



Donner Summit Association (DSA) Core Action Team Meeting

Thursday, February 26, 2026 5:00-6:00 PM

In-person meeting at Soda Springs Mountain Resort



Soda Springs Mountain Lodge (from the resort's 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:**

Pat Malberg called the meeting to order at 5:01 PM. Helen Lummis provided a phone connection; there was no Zoom link.

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

Others: Steve Carle (Serene Lakes Property Owners Association), Cory Caldwell (Truckee Trails Foundation), and Helen Lummis (DSA Administrative Assistant).

2. Approval of the Agenda:

Mike moved to approve the agenda; Tom seconded the motion, and it was carried unanimously (MSC-U).

3. Approval of Minutes from the January Meeting:

MSC-U (Bill/Elissa) to approve the January meeting minutes.

4. Confirmation of E-Vote on Washoe Consulting

After the January meeting, Pat requested permission to pay Herman Fillmore of the Washoe Tribe \$500 to review a sign describing Native American presence in the Gould Park area. Mr. Fillmore had requested the payment, and Pat confirmed with Alecia Weisman (of the South Yuba River Citizens' League, SYRCL) that this was appropriate. Six members of the Board (Denzler, Hambrecht, Parker, Simpson, Spain, and Svahn) approved the expense by an e-vote; Bill Oudegeest voted "no". Pat sent the sign text, as it appears with illustrations, to Mr. Fillmore ten days ago and then, at Mr. Fillmore's request, sent him the text alone. He confirmed receipt of both, but he has not yet returned a review.

5. Financial Report (Tom):

Monthly Report: Tom distributed his report before the meeting. There were two donations totaling \$600; **Helen will send thank you notes**. DSA reimbursed the Donner Summit Historical Society for \$1590.06 spent reprinting brochures. DSA sent a Form 1099 to NextPixels for web site services during calendar year 2025.

6. County and Other Reports:

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

Truckee Convene, Champion, and Catalyze Forum: Hardy Bullock spoke, among other items, about the need for a facilities visioning process for eastern Nevada County — to plan for future needs. Nettie Pardue, Executive Director of the Lake Tahoe Destination Stewardship Council (<https://stewardshiptahoe.org>) spoke of a new effort to promote a slower pace of life in Tahoe, with training for all sectors aimed at a unified message, for locals and visitors alike. Mottos for the program include: "Embrace the pace", and "Take it slow, Tahoe".

Placer County: There was no County representative, and no one else had news to report.

7. Ongoing Projects

Gould Park: Placer County had scheduled a meeting to discuss signage at Gould Park this morning; but it was canceled and no replacement date has been proposed.

West Van Norden: Pat sent the DSA-approved letter supporting SYRCL's grant request entitled *The Van Norden Meadow Recreation Project*.

Wayfinding Project: Erik Marquis has left Bear River Land Trust. Shavati Karki-Pearl referred Pat to Erin Tarr (erin@bylt.org; 530-272-5994 x2005), the BRLT Executive Director; but they have not connected. The Wayfinding Project had an aggressive schedule, and it is not clear what input DSA can provide or when. There was some consensus that the white on brown signs described by Erik might be most consistent with Forest Service and Sugar Bowl signs in the area. Dick noted that Chris had offered (during the January meeting) to review signage recommendations in DSA's Recreation Master Plan and to provide those to Erik. The action was revised: **Chris to review DSA's signage recommendations and forward those to Erin.**

Economic Development: Cory distributed a summary of his presentation — a status report on his team's "DSA Strategy for Engagement, Economic Vitality, and Community Impact" regarding the soon-to-be cannabis dispensary on Donner Summit (Attachment A). His team includes five members from a variety of businesses; there are about 30 other people involved in similar exercises that will last 6 months. The program is sponsored by the Truckee/North Tahoe Leadership Group, which seeks to give participants skills and experience in business-related areas.

Cory's team reviewed DSA minutes and other material, trying to identify a specific target. The cannabis dispensary was the top choice of three proposed; it is already in progress. The team's goal is to bring DSA as much information as possible so that the community is informed as Nevada County selects the business that will open the dispensary.

A selection committee of five people has been chosen; they are now determining selection criteria for the vendor. Once criteria have been set (planned for March 19), the committee will select the vendor. Vendors may apply now; selection seems likely in July-August. One known applicant is from Truckee; another has more "national" standing. The local applicant has already expressed interest in either using the building which previously housed the Soda Springs General Store or developing a lot next to the Nancy O Gallery.

Bill offered to publish information in the next SLPOA newsletter; Cory provided him with an article. There was agreement that broadcasting

information often would be desirable. Dick suggested a community meeting sometime in May, as the team is wrapping up its work. But Helen thought the afternoon of June 6 might be better; DSA will be having its Summit Clean-up and SLPOA will be opening its beach and docks in the morning, so there are likely to be a large number of people on the Summit.

Cory suggested that developing a list of “stakeholders” could be useful in spreading information. Pat suggested the list at the back of DSA’s Recreation Master Plan. **Dick will send Cory the link to the Plan**, which is posted on the DSA web site.

The team makes its final presentation to TNTLG on June 12; included will be a “play book” which DSA can use to guide its activities after that date. Cory indicated that team members would be willing to help after the project ends, but the goal is for DSA to take the initiative.

Steve asked whether input from Serene Lakes property owners would be taken seriously since that community is in Placer County and the dispensary will be in Nevada County. Cory admitted that cross-jurisdictional issues are sometimes a problem, but he hoped that comments would be accepted without County identification being required.

Other Economic Initiatives: Pat noted that Kimberly Parker had expressed interest in touring Donner Summit Lodge and the old Soda Springs Store as possible sites for economic revitalization. Both tours are still planned; but no date has been selected for the DSL tour, and the property owner of the “mall” building has not yet been contacted.

8. Internal Matters

Logo: Dick said the application to register the DSA logo was submitted in early January, returned in early February with requests for correction (DSA service “classes” did not align with a set of federal service classes), and resubmitted.

Summit Fest 2026: Pat said that picking a date would help with advance planning. After some discussion, the Board settled on September 26; it conflicts with a similar event in Olympic Valley, but there are not likely to be many conflicted people (Tom is one). September 19 might have been preferred, but that is the date for the 2026 Donner Party hikes.

Future Meetings: The next Board meeting will be March 19 at Beth’s office in Truckee (Engel & Völkers).

Summit Clean-up: The date was confirmed as June 6.

9. Announcements:

Snow Museum — The program was run at Sugar Bowl on February 6; there were 17 participants. It is designed to be repeated at other local resorts, incorporating their own features and history — at Sugar Bowl, the Rathskellar tour was the most popular part. In the meantime, the Snow Museum has received a letter from the Forest Service giving permission to move forward with a design using USFS property near the junction of Hwy 89 and Olympic Valley Road.

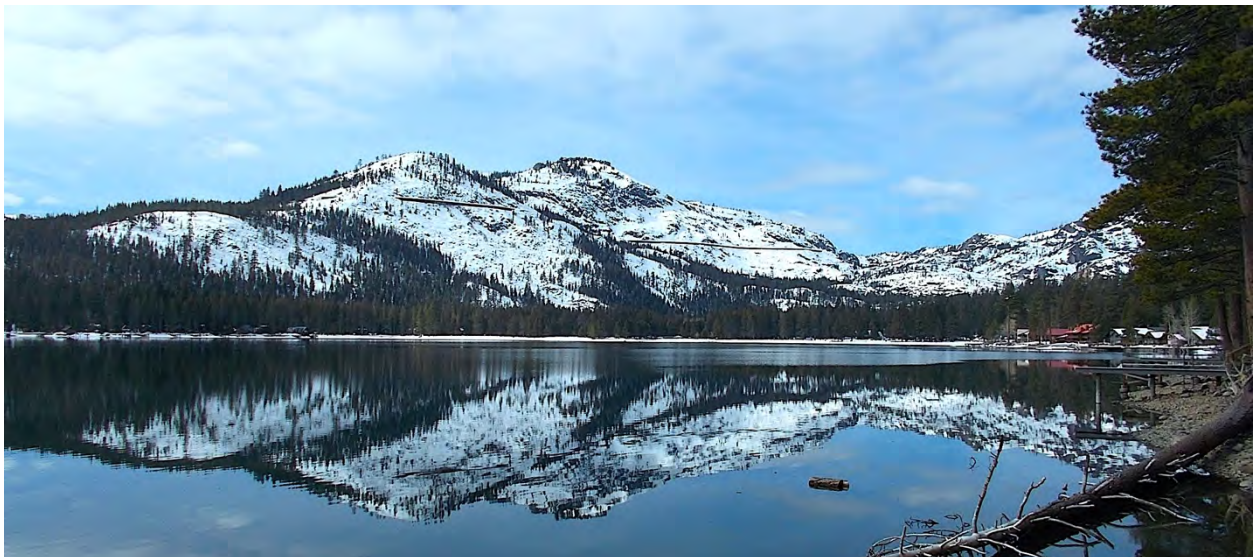
Fuels Reduction Collaborative: Pat attended the meeting along with many others. She said the meeting was very well organized and informative. The collaborative is grouping nearby property owners with Sugar Bowl for a unified approach to fuels reduction. **Helen suggested adding “resource” to the DSA web site with fuels reduction and other information.**

10. Adjournment:

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

Minutes approved by the DSA Board of Directors at its meeting on March 19, 2026.

signed by DSA Secretary, Richard Simpson, _____



Schallenberger Ridge, Donner Peak, Donner Pass and their reflections in Donner Lake
(DSCN9058.JPG)



Commercial Cannabis on Donner Summit

DSA Strategy for Engagement, Economic Vitality, and Community Impact

Leadership Group 3 – Summit Slayers

Patrick Sheehan • Cory Caldwell • Faviola Alcocer • Maria F. Beaton • Sara Schrichte

Project Overview

Nevada County has initiated a licensing process for commercial cannabis operations that may impact Donner Summit. This project supports the Donner Summit Association (DSA) by providing clear, objective information and analysis so DSA can understand the regulatory landscape, evaluate potential economic and community impacts, and determine appropriate next steps.

This effort is informational and strategic in nature, designed to equip DSA with the tools needed to represent community interests and engage effectively as the County's process moves forward.

Project Objectives and Deliverables

This project will provide the Donner Summit Association with clear, decision-ready information and tools to understand and respond to Nevada County's commercial cannabis licensing process. Key deliverables include:

- A plain-language summary of regulatory pathways, timelines, and decision points
 - Analysis of potential economic, workforce, and tourism impacts specific to Donner Summit
 - Identification of opportunities and considerations for local businesses and community stakeholders
 - Structured engagement with stakeholders to gather and document community input
 - A final readiness and decision playbook outlining findings, key considerations, and recommended next steps
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Timeline and Engagement

The project will run from February through June 2026, with regular updates provided to the DSA Board throughout the process. Draft findings will be shared for review and feedback, with the final readiness and decision playbook delivered on June 12, 2026.

Project Outcome

By June 2026, DSA will have a clear, objective framework to:

- Understand regulatory requirements and timelines
- Evaluate potential economic and community impacts
- Engage stakeholders and represent community perspectives
- Make informed decisions aligned with the Summit's priorities and long-term vision