



Donner Summit Association (DSA) Core Action Team Meeting

Thursday, June 18, 2026 5:00-6:00 PM

In-person meeting at Elissa Hambrecht's home in Sugar Bowl



Site of June meeting (DSCN9517.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 5:06 PM. The Zoom connection could not be activated without Chris Parker, who was away. Elissa set up two mobile phones so remote Board members could participate by voice.

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

Others: Andrea Broaddus (Soda Springs resident) and Helen Lummis (DSA Admin).

2. Approval of the Agenda:

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

3. Approval of Minutes from the May Meeting:

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

4. Financial Report (Tom):

The DSA fiscal year ended on May 31. Before the meeting, Tom distributed summary reports for both the month and the year. There has been little activity in recent months and expenses in both FY24-25 and FY25-26 have been driven importantly by one-of-a-kind credits and debits. DSA net assets at the end of both fiscal years have been very close to \$191K. See Attachment A for FY24-25 and FY25-26 summaries of revenue and expenses.

Tom said portable toilet charges are up to date; but that precipitated a long discussion about which toilets DSA supports and by how much. In the end it was decided to let Cory Caldwell complete his 'toilet map' of Donner Summit (**promised during the May meeting**) which should show all units and their sponsors.

5. County and Other Reports:

Nevada County: No County representative was present, but Pat said that Shavati Karki-Pearl had canceled the most recent Nevada County Recreation Committee meeting.

Truckee Convene, Champion, and Catalyze Forum: The June CCC meeting focused on climate change and its impact on local businesses. Not surprisingly, a study suggests that overnight visitors have a greater impact on the local economy than day visitors. Climate change reduces the snow season and increases summer fire danger; but it may bring opportunities in shoulder seasons.

John Slaughter reported to CCC that Sugar Bowl is spending \$100M on upgrades but that success in future winter operations at all ski areas may require better snow making machines.

Tom noted that there is more thinning along I-80 than in previous years. He mentioned a conversation with someone from Southern Pacific Industries, which aims for 35 ft spacing between trees in SPI forests. John said there are competing positions on this; some experts like widely spaced individual trees, others prefer spaced clumps of trees, and there are additional theories.

Placer County: No County representative was present, and no one had news to report. Helen asked when the next Placer County Donner Summit MAC/Community Forum was scheduled; Pat, a member of the MAC, said she had no information.

6. Ongoing Projects

Jones Property Forestry Tour: Dick received a renewed invitation from Alisa Adriani to Board members for a tour of forestry projects on her family's property near Devil's Peak. DSA has submitted letters of support when she has requested funding in the past. Pat, Bill, and Dick said they would be interested, as would Elissa and her husband. Dick suggested July 2 9-11 AM; most said they were flexible, but there were no other specific suggestions for dates or times. **Dick will follow up with Alisa.**

Gould Park: Three weeks ago Dick inspected trails — improved during a DSA work day in October 2025 — and concluded they could be easily “refreshed” during another session with volunteers. He then requested and received permission from Marc Henry (Placer County Parks) to conduct a 2026 work day to do the refreshing and to make additional improvements on a trail marked by Placer Parks between the ruins and the artists' corner. The Board agreed to proceed; there was consensus to try for July 11 or 18. **Dick will follow up.**

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

Graffiti Abatement: Pat contacted Jenna Prescott about support from Sugar Bowl for another round of graffiti abatement. Jenna is discouraged that the graffiti reappear so quickly, but she was agreeable to thinking about another date in September. The Board felt that September 12 might work — after Labor Day but before both Donner Party Hikes (September 19) and DSA's SummitFest (September 26).

Economic Development: Pat and Helen attended the final presentations from project teams in the North Tahoe Truckee Leadership Group on June 12 at Tahoe Donner. All six team presentations were excellent. Summit Slayers, the team that worked with DSA on the cannabis dispensary project, gave a

thorough and well-organized presentation, emphasizing that they and the DSA are taking a neutral stand. Pat has a copy of the Slayers' final report; she will give it to Helen for safe keeping after she finishes reading it.

Pat said the community meeting hosted by DSA on May 21 at Soda Springs Resort went well, but communication was recognized as a weak link. A second community meeting, hosted by Nevada County, is planned for July 2 (5:30-6:30 PM, also at Soda Springs Resort). Supervisor Hardy Bullock will attend. Although the topic is controversial, Pat feels that the discussions have brought the community together. Tom noted that community spirit is difficult to develop because a county line runs through the area.

Summit Clean-up: Pat and Helen agreed that about 40 people participated in the Clean-up this year. The numbers may be a little lower than in some recent years, but everyone agreed that the goal — removing trash along Donner Pass Road — was achieved. Attendance might be higher if the DSA date didn't conflict with SLPOA's Sand Fling; but Helen believes choosing the date, which also coincides with Truckee's cleanup day, has benefits: everyone is thinking similar thoughts at the same time.

SummitFest 2026: The date is September 26 (despite Dick's repeated errors in DSA agendas). **Pat will get the ABC license and insurance certificate.** Elissa said a beer donation from 50-50 has been promised; other donations are pending with a final date of July 30 so that publicity can be prepared with sponsor acknowledgements. Beth was going to get last year's band, but she has not confirmed.

Van Norden Meadow: There were several items of interest regarding the Meadow.

Elissa said the new vault toilet at Sheep Pens is now available for use; she described it as "gorgeous". Opening may have been delayed because USFS simply forgot that it was there.

SYRCL has been awarded \$499.5K by the Northern Sierra Conservancy for trail design and development; Dick believes the total project cost will be more, but this is an excellent start.

Runoff from the north liquified parts of the road just west of Sheep Pens, and early vehicle traffic left deep ruts which make the road impassible for typical passenger cars from the west. SYRCL asked for help from Placer County in May but there had been no repair as of earlier today. SYRCL plans drainage improvements before next winter.

The railroad crossing east of Sheep Pens has been disassembled and the gate from Sugar Bowl is generally locked, so Sheep Pens is currently inaccessible by normal passenger vehicles from both directions. It is unclear why the railroad crossing was taken apart. It might be possible to obtain explanations from UPRR, but no action was assigned.

7. Internal Matters

Web Site: There have been several improvements:

The SHOP pages were taken off-line several months ago; but persistent shoppers could still place orders if they could find the right pages. One recently did, leading to some confusion. Helen and Beth were able to satisfy the customer using stock in hand. NextPixels has added additional preventive measures which will give future customers “Page Not Found” messages if they try to place orders.

The RESOURCES page, promised a month ago, is now live — in the menu at the bottom of most web pages. It lists phone numbers and links where people can find building permits, report power outages, etc. Andrea asked whether service providers could be listed; but DSA decided against that for several reasons including need for constant maintenance and the appearance that a listing might imply endorsement. Helen said that local real estate agents maintain such lists, which they share on request. She also suggested contacting someone in Serene Lakes where SLPOA maintains a list on their members-only web pages.

An entry for Summit Soups has been added on the “Where to Eat” page. Compared with other entries, it is incomplete because Summit Soups remains “softly” open (variable menu) and has no web site of its own.

A new page under PROJECTS has been added for the cannabis dispensary discussion; it links to eight other documents. The intent is to maintain the page for information; a statement has been added saying that DSA has taken no position on whether there should be a dispensary.

Dick said that he has an e-mail list to notify about 40 readers when the *DSA News* page is updated; he has a second list (about 80 addresses) for distributing agendas and minutes. Beth has assembled a list, which Helen now maintains, with about 1000 addresses; these are people who have made purchases, made donations, or expressed interest in DSA activities. Dick would like to combine these lists, but he’s worried about overloading recipients with messages they don’t want. Helen said Mail Chimp allows

flags to control message flow. **Helen and Dick will seek a way to combine the e-mail lists.**

Future Meetings: Next meeting is July 16 at Nancy O's Gallery and Glass.

8. Announcements:

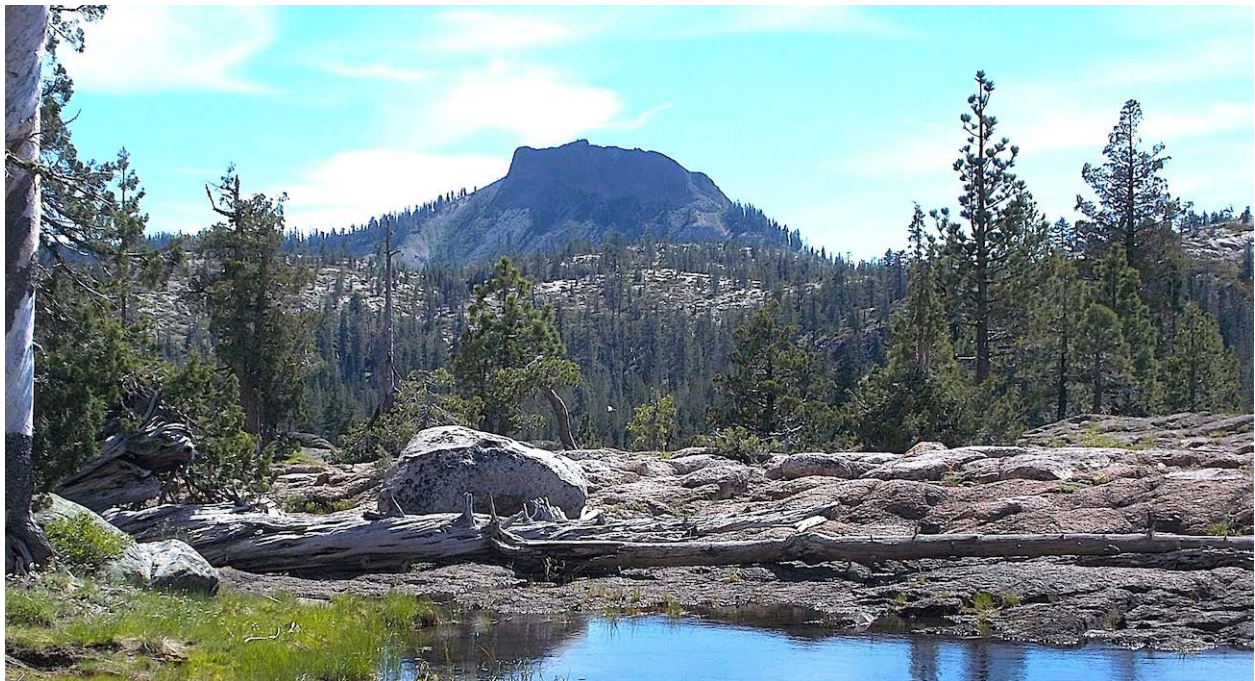
Andrea said that Donner Summit Public Utilities District received about 200 protests to their proposed rate increases. After discounting protests from people with undeveloped lots, multiple protests from the same parcel, and renters, the total number of valid protests was only about 30. The DSPUD Board then accepted the rate study, and the new rates will go into effect on July 1. However, Andrea said there is some movement toward changing the Board and revisiting finances.

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 July 16, 2026.

signed by DSA Secretary, Richard Simpson _____



Devil's Peak from the north (DSCBN9502.JPG).

Attachment A
FY24-25 and FY25-26 Summaries

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS- FY 25/26

Income	2025/26	2024/25
▪ Individual Contributions-	\$ 2,250	\$ 5,257
▪ Summit Fest	\$ 11,956	\$ 8,362
▪ Interest Income	\$ 695	\$ 3,680
▪ Swag Sales	\$ 115	\$ 1,012
▪ TOTAL INCOME	\$ 15,215	\$ 18,311

Notes:

- Interest income in 2024/25 included transfer in of prior year income per decision to use CD income for hub expenses.
- Swag sales were discontinued during 2025/26

COGS/ Expenses	2025/26	2024/25
▪ Swag Purchase-	\$ 1,911	\$ 0
▪ Summit Fest	\$ 2,630	\$ 3,036
▪ Porta Potties	\$ 2,415	\$ 1,426
▪ Hub Brochures	\$ 1,590	\$ 0
▪ Web Design/Support	\$ 467	\$ 4,119
▪ Club Insurance	\$ 4,013	\$ 3,652
▪ TOTAL COGS/EXPENSES	\$ 16,297	\$ 14,706
▪ NET INCOME/ LOSS	(\$ 1,081)	\$ 3,605

Notes:

- COGS / Expense lines don't show all spending in all categories