



Donner Summit Association (DSA) Core Action Team Meeting
Thursday, May 21, 2026 5:00-6:00 PM
In-person meeting at Soda Springs Mountain Resort



Clouds clearing from Castle Peak after thunderstorms (May 22, DSCN9320.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 5:01 PM. Attendees introduced themselves.

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

Others: Andrea Broaddus (Soda Springs resident), Cory Caldwell (Truckee Trails Foundation), Steve Carle (Serene Lakes Property Owners Association), Nancy Costello (Truckee resident), Jim Gannon (Towle Mountain homeowner), Bill Kenny (Truckee resident), Helen Lummis (DSA Admin), and Kimberly Parker (Nevada County Economic Development Office).

2. Approval of the Agenda:

Elissa moved to approve the agenda; John seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously (MSC-U).

3. Approval of Minutes from the April Meeting:

MSC (Dick/Elissa) to approve the April meeting minutes. John abstained since he had not attended; all others voted in favor.

4. Financial Report (Tom):

There was little activity during the past month — a donation and some fees to pay. Tom reminded the Board that the DSA fiscal year ends on May 31; please submit reimbursement requests before then if you have any. John recently made a contribution to DSA; he encouraged other Board members to do the same.

Portable Toilets: DSA has been paying for one portable toilet at The Hub since April; it is a unit that Mitzi Hodges used over the winter. She arranged to move the toilet and transfer the billing. We will reciprocate when our season is over. Cory was offered a \$10K grant by Nevada County and was going to use part of it to put a toilet at The Hub until he discovered DSA's unit was already there. He offered to pick up the charges for the existing toilet or to provide another toilet at a different site.

Some years ago Pat and Don Malberg arranged for a toilet near the Lake Mary PCT trailhead; billing was to DSA, but that arrangement has lapsed. Truckee Donner Land Trust provides toilets at several sites; the Climbing Coalition or SLPOA share expenses at some sites. Cory offered to consolidate management of toilets on Donner Summit. The offer does not extend to toilets that are distinctly in Placer County. He took photos on his drive up Old 40 to this meeting. **He will create a map showing where toilets are located.** As part of Cory's consolidated management, partners will reimburse TTF for their shares of expenses at jointly supported sites.

Pat warned that toilets need to be properly positioned; a few feet can make a difference — for example, at the PCT South trailhead. It is also important to ensure a proper servicing cadence; some toilets fill in 24 hours. Finally, it is important to set an end-service date that is commensurate with arrival of serious snow — pickup too early means no toilet at a popular trailhead; pickup too late means the toilet may be buried and effectively destroyed by heavy snow.

5. County and Other Reports:

Nevada and Placer Counties: No County representatives were present; no one else had anything to report.

Truckee Convene, Champion, and Catalyze Forum: The May meeting of CCC was canceled, so there was nothing to report.

6. Ongoing Projects

Forestry on the Summit: Dick had offered to put Clair Tappaan Lodge in touch with Meghan Lowry and her fire safety group. That has been accomplished.

Gould Park: Erika Seward notified Pat that Gould Park is now open; maintenance is being conducted weekly. Operations staff will be replacing two picnic tables and one entrance sign in future visits. Because of staffing shortages, DSA's upgrade (particularly, engineering work at the artists' corner) has to be put on hold. Pat suggested that DSA could schedule a 'cleanup' activity on its own. **Dick will visit the park during DSA's roadside cleanup to see what might be feasible.**

Wayfinding: Chris was not present, so there was no update.

Graffiti Abatement: Dick suggested that we discuss this briefly since now is the time to begin planning; he admitted that he has not looked carefully at the situation on the ground. Pat will contact Sugar Bowl about their interest in supporting new work. Mike said he might be able to recruit Boreal people after mid August, when their summer schedule relaxes.

Economic Development: The community meeting about economic development and the cannabis dispensary starts at 6:30. Cory said the entire leadership group is excited about what has been accomplished. They will create two sets of slides — one for the leadership group itself and a second for DSA, which can be posted on DSA's web site. Their recommended next steps will be in the DSA slide set. A trial run of their presentation yesterday took an hour; they are optimistic the time can be reduced today. There is a QR code in a slide near end; it directs people to a follow-up survey.

Summit Clean-up: Publicity is out. Advance signups are requested so that volunteers can view a required video as part of the signup procedure. However, on-site signups will also be accepted.

SummitFest 2026: The date is reconfirmed as September 26, to avoid conflict with Donner Party Hikes on September 19-20.

7. Internal Matters

Web Site: Dick said web site updates are nearly complete. The SHOP section has been retired since DSA no longer wants the administrative overhead in selling merchandise. The RESOURCES page is nearly complete; it is a simple text listing of where people can find information about getting building permits, reporting fires, etc.

Future Meetings: Elissa volunteered to host the June 18 meeting at her home in Sugar Bowl. Directions will be included in the June meeting agenda.

8. Announcements:

DSPUD: Andrea said 30 people attended the DSPUD public hearing about water and wastewater rate increases. About 200 votes were submitted on the rate changes. Votes need to be validated, then tabulated. Results will be announced at the next DSPUD Board meeting on June 2.

Andrea said DSPUD held a workshop in April on the rate increases; slides from the workshop are at <https://www.dspud.org/files/01cdf61a9/2026.04.18+Final+Workshop+Presentation.pdf> Cost accelerators have been built into the rate calculations, but they have not kept up with actual costs — hence, the need to adjust the rates again.

Non-Profit Support: Nancy attended a meeting in Carson City about donating to non-profits. People attending each made a \$25 contribution to a pool. At the end of the meeting, the pool was divided three ways based on presentations by advocates for non-profits made during the meeting. She thought this was an innovative way to support non-profits and is planning to launch something similar on the Summit which could benefit local non-profits.

9. Adjournment:

There being no other business, Pat adjourned the meeting at 5:53 PM.

Minutes approved by the DSA Board of Directors at its meeting on June 18, 2026.

signed by DSA Secretary, Richard Simpson _____