Celebrations: Bill reviewed the situation (see minutes from the DSA meeting on March 20, 2025); he has been working with Dave Dupuy of the Truckee Donner Historical Society, trying to bring the three groups together but without much success. E Clampus Vitus reportedly wants to replace its plaque at The Hub because of errors in the original; it is the only plaque currently installed.

The 1882 Foundation is planning one celebration in Sacramento on June 19 and a second at Donner Summit on June 20. Their plaque (not yet produced) would be installed at the site of the camp where Chinese laborers lived during tunnel construction — now a National Historic Landmark.

The American Society of Civil Engineers has had a plaque made; their representative wants it affixed to a rock in Auburn, which would then be moved to The Hub where it would replace the E Clampus Vitus concrete block. They would dedicate their monument during a 30 minute ceremony at 10 AM on June 21.

The National Railroad Historical Society has apparently had a plaque made; but they are not communicating about their plans for installation — either date or location.

There was consensus within the Board that the E Clampus Vitus, ASCE, and NRHS plaques should be installed at or near the top of The Shaft, which connects to Tunnel 6. This would be the most appropriate location for a memorial to the transcontinental railroad. Chris said that Sugar Bowl leases the Hub/Shaft property from UPRR and has given proxy rights to DSA to make these types of decisions. Since the NHL designation memorializes the Chinese camp, the 1882 Foundation plaque will be at a separate location.

Portable Toilets: Mitzi Hodges has offered a winter portable toilet to be relocated to one of DSA's summer locations. DSA is concerned about road access to the PCT-South trailhead (while there is snow), but there is also a need at The Hub, which is likely to be snow-free sooner. Pat has had better luck negotiating with Sanihut than United Site Services; and Sanihut has a discount for non-profits, which may not be available to Mitzi. Pat will follow through with Mitzi and vendors.

West Van Norden Planning: Pat said Shavati has been spending almost full time getting ready for the Nevada County Recreation Fair on May 3. Once that is over, Shavati is hoping to have the West Van Norden design RFP submitted to the Board of Supervisors for approval on May 27.

In the meantime Alecia Weisman has told Pat that Van Norden Restoration Phase 2 is ready to go and has been funded by the State. She would like to make a slide presentation to DSA at our next meeting on May 15.

Gould Park: DSA (Jordan Knighton, Pat, Bill, and Dick) met with Placer County staff (Erika Seward, Kyle Smith, Mark Henry, Casey Lyons). Jordan presented DSA's current thinking; a lot of discussion followed. **Kyle will research constraints.** Sidewalk repair on the bridge is an issue; but it is a Department of Public Works responsibility, not Parks. DPW may be able to clarify parking constraints. The fruit stand and gift shop may have had historic parking, which could be precedent for amending the 2004 restrictions. **DSA will refine the signage concepts;** Bill provided a topic list, **someone has to choose which will go forward and what will be included as content.** A site walk-through will be scheduled after snow melts. **DSA and Placer County will create a list of additional stakeholders for fundraising.**

Placer County encouraged a community informational meeting to let nearby property owners know what we are thinking and get their input. Dick has contacted Rainbow Lodge; Emily Shapton was encouraging, but the Lodge is fully booked on weekends June through early October. Beth suggested Memorial Day weekend, and DSA settled on Saturday afternoon 3-5 PM (May 24). Dick suggested that DSA pick up charges for non-alcoholic beverages and light finger food; guests who wanted alcohol could purchase drinks at the bar. Beth has contact information for 91 property owners between Cisco Road and Rainbow Road. We will prepare a brochure and an invitation to be mailed to the owners. We will put up posters in public places inviting interested others. It is difficult to predict attendance; at least a few dozen seems likely, in which case the event should be mostly outside. **Bill, Beth, Dick, and Pat will follow through.**

Summit Clean-Up: Beth has done no planning so far. The date will be Saturday, June 7, 9 AM to noon; but Steve noted a possible conflict with

SLPOA's Sand Fling on the same date. DSA will handle sign-in and provide trash bags and assignments to volunteers. **Beth will contact Soda Springs General Store about hosting the (free) lunch for volunteers.** Mike said Soda Springs Mountain Resort can provide a dumpster.

DSA Comments on Funding Freezes: Chris and John were going to come up with topics for a possible letter to representatives. Chris reported no progress.

Publicity Issues Around the Summit: Pat is outraged by invitations to tour the railroad tunnels being posted on the internet; she wonders whether 1882 Foundation should discourage. The article distributed as Attachment B to the agenda gave directions for touring the tunnels. Pat said the signs we installed have been covered with graffiti. Dick felt that Attachment B was a reasonable statement of where things stand today. Do we continue with our graffiti abatement project? Pat is discouraged. Mike thinks the overall appearance of the Summit has improved over the years when we have cleaned up the external graffiti. Dick is willing to put in the work, though Sugar Bowl did all of it in 2024.

7. Computers and Web Site

Long-Term Digital Storage: Mike and Dick have nothing. Maybe next month.

Switch Web Site to WordPress: The switch was successful, and Dick finds that Word Press is much easier to use. However, there is a latency problem which apparently results from a caching algorithm that the web site service provides — sometimes it takes hours before an updated page becomes visible, where this was almost instantaneous under the old system. Bill said that his posts to the Donner Summit Historical Society web site typically take a day.

8. Internal Matters

Future Meetings: The May 15 DSA Board meeting will be at Beth's office, where there are good facilities for Alecia's slide presentation. The office (Engel & Völkers) is in the old Flying A gas station at 10091 Donner Pass Road, Truckee.

9. Announcements:

The PCTA annual meeting is in Sacramento on April 26. For more information and registration, go to the PCTA web page at <https://www.pcta.org/community/events/>

Placer County Supervisor Cindy Gustafson is having a community forum in the Coldstream Room (Judah Lodge) this evening starting at 6 PM.

Supervisor Gustafson will host a transportation virtual town hall on April 21. For more information (including the Zoom meeting ID) go to <https://www.placer.ca.gov/Calendar.aspx?EID=49320>, scroll down, and click on “HERE”.

Nevada County’s Recreation Fair is 10 AM – 2 PM on May 3 in Nevada City. There will be representatives from 50 organizations and vendors trying to get you to recreate more in Nevada County. For more information, go to <https://nevadacityca.gov/315/Nevada-County-Recreation-Fair>

Legacy Day is at Donner Memorial State Park, June 21, 11 AM to 4 PM. The event aims to celebrate the legacy of the Washoe and other native people of this region and to recognize the heroism and tenacity of the early California emigrants.

10. Adjournment:

There being no other business, Pat adjourned the meeting at 5:51 PM.

Minutes approved by the DSA Board of Directors at its meeting on May 15, 2025.

signed by DSA Secretary, Richard Simpson, _____



Board members review historical photos provided by Bill Oudegeest (DSCN7714.JPG).



Donner Summit Association (DSA) Core Action Team Meeting
Thursday, May 15, 2025 5-6 PM
In-person meeting at Engel & Völkers, Truckee



Engel & Völkers, Truckee (photo from their web site)

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 5:01 PM by Pat Malberg. Chris set up a Zoom connection, but there were no connections. Beth provided refreshments.

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

Others: Jackie Calvert (Visit Truckee Tahoe), Steve Carle (Serene Lakes Property Owners Association), Parker Eversoll (South Yuba River Citizens League), and Alecia Weisman (SYRCL).

2. Approval of the Agenda:

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

3. Approval of Minutes from the April Meeting:

MSC-U (Dick/Chris) to approve the April meeting minutes.

4. Financial Report (Tom):

Tom had distributed a summary April financial report before the meeting. NextPixels submitted a final request for payment on their web site upgrade project (\$1290.); they also submitted their periodic request for payment of ongoing expenses (\$57.60). Plumas Bank submitted service charges (\$2.). There was no other activity during April.

The end of the DSA fiscal year is the end of May; Tom expects to send numbers to our tax preparer in July. CDs mature this month; interest will be transferred to our operating account; the principal will roll over into new CDs.

5. Reports:

Nevada County: There was no representative from Nevada County. John went to the Nevada County Recreation Fair (May 3); he said a lot of others attended. He could see DSA sharing a table with Truckee Donner Land Trust next year; but participating can be expensive.

Convene, Champion, and Catalyze Forum Report: Nevada County will be discussing its budget on June 10-11. CalTrans projects include restriping westbound I-80 in Truckee, I-80 Troy to Soda Springs rehabilitation (completed in summer 2027), I-80 Yuba Gap to Hwy 20 bridge project (completed in winter 2027), I-80 Monte Vista to Drum Forebay rehabilitation (completed in summer 2028), and a Hwy 89 Middle Mile Broadband Network project from I-80 to the Plumas County line. Three of the larger I-80 projects are already up and running; there will be delays and lane closures, but they should be less severe than last year. Much of the remainder of the CCC meeting was about wildfire mitigation, awareness, and preparation. The expectation is that the 2025 fire season will be “normal”. The next CCC Forum will be June 16 at Truckee’s West End Beach starting at 4 PM. Bring food. There will be short reports from organizations participating.

Truckee Donner Parks and Recreation District: Dick participated in the second Zoom forum about the DPRD Master Plan update; Bill had participated in an earlier session. Dick felt that Bill’s report in April gave

him a leg up on the discussions. Of particular note to DSA was the realization that TDPRD's jurisdiction includes much of the Donner Summit area. John thinks the District has become aware of this and may be sympathetic to serving its "frontier" areas better; if so, this may be the time to direct their attention to specific needs at Donner Summit. **Pat will pursue.**

Placer County: There was no representative from Placer County. Pat attended a Zoom meeting that Supervisor Cindy Gustafson conducted concerning fire safety and road work on highways 49 and I-80. Chris said that Erika Seward has tried to bring Placer County's Memorial Emigrant Overland Trail project together with wildfire prevention activities. This involves Sugar Bowl, so **Chris will keep Pat up to date.**

6. Ongoing Projects

West Van Norden: Alecia introduced Parker Eversoll who is SYRCL's Project Manager for Headwater Science. She then presented a slide show about signage planned for Van Norden Meadow. There will be large informational signs at the new Sheep Pens parking area and there will be more numerous, but smaller, signs along trails. Signs in both places will fall into two categories: "cultural" and "meadow". USFS wants signs to have a uniform format and style; SYRCL has retained a local illustrator to put them together. Most have been designed; none has been fabricated. There has been Washoe input to remind visitors that indigenous peoples have lived and worked in the area for thousands of years (and are still here). In some of the artwork, ghostlike figures are included in hunting and land management scenes. Signs will be designed to withstand Summit snow, but some may be seasonally removed for additional protection. QR-code stickers may be added so that visitors can find additional information. The next step in the West End Trailhead Project is to advertise for the design RFP, now that funding has been approved by the Nevada County Board of Supervisors.

Railroad Tunnel/Camp Celebrations: The 1882 Foundation is planning one celebration in Sacramento on June 19 and a second at Donner Summit on June 20; this is a response to designation of the Chinese Summit Camp as a National Historic Landmark last year. The American Society of Civil Engineers plans to dedicate a monument during a 30-minute ceremony at 10 AM on June 21. Dave Dupuy (Museum of Truckee History) has organized a plaque installation for the National Railway Historical Society next Wednesday. Attempts to merge these celebrations have been unsuccessful.

Portable Toilets: Mitzi Hodges has a toilet provided by United Site Services, which she will not be using this summer; she has agreed to move the unit to the Hub area if DSA will pick up the summer charges, and she will negotiate with USS on our behalf for a reduced monthly fee. Sugar Bowl plowed the road from Donner Pass Road to the PCT-South trailhead in the past few days

SaniHut will provide a portable toilet for \$165 per 28-day month; they charge \$125 for delivery and \$125 for pickup. Pat will notify SaniHut when the PCT trailhead unit's site is completely snow free and ask them to deliver it.

Gould Park: Pat, Bill, Dick, and Jordan Knighton met Zeke Bossenbroeck at Cisco Grove Campground earlier today. The objective was to explore possible ways for the campground and DSA to partner on Gould Park improvements. The privately owned campground has been closed for about five years; Zeke is the son of the new owners and is overseeing its renovation. The campground will have over 400 sites extending from Hampshire Rocks Road to within 60 feet of the summit of Red Mountain; 150 sites will be equipped with four-season cabins. All permits are now in hand; but there is no official opening day. A lot of construction is still needed.

Placer County officials have agreed to meet with DSA representatives on June 3 at Gould Park for a site visit and to discuss a possible schedule for beginning the proposed upgrades. If work can begin this summer, DSA might organize a community workday to involve local people in the upgrades. An informational meeting at Rainbow Lodge is scheduled for May 24 (3-5 PM) where DSA will explain plans and receive feedback. Ninety invitations have been mailed to nearby property owners, and notices have been posted in places like the Soda Springs post office.

20-Mile Museum: The Museum owns about 50 signs, half of which need to be taken down and stored during winter months. In the past, Donner Ski Ranch has provided storage space, but DSR wants that space back as soon as possible. Bill is looking for a new storage location, possibly including purchase of a used shipping container (which would need a location). A few signs have been stored in The Shed, but Bill doesn't think there is room for more. Chris thinks there might be space at Kingvale Lodge, but he needs to check with Sugar Bowl CEO Bridget Legnavsky.

Summit Clean-Up: Beth is working on publicity for the clean-up, which will be June 7. Cheryl Paduano has agreed to provide lunch for volunteers at the Soda Springs Store; she has suggested a few possible lunch choices. Beth needs to get a permit from CalTrans; that will require that volunteers watch a safety video. Volunteers will then sign a Nevada County waiver form. Elissa volunteered to help with registration; Beth said registration volunteers should show up at the Store around 8:30.

Soda Springs Firewise: Beth received an e-mail inviting her to join a Zoom call about Firewise on Wednesday, May 21. Dick noted that there is a second virtual training about defensible space two days earlier. See <https://donnersummitca.com/latest-news> for more information about both. Pat added that the Tahoe Truckee Community Foundation is offering a noon

virtual workshop on home hardening, insurance, and wildfire risk housing solutions at noon tomorrow (May 16).

DSA Comments on Funding Freezes: Although this topic has been discussed a couple times, there has been little progress. Among open issues is where to send such comments. John said that Congressman Kiley seems open to very specific requests from people directly affected, it is not clear that DSA fits this profile. There was consensus to take no further action but to respond if we are asked.

7. Computers and Web Site

Long-Term Digital Storage: Mike and Dick had nothing to report and suggested that a report to the next meeting might be possible.

Web Site: DSA's Summit Recreation Plan now has its own web page (<https://donnersummitca.com/project/summit-recreation-plan>). An attempt to construct a new web page for the Gould Park project has run into technical problems which Dick is working with NextPixels. John asked whether "merchandise" is available through the new web site; the answer is "yes" — pull down the "Shop" tab. People who want T-shirts and hats can purchase them in-person at Nancy O's Gallery and Glass.

8. Internal Matters

Future Meetings: The next meeting would ordinarily be on June 19, but at least three Board members will be unavailable. After several attempts to find an alternate date, there was agreement to skip the June meeting. The next meeting will be on July 17 at Soda Springs Mountain Resort.

9. Announcements:

Beth said she received an invitation to Ron and Heidi Kolbe's cul de sac (adjacent to 5425 Hemlock, Serene Lakes) for music and ice cream starting at 2 PM on July 19.

10. Adjournment:

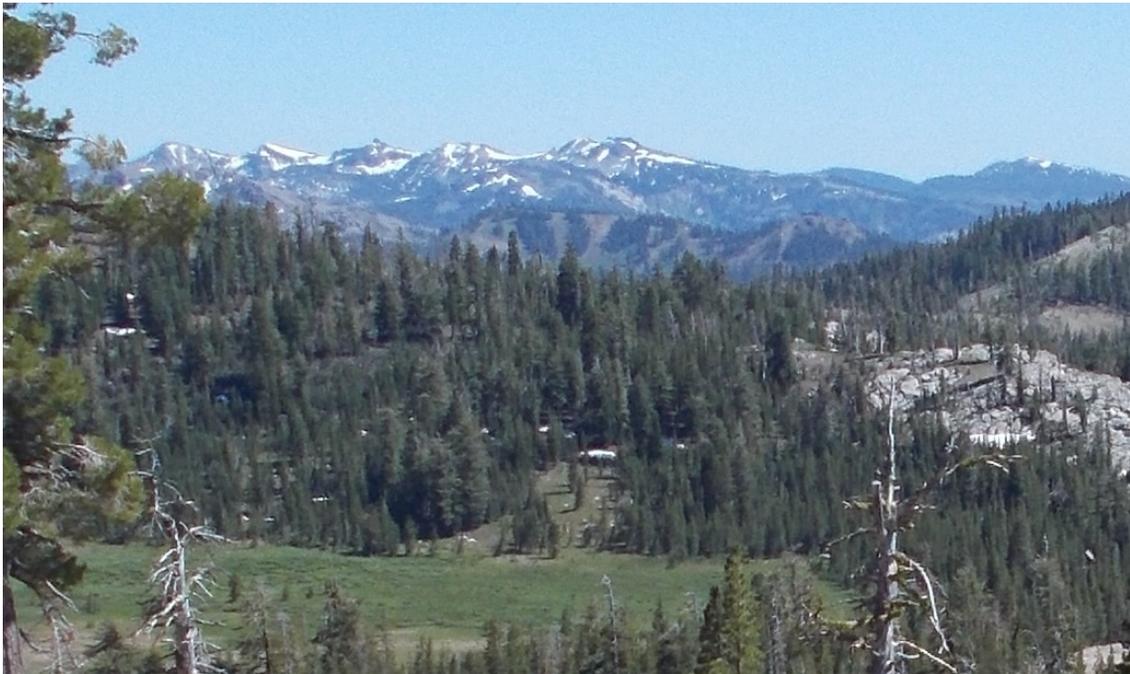
There being no other business, Pat adjourned the meeting at 6:15 PM.

Minutes approved by the DSA Board of Directors at its meeting on July 17, 2025.

signed by DSA Secretary, Richard Simpson, _____



Donner Summit Association (DSA) Core Action Team Meeting
Thursday, July 17, 2025 5:30-6:30 PM
In-person meeting at Soda Springs Mountain Resort



Granite Chief Range and Round Valley from the west side of Basin Peak (DSCN8049.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 5:33 PM by Pat Malberg. Chris Parker opened a Zoom connection; no one connected.

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

Others: Steve Carle (Serene Lakes Property Owners Association), Lindsay Romack (Placer County), and Lee Schegg (E Clampus Vitus).

2. Approval of the Agenda:

Pat asked to add two items to the agenda — Graffiti Abatement and Summit Fest. Dick noted that the nominal August meeting would be on the 21st.

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

3. Approval of Minutes from the May Meeting:

MSC-U (Dick/John) to approve the May meeting minutes.

4. Confirm Approval of Support Letters

Visit Truckee-Tahoe requested a letter supporting renewal of Truckee Tourism Business Improvement District funding. The DSA Board approved sending such a letter by an e-vote before DSA's May meeting but then neglected to confirm the e-vote at the May meeting.

Sugar Bowl requested that DSA send a letter supporting appointment of Meaghan Lowry as the Donner Summit representative to the Placer County Transient Occupancy Tax Advisory Committee. The DSA Board approved sending such a letter by an e-vote after DSA's May meeting.

Board members raised no objections to the results of the e-votes, so the letters of support are considered approved.

5. Financial Report (Tom):

May was the final month of the current fiscal year. During May, DSA hosted a community meeting about Gould Park at Rainbow Lodge; that expense was about \$400. There were also portable toilet expenses. On the revenue side, interest on a CD was moved to checking, and the CD principal was renewed. Tom will wrap up FY25 accounting shortly. Total assets at the end of FY25 are about \$191K. In June there were about \$300 in expenses and \$90 in revenue.

6. County and Other Reports:

Nevada County: There was no representative from Nevada County. Others noted that striping on Donner Pass Road has been completed.

Convene, Champion, and Catalyze Forum Report: The most recent meeting was an in-person gathering at Donner Lake. Although little of import was discussed, Pat said it was an excellent opportunity for participants to meet the voices and faces they interact with during the rest of the year. She

learned that Jeffrey Thorsby has resigned from his County position to become the caregiver for his two parents. CCC Forum will return to Zoom for its next meeting on August 7 (9-10 AM).

Placer County: Lindsay Romack reported that the Transient Occupancy Tax Advisory Committee has recommended renewed funding for Summit shuttle service next winter. The service ferried approximately 800 riders between the Coldstream TART stop and Donner Ski Ranch/Sugar Bowl last winter (December-April). The renewed service would add a midday run so that Summit residents could shop in Truckee for half a day. Lindsay expects that the Board of Supervisors will approve the TOTAC recommendation.

7. Ongoing Projects

Van Norden Tour: Dick said that Alecia Weisman will be leading a tour of Van Norden Meadow on July 26 (10 AM – Noon). She will discuss accomplishments of the restoration project and plans for the future. Participants must register in advance (by July 22). Details are at <https://www.donnersummitca.com/latest-news>

Railroad Tunnel/Chinese Camp Celebrations: A plaque commemorating completion of the Transcontinental Railroad was installed on The Shaft by the National Railway Historical Society in May.

The 1882 Foundation is planning a celebration of National Historic Landmark designation of the Chinese Camp in Sacramento on July 19 (later corrected to August 9 — see Attachment A and <https://1882foundation.org>).

Pat will contact Bridget Legnavsky to determine her interest in participating.

E Clampus Vitus installed a plaque at the Summit in 1999. Lee Schegg (of the Truckee ECV chapter) has since learned that it contains errors; and it is too low to be easily readable. He has worked with the American Society of Civil Engineers to design a new plaque which tells the story of Tunnel construction much better. ASCE also has plans to install a plaque. Now, where to put them?

Lee would like to see the plaques mounted together in a place where they will be relatively safe from snow burial/damage during winter. Lee suggested elevating them to make them easier to read; but he acknowledges that they will not be readable during winter. Pat is concerned that The Hub is becoming plaque-saturated. Chris wondered whether some of the six-sided kiosk informational panels already tell the construction story. Pat said Bill Oudegeest was hoping the DSA Board could work with Lee during this meeting to find a location. After discussion, it was decided to schedule a site visit to consider the options. **Chris, Pat, Lee, and (possibly) Bill**

Oudegeest will meet at The Hub on July 26 at 1 PM to consider the options. Lee will ask Chuck Spinks of ASCE to join them.

Truckee Parks and Donner Summit: Pat had nothing to report. Lindsay asked for a summary of previous interactions between DSA and Truckee Parks. Pat said Dick's report from a Zoom a couple months ago sounded like Truckee Parks might be willing to provide new facilities at The Summit. DSA has already commissioned a recreation plan for The Summit; **Dick will make sure that Sven Leff (of TDRPD) has the link to the Plan.**

Gould Park/Campground: Casey Lyons and Marc Henry offered to mark foot trail routes at Gould Park so that volunteers could start maintaining them; but Casey reported recently that Marc has been overloaded with staffing problems and not much has been done. One volunteer clean-up day has been discussed for August-October; but there has been no preparation so far.

Zeke Bossenbroeck attended the Placer County Municipal Advisory Committee meeting last night; his agenda item was not related to the DSA project. However, Jordan Knighton has discussed plans with Zeke several times and is convinced Zeke is willing to help construct the Artists' Corner by delivering large boulders from his work sites in the private campground. This is a great opportunity, but we need the County to agree. **Lindsay offered to contact Parks to push for an agreement.** Chris said there needs to be clarity on the volunteer/maintenance versus the engineering/construction components.

Memorial Overland Emigrant Trail across Dunner Summit: John said construction on the MOET between Truckee and Donner Summit is scheduled to start at Donner Lake on August 1. This section will go to the Donner/Judah Saddle and be completed in two years. After the Donner/Judah Saddle, the route will probably wrap around the front of Mt. Judah, the Palisades, and Mt. Disney.

Summit Clean-Up: Beth was not available for the Clean-up herself; but she said 38 others turned out on June 7. Volunteers provided positive feedback, lunches supplied by the Soda Springs General Store went well, and the Store owners were pleased to be involved. Some volunteers wondered what to do about cars that have been driven off the road and abandoned as well as smaller items such as full-sized beds; but these are considered beyond the scope of volunteer work. Tom said dumpsters were a challenge; but Dick said he used a dumpster at the Kingvale CalTrans station and it was nearly empty. On the subject of where to send volunteers if numbers get larger than about 40 in future years, Dick suggested cleaning the Sno-Park next to Boreal; trash there has been a sore point with USFS for years. Beth is considering organizing another clean-up in September to meet County

requirements. But she also noted that some trash collected during the June clean-up has still not been picked up; **Pat will contact the County.**

Graffiti Abatement: John Scott called Pat about red paint on tunnels and snowsheds that is visible from a distance; he is willing to do the overpainting and has friends who can join him. John Svahn has located 5 gallons of paint. John Scott has tentatively picked August 6 as the work day; Pat has contacted Jenna Prescott to see whether the Sugar Bowl sprayer is available. Pat has also ordered another 30 gallons of paint; **she will work with John Svahn on paint and supplies.**

Summit Fest: Elissa Hambrecht is working on new sources of donations for the auction; Beth will approach previous donors. Mike will prepare the usual agreement for use of Soda Springs. John said Frog Lake has become so popular that he can't offer a donated reservation there; but he is willing to contribute a Webber Lake reservation. Beth and Pat will work on beer; a Lagunitas donation would be nice. Beth still has posters, music, and several other issues on her to-do list.

Soda Springs Firewise: Nothing new from Beth.

8. Computers and Web Site

Long-Term Digital Storage: Mike prepared a demonstration of the Microsoft package, and five of the six people who have logged in were present. Given the late hour, however, there was consensus to postpone the demonstration until after the August meeting.

Web Site: Dick said he has been updating DSA News weekly. In the past 24 hours he has made a simple update to the "Where-to-Eat" section and more extensive changes to the "About" section. Attempts to edit the "Where-to-Stay" section have failed; he has e-mailed our web team for help.

9. Internal Matters

Merchandise: Choices for merchandise on our web site are limited — sizes, colors, types of items, etc. Beth needs to reorder, but she is looking for suggestions on how to make the selections better. John said he likes what is there; Chris suggested more size choices. John said TDLT obtains its merchandise from WC Graphics in Truckee; Beth is looking for an alternative supplier, so **she will contact them.**

Reappointment of Board Members: The terms of Board members Oudegeest, Parker, Spain, and Svahn end in December. Dick asked whether any of these members would object to being reappointed; none of those present objected.

MSC-U (Tom/Dick) to reappoint the Board members whose terms are ending.

Election of Officers: The current officers are Malberg (President), Oudegeest (Vice President), Simpson (Secretary), and Denzler (Treasurer/CFO). Tanhoff has been appointed to the unofficial position of Community Liaison Officer.

MSC-U (Dick/John) to re-elect the current officers (and Beth) to the positions they now hold.

Future Meetings: To allow for Mike's Microsoft demonstration, there was agreement to hold the August 21st Board meeting at Soda Springs Mountain Resort (5-6 PM).

10. Announcements:

Mike said Soda Springs parking lots 1 and 3 have been rented out to a firm that is storing about 50 trailer units through November 1. They think most of them will be gone before Summit Fest.

Mike added that about 40 acres of forestry between Soda Springs Road and Soda's ski runs was scheduled around the first week of July. A contractor was selected, but the schedule is now obviously uncertain.

Pat said the MAC meeting last night was both interesting and efficiently conducted. There were two discussion topics. Management of the Cisco Grove private campground requested some minor changes in their redevelopment plan. The second topic was a proposal from *Tahoe Water* to build a bottling plant near an artesian well in Kingvale. The plant would include a large bottling facility (bottles and cans only, no plastic) which would employ about 15 people. The facility would also include two residences.

Bill Oudegeest has been looking for a place to store most of the 20-Mile Museum signs during winter. Chris said Sugar Bowl could probably handle that, but Pat said Bill was already working an agreement with the private campground in Cisco Grove.

11. Adjournment:

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

Minutes approved by the DSA Board of Directors at its meeting on August 21, 2025.

signed by DSA Secretary, Richard Simpson, _____

Attachment A

1882 Foundation — National Historic Landmark Celebration

From: Ted Gong (ted.gong88@gmail.com)
To: hut.coord@yahoo.com; philsexton@gmail.com;
pmalberg@igc.org; amytrang@1882foundation.org
Date: Tuesday, July 22, 2025 at 07:26 PM PDT

Thanks Richard. We had planned an August 10 event at Truckee Ranger Station to be followed by a hike to the Summit Camp and China Wall. But things got complicated and we have had to consolidate activities at Sacramento Chinatown to include the unveiling of the NHL plaque and a re-unveiling of the Civil Engineers plaque. The plaques will then be taken to the Ranger station for display while we find the best permanent placement nearer the Summit Tunnel camp. I am thinking their permanent placement can be done with a review of all the signage there which I heard was under consideration for this year to clean and repair signs. It would be great to spiff-up the place in preparation for next year's 250th anniversary of the nation's founding. We can rededicate all the signs together.

It's great that you mentioned Pat and Sugar Bowl. Phil and I had talked about reaching out to rebuild our team. I also need to reach out to Peggy at UP.

Since we aren't having ceremonies at Truckee as we had planned, I hope Pat and others would come down to Sacramento. There will be a number of exhibits, remarks, and lectures throughout the day. We will have information booths and table top exhibits for different organizations and interests. We have one cluster of table exhibits for the engineers and historians. Also, I have asked Phil to set up a table cluster with info and exhibits that expose the graffiti and trashing of the tunnels. I hope Pat and Sugar Bowl could help support the table with volunteers and material to both decry the graffiti and explain how the damages can be fixed or mitigated. Maybe even raise funds for educational material and to support ambassador-type programs and patrols.

For the Sacramento Saturday event, the remarks and unveilings will be as a lead to the final lecture at about 3:00. I wonder if Pat would be willing to make quick remarks similar to what she did at the Kennedy Center. While we are allowing speakers to have only 3 mins, we also have Open Mic booths throughout the day and Pat, you and anyone with a story can tell it there as part of our oral history collecting.

I want the day to showcase public-private collaboration in preserving and protecting the tunnel site and to build its educational value. If Sugar Bowl and counties would like to have a booth to showcase how public and private stakeholders can work together for both commercial and preservation goals, I'd

like to offer them a booth and/or poster space at the Saturday event.

In any case, after the events and our opening of our new office, I want to return to building on initial ideas expressed at the last Sugar Bowl meeting and discuss an NHL management plan with the USFS and all stakeholders. Wouldn't that be a great message to reveal a commitment to work together as we unveil the NHL plaque.

What do you think?



Donner Summit Association (DSA) Core Action Team Meeting
Thursday, August 21, 2025 5-6 PM
In-person meeting at Soda Springs Mountain Resort



Old Man Mountain, through a saddle in Sand Ridge, from the PCT (DSCN8380.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 5:00 PM by Pat Malberg. Chris Parker opened a Zoom connection; Tom Denzler and Beth Tanhoff connected.

Core Action Team (DSA Board) Attendees: Tom Denzler (by Zoom), Pat Malberg, Chris Parker, Dick Simpson, Mike Spain, and Beth Tanhoff (by Zoom, then later in person).

Others: Steve Carle (Serene Lakes Property Owners Association) and Lee Schegg (E Clampus Vitus).

2. Approval of the Agenda:

Pat asked to add one item to the agenda under Internal Matters — the SLPOA flower brochure and its possible reproduction by DSA.

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

3. Approval of Minutes from the July Meeting:

MSC-U (Dick/Mike) to approve the July meeting minutes.

4. Confirm Approval of E-vote

By an e-vote on August 1, the Board approved an expenditure of up to \$2500 for paint and other materials to support the graffiti eradication activity on August 7. Six voted in favor, no one voted against, and three did not vote. There was no objection to affirming the out-of-meeting e-vote, so it is considered approved.

5. Financial Report (Tom):

General: Tom said there was low financial activity in July. There will be more in August including charges for tax return preparation (about \$450), the graffiti eradication supplies (\$1368), and a restocking of swag supplies. Mitzi Hodges arranged for submitting the swag order and covered a significant fraction of the associated expenses, including taxes.

Swag Sales: Tom said DSA does not have a proper resale permit; we need that to cover our reselling of souvenir items (T-shirts, caps, etc.). Tom outlined three ways to move forward: getting into compliance, rewarding donors with a swag premium (a gift rather than a sale), or eliminating swag operations altogether. Tom said there is no sales tax exemption because of DSA's IRS 501(c)(3) classification.

There was discussion about where in the sales stream the tax kicks in. Chris noted that, whether DSA pays sales tax or collects sales tax and then passes it on to the Franchise Tax Board, may depend on who FTB views as the final owner of the product. Pat wondered whether we could provide free swag to donors if we have already paid sales tax. Tom said that is possible if the items have value less than \$50. Beth said DSA has costs other than simply procuring the items — such as maintaining the “shopping” part of the web site and shipping. There is also the question of how to handle sale of DSA items at the Soda Springs Store — do we provide the items at cost and

the Store collects the tax? Mike noted that having DSA sell items to out-of-state addresses requires a potentially extraordinary tracking overhead.

Chris suggested the following three actions. (1) DSA suspend on-line sales; it's not a big revenue source anyway. (2) If the Store wants to sell DSA items, they could acquire the items, then possibly pass along a small fraction of the sales price to us. (3) We could give away items at our events in exchange for donations above a certain level. Dick suggested investigating the details, not selling anything in the meantime, and settling on a plan at a future meeting. **Dick and Tom will contact Mitzi to hammer out a plan for moving forward.**

6. County and Other Reports:

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

Convene, Champion, and Catalyze Forum Report: Pat was not able to attend the most recent meeting (August 7 via Zoom); but 25 other people were there. She learned later that Colleen Dalton is retiring from Visit Truckee Tahoe; Jackie Calvert is the new CEO. Jackie presented a very thorough financial report, including a prediction of tariff effects on visitation. Hardy Bullock said Nevada County is working hard on affordable housing that can be available to local workers before snow flies. The Town of Truckee is planning a Community Block Party, similar to Truckee Thursday, for September 18 (4-7 PM) with barbecue and community booths.

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

7. Ongoing Projects

Van Norden Tour: Alecia Weisman led a two-hour tour of Van Norden Meadow on July 26. She discussed the theory behind the restoration project, the accomplishments in Phase 1, and the plans for Phase 2 which will be mostly around the Lytton Creek fan. Phase 2 begins on August 25 and ends on October 18. The road along the north side of Van Norden Meadow will be closed September 8-26 while the Sheep Pens trailhead is relocated and new culverts are installed.

Railroad Tunnel/Chinese Camp Celebrations: Pat gave a short presentation on August 9 in Sacramento for the 1882 Foundation celebration of National Historic Landmark designation of Chinese Camp at Donner Summit. It was an all-day event focused on contributions made by Chinese laborers to completion of the Transcontinental Railroad in the late 1860s. The plaque design commemorating the NHL designation was unveiled, and there was a

hike on the following day, possibly to the camp site. The hoped-for installation of the plaque has been delayed because there is no agreement with the Forest Service on location.

Lee Schegg, Chris, Pat, Dick, and Bill (and Chuck Spinks of the American Society of Civil Engineers by phone) met July 26 at The Hub to discuss location of ECV and ASCE plaques. A single monument with several plaques was judged acceptable, subject to final Sugar Bowl and DSA approval. It would be located where the existing ECV plaque is located. On August 9 about 20 members of ECV met in Prosser Campground then traveled to the Summit where they displayed and dedicated a near-final design of the new ECV plaque, which is three feet high and two feet wide. The ASCE plaque has the same width but is only half as high. Lee has not discussed design of the monument upon which the plaques will be mounted with ASCE; he suspects it will be concrete blocks on the inside with fascia of stones.

Gould Park/Campground: Casey Lyons said Marc Henry is busy. Pat tried unsuccessfully to reach Marc. So no news.

Graffiti Abatement: Pat got 30 gallons of paint from Ace Hardware at \$116 per 5-gallon bucket. On August 7 Sugar Bowl contributed four employees, a pressure washer, and a sprayer for half of the day. John Scott recruited five other climbers who removed graffiti from rocks using solvent and the pressure washer. Pat said the paint guy at Ace Hardware was very interested. Pat then said we could continue the work if we had a key and a sprayer. **She will contact Mike Upton of Union Pacific Railroad.**

Recreation Coalition: Nevada County would like to add our logo to their recreation web site; we would reciprocate by posting theirs. There was a meeting on Coalition goals on August 14 attended by about 25 people; but there was no conversation about the logo exchange. Instead they talked about establishing “recreational outposts”, which sounded like what DSA has done at The Hub (trail and environment information, signage, etc.). By consensus, DSA will not exchange logos until we have more information.

SummitFest: Beth has been lining up sponsors and has had good success, including with Loomis Basin Brewing. Production of the poster is waiting on FiftyFifty Brewing Company for their logo. Last year’s band has been locked in for 2025. SummitFest prices have been raised to \$25 for adults and \$10 for kids.

Scott White will help with ordering. Mike, Steve, and Dick will be in the area the week before and are willing to help with setup. Banners need to be placed, orders need to be received, and Soda’s refrigerator needs to be turned on. Supplies in The Shed have been attacked by rodents and need to



Top: East facing top of Tunnel 7 (before graffiti overpainting in the center and along the right edge). Middle: less than 24 hours later. Red tagging at the lower left of the center rising section was added overnight. Bottom: Same site two weeks after graffiti overpainting. Red tag after 24 hours had been removed using a can of brown spray paint.

be sorted for usability. Pat and Dick took a lot of damaged inventory to Sugar Bowl dumpsters after Graffiti Day. Tom and Chris will help with beer pouring during the event. **Pat will sign the contract with Soda Springs shortly; she also needs to get the liquor license.**

Catering has sometimes been under-planned; in some cases we have been able to get more supplies from the Soda Springs Store on the day of the event; but Pat thinks we should over-purchase and not rely on the Store. Receiving beer the morning of the event hasn't worked; Beth would like to get it the day before so that it can be chilled. Tom said he will bring kegs from Loomis on Friday morning, when they can be put on ice overnight.

8. Computers and Web Site

Long-Term Digital Storage: Mike prepared a demonstration of the Microsoft package. But, given the late hour and the fact that Bill, Tom, and Elissa were away, there was consensus to postpone the demonstration until after the September meeting.

Web Site: Dick said there is nothing new. At Beth's request, **he will ask NextPixels to add a banner for SummitFest** when people connect to the web site. He is now receiving copies of information and purchasing requests that usually go only to admin@donnersummitca.com. **He will look into adding a note to our Store page saying that merchandise sales have been suspended.**

9. Internal Matters

Flower Brochure: SLPOA's original flower brochure was created by George Lamson. Bill Oudegeest asked George whether DSA could print copies of the brochure with DSA's logo attached, and George agreed. However, Dick wondered whether that was sufficient; in some sense, the brochure belongs to SLPOA and not to George. He added that his wife (Ann Reisenauer) and Gail Rankin have been developing a new brochure with a better selection of Serene Lakes wildflowers based on some previous work Gail has done for the Truckee Donner Land Trust. **Pat will contact Ann to discuss options.**

Admin Support: When Beth joined the DSA Board she continued doing her Administrative Assistant tasks as a volunteer. But, now that her property management business is taking off, she is stretched thin. Dick wondered whether we could find a way to offload some of the more routine Admin duties to another person, and Beth is agreeable. Recently Mitzi Hodges suggested that Helen Lummis, newly appointed to the Admin position in SLPOA, might be looking for a second job with similar duties. Dick contacted Helen a couple days ago, and she sounded both enthusiastic and qualified. **Beth, Tom, and Dick will review the old Admin job description**

(agenda Attachment D) and decide how best to assign the duties — continue in Beth’s hands, hand off to another DSA person, or hand off to a newly hired Admin. Helen could be involved in this process. **They will return with a recommendation.** Tom noted that hiring staff adds to administrative duties across DSA; if the new Admin qualifies as a “contractor” (rather than employee), much of this overhead goes away.

Future Meetings: There was agreement to hold the September 18th Board meeting in Sugar Bowl’s Village Hall where there is both a large screen for Mike’s Microsoft demo and internet. Pat noted that the primary topic for the meeting will be final preparations for SummitFest.

10. Announcements:

Cory Caldwell is the new Executive Director of Truckee Trails Foundation.

Beth attended the latest Chamber of Commerce meeting in Truckee. It’s a morning meeting with a free breakfast. She was invited as part of their outreach program and explained what DSA is doing on the Summit — Gould Park, Summit Cleanup, The Hub, etc. There were over 40 people present, including representatives from Placer County. Beth was asked whether we have anyone who could distribute meals on the Summit (no). She was also approached by someone involved in weekly clean-up activities who said they could work on the Summit if help were needed.

Mike said David Parisi of SLPOA approached Soda Springs for support in reducing speed limits on Soda Springs Road to 25 MPH. Soda Springs would like reduced speeds because 35 MPH is not compatible with the high volume of foot traffic near its entrance during winter ski season. Mike expects David to approach DSA for support.

Trailers will start arriving in a couple days in the Soda Springs parking lots; they are destined for Truckee affordable housing. Mike is optimistic that they will not interfere with SummitFest.

11. Adjournment:

There being no other business, Pat adjourned the meeting at 6:29 PM.

Minutes approved by the DSA Board of Directors at its meeting on September 18, 2025.

signed by DSA Secretary, Richard Simpson, _____



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. Kimberley 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, _____



Donner Summit Association (DSA) Core Action Team Meeting
Thursday, October 16, 2025 4:30-5:50 PM
In-person meeting at Sugar Bowl's Village Hall (Snowshed Room)



Van Norden Meadow bridge over the South Yuba (DSCN8746.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:

Start of the meeting was delayed because of incorrect directions in the agenda. The meeting was called to order at 4:42 PM by Pat Malberg. Chris Parker set up a Zoom connection, including large-screen video.

Core Action Team (DSA Board) Attendees: Tom Denzler, Elissa Hambrecht (by Zoom), Pat Malberg, Chris Parker, Dick Simpson, Mike Spain, John Svahn, and Beth Tanhoff (by Zoom).

Others: Hardy Bullock (Nevada County Board of Supervisors, District 5), Jackie Calvert (Visit Truckee Tahoe), Steve Carle (Serene Lakes Property Owners Association), Ruth Geresy (Truckee Chamber of Commerce — Welcome Center), Shavati Karki-Pearl (Nevada County Community Development Agency – Recreation), Kimberly Parker (Nevada County Economic Development Office), Mandy Stewart (Nevada County – Truckee Office), and Beth Taylor (Nevada County – Truckee Office).

2. Approval of the Agenda:

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

3. Approval of Minutes from the September Meeting:

MSC (Chris/Tom) to approve the September meeting minutes. John abstained.

4. Financial Report (Tom):

Monthly Report: Tom distributed a report prior to the meeting; of most interest were the results from SummitFest 2025. Beth provided a more detailed accounting later which showed \$12,403.00 in revenue, \$2851.54 in expenses, for a net \$9,551.46 to DSA. 165 meal tickets were sold, including 153 for adults and 12 for youth. The live auction produced \$2840 from products valued at \$4439; the silent auction yielded \$2837 on products valued at \$5174.65.

In other financial news, Tom recommended that DSA use Sani-Hut for portable toilets next year; they are \$50/month less expensive. All toilets need to be canceled/removed before winter sets in. **Pat will arrange for removal of the Sani-Hut toilet, and Tom will contact Mitzi Hodges about the United Site Services unit.**

5. County and Other Reports:

Nevada County: Nevada County will conduct the Summit Economics Round Table later in the meeting. There was nothing to report separately.

Convene, Champion, and Catalyze Forum Report: Mandy Stewart said the main topic of the meeting was an update on the Truckee Tahoe Homeless Action Coalition (TTHAC), highlighting its rebranding and ongoing efforts to address homelessness in Eastern County. The second half of the meeting was devoted to brief updates from each of the organizations participating in that CCC meeting.

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

6. Ongoing Projects

Railroad Tunnel/Chinese Camp Celebrations: Nothing new.

October Films: Dick said that the filming schedule has slipped; at last word they would be in the Summit area sometime between October 16 and October 20.

Gould Park/Campground: Pat said the trail day on October 11 was very successful and fun (see Attachment A).

DSA Logo: Dick said there was nothing new in his search for information about registering logos, trademarks, etc.

SummitFest: Beth said that volunteer help and donations of items for the auctions made the difference this year. She especially thanked Sue Busby for assembling the wine baskets. There were a few complaints about the service fee added by EventBright for on-line ticket purchases. One person complained that the live music did not fit an Oktoberfest theme. But Tom felt that other music choices would be more complicated and costly; and it's not clear that DSA wants a hard-core Oktoberfest event.

Brochures: Bill Oudegeest has obtained cost estimates for printing flower brochures: \$345 for 1000, \$469 for 2000, and \$651 for 3000. Reprinting the Emigrant Trail brochure (4-fold, 4 color, both sides) would cost \$702.62 for 2000. Reprinting the Mt. Judah Loop brochure (4-fold, 4-color, both sides, on glossy stock) would cost \$987.83 for 3000. Shipping is extra.

7. Internal Matters

Admin Support: Dick has received a list of tasks Helen Lummis has agreed to perform for SLPOA; they will pay \$40/hour. He recommended that we meet the SLPOA offer, but **he needs to draft something that looks like a contract** and is built around DSA tasks before formal Board action.

Future Meetings: The next meeting will be November 20 at Beth's office, contingent on availability. **She will confirm.**

8. Announcements:

Forestry Tour: Dick has contacted Alisa Adriani about schedule; but she is very busy, so they have agreed to postpone the tour until snow has melted.

9. Economic Roundtable (Kimberly Parker):

Kimberly organized this session to discuss possibilities for improving economic health of the Summit; she views collaboration as an important element in this effort. She would like feedback on DSA's interest in participating in new initiatives.

Hardy (District 5 Nevada County Supervisor) said he and Chris had discussed these issues several years ago when they met on the ski slopes; this is not a new problem, but he is now in a position to offer help backed by Nevada County resources. Sugar Bowl and Truckee Donner Land Trust have made huge contributions by promoting recreation on the Summit; but visitor patterns continue to change. A strong role from Nevada County can bring people together and secure state and federal help. He noted that cannabis distribution is a possible driver for the local economy; North San Juan and Soda Springs have been identified as distribution locations. The County is looking for vendors and members of an advisory board; two vendor candidates look good for Soda Springs.

Ruth (Truckee Tahoe Chamber of Commerce and Manager of the Truckee Welcome Center) is a trail maven for PCT thru-hikers in addition to her C of C responsibilities. This was an excellent year for hikers; and off-season traffic at the Welcome Center has been higher than in previous years.

Jackie (newly appointed Executive Director of Visit Truckee Tahoe) has lived in the area for 17 years, though her association with VTT is less. She continues to be amazed by the recreational opportunities available and the places to explore. For example, she (and her kids) went to the railroad tunnels for the first time only a couple weeks ago. VTT can do analytics to understand visitor patterns better, including how visitors spend their dollars. VTT also does marketing and launched new web site two months ago. VTT wants to distinguish the Truckee-Tahoe area from other mountain communities while promoting sustainable activities. Kimberly wondered whether Sugar Bowl has data on visitor needs and wants.

Kari (Sierra Business Council) reminded the group that she has spoken to DSA a couple times previously, emphasizing the importance of network connectivity to development. Nevada County has stepped up to pay 50% of infrastructure costs for Oasis, which will provide fixed-point wireless connectivity in the more remote areas surrounding Truckee. The grant won't cover connection to homes in Placer County, but it can provide service; costs to homeowners in Nevada County is zero. Kari is hoping Oasis can install a node at Sugar Bowl or Royal Gorge which would reach into Serene Lakes. Within a year Oasis hopes to be able to provide 1 Gbps service to its customers. See Attachment B for more information.

Shavati (Nevada County Community Development Agency – Recreation) wondered whether there is interest in revisiting DSA's Recreation Master Plan which has many suggestions for projects. She also noted that Nevada County's Recreation Master Plan has 17 pages dedicated to the Donner Summit area. The Van Norden Meadow Outdoor Visitor Center idea is proceeding, with the design contract recently prepared. Kimberly is taking the lead on professional planning with the South Yuba River Citizens League

and DSA. Wayfinding signage will help people plan and use trails. Work on public lands is being planned in conjunction with the Forest Service and the Town of Truckee. Shavati recognizes that parking and restroom facilities are high priorities. Other priorities include user generated trails, identifying a formal snow play area, and more overnight camping. She noted that the South Yuba Safety Corridor Committee was broken into three work groups to make the project manageable, whereas the entire Corridor was too large to visualize as a project. Each piece of the Safety Corridor identified a priority project which could be proposed for funding.

Kimberly said Nevada County's Economic Development Action Plan included upgrades to the DSA web site, and it appears that web site activity has increased as a result. Businesses on the Summit tend to be small, have small staffs, and struggle during shoulder seasons. Visitors tend to be day travelers — but what (in addition to an “experience”) do they need/want? Is there a need for more eateries and lodging? Some improvement projects will be short term; but we need to keep the longer view in focus as well or those projects will never be done. The Soda Springs Area Plan was a start, but it was 10 years ago. Kimberly views herself as a concierge — trying to solve problems brought by visitors and constituents. But she doesn't know a lot of people on the Summit; who can she contact when she has questions?

Film permitting was moved to Kimberly's office a year ago. She thought this was a couple car companies wanting to film on Donner Summit. California has since provided big tax credits, and the federal government has applied steep tariffs to films made outside USA. Both changes have increased interest in filming at Donner Summit. Kimberly has been approached by 11 film companies in recent months about obtaining filming permits in Nevada County. One two-day project is estimated to have a potential \$8000 economic impact on the Summit. On the negative side, filming sometimes requires temporary closing of Donner Pass Road — inconvenient and potentially harmful to local businesses. Kimberly's office will work with film companies, encouraging them to connect with businesses.

A general discussion followed.

Chris said he has been in the area a long time. In the old days there were a few restaurants, but the count is now down to one — Old 40. Sugar Bowl had a restaurant at Donner Summit Lodge (DSL); it has been empty for 10 years, and Chris is almost prepared to give it away. Its kitchen was professional but old. Sugar Bowl has 73 full-time employees today; that increases to ~700 during winter. What is missing on the Summit is “community” — there is nothing to do for employees during off hours. TART will run shuttles during winter, but that schedule is very limited — not helpful to employees who need to make a quick run to Truckee to do laundry or buy groceries. If Sugar Bowl creates more housing it will be around DSL

to expand “community”; those outlying residential facilities are connected to the resort by Sugar Bowl’s own local bus service.

Kari wondered whether Sugar Bowl had considered building a mountain bike park. Chris said it has been considered; but Sugar Bowl’s main lodge has 27 rooms, which does not compete with venues like Palisades. There are 170 private properties in Sugar Bowl; the resort doesn’t want to overwhelm those owners and visitors with huge numbers of single day visitors. On the other hand, there is high quality mountain biking already in the area — such as the Hole-in-the-Ground Trail which draws people from around the country.

Hardy asked whether there would be any value in creating community seasonally; Chris said that might work. Beth added that, because the target clientele ranges from seasonal Sugar Bowl employees to high-end Sugar Bowl property owners, it is hard to find simple “community” solutions that cater to such a wide spectrum of interests. Hardy said that he has discussed the future with local business owners; each has a vision for the future but it is hard to find collective themes.

Beth brought up the problem of implementing “solutions” to various problems on the Summit. There are people who would like to make improvements; but she said Nevada County makes it very difficult. Beacon Hill Condo owners are selling because the permitting process is so laborious. The Sierra Soup shop was to open in June, but it remains stalled by permitting. **Kimberly said she will follow up on these problems.** Hardy noted that the Community Development Agency has been overhauled since he joined the Board; he tries to solve those kinds of problems and noted that there is a similar situation at Hobart Mills. Half in jest, there seemed to be consensus that adding a laundromat that served beer and allowed pets might be one easy way to improve “community”.

John said the Truckee Donner Land Trust has been happy with progress so far; but a big remaining challenge is backcountry access from I-80 — specifically in the Castle Vallet area. SYRCL is trying to develop a new trailhead at Castle Valley, but there are funding and management obstacles remaining. Hardy agreed but noted that parking and trash (on both side of t4he freeway) are continuing problems.

Dick said that Sierra Club strategic planners were meeting at Clair Tappan Lodge this week to develop plans for better marketing the facility. He wondered whether the Sierra Club could be integrated into the larger effort. Jackie and Ruth immediately offered support. Kimberly noted that new Short Term Rental rules for Nevada County are coming out; these may push some owners out of the market, changing what is available. John said

he hears complaints that the Summit needs more European-style lodging; but he replies that we already have it if people look around.

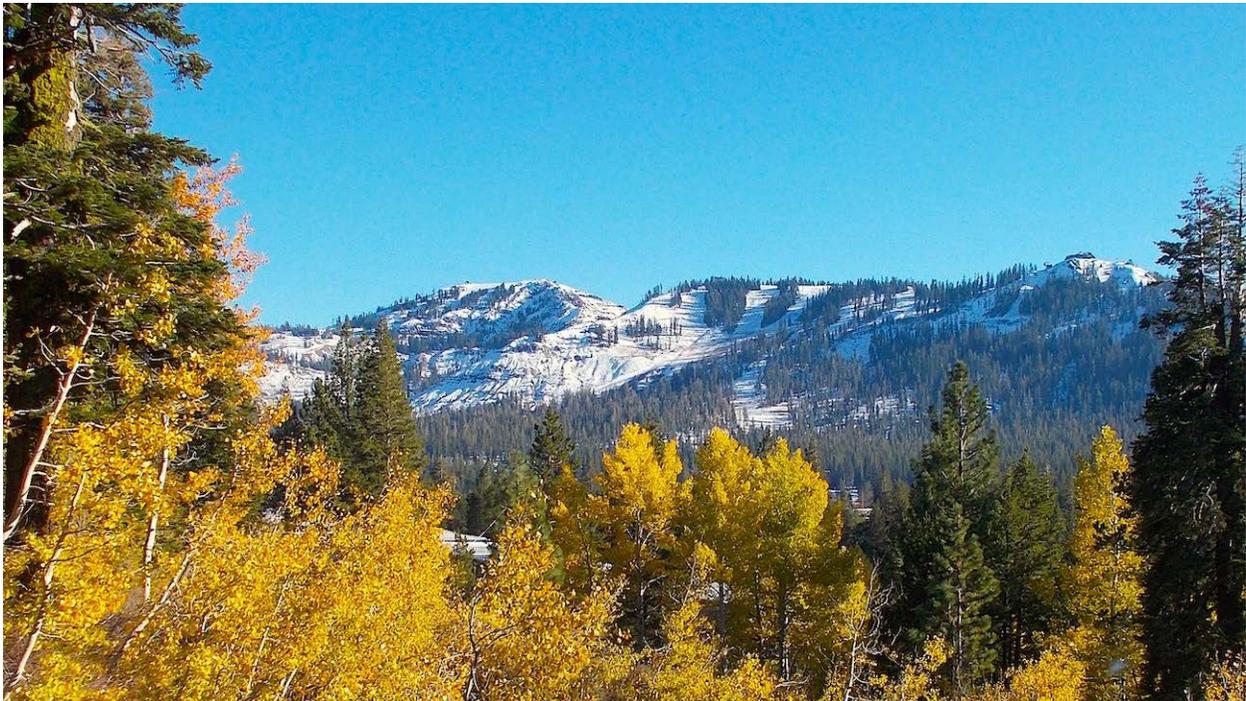
Hardy added that Truckee Recreation and Parks does not have a presence on the Summit even though their jurisdiction extends westward to at least Kingvale; he would be open to pushing them into some sort of collaboration. He also said that the Washoe Tribe is a possible collaborator; their responses have sometimes been slow and erratic, but they are genuinely interested in many of the same issues.

10.Adjournment:

There being no other business, Pat adjourned the meeting at 5:51 PM.

Minutes approved by the DSA Board of Directors at its meeting on November 20, 2025.

signed by DSA Secretary, Richard Simpson, _____



Mt. Lincoln behind aspens after first major snowfall (DSCN8768a.JPG)



Donner Summit Association (DSA) Core Action Team Meeting
Thursday, November 20, 2025 5-6 PM
In-person meeting at Engel & Völkers (Truckee)



Downtown Truckee opposite Engel & Völkers (DSCN8857.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:

Pat Malberg called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM. Chris Parker set up a Zoom connection; John Svahn connected.

Core Action Team (DSA Board) Attendees: Tom Denzler, Elissa Hambrecht, Pat Malberg, Bill Oudegeest, Chris Parker, Dick Simpson, Mike Spain , John Svahn (by Zoom), and Beth Tanhoff.

Others: Steve Carle (Serene Lakes Property Owners Association).

2. Approval of the Agenda:

Mike asked to add an update on Summit speed limits to the agenda.

Chris moved the amended agenda and Tom seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously (MSC-U). This speed limit discussion was added at the end of section 6 in the agenda.

3. Approval of Minutes from the October Meeting:

MSC-U (Chris/Tom) to approve the October meeting minutes.

4. Financial Report (Tom):

Monthly Report: Tom distributed a report prior to the meeting. Final deposits/expenses are in from SummitFest. There was a net \$7593 to DSA for the combination of September and October. Final charges for the United Site Services toilet are in. Last week Pat asked Sani-Hut to pick up their unit, so there may be one more Sani-Hut invoice. **Dick offered to check toilet status on his drive back to Serene Lakes after the meeting.**

Federal Tax Law Changes: Tom noted that there are some changes in federal tax law which may affect how supporters approach donations in 2026 (and late 2025). He suggested that DSA contact potential donors to recommend they consult with a tax advisor. The changes are most likely to affect donors with large incomes who itemize. Some may wish to contribute in 2025 rather than waiting until 2026. Beth said she could send a reminder to her list about Giving Tuesday; she would include a note about the tax changes.

5. County and Other Reports:

Nevada County: There was no representative from Nevada County, and no one had anything else to report.

Convene, Champion, and Catalyze Forum Report: Resorts reported status. Chris said Sugar Bowl will open new food and beverage service at its remodeled Lodge this winter. Nothing is open yet; but, once operational, the services could gradually expand to year-round. Also, most parking lots have been repaved. Work on the new gondola begins in April. He noted that constructing a new covered garage was going to be more expensive than originally estimated — roughly \$160K per stall.

Mike said Mammoth opened today, and Mt. Rose announced that they would be opening tomorrow. It is still too warm for resorts on the Summit to make snow. Powdr Corporation continues to look at developing their 11 acres between the Old Lincoln Highway and the Union Pacific right-of-way into a summer campground. It would be a phased development; the number of campsites in each phase is still being discussed. Tom suggested that looking at a campground across from the County fairgrounds in Grass Valley might

give the developers some ideas for their project. In other news, Powdr is also considering paving additional spaces in the Soda Springs parking areas.

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

6. Ongoing Projects

Central Sierra Snow Lab Visitor Center: Dick said Andrew Schwartz was unable to attend tonight, but that Dick has tentatively scheduled him for a presentation at the January meeting.

Beacon Tester at The Hub: Chris Haagen of the Tahoe Backcountry Ski Patrol has requested feedback on a proposal to install an avalanche beacon tester at the Hub. TBSP would do the installation, carry out maintenance during the winter season, and remove the tester and signage at the end of winter. There was general support for the idea, but several Board members suggested alternate locations. **It was agreed that TBSP should consult with Chris Parker.** John Svahn noted that the TBSP unit at Johnson Canyon is “less polished than the Summit deserves.”

October Films: Dick said that there were several e-mail exchanges with the film crew around the October DSA Board meeting. But the film crew was behind schedule and suggested a meeting where they were working on Glenshire Road. But Dick drove part of Glenshire Road, saw nothing, and has not heard from October Films since.

Gould Park: DSA and JKAE met with representatives from Placer County — including Erika Seward, Kyle Smith, and Marc Henry — on November 6. Patrick Sheehan presented an updated map. Then DSA and JKAE met on November 12. The next DSA/JKAE meeting is scheduled for December 10; the next meeting with Placer County is planned for January 14.

Bill is designing signs. There will be a 20-Mile Museum sign near the ruins explaining the ruins and the role of the Gould family in establishing the park. There will be a six-panel sign near the existing parking lot on the south side of the river. Pat hopes to finalize at least the plan by the end of summer 2026. It may be possible to move forward more quickly by accepting that virtually all park land is in the river flood plain. Then DSA’s proposed upgrades may be considered “repairs” which do not require that the project be fully developed by County personal — lowering cost and saving time.

Wayfinding Project: The Bear Yuba Land Trust contacted Pat about a wayfinding project they are conducting with Nevada County funding. The project is focused on signage — both roadside and on trails. Some of their effort will go into developing and promoting a set of signage standards. Chris

noted that DSA identified wayfinding as a high priority in our Recreation Master Plan. Others agreed that this project seems to dovetail with that recreation priority, so we should at least learn more. **Pat will follow up.**

DSA Logo: Dick said he had nothing new on this topic.

Brochures: No action was taken on printing more brochures at the October DSA meeting. Bill and Pat both endorsed the idea, but there was some confusion about how to proceed and which brochures should be reprinted and in what quantities. Dick made at least two motions, only one of which was seconded.

MSC (Dick/Elissa) to authorize reimbursing the Donner Summit Historical Society up to \$3000 for printing more copies of various brochures. Bill abstained; otherwise the vote was unanimously in favor.

October Economic Roundtable Follow-up: Pat will meet with Kimberly Parker on Monday to ask what she was able to find out about the permitting issues brought up at the October meeting and to get her thoughts on next steps regarding economic development on the Summit.

Pat asked the Board for help in preparing a list of topics to be discussed later with Supervisor Hardy Bullock. General questions include how to create “community” on the Summit and how to assess needs and desires of visitors. Are there issues that can be discussed with the Supervisor that the County can actually address? Pat distilled a list of topics from the DSA October Board minutes:

- a) Are we interested in the Cannabis Advisory Committee? Yes
- b) Visit Truckee Tahoe has analytics that identify some visitor needs and desires. Are we interested in pursuing that information? Sugar Bowl has its own data, but it comes from a limited cross section of visitors. A more general picture would be useful. Yes.
- c) Is wider access to broadband important? Yes
- d) Wayfinding: Yes
- e) Can the County help provide more sanitary facilities? Yes
- f) Can the County help provide more parking? Yes
- g) The Summit needs a “restaurant” where residents and visitors can congregate. But this is probably not something Nevada County can facilitate.
- h) But permitting is a serious obstacle for people trying to start businesses like restaurants. Sierra Soups is on hold because of permitting. “Vertical” parking is apparently prohibited. The cost of upgrading kitchens and dining areas to meet building and health codes is large. What are the underlying issues, and are there ways that variances

- could be obtained? Or can DSA and/or the County find ways to help businesses get off the ground faster, more easily, and at less cost?
- i) Who are possible collaborators in making Donner Summit more attractive? Dick suggested marketing the Summit as The Gateway to the Backcountry. In winter, the **Sierra Club** has four backcountry ski huts, and **Truckee Donner Land Trust** has backcountry facilities at Frog Lake. There has been talk of rebuilding **Royal Gorge's Wilderness Lodge**, and **Donner Ski Ranch** is considering upgrades to what used to be the Sierra Club's "warming hut" near Lytton Lake. There is potential in this area that has not been discussed before. It won't have a dramatic impact on the Summit's economy, but it's a theme that might be worth exploiting. Others suggested inviting **Truckee Recreation and Parks** to a future meeting. Participants in the October discussion also mentioned the **Washoe Tribe** as a possible collaborator.

October participants had also suggested that DSA revisit its Recreation Master Plan to confirm projects that still need attention and to revisit others that may need to be updated. Chris said he could do this, but not until January.

Speed Limits: Mike met with Hardy Bullock and proposed lowering the speed limit on the northern portion of Soda Springs Road; he found some interest in dropping the limit to 30 MPH. A site visit was planned to look at additional signs, crosswalks, etc. Mike thinks these proposals would be good for Soda's guests; **he will follow up.**

7. Internal Matters

Admin Support: Dick located a web site that will provide a free professional services contract that can be tailored to DSA's anticipated Administrative Assistant. Helen Lummis remains interested in the position, but she has been dealing with a family emergency. She expects to be back at the Summit in a few days; **she and Dick will pick up with drafting a contract.**

Future Meetings: The next DSA Board meeting will be combined with a holiday party December 18 at Nancy O's Gallery and Glass. Scheduled start is 4:30 PM with a short business meeting. John and Mike said they don't know whether they can attend; others seemed OK with the date and time. The following meeting will be January 15 at a location to be determined later.

8. Announcements:

West Van Norden: Design Workshop won the contract from Nevada County for designing the visitor facility; they do landscape architecture. Jordan Knighton will be a sub-contractor. Alecia Weisman (South Yuba River

Citizens League) has scheduled an on-site meeting Monday (November 24) at 4 PM; Board members are invited. Snowshoes are recommended.

Cisco Grove Campground: Pat said Zeke Bossenbroeck has advised that they have all needed permits. Construction continues, and they will have rocks that could be contributed to the Gould Park upgrades “forever”.

9. 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 December 18, 2025.

signed by DSA Secretary, Richard Simpson, _____



Beacon tester at the Castle Valley trailhead (DSCN_8874.JPG)



Donner Summit Association (DSA) Core Action Team Meeting
Thursday, December 18, 2025 4:30-6:00 PM
In-person meeting at Nancy O Gallery and Glass (Soda Springs)



Nancy O Gallery and Glass (DSCN8884.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:

Pat Malberg called the meeting to order at 4:30 PM. There was no Zoom.

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

Others: Steve Carle (Serene Lakes Property Owners Association), Heidi Carle (Serene Lakes property owner), Jim Gannon (Towle Mountain property owner), and Helen Lummis (prospective DSA Administrative Assistant).

2. Approval of the Agenda:

Elissa moved the agenda and Bill seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously (MSC-U).

3. Approval of Minutes from the November Meeting:

MSC-U (Bill/Beth) to approve the November meeting minutes.

4. Financial Report (Tom):

Monthly Report: Pat reviewed Tom Denzler’s report, which he had distributed by e-mail before the meeting. Most of the recent financial activity was connected with SummitFest.

5. County and Other Reports:

Nevada County: There was no representative from Nevada County.

Pat and Bill met with Supervisor Hardy Bullock to discuss “development” projects that the Board identified as “most important” during the November meeting. One issue is permitting and inspections of new business construction — such as the site of the proposed Sierra Soups restaurant. The proprietor purchased a new commercial freezer, but the building inspector ruled it non-compliant because it was not stainless steel. Bill and Jim said they have uncovered such regulations by scouring the County website and visiting offices in Nevada City. They have found people willing and able to help. The information is there, but success requires perseverance and time. Pat said the Soda Springs Area Plan includes language recommending that historic structures be granted special attention when it comes to compliance.

Pat said they also discussed the process for approving a cannabis dispensary in Soda Springs. Soda Springs and North San Juan have been approved as locations. Vendor selection will be done with an advisory committee, which will also recommend whether the vendor offers delivery services in addition to a storefront. Two people have stepped forward to serve on the advisory committee, but no one in the DSA meeting knew them. The question of DSA’s role in this process was raised; it appeared that DSA has never taken a position on the dispensary. Elissa said Sugar Bowl and others are interested in having more businesses on the Summit but they likewise have taken no position on a dispensary. Based on her previous experience in the legal industry, and based on where things seem to stand and the disarray of the legal industry in California, Elissa thinks that the potential opening of a dispensary could be at least 5 years away. Bill suggested that DSA take a position on the dispensary, but then there were questions about what

position(s) to take. Elissa said she would not vote against any proposed position; but Dick said he was not ready to vote on anything given the unknowns. John suggested that any DSA position be at a very high level — no positioning on individual businesses. **Anyone interested can propose a position statement for discussion at a future meeting.**

Supervisor Bullock recommended that DSA work with Visit Truckee Tahoe and the Truckee Chamber of Commerce to develop analytics that characterize our visitors. He added that any campaign to improve business on the Summit needs a media influencer.

Convene, Champion, and Catalyze Forum Report: The most recent CCC Forum included a briefing on winter weather by an employee of NOAA in Reno. She said that neither La Niña nor El Niño characteristics have been found in the weather patterns so far. Elissa said that Dan Tackett has been providing weather advice to locals (including ski areas); he discontinued his daily forecasts this year because his government data source has been cut off.

Jim Morrison is an American ski mountaineer. In October 2025 he skied the Hornbein Couloir on the north face of Mt. Everest. National Geographic provided support and is assembling a documentary about the trip. He presented a 15-minute video to the Forum.

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

6. Ongoing Projects

Gould Park: DSA and JK Architecture and Engineering had a Zoom meeting on December 10; also joining was Jim White, a long-time property owner in Cisco Grove. The group discussed plans for moving the Gould Park project forward. One of the more problematical parts will be rebuilding the Artist's Corner at the junction of Cisco Road and Hampshire Rocks Road; whether it will require professional engineering is a big unknown. JKAE will try to obtain copies of the 2004 plans; it may be possible to "repair" the originally planned corner in a way that achieves current goals. A cost estimate should follow.

Bill has roughed out five of six planned new informational signs, roughed out a new 20-Mile Museum sign for the Gould Park ruins, and provided cost estimates for signage totaling \$25-30K. A bicycle repair station will add \$3K. The combined budget will be folded together with text and visuals in a Gould Park "master plan", which will be presented to Placer County. The County may be willing to contribute \$90K to the project; if that is not enough, DSA will plan a fundraising campaign. The hope is to schedule at least some work on the ground during summer 2026.

West Van Norden: Alecia Weisman organized a site visit on November 24 to go over the plans with Design Workshop, which was awarded the contract for designing the facility. Pat joined county, USFS, and other representatives. Design Workshop hopes to start work in January.

Wayfinding Project: Pat responded positively to an inquiry from Erik Marquis about DSA's interest in a "wayfinding" project started by the Bear Yuba Land Trust. She then followed up with a suggestion for more signing around the Summit (to tunnels, trailheads, etc.). **She will continue to follow up with Erik.**

Economic Development: Kimberly Parker provided a list of possible actions to increase business activity around Donner Summit (see Agenda, Attachment B). Pat would like to set up a DSA committee to advance this — responding to Kimberly's list and adding other possibilities. She has invited representatives from several agencies to DSA's January Board meeting; she and the committee should meet (probably virtually) with Kimberly in the same time frame.

Pat would like to see Donner Summit Lodge used more effectively. It currently provides lodging for Sugar Bowl employees, shop space in its basement, and meeting space on the top floor. The old restaurant is unused, as is the back yard — which Pat could imagine as a picnic area and de facto rest stop for travelers on the Interstate. Chris said Sugar Bowl has been looking unsuccessfully for a new tenant. The restaurant could use some sprucing up; its kitchen needs a major overhaul. If not a new restaurant, Sugar Bowl would prefer to have a facility that contributed to employee life.

Helen volunteered for the committee. After some cajoling, it appeared that Chris might be willing to consult. John thought a realtor (whose name he could not recall) might be a useful addition.

John mentioned that Truckee Donner Land Trust receives requests to host "races" often enough that every summer weekend could be scheduled (only a third to half are accepted). Foot races and birding are the most common proposals. These are likely to be weekend events; the Summit needs attractions mid-week as well. Lodging is often a concern; but there are lodges with space around the Summit, and there is a flourishing rental market. Steve thought that a campground (such as has been suggested by Mike Spain at previous meetings) would be a positive addition.

7. Internal Matters

Admin Support: Dick circulated a draft contract for a DSA Administrative Assistant. It got late feedback from Tom Denzler; but Dick did not have time

to circulate the amendments before the meeting. He suggested that the Board authorize a nominal expenditure for the next month, during which he will work with Helen, Tom, and any others interested in hammering out a final contract which could be approved at the January Board meeting.

MSC-U (Dick/John) to approve compensation up to \$400 for Administrative Assistant services before the January Board meeting.

Logo: DSA has two logos; one has been used primarily for official correspondence (web site, letterhead, these minutes, etc.), and the other has been used on clothing, stickers, and other merchandise. Dick recommended that DSA begin the process of registering the administrative logo with California. Elissa has had some experience in this area and she offered to help.

MSC-U (Bill/John) to authorize spending up to \$70 for an initial attempt at registering the DSA administrative logo with California.

Future Meetings: Chris, John and Elissa will not be in the area on January 15th, the nominal date for the next meeting. However, it appeared that most could attend a meeting on January 8. **Chris offered to host** at Sugar Bowl's Village Hall; he could give a tour of the new facilities. **Elissa will host if Village Hall is not available. Pat will contact potential guests** for the discussion of local business health and support.

8. Announcements:

Chris reminded those present that the Sugar Bowl Lodge restaurants will open tomorrow (Friday).

9. Adjournment:

There being no other business, Pat adjourned the meeting at 5:42 PM. A holiday party/social event followed.

Minutes approved by the DSA Board of Directors at its meeting on January 8, 2025.

signed by DSA Secretary, Richard Simpson, _____