



Donner Summit Association (DSA) Core Action Team Meeting

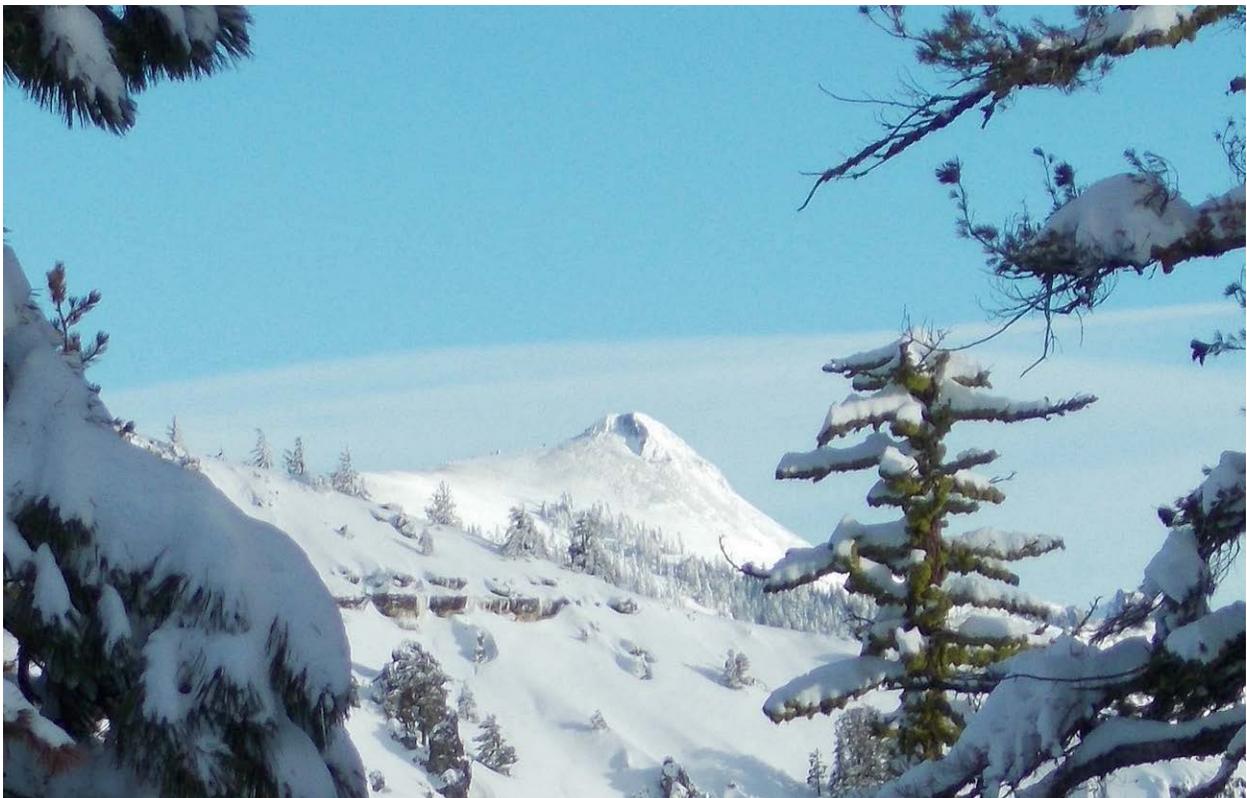
2022 Year in Review

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Donner Summit Association (DSA) Core Action Team Meeting
Thursday, January 13, 2022 5-6 PM
Virtual Meeting Hosted by Truckee Donner Land Trust



Tinker Knob from the northwest in early January (DSCN2402.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 by Pat Malberg at 5:03 PM.

Core Action Team (DSA Board) Attendees: Mark Himmelstein, Pat Malberg, Bill Oudegeest, Dick Simpson, Mike Spain, John Svahn, and Krista Voosen.

Others: Tom Denzler (DSA CFO/Treasurer) and Nick Martin (Placer County)

2. Approval of Agenda:

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

3. Approval of December Minutes:

Pat thanked Dick for the food photo in the minutes.

MSC-U (Bill, Krista) to approve the December meeting minutes.

4. Confirm E-votes

Pat received an offer extending our Placer County grant to the end of 2022. She signed and returned the extension after receiving nine e-votes from Board members favoring extension. The amendment (without signature lines) is reproduced below.

MSC-U (Bill, Krista) to confirm the e-vote, approving the contract extension.

AMENDMENT 1 TO USE OF FUNDS AGREEMENT

DONNER SUMMIT TRAIL AND HISTORY HUB

Date of Use of Funds Agreement: February 11, 2020

Date of Amendment 1 of Use of Funds Agreement: December 29, 2021

Section Amended:

Section 9.

The Grantee Project shall be recognized into Grantee's budget no later than ~~December 31, 2021~~ **December 31, 2022** unless County grants an extension in writing. Any TOT Funds not implemented into its budget for the Grantee Project by ~~December 31, 2021~~ **December 31, 2022** shall be returned to the County, unless extended in writing by the County.

5. Treasurer's Report (Tom):

Monthly Report: Tom changed the formatting in the report so that it is easier to read; he said the changes took only a few minutes. Pat said she liked the new format.

Tom said that DSA has completed its tax filings. Since DSA is a 501(c)(3) organization, there is no transfer of funds; but we do have to file. There has been no response, so Tom assumes the filings have been accepted.

Pat asked whether the “Transactions List by Customer” in Tom’s report is a list of donations. Tom said donations would be included in that list but that odd dollar amounts are usually from merchandise sales. He noted that all transactions in December were “stripe” transactions; usually there is a mix of checks and “stripe” transactions.

Pat wanted to acknowledge Forrest’s work; over the past three months he has invoiced only 45 minutes for his web site work. At \$25/hour, that seems like a bargain. Dick agreed, saying that it has been very helpful to have Forrest available to handle routine updates on the web site, such as posting approved minutes.

Pat mentioned that Eileen Sheldon made a recent \$500 donation; Pat does not know Eileen and wondered whether anyone else on the Board knew her. Krista did a quick web search and concluded that Eileen lives in Ross and serves on several boards in Marin County. **Pat will phone Eileen and thank her personally for the contribution.**

Mark asked whether the second installment of the Lamson-Cashion donation had been received. It should have been received by the end of December if Lamson and Cashion wanted to claim a tax deduction in 2021. **Pat will investigate.**

6. Reports from Ongoing Projects, and Proposals for New Projects:

- a. Status of the TOT Grant Application: The Placer County CAPCOM recommendations will be presented to the Board of Supervisors at the end of January.
- b. Visitor Center: Bill had nothing new on the proposal to renovate the Museum and make it available as a visitor center. He needs to arrange for Roger Drosd to do a building inspection before deciding whether to go ahead with the renovation (and finalize the funding plan with the major donor). Pat has talked to Jeffrey Thorsby; but there was no news on possible Nevada County support for the project. **Pat will reconnect with the County.**
- c. Forest Management and Fire: Pat met with Bob Hambrecht about his proposal to map the forest as a means of assessing fire risk. Vibrant Planet has a program called Land Tinder that might do this for the Summit. Pat

thinks there might be funding available to support the project. John Svahn said that Tahoe National Forest may be working on a deal that would have Vibrant Planet map all of TNF. We should be careful not to start our own project if it would overlap with the work being arranged by TNF. On the other hand, we might become a partner in the larger venture. Pat envisions a result that would resemble our Recreation Master Plan.

- d. Graffiti: Pat talked with Colleen Dalton of Visit Truckee-Tahoe about Summit issues, including graffiti abatement. Colleen said there is a saying among native Hawaiians — Malama, which means “Take care – of yourself, of each other, and of the land”. Colleen would like to find something comparable for Donner Summit. If the right theme can be found, there may be implementation funds available from at least Nevada County.

In a December e-mail Mitzi Hodges had asked about graffiti enforcement — specifically, who does it? Dick said that the Nevada County Sheriff’s Office does enforcement, at least within Nevada County. Contact information is on signs in the area of the tunnels. John Svahn said he has come up with a monitor – Joey Sorris, a rock climber, who is living in a tiny house in Billy Mack Canyon. John will meet him for the first time tomorrow. Joey needs a place to park while he is monitoring; the Tunnel 6 parking area is an obvious answer, but it may not be the best spot. Another possibility is near The Shed, which is where many visitors start their explorations. Parking might require permission from Sugar Bowl, but there was consensus that this should not be difficult. We can discuss this initiative more during our upcoming Tune-Up meeting.

7. Internal Matters:

- a. Future Meetings: The next regular Board meeting is scheduled for February 10; location and format will be determined later.

The Tune-Up meeting (a three-hour review of 2021 and planning for 2022) has been postponed from January 21. Pat thinks a date in March might work, hoping that the Omicron surge will be over. She proposed holding it on March 10, instead of the regular meeting; she will negotiate with Chris when he returns.

8. Announcements

- a. Placer County Planning Commission: This morning the Commission approved a proposal to allow part-time residents to serve on the Commission. The change would apply only to two at-large seats.

- b. Cindy Gustafson Town Hall: The January 6 town hall included discussion of the proposed term “slediquette”, which would be the rules of behavior for people enjoying snow play. There was a much longer discussion of possible changes to rules governing short-term rentals (STRs).
- c. Placer County: Nick Martin said the Board of Supervisors has asked for more suggestions from staff regarding STR revisions. The changes they seem most interested in are not the ones being proposed by residents, owners, or renters.

Nick said that there may be unallocated TOT funds, which will be available to support additional projects. The fact that more money is available does not mean that revenue has increased; it’s simply a “truing up” of the balance between revenue and allocations. He noted that there has been a heavy emphasis on “transportation” projects recently.

- d. Donner Rescue Reprise: The re-enactment of the Donner Party rescue effort will take place next month. The ultra-athletes will leave Wheatland on February 14 and arrive at Donner Memorial State Park on February 18. There will be public events at Donner Ski Ranch Thursday evening and a celebration at the Park on Friday. For more information, visit <https://www.forlornhope.org>.
- e. COVID: Pat revealed that one of her daughters has contracted COVID-19 in spite of vaccination. John said one of his friends, who was also fully vaccinated, had to go to the hospital after becoming sick.
- f. Transitions: Bob Hambrecht told Pat that Nancy Bechtle had passed away in October at age 83. She had been a DSA supporter in Sugar Bowl.

9. Adjournment:

There being no other business, Pat adjourned the meeting at 5:31 PM.

Minutes approved by the DSA Board of Directors at its meeting on February 10, 2022.

signed by DSA Secretary, Richard Simpson, _____



**Donner Summit Association (DSA) Core Action Team Meeting
Thursday, February 10, 2022 5-6 PM
Virtual Meeting Hosted by Sugar Bowl**



Donner Summit Sno-Park at 9 AM on Saturday morning, January 29.
The right side is posted "No Parking". (DSCN2442.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 by Pat Malberg at 5:02 PM.

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

Others: Carissa Binkley (Nevada County), Tom Denzler (DSA CFO/Treasurer), Tim Kustic (SLPOA), and Nick Martin (Placer County)

2. Approval of Agenda:

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

3. Approval of January Minutes:

MSC (Bill, Dick) to approve the January meeting minutes. There were no objections, but Chris abstained since he had not attended the January meeting.

4. Letter Supporting TDLT Grant Request (Pat):

Truckee Donner Land Trust (TDLT) has requested funding from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) for a forest health and fire resilience project that would cover 309 acres between the end of pavement on Pahatsi Road and Kidd Lake. Chris asked whether a Timber Harvesting Plan (THP) exemption is being sought; John said the acreage is too large. Mike asked whether the THP would cover dead trees since they add to the wildfire risk and should be considered as part of any timber sale proposals in order to address the importance of wildfire fuels reduction. John said he didn't have an answer to the specific question; but disposition usually follows three paths: marketable timber, chipping, and dead trees. The dead trees are not "marketable" but they may be sold for firewood. Pat had already drafted a letter of support; Dick had done some minor editing so that it could be formatted and printed on a single sheet of DSA letterhead.

MSC (Bill, Chris) To approve sending the letter supporting the TDLT grant request to SNC.

Pat will sign and send the letter (Attachment A).

5. Treasurer's Report (Tom):

- a. Monthly Report: Tom had distributed the report for January by e-mail prior to the meeting.
- b. Lamson-Cashion Donation: The second installment of the donation had been received in June; but it had not been properly identified at the time and was deposited into the DSA checking account. Mark said the donation needs to be transferred to a CD so that interest can start to accrue. Bill said that we need some of the funds to pay for the "shade structure" at The Hub because it takes so long to get reimbursement from Placer County; so all of the donation should not be locked into a CD. **Chris, Bill, and Tom**

agreed to work together to estimate what fraction of the total should be kept liquid; Beth will then transfer the remainder to a CD.

6. Nevada County Report (Carissa):

Carissa introduced herself after apologizing for Jeff Thorsby's absence. She has been with Nevada County only a month after working for the Town of Truckee and Tahoe Forest Hospital. She is responsible for the eastern part of Nevada County. In turn, Pat asked that Board members briefly introduce themselves to Carissa.

Carissa reported that Nevada County's Board of Supervisors (BoS) recently adopted objectives for 2022; most are simply re-statements of objectives set for 2021. One new objective is promoting sustainable recreation in partnership with other entities and while preserving natural resources. One consequence of the new objective is development of a county-wide recreation plan. Carissa will reach out to arrange a meeting so that the County is aware of DSA activities as part of this process. She expects that the County will release a Request for Proposals in March-April for projects that could be completed this summer or next.

7. Placer County (Nick):

Placer County's Board of Supervisors met Tuesday in Auburn and adopted a new Short-Term Rental ordinance; it will go into effect in 30 days. The BoS also approved a process for putting a ballot measure before the voters to continue the 2% additional transient occupancy tax (TOT) that applies in eastern Placer County. The current 2% surcharge is expiring after 10 years; the new ballot measure will ask the voters to make the tax permanent.

Nick noted that Placer County has helped address sanitation and litter problems at Donner Summit by providing funding for dumpsters and portable toilets. Both were deemed difficult under winter conditions because of weather and snow removal issues; but they are in place and functional. Tahoe-Truckee Sanitation, Sugar Bowl, and Placer County have worked out an arrangement where TTSD will remove dumpsters within 24 hours if a major storm is imminent; they will bring the dumpsters back after the storm clears. The arrangement with SaniHut is less robust because of COVID supply chain issues that affect availability of the toilets. Nick thought he had a cost-sharing arrangement with Nevada County for this support; but there have been some procedural problems. Carissa said she is willing to work with Nick to iron this out.

8. Reports from Ongoing Projects, and Proposals for New Projects:

- a. Status of the TOT Grant Application: The Placer County CAPCOM recommendations passed the Board of Supervisors at the end of January. So DSA has new funding to support completion of the Recreation Master Plan (RMP).
- b. Stantec: Chris had a long, but productive, meeting with Paul and Bernadette of Stantec to clear outstanding issues about old work, billing, and future work. Stantec has provided the information requested; now Chris and Bill need to complete the details. Stantec agreed to incorporate RMP edits requested by DSA, they will provide source files to DSA (including a Word version), and DSA will have rights to amend the Plan even though it will remain a Stantec product. Chris is optimistic that Stantec wants to get this done. Dick noted that some of his “redlines” are actually questions — they are not edits until the answers can be found.
Chris will work with Dick on unfinished redlines.
- c. Historical Museum: Bill reviewed recent developments at the Donner Summit Historical Society and Museum. A major donor has offered funds to renovate the Museum; but the scope of the work to be done is still being considered. The building belongs to the Soda Springs Station Home Owners Association (HOA); but the interior of the Museum belongs to Norm Saylor. Norm has agreed that the Museum needs an overhaul — there is simply too much material and the interior is not very attractive. Bill has floated the possibility of (1) repairing a foundation “problem” and redoing the flooring; (2) adding insulation, better lighting, heating, etc.; and (3) removing, cataloging, and sorting content so that visitors would be presented with some fixed displays supplemented by rotating displays that could be changed from time to time. The majority of current content would be left in storage (Donner Ski Ranch has offered to provide space for a shipping container). Once renovated, the Museum could double as DSA’s visitor center.

Mark has looked at some of the building’s history and has concluded that title to the Museum remains in Norm’s hands; DSHS has no lease to use it. The HOA owns the shell around the Museum. Together, the owners (past and present) have agreed more than once to repair the foundation; \$25K was set aside for the work. Planning cost \$15K, but the bid to do the work was over \$300K, and nothing has been done since. The HOA and Norm remain estranged about how to proceed.

Bill said the donor is aware of the issues and is apparently willing to proceed. Mark said he would vote “no” on any proposal that DSA become a

partner; the property legally belongs to Norm and the HOA, but DSA could become a legal target if it sponsored the visitor center. Krista agreed with Mark's assessment. If Norm gifted his share of the property to DSHS, there might be a better basis to move forward; but there is no immediate prospect for that happening.

- d. Anecdotal Reports from Around the Summit: Mitzi Hodges sent an e-mail to the DSA list in late January calling for action on visitor sanitation issues — there simply aren't enough public toilets on the Summit to service the number of visitors. Dick mentioned that the Sno-Park next to Boreal is stuffed on weekends by 9 AM. John said TDLT is looking to expand snow play opportunities on the northeast side of Truckee; that might divert some of the Reno crowd. TDLT has also arranged for more plowing at the Johnson Canyon trailhead and is also looking to acquire something on the west side. Beth and Chris noted that the lower snow line this winter has meant that visitors haven't had to drive so far from Reno and Auburn to reach snow. Mark said that conditions in Serene Lakes have been much better this winter than last.

9. DSA YouTube Channel (Dick):

The DSA-sponsored Summit Summit III meeting was recorded last fall. We discussed putting the video on YouTube, but nothing was ever done. On Monday, Dick recorded a presentation by Andrew Schwartz of the Central Sierra Snow Lab; this could also be put on YouTube (CSSL is one of the residents of the Summit). Beth noted that the Mountain Housing Council puts recordings of all of its meetings (typically 3 hours each) on YouTube. Beth has offered to set up a DSA YouTube channel; it appears to be fairly easy to do, and there is no cost. There was consensus that this would be a good idea with DSA as the "owner". **Beth will follow up.**

10. Internal Matters:

- a. Future Meetings: The next regular Board meeting is scheduled for March 10; there was consensus to make this the "Tune-up" meeting — the past year will be reviewed and the coming year will be planned. Expect it to run 5-8 PM; Beth will provide food. The Coldstream Room at Sugar Bowl will be used if Chris can arrange that. Pat proposed limiting participation to Board members and the DSA Treasurer. Dick argued against restrictions, but Mark favored them and the Board seemed to follow his lead. Pat offered to drive Krista to Auburn after the meeting if she wasn't comfortable driving herself after dark.

11. Announcements:

- a. Smithsonian Article on Railroad Tunnels: Pat mentioned an article found by Mitzi Hodges on the railroad tunnels and their issues (graffiti) (https://www.smithsonianmag.com/travel/the-quest-to-protect-californias-transcontinental-tunnels-180979382/?utm_source=facebook.com&utm_medium=socialmedia&fbclid=IwAR1JbKQkyObYH7qpIPJYDIToNNfC8RMotYroR4p9_7PIw_Y1y11FB_o3M2PY).
- b. Pines to Mines Trail: Tahoe National Forest is seeking public comment on a proposed Pines-to-Mines Trail, connecting Truckee and Nevada City. Comments must be submitted prior to February 25. For details, see

<https://www.mynevadacounty.com/civicalerts.aspx?aid=4578>

Dick offered to write a letter of support on behalf of DSA, and the Board accepted the offer.

- c. Placer County Planning Commission: Pat noted that Placer County approved a proposal to allow non-residents to serve as two at-large members of its Planning Commission.
- d. Words: Krista said she has been looking for a Washoe word that would convey the same meaning as “malama” in Hawaiian — take care of yourself, of each other, and of the land. She has located someone who is an expert in the Washoe language but has not made contact yet. John said he may have another contact at the University of Nevada (Reno).
- e. Mountain Housing Council: Beth said MHC met on January 28; she didn’t want to go over everything that was said at the meeting (see Attachment B), but she thought we could spend time on those issues during the “Tune-up” meeting in March.

12. Adjournment:

There being no other business, Pat adjourned the meeting at 6:09 PM.

Minutes approved by the DSA Board of Directors at its meeting on March 24, 2022.

signed by DSA Secretary, Richard Simpson, _____



Donner Summit Association (DSA) Core Action Team Meeting
Thursday, March 10, 2022 5-8 PM
Hosted by Sugar Bowl in the Coldstream Room at Judah Lodge



Looking up the South Yuba River from the west end of Van Norden Meadow in late February (DSCN2549.JPG)

This was a review and planning meeting, designed to be held annually, to ensure that the DSA Board of Directors agrees on its goals and the actions being pursued to achieve them. The meeting was called to order at 5:20 PM by President Malberg; Chris Parker then led the discussion. He said this type of meeting is common in many organizations; he had led a similar discussion for Truckee Trails Foundation (TTF) a couple months earlier. This DSA meeting was limited to officers and Board members, all of whom attended, though some not for the entire meeting. The slides in Chris' presentation (available separately) are intended to be a living document that can be reviewed and updated each year. This set of narrative minutes groups discussions by topic rather than chronologically; they can supplement the slides. Action items are in **red bold**.

Core Action Team (DSA Board) Attendees: Mark Himmelstein, Pat Malberg, Bill Oudegeest, Chris Parker, Dick Simpson, Mike Spain, John Svahn, Beth Tanhoff, and Krista Voosen. Others: Tom Denzler (DSA CFO/Treasurer)

1. Vision, Mission, etc.

“Vision” is the (desired) future state of our community; “Mission” is the foundational goal for the organization. DSA has statements for both; but Chris couldn’t find either on the DSA web site. He recommended that both be posted, and there was consensus that would be a good idea; **Dick accepted this as an action item.**

Vision and Mission Statements can (and should) be revised as conditions change. At all times, however, Vision should lead to Mission, which leads to Long-Term Objectives, which lead to Strategies. Chris expected to spend time during this meeting working down the hierarchy (Figure 1) to Strategies but not to go much farther.

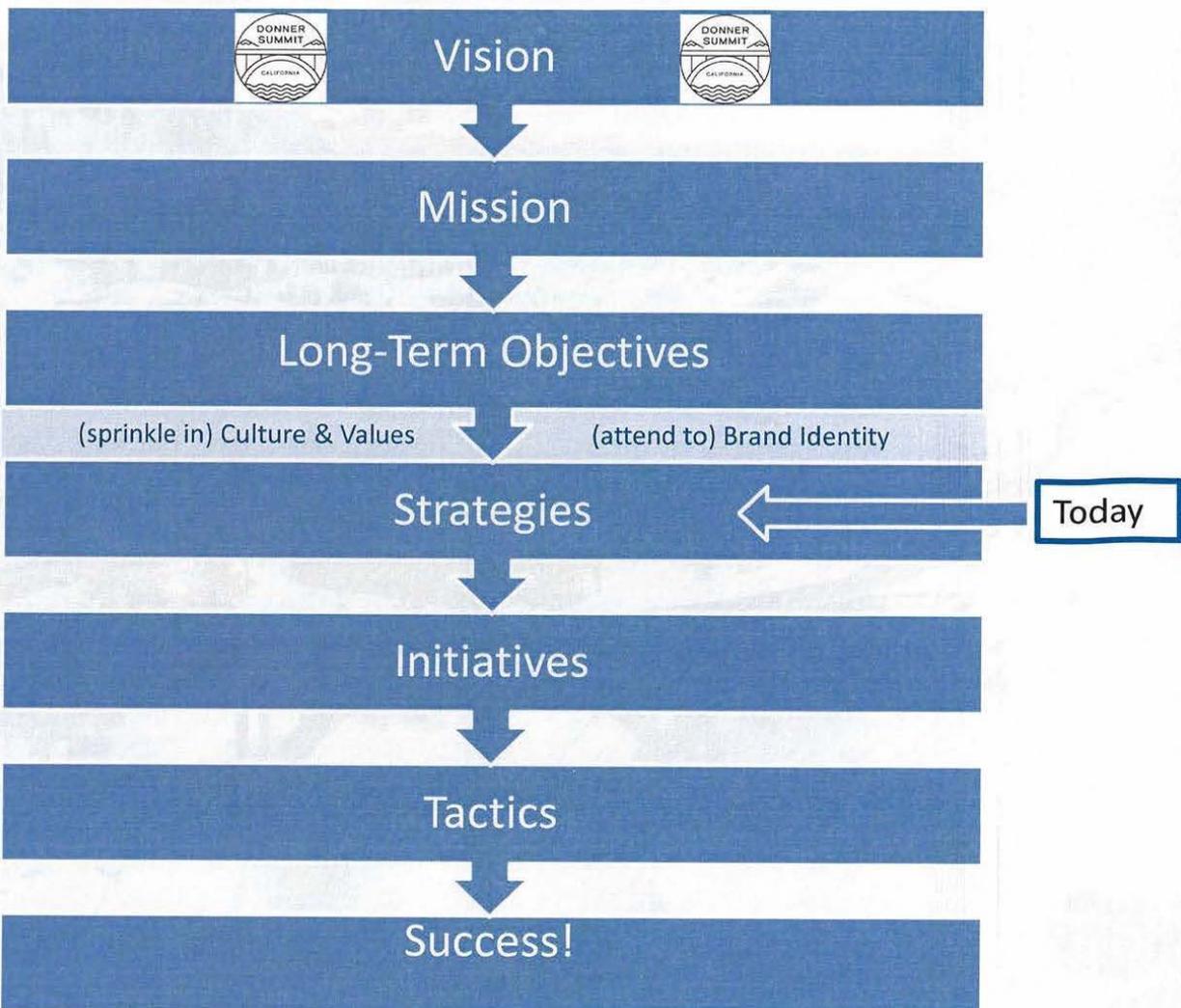


Figure 1. Hierarchy of steps in realizing an organization’s Vision for the future.

Vision (from DSA Bylaws, Section 3.03): “The Donner Summit Association envisions Donner Summit as a vibrant, cohesive, year-round mountain community that

provides opportunities for residents, businesses, and visitors alike to thrive in a beautiful alpine environment.”

Mission (also from DSA Bylaws, Section 3.03): “For the benefit of its residents, businesses, and visitors alike, the Donner Summit Association will promote and strengthen Donner Summit, protect its heritage, steward its future and provide a voice for the entire community through its leadership as:

- an advocate for economic investment in appropriate infrastructure via long-range master planning;
- a liaison with government authorities; and
- a coordinator and promoter of local projects and events.”

2. Long-Term Organizational Objectives:

Long-term organizational objectives are the things we do, repeatedly, to achieve our vision. These include:

Advocacy

Planning — such as contributing to the Soda Springs Area Plan and initiating the Recreation Master Plan

Building — such as building The Lamson-Cashion Trail and History Hub

Maintaining

Forging strategic alliances — such as with Sierra Business Council (SBC), Truckee Donner Land Trust (TDLT), and Nevada and Placer Counties

Serving as the voice for Donner Summit — such as to Placer and Nevada Counties, to USFS, and to the Capital Projects Advisory Committee

Developing funding — such as holding fundraising events, submitting grant applications, and recruiting donors

Creating a culture of volunteerism/community-building — such as clean-up days and graffiti removal

Promoting the organization within the community — such as through a fresh web site, a regular newsletter, and e-mails.

Values and Culture: Having long-term organizational objectives implies that there are shared values subsumed within a common culture. Chris wondered whether the Board is concerned about not having a clearly stated position about that culture and

its values. He cited an example that TTF sometimes faces: the conflict between more public trails and private property rights. Without a clear position on eminent domain, an organization like TTF may be inconsistent in its decisions and lose public support. He wondered whether some DSAA volunteers are not active with DSA because of cultural/values differences.

Pat said DSA can provide a forum for discussion of controversial proposals without taking sides in the argument. Beth reminded the Board about Van Norden Meadow controversies, when there were several issues that divided the community simultaneously. Mark countered that it would be a mistake to take a neutral position on all issues. He pointed to the Foster-Syme proposal to put a golf course in Van Norden Meadow, noting that Foster-Syme wasn't the first to propose such a golf course.

Chris concluded that it might be good to develop a statement about culture and values. **Pat and Tom expressed interest in working on one.** Pat said Colleen Dalton (of Visit Truckee Tahoe, VTT) had suggested something along these lines, adding that such a statement could then be promoted within the community. John said integrity and collaboration should be components of the statement. Beth mentioned that tourism is important on the Summit and that not everyone views tourism the same way.

Brand Identity: Chris acknowledged Nathan Wieler's long campaign promoting brand identity. He suggested a tag-line that people would remember, such as "Donner Summit — Gateway to the Sierra." He added that a Positioning Statement could also help people remember DSA: (1) it identifies the product and why it's special; (2) it identifies the market (the customers) and why DSA loves them; and (3) it promises something from DSA that the customers will remember. DSA also needs to pay attention to its own community; it should appreciate that community and consistently deliver to it.

There is a related problem known as "brand misconception". In the case of DSA it includes feelings that DSA "promotes tourism when there are already too many tourists on the Summit." Is that true? If not, what can DSA do to counter it? John said DSA should maintain distance between itself and government organizations and homeowner associations.

3. Strategies:

The strategies discussion took the longest. These are guiding courses of action that do not change often. Initiatives are short-term, phased projects or tasks used to execute the strategies.

Promote and develop public infrastructure: The DSA infrastructure strategies can be grouped into past (such as the Monument, which is done), present (the Hub, which is in progress), and future (parking, which is needed); but almost everything in this discussion came back to the Visitor Center (VC) and sanitation.

By the end of March Nevada County is seeking pre-proposals for a new round of funding from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). Chris and John met with Nevada County staff about such future funding opportunities; but they came away with the feeling that any new proposal would not be received favorably because DSA has not spent the \$500k that has been set aside for a DSA visitor center. Pat believes the \$500k could be secured if we submitted a viable proposal. Our attempt a few years ago died when we could not come up with a financially realistic plan for operating the VC once it was built. Since then, we have considered several versions of a shared facility (including one with the Donner Summit Historical Society, DSHS); the Nancy O Gallery is currently providing some visitor services. Several people noted that the vast majority of visitors have a VC in their smart phones; perhaps we don't need the building that we have been fixated on.

Jordan has been lobbying for something more like a community center than a visitor center — a place where people could meet and/or participate in group activities. There are places on the Summit that could be (and have been) used for special events — large rooms at ski areas, the Water District building and the fire station in Serene Lakes, and the dining room at Clair Tappaan Lodge; so maybe there's not an immediate need for a new building or meeting room. Jordan then described an “everywhere university” in New York — a campus that was distributed throughout a neighborhood without having a central core. He thought we should consider an open-air meeting area. It wouldn't be usable during winter months, of course; but it could be constructed to be attractive, functional, and low cost. **He wasn't sure what he could come up with before the end of March, but he agreed to look into the possibilities.**

In the meantime, we have been reminded repeatedly that one of the biggest needs on the Summit is not a VC per se, but a public bathroom (or several). Discussion turned to what is available now and what could be added. Vault toilets are available in campgrounds and at some trailheads; portable toilets are available at The Hub, nearby climbing areas, and at the Sno-Park (at least on a seasonal basis). The I-80 rest area, Donner Summit Gas, and ski resorts have rest rooms with plumbing; some businesses have toilets, but not all are available to the public.

Chris estimated that a vault toilet with two stalls could be constructed for under \$100k. Dick noted that the Sierra Club has been looking into backcountry toilets and that new ‘composting’ designs seem to be working in Oregon (<https://www.toilettech.com>); John mentioned a design that is getting good reviews (<https://www.dogoodshit.org>). Could we get the \$500k set aside for the VC re-allocated to toilets? If so, where should they go (there are both property ownership and geology challenges in addition to visitor demand), and who would service them?

In the long run, emptying vault toilets is not as difficult as keeping the facilities clean and stocked with supplies. Support services are available; we just need to track down the providers. Several in the meeting suggested working cooperatively with other groups having similar interests (TDLT, TTF, VTT, USFS). Gould Park at Cisco Grove is a partnership of the Placer Land Trust, Placer County, Emigrant Trails Greenway Trust, and the Gould family. Dick mentioned that USFS has expressed a desire to redistribute the heavy use now occurring at the actual Summit over a wider area — to at least Johnson Canyon on the east and to several sites to the west; helping to provide more sanitary facilities might be a step in the right direction.

Leverage public funding opportunities: DSA has been doing this annually with proposals for Placer County Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT) money; the current grant will finish the Recreation Master Plan. Past successes include the Monument and The Hub. What can we propose in the future? With Nevada County we have (at least conceptually) been able to set aside \$500k for a visitor center, and there could be ARPA funds; what is possible in the future with Nevada County?

Help steward and maintain the community’s public/recreation assets: We are doing roadside clean-up days and are (possibly) entering a third year of graffiti abatement. “Bear preparedness” has been suggested; but, after discussion, the Board concluded that there are other organizations (such as HOAs) that are better positioned to handle this (but, DSA could help coordinate Summit-wide efforts, if that was needed). Remaining involved in Van Norden Meadow restoration and assisting with improvements in trail etiquette and wayfinding are easy to imagine. Perhaps Colleen Dalton (VTT) would have suggestions.

Develop and maintain our standing and relationships with land stewards, public agencies, and non-profits. This discussion didn’t go much beyond reviewing the lists of stewards, public agencies, non-profits, and others. The current (and growing) list of stakeholders includes:

Businesses (small)	SBC
Businesses (large)	Schools
Chinese-Americans	Skiers (backcountry)
Cyclists (mountain)	Skiers (downhill)
Cyclists (road)	Skiers (Nordic)
DSHS	South Yuba River Citizens
Donner Summit PUD	League (SYRCL)
Ecologists/scientists	TDLT
Hikers	Town of Truckee
Historians	Tri-lodges
Homeowners	Truckee Chamber of Commerce
HOAs	Tahoe Truckee Community
Locals (from North Tahoe)	Foundation (TTCF)
Maidu tribe	TTF
Mountain Housing Council	Union Pacific Railroad
Nevada County	USFS
Pacific Crest Trail Association	Visitors off I-80
Placer County	VTT
Railroad buffs	Washoe tribe
Rock climbers	Wedding parties
Runners	Wilderness adventurers

Improve communication with the public and our members: Initiatives that support this strategy include maintaining and adhering to DSA's brand assets, maintaining a *really* fresh web site, celebrating successes, and sponsoring events that break into the public consciousness (clean-up days, work days, graffiti days, an annual Beer Fest, and Summit Summit community meetings). Summit Summit III was judged a major success with a great program and participation by a wide range of community leaders, including two county supervisors.

John wondered whether DSA could sponsor a 5K summit race and/or walk. There are permitting challenges, fees to pay, and insurance. The Castle Peak 100K will not be held this year; but the Donner Summit Runners are sponsoring a race in its place. If a DSA 5K were on private land (TDLT and/or Sugar Bowl), it might be simpler to put together. Beth asked about a mountain bike race; but John thought the insurance requirements would be much higher than for a foot race/walk.

Assure fiscal viability of our organization: This strategy includes raising robust levels of unrestricted funding and establishing and following financial policies and procedures. Dick asked whether DSA is in financial peril; but Tom said there appears to be \$100k in reserves; so, we are in good shape for now, and donations continue to flow in. As for written

procedures, there are none; but Tom is following standard accounting practices. John offered guidance from TDLT on how better to standardize and document the procedures. John wondered whether we should look at how VTT deals with finances; perhaps we could pick up a few new ideas.

Maintain Best Governance Practices as a Vibrant and Effective Organization:
An organization like DSA should have a Board that is diverse and inclusive with representation from youth, geographic areas, business sectors, and community leaders. John would like to recruit a “new-to-the-Summit” family; Pat would like to add a Sugar Bowl resident. The bylaws authorize a Board of 5-15 members; we currently have 10, so there is room for new people. There are PUD lists, local school lists, and HOA lists that could be used to identify potential new Board members.

4. What do we do next?

The Recreation Master Plan lists both 1-5 year and 5-15 year projects that could be carried out. Since the RMP is officially a draft, we need to finish it.

Assuming there are no major changes in the RMP, we have the following to think about:

- Motorist wayfinding signage
- Hub development/improvements
- Trail wayfinding and trail etiquette signage
- Providing restrooms at The Hub at the Long Lake trailhead
- Constructing the Memorial Overland Emigrant trail between Soda Springs and the PCT

Pat said she likes to think about the DSA domain as extending from near Cisco Grove all the way to the Summit, including a concentration of attention around Soda Springs. Mike agreed.

John wondered whether we have photos of the Hub that could be used to publicize the facility while patting ourselves on the back.

Project work days should continue. We should continue collaborative work (with the Rock Climbing Coalition and others) on graffiti removal; we should win the public messaging battle — DSA should “own” the graffiti conversation.

Cleanup days have been successful; they provide a growing awareness of community spirit and the role that DSA plays around the Summit. SYRCL has good turnout for their cleanup days, which aren’t well-coordinated with ours; they have sometimes sent people up from the foothills to clean around the Summit.

Rainbow Lodge provided lunch for DSA volunteers in June 2021; there was a Truckee cleanup on the same day, and some of the Truckee volunteers also got lunch at Rainbow Lodge. Bill said that Rainbow Lodge sponsored an event last month in conjunction with the Donner Party Rescue Reprise at no cost to the organizers.

5. Adjournment:

There being no other business, Pat adjourned the meeting at 8:10 PM.

Minutes approved by the DSA Board of Directors at its meeting on March 24, 2022.

signed by DSA Secretary, Richard Simpson, _____



Donner Summit Association (DSA) Core Action Team Meeting Special Meeting Thursday, March 24, 2022 5-6 PM Virtual Meeting Hosted by Sugar Bowl

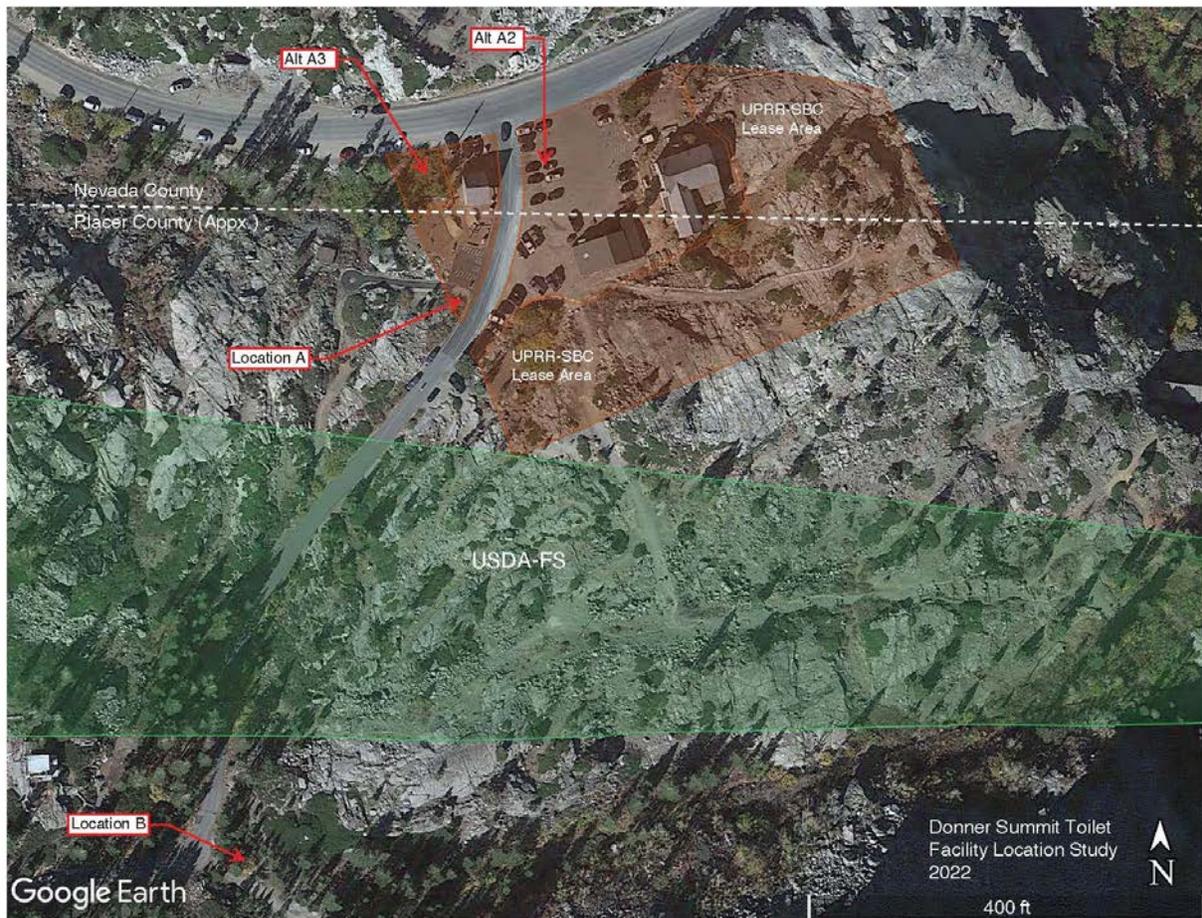


Figure 1. Possible toilet locations at The Hub (Google Earth image from Chris Parker).

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 by Pat Malberg at 5:06 PM.

Core Action Team (DSA Board) Attendees: Mark Himmelstein, Jordan Knighton, Pat Malberg, Bill Oudegeest, Chris Parker, Dick Simpson, Mike Spain, Beth Tanhoff, and Krista Voosen.

Others: Nick Martin (Placer County)

2. Approval of Agenda:

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

3. Approval of February Minutes:

MSC-U (Dick, Chris) to approve the February 10 meeting minutes.

4. Approval of March Regular Meeting Minutes:

MSC-U (Dick, Krista) to approve the March 10 meeting minutes.

5. Proposed Project (Jordan):

Jordan reviewed the history behind the proposed Donner Summit Visitor Center (VC). Various studies and plans have identified the need for a Visitor Center, which would provide information, toilet facilities, and trash collection to visitors and which could also serve as a community center and gathering place for locals.

Nevada County has informally earmarked \$500k for construction of a VC at Donner Summit, and DSA has drafted proposals to construct one (or remodel an existing structure); but the organization has never come up with a viable operating plan to cover ongoing VC costs (including staffing).

Funds are now available from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) through Nevada County. The question before this meeting is whether DSA should submit a 'concept' for a related project that would be funded by ARPA when the earmarked \$500k has never been formally appropriated and spent. Concepts must be submitted by the end of March; the money must be spent in Nevada County on property controlled (*i.e.*, owned) by the applicant. County officials have discouraged a DSA ARPA request until the \$500k VC questions have been resolved.

In the meantime, Visit Truckee Tahoe (led by Colleen Dalton) has outlined a plan in which several organizations (Truckee Trails Foundation and Truckee Donner Land Trust, among others) would jointly address peak visitation issues (specifically sanitation and trash) in Nevada County using ARPA funds. They have identified several possible locations for new facilities such as China Wall, Rainbow Bridge, Johnson Canyon, Donner Summit Canyon, and Hobart Mills (north of Truckee). Chris said this type of joint proposal would likely be received more favorably than one from DSA.

At its March 10 annual planning meeting, the DSA Board reached consensus that a physical VC may no longer be the best solution for the problems which have been identified on Donner Summit. A large fraction of visitors have smart phones, which can provide information, if users can connect to it. There are buildings on the Summit that can host (and have hosted) community events. The physical needs for sanitation and trash collection are ongoing and have associated costs, including a significant initial investment; but ‘staffing’ is not required, so the operational costs would be much less than for a conventional VC.

At the end of the March 10 meeting Jordan agreed to investigate possible DSA strategies or projects; he was subsequently assisted by Chris and Mike, while John (Svahn) provided input through Chris. They felt that open structures, possibly with barbeque pits, could meet many of the needs for gathering places and information distribution (using sign boards and brochures) — at least during summer. These could be modeled on similar structures found in parks and at highway rest areas (Figure 2). If combined with technical applications (*i.e.*, smart phone apps), vault toilets, and trash collection, most visitor needs could be met without large maintenance and operating costs. Enhancing The Hub along these lines could be a first step; but the same concept could be replicated at other locations on the Summit.



Figure 2. Example open structure that could be a small gathering place and information distribution location.

Discussion then turned to possible locations where DSA might place toilets. Chris presented a Google Earth image showing The Hub and nearby areas (Figure 1). The orange-shaded region is owned by Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR) and leased to Sugar Bowl Corporation (SBC) under two leases. The green-shaded region is U.S. Forest Service (USFS); USFS jurisdiction may extend farther south, but there is also private property in the area. All sites are believed to be on solid (or nearly solid) granite, which would make toilet installation more difficult.

Location A: This site is in Placer County near The Shed, is near the center of Hub activities and attractions, and has been the preferred toilet location since the beginning of The Hub project. It is under a UPRR-SBC “maintenance” lease, which allows UPRR to terminate the lease on short notice to meet its “maintenance” needs.

Location B: This site is in Placer County at the PCT-South trailhead and is likely under USFS jurisdiction. There is currently a seasonal, portable toilet at the site which receives significant use. Any permanent toilet at this location would probably be unusable during winter.

Location Alt A2: This site is in Nevada County within the current Hub parking area and is under the “maintenance” lease. It is presently paved, but the pavement is “old”. Installing a toilet at this location would require sacrificing at least two parking spaces for installation; another two spaces might be needed to meet ADA access requirements. There may be an existing sewer connection at this location.

Location Alt A3: This site is in Nevada County at the corner of the UPRR-SBC lease area, somewhat behind The Shed. But this plot is under a “beautification” lease, which may simplify permission and retention challenges. Because of its location, there may be a requirement that a toilet be connected to the DSPUD sewer system, which could have both advantages and disadvantages.

Jordan then returned to the community center/gathering place topic. He suggested that the west end of Van Norden Meadow might be a suitable location. USFS is planning a trailhead with educational materials at the site; DSA might be able to partner with USFS and Soda Springs Mountain Resort, which uses nearby land for winter parking, to make this an alternate to The Hub for hikes and community events. Concerns were expressed about congestion if it were available in winter; but there was general agreement that this would only be practical as a summer gathering place. Mike said Soda Springs would like to expand its winter parking, which would need to be

factored into these discussions. He said that problems with snow play users in Soda Springs parking lots in previous years have largely been eliminated by requiring ski customers to purchase tickets before arriving at the resort, then checking passes before letting cars into the lots.

Mark and Bill both argued for increasing visitor support in “downtown” Soda Springs. That’s where people land after getting off I-80; that’s where they want a break, grab a snack, or use a bathroom. Mark asked who owns the property where the Monument sits; could something be built there? Bill replied that the Monument is within the Donner Pass Road (DPR) right-of-way; not much could be done there because of County restrictions. He added that the Busbys own adjacent property; but it’s an odd-shaped lot with relatively little frontage along DPR. They might sell to a buyer willing to pay market price; but the lot would be difficult to develop because of topography and forest cover.

6. Path Forward and Final Comments (Pat):

Pat said it’s a “foregone conclusion” that we can’t respond to Nevada County’s 2022 ARPA opportunity. But we should get something to the County showing that we are making progress on the VC concept and the \$500k funding that has been offered. Pat thinks a “concept” meeting with County officials would be useful. In such a meeting we could inquire about the possibilities of spending Nevada County money in Placer County, since almost any project would benefit both and most would only be over the county line by a few feet.

Jordan asked whether the Board would be willing to do two things: (1) back away from seeking a DSA ARPA grant from Nevada County and follow the lead of VTT in supporting a joint proposal from several organizations to address sanitation and waste; and (2) seek redirection of the \$500k offer from Nevada County away from a physical and staffed VC to a new lower cost, (possibly distributed) facility that could still meet the most important needs at the Summit.

Chris said we “checked a lot of boxes” when we first visualized a Summit Visitor Center. We wanted an indoor component that could be a community center and a gathering place. Now we have a new vision — that it can be outdoors and unstaffed. We need to go back to Nevada County to reassure them that we are going to use the \$500k in funding that was offered. As for toilets, he considers Location A to be possible and Location B to be absolutely needed.

Mark agreed that a toilet is needed at Location B because of PCT traffic; in the area around The Hub, he likes Location Alt 3.

Dick also liked Location Alt 3; it's at The Hub but out of the way while being accessible. He agreed that a toilet at Location B is needed. As for a gathering area at the west end of Van Norden Meadow, he'd like to see more of what USFS is planning there. He agreed there is considerable potential for spreading use by making improvements at that site, but he worried about congestion (especially in winter); so that project needs to be worked carefully with USFS and Soda Springs.

Beth agreed with Dick about Van Norden Meadow — presence of toilets will increase traffic, which is OK in summer; but she's scared about winter. Visitors exiting I-80 may not want to drive all the way to The Hub for a restroom; a place closer to downtown Soda Springs is needed. That said, she also supported a toilet at Location B.

Krista said that visitors exiting I-80 will go to the Soda Springs General Store to use restrooms. The Store is moving across the street (possibly as early as June), but she doesn't know their restroom plans. If they have a public restroom, we may have the bases covered in downtown; DSA can leverage that and focus efforts on The Hub. Placing a toilet at Location Alt 3 (behind The Shed) scares her because of snow removal issues.

Pat liked the original placement for toilets and liked having a gathering place at the west end of Van Norden Meadow. She envisions information kiosks starting at Cisco Grove and being scattered along the roadways over Donner Summit. They need to be both attractive and consistent — possibly integrated with 20-Mile Museum signs. Pat endorsed the efforts of Colleen Dalton (VTT), saying Colleen has been thinking about toilets and trash for a long time. Pat added that Nevada County has been waiting a long time for DSA to come up with a viable proposal for using the \$500k. If we can build on Jordan's concepts and push those to County officials, everyone will be better off.

Chris concluded that, with Jordan's two points, we are leveraging the Hub and we are enhancing the west end of Van Norden Meadow. There's an obvious need for toilet facilities. Maybe we acquire land, build parking lots, and build toilets; if that's what we want to do, we should identify that as our goal and start working toward it. In the meantime, Jordan has a list of issues we want to address and how we want to deal with them. **Jordan said he is willing to continue leading the initial effort with the support of a planning committee; he requested volunteers.**

Pat asked when DSA should plan to meet with Nevada County officials. We should tell them that we are actively working on this. **She will draft a proposed letter to Nevada County.**

Jordan said the subcommittee needs to refine the vision. We have already started with The Hub. We want to grow and expand from that while making the project more sustainable. Jordan will be looking for volunteers to join him on this subcommittee. **Pat and Chris volunteered immediately;** others followed after the meeting.

7. Announcements:

- a. Dick said he had received an e-mail from Alisa Adriani, whose family owns about six square miles west of Serene Lakes. The family is seeking a grant to pay for forestry work on the property that would reduce wildfire risk. She is seeking letters of support. Alisa said she could provide some wording for a letter, which Dick will write and then circulate to the Board for review. He expects this to be done in time for the April Board meeting.
- b. Mark said Bank of the West is leaving Truckee and that this is causing some problems for SLPOA. Beth said DSA uses Plumas Bank, so there is no impact on us.
- c. Krista noted a display problem with the Snow Report that Dick recently added to the DSA web site. She will send Dick a screen shot to document the problem.

8. Adjournment:

There being no other business, Pat adjourned the meeting at 6:25 PM.

Minutes approved by the DSA Board of Directors at its meeting on April 14, 2022.

signed by DSA Secretary, Richard Simpson, _____



Donner Summit Association (DSA) Core Action Team Meeting Thursday, April 14, 2022 5-6 PM Virtual Meeting Hosted by Sugar Bowl



Snow play above Lift 3 after Royal Gorge closed for the season (DSCN2646.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, who welcomed attendees with a “Happy Snow” greeting.

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

Others: Carissa Binkley (Nevada County) and Tim Kustic (SLPOA).

2. Approval of Agenda:

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

3. Approval of Minutes from March 24 Meeting:

MSC-U (Bill, Jordan) to approve the March 24 meeting minutes.

4. Confirm E-votes

Two actions had been approved by e-votes since the March 24 meeting. Those votes were confirmed (for the record) during this meeting.

MSC-U (Dick, Mark) to confirm the e-vote, approving the new contract with Placer County for the Recreation Management Plan II (RMP II) grant.

MSC-U (Dick, Mark) to confirm the e-vote authorizing a letter of support for the Jones Fuelbreak project funding request.

In the second case, Dick drafted and signed the letter on behalf of DSA. Bill suggested that future support letters be signed by the DSA president; Dick will do that.

5. Treasurer's Report (Tom):

Monthly Report: Tom was on vacation and not available for this meeting. Beth said there was a reimbursement from Placer County and a couple expenses during the past month. Mark asked about the status of the Lamson-Cashion donation, which had been received in July and was supposed to be deposited in a CD for future maintenance at The Hub. Bill said there are no outstanding expenses that need to be covered by the donation, so it can all go into a CD. Current expenses are being covered by reimbursements from Placer County. **Beth will convert the second \$50K to a CD.** Contributions from others for boulders, bike racks, etc. are available to cover maintenance and repair costs.

6. Reports from Ongoing Projects, and Proposals for New Projects:

- a. RMP II: Two days ago Chris received a proposal from Stantec; it would supplement our previous agreement, and it explains how they plan to spend the new grant money. Chris has not had a chance to review it. He needs to make sure everything is transparent and that Stantec understands that we will have no additional money beyond what was just approved by Placer County. Pat mentioned (and John and Chris confirmed) that the new contract with Placer County requires \$5K in matching funds from both Truckee Donner Land Trust (TDLT) and Sugar Bowl.

- b. Hub Work Day: Bill reported that paving for the portable toilet site has been completed, and Placer County has already placed a toilet in the vicinity. We have \$70K left from the previous grant for boulders, seating, and the Shade Structure. The “rock guy” has closed his business, so we won’t be getting more boulders from him. Mike said he has boulders at Soda Spring’s Lot 1; his front loader could lift them, but he doesn’t have a vehicle for transport. He may be able to find someone to do that. Bill said correct placement at The Hub is also needed. **Mike will reach out to possible help once a date has been set.** Pat noted that drainage around The Hub is working well.

The bike rack and repair station are inside The Shed; Bill can’t return them to their summer positions by himself. John offered some help. **Beth thinks Shandon Lloyd and her husband might be able to help; she will contact them.** Bill gave Beth the combination to The Shed.

- c. Summit Cleanup Day: **Pat will contact Visit Truckee Tahoe (VTT) about June 4, which is their date for Truckee Clean-up; agreeing on the same date should improve turn-out. Sugar Bowl and Soda Springs will provide trash bins. Beth will contact Rainbow Lodge about lunch support.** Volunteers should meet 9 AM at the Soda Springs General Store. **Nancy Oudegeest will provide a poster which Beth will duplicate and distribute for publicity.**
- d. Graffiti: Pat talked with Colleen Dalton of VTT. They have money set aside for our graffiti abatement campaign. Pat thinks we need more rollers; Mike believes hand brushes and small buckets are also needed. Extender poles are handy for high work. **Pat will check whether there are other things needed.** Tim said we have 27 gallons of paint left, which he can return in a couple weeks. Pat thinks we need another 10 gallons. **She has not contacted Jenna about Sugar Bowl support. Beth has not contacted Sugar Bowl Academy about student help; she will do so and find what day(s) they might be available.**
- e. Visitor Center (VC) Concepts: Jordan said the VCC committee has been developing vision, goals, and strategies in response to the draft RMP. The original VC plan has been judged impractical, largely because of ongoing costs. An unmanned facility is more feasible; it can provide visitor support with simpler infrastructure, relying partly on new technology such as smart phone apps.

The Hub is capturing the essence of the original VC concept; but rest rooms, and a “gathering shelter” would be important additions. The committee is now considering a second, western site. USFS is planning a trailhead and

education center near the old Van Norden spillway. Coordination with 20-Mile Museum displays could be beneficial. Mike has volunteered to collaborate with USFS as their plans evolve. Chris said that the new concept meets all original VC goals at less cost. Mark and John agreed with Chris.

Mark wondered where a 'spillway' facility would actually be located. John said all TDLT dam property will be transferred to USFS by the end of 2022. With USFS and Soda Springs as partners, Jordan thinks there is good potential for developing something at the spillway. Mike said he has worked with Boreal planners about summer parking near the spillway. Jordan noted that nothing in the planning includes an end game yet; the plan is expected to evolve as the partners work on it.

Mark asked whether the Busby property near the Monument could be conveyed to DSA, then developed for visitor use. Mark would be willing to approach them. Bill said the Busbys are willing to sell; but the frontage along Donner Pass Road is minimal and there would have to be a lot of site preparation because of forest and topography. Nevada County requires a lot of real estate for an off-road site, and it's not clear that the Busby parcel has the right size and shape to be useful.

Jordan said the VCC Committee wanted to restart the conceptual work by revising the vision. If the Board is satisfied with the plan as presented here (Attachment A), he will approach USFS and Nevada County to see what options are viable from their perspectives. All Board members endorsed Jordan's plan. The next committee meeting is April 21 at 4:30 PM.

Carissa offered to connect DSA with County officials; but Pat said DSA needs to refine the plan a bit more. Then DSA could approach the County with a presentation.

7. Computer Committee:

Dick reported that a weekly Donner Summit "snow report" has been added to make the web site more "fresh" (<https://www.donnersummitca.com/snow-report>). There won't be many more snow reports, so he's looking for ideas that could be used in a summer version.

Carissa said she received an update on construction plans for Donner Pass Road. DPR will be closed Monday-Friday May-August while the section from Rainbow Bridge to the Truckee town line is repaved. Chris said having the road open weekday mornings would make it much easier for employees to get

to work on the Summit. Carissa will email the update to Dick and he will add the information to the web site.

Dick said ownership of the web site is being transferred from Nathan Wieler (who was instrumental in getting it set up but has not been active recently) to Beth and that the annual cost of maintaining the web site appears to be about \$1000.

8. Internal Matters:

- a. Future Meetings: The next regular Board meeting will be May 12. After discussing pros and cons of face-to-face versus virtual meetings, it was decided to make the May meeting virtual but to consider face-to-face for June, in which case Mike offered to host at Soda Springs. Jordan said he is at the west end of Donner Lake, so getting to an in-person meeting is not difficult; for John, the difficulties are tied to children's schedules, which he cannot predict very far in advance.

9. Announcements

- a. Grant: Bill reminded the Board that funds from our current Hub grant must be used this summer.
- b. Norm Sayler: Norm is selling the contents of his storage container on April 23; if you are interested in historical artifacts of various kinds, you should stop by. Proceeds will support the Donner Summit Historical Society. Once the container is emptied, it will be filled with items from the Museum as part of its renovation plan.
- c. Donner Party Hikes: Hikes are scheduled for September 17 and 18 this year at Donner Ski Ranch. Details at <https://donnerpartyhike.com>

10. Adjournment:

There being no other business, Pat adjourned the meeting at 6:14 PM.

Minutes approved by the DSA Board of Directors at its meeting on May 12, 2022.

signed by DSA Secretary, Richard Simpson, _____

Donner Summit Visitors Center: Objectives + Goals

- Educate the Public
 - Provide a Gateway-Style information: instructional and interpretive exhibits, maps, historical information, technology learning apps, and literature to help people discover the regions amenities, activities and businesses.
- Be a Welcoming Center
 - Receive, invite and delight visitors while promoting sustainable stewardship
 - Provide Respite
- Provide Adequate Wayfinding
 - Designate entry points for recreation and eco-tourism
- Install Public Restrooms and Garbage Bins
 - Provide a Facility to satisfy current visitor needs
- Create a Gathering Space
 - Seating, picnic tables, shaded areas, shelter, scaled to varying community and visitor needs





**Donner Summit Association (DSA) Core Action Team Meeting
Thursday, May 12, 2022 5-6 PM
Virtual Meeting Hosted by Sugar Bowl**



Castle Peak from Castle Pass, May 11, 2022 (DSCN2757.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 5:05 PM by Pat Malberg.

Core Action Team (DSA Board) Attendees: Jordan Knighton, Pat Malberg, Bill Oudegeest, Chris Parker, Dick Simpson, John Svahn, and Krista Voosen.

Others: Tom Denzler (CFO/Treasurer) and Tim Kustic (SLPOA).

2. Approval of Agenda:

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

3. Approval of Minutes from April 14 Meeting:

MSC-U (Dick, Chris) to approve the April 14 meeting minutes.

4. Treasurer's Report (Tom):

Monthly Report: Tom distributed a detailed report before the meeting. The past month has been quiet. He said the second installment of the Lamson-Cashion donation has apparently not been converted to a CD. Beth has been away for most of the month; that will likely be something she handles when she returns. DSA has \$78K to work with in addition to the donation.

5. Reports from Ongoing Projects, and Proposals for New Projects:

- a. RMP II: **Chris will schedule a meeting with Bill to discuss steps needed to wrap up Stantec's work on the Recreation Master Plan. Then he will negotiate the final steps with Stantec.**
- b. Hub Work Day: Bill said no Hub work day has been scheduled. Pat said everything in the area of the shade structure and the accessible path to the porta-potty pad is now free of snow; if no work day is planned, there is at least some clean-up that can be done by a few volunteers.

Chris has been working with Dan Goddard about the shade structure; they need to figure out whether it will be anchored to granite or soil. Chris thinks a walk through with Jordan would be useful. **Chris will call Dan, then set a date with Jordan.** Dan is ready and wanting to do the work; he now has his own equipment so is not at the mercy of other people's schedules.

There was consensus within the Board to proceed with portable toilets at the site (pending approval of permanent units, which requires Union Pacific permission). **Pat will look into portable toilets, one of which will be ADA accessible;** she was already planning to contact the company about placing a toilet at the PCT-South trailhead. **Pat will contact Nick Martin about whether Placer County could pay for the DSA units at The Hub.**

Pat and Bill agreed that DSA needs to find a new person who “does rocks” to complete that part of The Hub.

- c. Summit Cleanup Day: The date is 4 June; Beth has distributed an e-mail notice with sign-up information. Volunteers should meet at the Soda Springs General Store at 9 AM for assignments, supplies, and meal tickets for lunch at Rainbow Lodge. **Pat will contact the Lodge to finalize the lunch arrangements.**
- d. Graffiti: Nothing new.
- e. Visitor Center (VC) Concepts: Jordan said the VC Committee has been meeting to refine vision, program needs, site locations, schedule, budget, and funding. The VC was a big part of our RMP. We originally focused on community. The VC concept then incorporated community needs into the VC objectives; but that proved to be unsustainable, and we have recentered on more limited objectives that would serve visitors first.

Now the VC is envisioned as an Everywhere Visitor Center — that is, a distributed facility. East and west anchors have been identified — the Lamson-Cashion Hub on the east and the proposed USFS center near the Van Norden Dam on the west. The VC vision is of a welcoming center which can educate the public and provide wayfinding while also meeting selected community needs. The committee has constructed a matrix listing needs and how we might achieve them. The Hub at the east end already provides some amenities; the west end can be planned collaboratively with USFS, Soda Springs Mountain Resort, and SYRCL.

Jordan thinks today’s story is “more powerful” than our original. The committee was hoping to provide Nevada County with a briefing by the end of May. This was to show that we are still working on the VC concept and to outline the new thinking in preparation for a formal request for funding. We’ve learned a lot from our experience at The Hub. The committee will meet again next week to refine the presentation. Dick suggested that the matrix be organized to highlight the most important things which need funding. In the meantime, comments from the Board (and others) on the matrix are welcome. Pat suggested that the VC plan be run past Patrick Dobbs, now with Placer County, who led the Soda Springs Area Plan when he worked for Nevada County.

Pat tried to set up a meeting with USFS to discuss west end possibilities; but there has been no response. She asked whether Chris might be able to set something up since he may have more leverage. Chris said there will be a stakeholder meeting about Van Norden “restoration” plans on May 25 (2-3

PM), but it will probably not get into “recreation”. The meeting is by invitation only; invitees are believed to include Chris, Mike Spain, Amy Ohran, Kevin Starr, Alicia Weisman, and several people from USFS.

6. Internal Matters:

- a. Future Meetings: The next regular Board meeting will be June 9; annual election of officers will be on the agenda. Pat would like an in-person meeting and wondered whether June would be possible; but nothing was decided. Pat would like a Nominating Committee to recruit new officers, especially a new President. After some discussion, **Dick agreed to survey Board members to discover their interest in continuing on the Board and their availability to serve as officers.**
- b. Board Membership: After a very brief discussion, Tom agreed to join the Board.

MSC-U (Bill, Chris) to appoint Tom Denzler to the DSA Board effective immediately.

Dick will determine the appropriate ending date for Tom’s term.

7. Announcement:

None.

8. Adjournment:

There being no other business, Pat adjourned the meeting at 5:48 PM.

Minutes approved by the DSA Board of Directors at its meeting on June 9, 2022.

signed by DSA Secretary, Richard Simpson, _____



Donner Summit Association (DSA) Core Action Team Meeting
Thursday, June 9, 2022 5-6 PM
In-person Meeting Hosted by Soda Springs Mountain Resort



Check-in for the Summit Clean-up Day at the Soda Springs General Store June 4, 2022 (DSCN2858.JPG). Left to right: Ed Bubnis, Kathy Bubnis, Beth Tanhoff, and Greg Bretz.

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 Bill Oudegeest. Pat Malberg was late because of road construction delays on Hwy 20.

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

Others: Chris Lamén, Sue Lee, Phil Sexton, Palma Yon, and Carissa Binkley (by phone).

All references to “Chris” in the minutes which follow are to Chris Parker.

Participants introduced themselves. Phil is a former USFS ranger at Big Bend. Since then he has worked with California State Parks, the North Lake Tahoe Historical Society, U.C. Davis, and Stanford University. He is now affiliated with the 1882 Foundation, doing work which is mostly unpaid. Sue and Palma are with the Chinese Historical Society of America, which has headquarters in San Francisco.

2. Approval of Agenda:

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

3. Approval of Minutes from the May Meeting:

MSC-U (Dick, Tom) to approve the May meeting minutes.

4. County Reports

Nevada County: Carissa reported that the County has appointed Kimberly Parker as its first Economic Development Program Manager and Erika Seward as its first Senior Administrative Analyst for Recreation. Parker and Seward join the County’s Community Development Agency and will lead the Board of Supervisors’ 2022 Economic Development and Recreation Objectives, respectively. Both will be briefed on the Donner Summit region; Carissa imagines that DSA will get to know both as they work toward expanding the County’s focus on these two important priorities.

Work continues on Donner Pass Road. The County is seeking to improve signage so that visitors will understand that Soda Springs is open.

Outdoor Visitor Safety Fund Grants go to the Board of Supervisors for approval on June 28. These will include a grant to help fund dumpsters and toilets at Rainbow Bridge and Summit Haus (existing locations). The County is looking for ways to make funding available for longer terms.

Nevada County’s Recreation Master Plan RFP has been published. The County will be engaging DSA as this process moves forward.

Placer County: Nick Martin was double-booked for the evening and chose North Tahoe Regional Advisory Council over DSA. But he reported by e-mail that he has met with Nevada County staff to coordinate transfer of the

leadership on sanitation and trash services at the Summit. The current arrangement (having Placer lead) has proven to be overly complicated, causing delays — for example, because Placer needs to pull permits for placement of resources on Nevada County property. Negotiators have involved Nevada County planning and public works in addition to Jeffrey Thorsby.

5. History Project

Phil is currently working with the 1882 Foundation, which is a non-profit headquartered in Washington, DC; it seeks to document the impact of the Chinese Exclusion Act. Its focus is on the Chinese elements of American history, not Chinese history. The Foundation is interested in having the campsite used by Chinese railroad workers in the 1860s designated as a National Historic Landmark (NHL). The proposal for nomination was submitted last week; if the review is successful, designation could go to the Secretary of Interior later this year.

NHL designation does not affect property ownership or zoning; but it also comes with no funding. Sometimes designation is followed by erection of commemorative and educational signage (if the property owner is agreeable). Phil has not seen the final boundaries in the proposal. Although the railroad tunnels are the most popular feature in the area today, the goal of this NHL designation is to include the camp site as seen by the Chinese workers.

There have been eight films and documentaries shot at Donner Summit on this subject; filmmakers have come from several countries. “Legacy” is available on YouTube; it won a national award. *National Geographic* will have an article about the Transcontinental Railroad (TCRR) within the next year.

Congress passed a resolution in 2012 apologizing for the Chinese Exclusion Act. But the NHL work goes back more than half a century. Over 2012-19 Stanford conducted a huge study on Chinese contributions to construction of the TCRR. There was additional work associated with the TCRR Sesquicentennial celebration in 2019.

The Summit Tunnel Conservation Association is a 501(c)(3) organization that is also helping to publicize Chinese contributions to the TCRR. Phil will be leading a two-hour STCA walking tour of the Summit Saturday; it is sold out. There are other tours, including a two-day tour in October starting in the foothills, reaching Reno, and then returning on the California Zephyr.

Phil’s main activity recently has been gathering local support for preservation and recognition efforts. He has met with historical societies, civic and business groups, and government officials. He has had little luck

contacting UPRR about the Donner Summit NHL and related initiatives; UPRR decisions are made in Omaha and the general impression he has received is that the company is not interested in discussions unless there is an affect on railroad operations.

He acknowledged that graffiti is a problem at the Summit, particularly when it infringes on historical artifacts. Phil has been dismayed that some people (and media outlets) view graffiti as an art form without regard to its impact on artifacts. “Graffiti as art is important; but tunnels are not the canvas.” As for ways to counter graffiti, Phil acknowledged that some people are ignorant (and can be educated); but there are others who are simply “evil”.

Phil said he is passionate about this subject, but he knows he does not speak on behalf of the Chinese Community. Sue disagreed – even the Chinese community doesn’t know this history; and it is American history. Developing a cadre of local folks who can explain the history is important regardless of who they are. Discussion followed on possibilities for placing educational materials around the tunnels (see below).

6. Treasurer’s Report (Tom):

Monthly Report: Tom distributed a detailed report before the meeting. May was a quiet month financially. He added some summaries, including an end of fiscal year report:

Fiscal Year Income:		\$84205.79
Grants:	\$21770.99	
Donations:	\$60805.36	
Swag:	\$1629.44	
Fiscal Year Expenses:		\$11854.77
Contract services:	\$6195.40	
Insurance:	\$3072.88	
Other:	2586.49	
Net Income:		\$72351.02

7. Reports from Ongoing Projects, and Proposals for New Projects:

- a. Recreation Master Plan II: Chris has contacted Stantec; together they have identified a couple issues with potential financial liability. Deliverables have been clearly spelled out, but RMP revisions remain somewhat ambiguous. Dick did some edits on the document; there needs to be a procedure for getting those (and others) integrated into the final product. Sugar Bowl and Truckee Donner Land Trust financial contributions are expected.

The Placer County Recreation Master Plan has been submitted, but details of some trail routes (such as bike routes through Sugar Bowl which connect with the PCT) have not been finalized. **Chris will report progress.**

- b. Hub Work Day: Bill has been repairing a few things. Chris met with Kelly Hofstедder of JKAE on design of the shade structure. Ron Gregg was going to provide rocks, but he closed his business and no new rock source has been found. Mike has rocks that could be used; but he doesn't have suitable equipment to move the rocks from Soda Springs to the L-C Hub. **Beth knows someone who might be able to help. Bill will look at Mike's rocks, then ask the Rock Garden in Truckee what it would take to move them.** Pat would like to add rock barriers at a couple illegal camping sites where there have been open fires; Chris suggested that **she call Jenna Prescott and mention 'fire'.**

Chris said we should pursue the existing plan for a toilet enclosure and fill it with portable toilets until we have permission to make a permanent installation. Placer County has provided a portable toilet; but it's in the wrong place. Placer County is also providing a dumpster; but there is a risk that it will be used for household trash if not monitored closely.



Filled dumpster at Soda Springs Resort after Clean-up Day (DSCN2883.JPG).

- c. Summit Cleanup Day: Beth said there were about 45 volunteers including some new faces. Volunteers filled all dumpsters provided. The DSA event was scheduled in conjunction with a similar event in Truckee; Truckee provided us with five storage bags that were raffled off to volunteers at the Rainbow Lodge lunch. Pat complimented Beth on a great organizing job

including coordinating contributions such as the lunch, dumpsters, and collection bags. One thing to keep in mind for next year is the need for more manageable collection bags — they were too large for the youngest volunteers to manage.

- d. Graffiti: Pat said there is nothing new; she is not sure that over-painting is the best way to address graffiti, but she doesn't have a better idea. Should we have docents? Should we distribute brochures explaining the historic and sacred nature of the Summit site? Phil suggested a panel explaining the ethics of graffiti. Information panels could be like petroglyphs. A panel with a QR code could open a video on a smart phone; Phil doesn't have a video, but he knows people who might be able to create one. Panels could be made from coated material that is easy to clean. **There was consensus to revisit this topic at our next meeting.**
- e. Visitor Center (VC) Concepts: Pat said that Jordan's design has been well received; it captures both our vision for a visitor center and the main elements of a design that would be distributed over the Summit area. Dick added that the "Everywhere VC" is anchored to The Lamson-Cashion Hub; but there would be a satellite VC at the west end of Van Norden Meadow. That satellite, however, is on property managed by at least USFS and Soda Springs. USFS is entirely focused on restoration efforts in the Meadow, so there is not much DSA can do for now except keep lines of communication open. Dick has been investigating possibilities for an "entry" VC at Gould Park in Cisco Grove. A meeting with Andy Fisher is scheduled for the morning of July 11 to discuss possibilities for park improvements that would emphasize the historic importance of Cisco Grove in the years leading up to TCRR construction. Funding could come from Placer County TOT revenues (proposals are due at the end of August).
- f. Nevada County Funding: Pat will approach Nevada County about VC plans after we have done a bit more planning and developed a shopping list.

8. Plaque Honoring Bill Oudegeest for His Contributions at The Hub:

Mark said George Lamson had created a plaque for The Hub recognizing the contributions of Bill Oudegeest. Mark asked for approval of installation by the Board.

MSC-U (Mark, Pat) to approve placement of the plaque honoring Bill Oudegeest's contributions to The Hub.

9. Internal Matters:

- a. After Board consensus, **Dick agreed to look into acquiring something that could be presented to Jordan Knighton** in

recognition of his contributions to concepts and designs at Donner Summit.

b. Board reappointments:

MSC-U (Dick, Chris) to reappoint Tom Denzler, Mark Himmelstein, Pat Malberg, Beth Tanhoff, and Krista Voosen to two-year terms on the DSA Board of Directors beginning in December.

c. **Election of Officers:**

MSC-U (Mark, Dick) to elect Pat Malberg (President), Bill Oudegeest (Vice President), Dick Simpson (Secretary), and Tom Denzler (CFO/Treasurer) as DSA officers by acclamation.

d. Future Meetings: The next meeting will be July 14 at the Nancy O Gallery, pending Nancy's agreement. Chris will not be able to attend.

10. Announcements:

Beth said sale of the Beacon Hill property (zoned for commercial use between the Soda Springs Store and the condominiums) has closed. The new owner has obtained preliminary approval from Nevada County to erect a 13-room lodge with a restaurant

The Board expressed interest in scheduling an early fall "beer fest". The last one was held at Clair Tappaan Lodge; the comparable date in 2022 would be 24 September. **Dick has contacts at CTL; he will inquire about availability.**

11. Adjournment:

There being no other business, Bill adjourned the meeting at 6:48 PM.

Minutes approved by the DSA Board of Directors at its meeting on July 14, 2022.

signed by DSA Secretary, Richard Simpson, _____



Donner Summit Association (DSA) Core Action Team Meeting
Thursday, July 14, 2022 5-6 PM
In-person Meeting Hosted by Soda Springs Mountain Resort



New home of Soda Springs General Store (DSCN3203.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 5:01 PM by Pat Malberg.

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

Others: Chris Lamén, Tim Kustic, and Nick Martin.

2. Approval of Agenda:

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

3. Approval of Minutes from the June Meeting:

MSC-U (Bill, Beth) to approve the June meeting minutes.

4. Treasurer's Report (Tom):

Monthly Report: Tom distributed a detailed report before the meeting. Beth moved \$50K from checking to a CD. DSA renewed its license for Microsoft Office. Otherwise, it's been a quiet month. Tom was asked whether he had received \$5K in matching funds from either Truckee Donner Land Trust or Sugar Bowl; Tom said he hadn't, but the money may have been paid directly to providers.

5. Confirmation of E-vote (Dick):

Jeffrey Thorsby requested a DSA letter of support for changes in Nevada County parking restrictions. Dick circulated a draft letter (Attachment A), which the Board approved with seven votes in favor, one ambiguous, and two not voting. The draft was forwarded to Pat, but she doesn't remember receiving it. No one objected to confirming the e-vote. **Dick will resend the letter, and Pat will forward a signed copy to the Chair of the Nevada County Board of Supervisors.**

6. County Reports

Nevada County: Carissa Binkley was unable to attend the meeting.

Placer County: Nick Martin said Placer County just launched a program to help homeowners who are willing to offer long-term leases. Up to \$500K may be available if the proposal is approved by the Board of Supervisors later this month.

The Donner Summit Municipal Advisory Council meets on Thursday, July 21 (6 PM) at Sugar Bowl's Judah Lodge. Pat and Chris Parker are members of the MAC. Topics at the next meeting include short term rentals and wildfire precautions.

Nick is working on a Memorandum of Understanding with Jeffrey Thorsby which will simplify placement of assets (such as dumpsters) belonging to one county in the two-county Donner Summit area.

Pat said she tried to get a SaniHut toilet moved from her place, where it was rented for one day, to the PCT-South trailhead nearby, where it could stay for the rest of the summer. The SaniHut employee couldn't do that because the unit was promised elsewhere, and the company had no other

units. A discussion followed about placement of portable toilets around The Hub. **Pat will talk to Jenna Prescott of Sugar Bowl about placement, since the single unit near The Shed, which was arranged by Sugar Bowl, is not optimally placed.**

Pat said she has tried to contact Jenna about illegal camping around The Hub; but they have not connected yet. Chris asked about a vehicle that has been parked on Old Donner Pass Road near Upper Castle Creek for three weeks and campers spreading out in Summit Meadow. At least the vehicle would be considered illegal camping if it violates the 14-day USFS limit.

Chris noted that Van Norden Meadow is “absolutely gorgeous” with wildflowers.

Old Donner Pass Road will be closed when Meadow restoration work starts (see 7i below).



West end warming hut and wildflowers in Van Norden Meadow (DSCN3206.JPG)

7. Reports from Ongoing Projects, and Proposals for New Projects:

- a. Recreation Master Plan II: Pat signed and returned the extension contract with Stantec for \$44.5K; it should be ratified by the DSA Board, but Dick forgot to include it in the agenda. **He will add it to the August agenda.**
- b. Hub Work Day and Rocks: Rocks will be delivered to The Hub Saturday; Mike will provide machinery for moving them. Mike said four 20-foot steel “stakes” have been located that can support the sunshade. Depending on

the configuration 1, 2, or 4 stakes would be needed for support; Kelly Hobstetter of JKAE has completed four designs; one needs to be selected.

- c. Graffiti: At the last DSA Board meeting. Phil Sexton suggested placing signs explaining the impact of graffiti in the Summit area; Bill has since roughed out one design (Attachment B), which was received enthusiastically by the Board. He thinks a couple signs near the tunnel entrances and a third near the petroglyphs below would be appropriate. Bill estimates the production cost to be about \$200 per sign; installation would be extra. The graffiti in the sign artwork needs to be checked for inappropriate content.

MSC-U (Dick, Beth) to appropriate sufficient funds to create and install the three signs.

Pat said she has received correspondence from the North Tahoe Climbing Coalition, which would like to help in graffiti abatement with funding and labor. After discussion, it was decided to schedule a community work day on Saturday, August 6 with shifts from 9 AM to noon and 1-4 PM. **Pat will contact Jenna Prescott to obtain Sugar Bowl support¹.** It may be possible to enlist recruits from Sugar Bowl Academy, though a weekday might be easier for them to schedule. **Tim will advise SLPOA at its Board meeting Saturday.**

- d. Visitor Center (VC) Concepts: There will be a meeting between DSA and representatives from Placer County at Gould Park on Monday, July 18, at 9 AM. At least 4 DSA representatives and as many as 7 County representatives including Andy Fisher (Parks Administration) and Ralph Gibson (Museums Administrator) are expected. The discussion will center on using Gould Park as a portal to Donner Summit — the western extension of Jordan Knighton’s “everywhere” distributed visitor center. It could include a kiosk welcoming visitors and providing basic navigation to points of interest. Tim suggested pointing visitors to our “scenic bypass” — Old 40, which is readily accessible from the park. He thought modeling the bypass on Humboldt County’s Avenue of the Giants might be possible. The kiosk could mention the 20-Mile Museum and the fact that additional information can be obtained at The Hub and at its west Van Norden Meadow counterpart (to be constructed).

A related topic needing attention is poor signage; Gould Park is almost invisible to travelers on I-80. DSA can provide the kiosk. Can Placer County provide better signage? Can CalTrans help? Several noted that Old 40 is already a very popular cycling route; attention should not be limited to visitors arriving by auto. Bill said a bicycle repair station could be added at

¹ After the meeting, Pat confirmed with Jenna that Sugar Bowl will provide access on August 6.

Gould Park for about \$3900. A question was raised about four-season access since Gould Park is currently closed during winter.

Chris noted that the Gold Run rest area on eastbound I-80, in contrast to Gould Park, is visited by hundreds (if not thousands) of people every day. Can Summit information be added there?

Bill suggested inviting Ralph Gibson to Donner Pass after the Gould Park meeting; Bill believes Ralph has never seen The Hub.

- e. Nevada County Funding: Pat needs to call Carissa Binkley about briefing County officials on plans for the DSA visitor center. She thinks getting together after the Gould Park meeting could be timely; by then we should have a better idea of what the request list would contain.
- f. Recognition of Jordan Knighton: Dick had plaque made recognizing Jordan's contributions to Visitor Center planning.
- g. Fall Social Event: Dick contacted the new General Manager at Clair Tappaan Lodge; Topher Marlatt is interested in hosting a DSA social event, such as the one held in 2019; but he doesn't want to commit to a date now because he doesn't know what regular bookings he will have in late September and early October.

Mike offered to host the event at Soda Springs Mountain Resort. The facility is lightly used at that time of year; it has lots of parking and a deck which could accommodate dozens of people. After discussion, the Board accepted his offer and chose September 24 as the date; **Beth will start planning.**

- h. Web Report: Dick said that the web site "Snow Report" has been converted to a "News" page which lists current and near-future events such as the Soda Springs General Store move, Headwaters Institute nature talks, SYRCL/USFS workshops, and the Point Mariah Marathon. The new URL is <https://www.donnersummitca.com/news>. He is currently getting his news leads from ad hoc local sources; he encouraged anyone aware of Summit events to send him clues. Beth said she would send a link to an event at Rainbow Lodge in early August.

The web site highlights four projects; the Monument project has been replaced by the Van Norden Restoration project, but there is no content yet. Bill has provided a large amount of information that will be added within the next few days. Jeannie Smith, the site's webmaster, has been very helpful in making upgrades; she provides the structure and Dick fills in the content.

- i. Van Norden Meadow Report: Before the meeting, Alecia Weisman (South Yuba River Citizens League) circulated an update to everyone receiving the draft DSA agenda:

A quick update on Van Norden Meadow implementation start date. We are dealing with a few final hurdles but expect to begin mobilization sometime between August 1 and August 8th of this year, with all restoration actions beginning as early as August 3rd.

We will keep you all posted along the way, but we have verbal approval from Nevada County to do road closures, with the caveat that local traffic will be able to move through if needed, during work hours (Mon - Friday, 8am-6pm). Of course land owners within the restoration footprint will be able to travel through at any time. We will radio to stop construction travel while folks use the road. If we start getting into strict fire control work measures, we will begin work earlier and commence by 1pm each day. This will be a week to week consideration

Caitlin Edelmuth (also of SYRCL) subsequently sent a flyer describing workshops related to the restoration project (Attachment C).

8. Internal Matters:

- a. Future Meetings: The next DSA Board meeting will be August 11 at the Soda Springs lodge. Mike said that Board meetings are easy to host at Soda Springs; for the larger social event tentatively planned for September 24, some insurance documents will need to be exchanged.

Beth will be hosting a Truckee Thursday event at her office and Tom will be in Seattle on August 11; so neither will be at the Board meeting.

9. Announcements:

- a. Pat noted that Sustainable Truckee signs are everywhere. The program uses volunteer “ambassadors” to interact with and educate visitors. They are looking for additional volunteers. People interested in the program should visit <https://www.visittruckeetahoe.com/stewardship-sustainability/ambassador-program>
- b. Free Truckee Thursday Shuttles connect Donner Lake to downtown Truckee on Thursdays between 4:30 and 10 PM (through August 11). That means people on the Summit do not have to drive all the way into downtown Truckee.
- c. Bill will be away for several weeks. Since he keeps brochure dispensers filled, someone needs to take on that chore while he is away. He has 15

boxes of brochures that are awkward to move. **Pat offered to work out a substitute arrangement.**

- d. Mike announced that Amy Ohran has taken a new position as Vice President and General Manager of Northstar California. Her last day at Boreal was Tuesday, though she has been working as Powdr Corporation Vice President and General Manager of Woodward Mountain Centers in Tahoe and Park City for the past year while physically being at Boreal. Nate Ellis has been the General Manager at Boreal during that time. Pat wondered whether DSA could get a tour of Boreal; **Mike said he could arrange something and suggested a tour focused on mountain biking**, a program that Boreal hopes to expand over the next 12 months.
- e. Beth mentioned that Norm Sayler's condominium, which houses his Photo Museum, is for sale. The asking price is \$400K.

10.Adjournment:

There being no other business, Pat adjourned the meeting at 6:09 PM.

Minutes approved by the DSA Board of Directors at its meeting on August 11, 2022.

signed by DSA Secretary, Richard Simpson, _____



More wildflowers in western Van Norden Meadow (DSCN3204.JPG)



DSA Core Action Team

June 23, 2022

Tom Denzler, CFO/Treas
Mark Himmelstein
Pat Malberg, President
Bill Oudegeest, V. Pres.
Chris Parker
Dick Simpson, Secy.
Mike Spain
John Svahn
Beth Tanhoff
Krista Voosen

Chair Susan Hock
Nevada County Board of Supervisors
950 Maidu Avenue – Suite 200
P.O. Box 599002
Nevada City, CA 95959

Re: Changes to Nevada County's No Parking Ordinance and Increase of Parking Fines
Honorable Chair Hock:

Others

.Beth Tanhoff, Admin.

On behalf of the Donner Summit Association Board of Directors, I am writing to express support for the proposed Ordinance and Resolution to address illegal parking at the county's most popular recreation and open space areas. Amendments to Section G-IV 3.A.8 of Article 3.A of Chapter IV of Title 2 of the Nevada County General Code covering Soda Springs Road and addition of parking restrictions on Boreal Ridge Road, Donner Lake Road, and Donner Pass Road in our area will more effectively enable law enforcement to deter unsafe parking that can block emergency vehicle access, create traffic obstacles, and cause traffic accidents.

Increasing demand for open space recreation combined with illegal parking throughout the county threaten public safety by blocking emergency vehicle access and emergency evacuation routes in a time of increased wildfire danger. The 2020 Jones Fire and the 2021 River Fire made clear that fire in steep terrain, such as we have in many parts of the county where recreation occurs, threatens nearby residences and regional communities with frightening speed. The smooth and orderly flow of traffic past rural recreation sites is paramount. In winter, illegal parking along snowbanks near recreation sites creates major hazards to individuals who are at risk of being struck by oncoming traffic. The very people parking unsafely and then recreating nearby are putting themselves and their fellow outdoor enthusiasts at risk by also blocking emergency vehicle access to these areas.

We are encouraged that Nevada County has made implementation of policies and programs to reduce the risk of wildfire and its threats to life, property, and the environment a top priority. The proposed changes are reasonable in an era when the dangers of wildfire are more severe than ever before. The Donner Summit Association supports the Ordinance and Resolution as a sensible measure to reduce risks to public safety. We encourage the Board of Supervisors to adopt the proposed actions.

Sincerely,

Pat Malberg, President

The Donner Summit Association is nonprofit public benefit corporation organized to provide education, advocacy and opportunities to strengthen and protect the fragile alpine environment, culture, heritage and future of the Donner Summit Area, and to carry on other charitable activities associated with this purpose as allowed by law.

DONNER SUMMIT ASSOCIATION
P.O. BOX 674, SODA SPRINGS, CA 95728
www.donnersummitca.com
A 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization
E.I.N: 87-0806766



About Graffiti



Graffiti is art and should be celebrated -
but these tunnels are not the canvas

The Chinese railroad workers spent two years on Donner Summit risking their lives and health to lay the rails and build the summit tunnels of the transcontinental railroad. They faced avalanche, accident, pneumonia, explosion, rock slide, disease, and cold, continual cold in winter.

The railroad was the engineering marvel of the 19th Century. It opened California to the world and the world to California.

The sacrifices of the Chinese changed California and the nation. Their legacy and memorial are important features on Donner Summit - the summit tunnels and the snowsheds. They celebrate the heroism of the Chinese and as such, are almost sacred spots.

These tunnels are the center piece of transcontinental railroad construction, which is designated as a State Historic Landmark. As such, these prehistoric and historic cultural resources are subject to protection by federal and state law from vandalism. The train tunnels are owned by Union Pacific Railroad and the petroglyphs are under jurisdiction of the U. S. Forest Service. ... The graffiti paint obscures and threatens the design, materials and workmanship of these historic rock features. The urban stamp of graffiti is totally out of character with the historical and natural setting of Donner Summit with motifs such as aliens, robots, animals and even Krusty the Clown. They trivialize our national heritage and destroy the integrity of location, setting, feeling, and association of the place.

Susan Lindström, Ph.D.,
Consulting Archaeologist
Truckee, California



At the half-way point can you find these examples of tool marks left by the Chinese railroad workers in 1868?

Without the Chinese, it would have been impossible to complete the Western portion of this great national highway.

Leland Stanford

QR Code for video



Please enjoy the historic sites and recognize the sacrifices of those who came before.

SEDGE ID & NATIVE SEED COLLECTION WORKSHOP



VAN NORDEN MEADOW
JULY 28, 9-4 & JULY 29, 9-3

Join us for a free, unique experience to learn about meadow plant communities. 2 day event; come for either day or both!

DAY 1: SEDGE ID WORKSHOP

Learn from SYRCL and Forest Service botanists about how to identify native sedges.

Recommended for people with some plant ID experience or interest - led by THE Dave Weixelman.

DAY 2: COLLECTION OF NATIVE SEED

Collect native seed from Van Norden meadow that will support revegetation efforts associated with restoration.

No experience necessary.

Email caitlin@yubariver.org to sign up!



**Donner Summit Association (DSA) Core Action Team Meeting
Thursday, August 11, 2022 5-6 PM
In-person Meeting Hosted by Soda Springs Mountain Resort**



An era ends as Norm Sayler puts his Photo Museum up for sale (DSCN3344.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 5:01 PM by Pat Malberg.

Core Action Team (DSA Board) Attendees: Mark Himmelstein, Pat Malberg, Bill Oudegeest, Chris Parker, Dick Simpson, Mike Spain, John Svahn, and Krista Voosen,

Others: Carissa Binkley (Nevada County)

2. Approval of Agenda:

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

3. Approval of Minutes from the July Meeting:

MSC-U (Chris, Mike) to approve the July meeting minutes.

4. Treasurer's Report (Pat):

Monthly Report: Treasurer Tom Denzler distributed a detailed report before the meeting. Dick mentioned that about \$1500 in donations has come in since Tom went on vacation. Pat noted that \$2905 was paid for insurance.

Pat received a note from a neighbor about the portable toilet that has historically been at the PCT-South trailhead; SaniHut has not been able to provide one this year, and sanitation around the trailhead has become a problem. John said one of SaniHut's problems may be supply chain issues in getting the blue solution that the toilets use.

Pat was able to contact United Site Services, and they installed a toilet the next day. The cost is about \$500/month (compared with about \$150/month from SaniHut); but United services the unit twice a week. Since there has been no toilet for most of the summer, DSA will come out about even in the budget. We need to think about how to do this next year.

There is a toilet at Summit Haus, which was arranged by Sugar Bowl. Pat has tried to get it moved to the designated toilet location near The Shed; but she's been unsuccessful so far. Pat believes there is a third provider; **she will try to contact them about future possibilities.**

5. County Reports:

Nevada County (Carissa Binkley): Carissa has an office in the Truckee Town Hall. **She will arrange a meeting there with Pat to discuss common issues.**

The Nevada County Sheriff issued a red alert for Kiely Rodni, who has been missing since August 6. A search is being conducted jointly with Placer County (<https://www.sierrasun.com/news/we-need-answers-rodni-family-pleads-for-safe-return-of-daughter/>). Ms. Rodni was last seen at a party at a Prosser campground. Carissa reminded attendees that Nevada County is offering mental health support to those who need it.

The new web site at <https://gonevadacounty.com> is now live; it is part of an economic development tool being developed by the County. Locally based writers are being recruited to document sustainable recreational opportunities and businesses. Off-the-beaten-path recreational opportunities are being promoted, but with an eye toward not suddenly concentrating people at these less-well-known sites.

Tuesday the Board of Supervisors voted to place a 0.5 percent sales tax increase on the November ballot – it will support wildfire prevention, disaster response, County services, etc. (<https://www.sierrasun.com/news/nevada-county-supervisors-put-half-cent-sales-tax-on-ballot/>) The Town of Truckee voted not to support the increase a week before the BoS vote; they were concerned that it duplicated Measure T services passed last year in Truckee, and they wanted a 6-8 year sunset provision; but the Supervisors voted for a 10 year sunset. The next BoS meeting will be August 23 in Truckee.

Pat reported that Jenna Prescott arranged to move boulders to block a favorite illegal camping spot near The Hub.

Placer County: Nick Martin was unable to attend. He submitted a list of wildfire resources (Placer Alert is the most comprehensive and important):

- [Placer Sierra Fire Safe Council](#)
- [Ready for Wildfire webpage](#)
- [Homeowner's checklist](#)
- [Defensible space information](#)
- [Prepare for quick evacuation](#)
- [Build an emergency kit](#)
- [Sign up for Placer Alert](#)



Rainbow Lodge summer barbecue, August 6 (DSCN3346.JPG)

DONNER SUMMIT ASSOCIATION
P.O. BOX 674, SODA SPRINGS, CA 95728

www.donnersummitca.com
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6. Reports from Ongoing Projects, and Proposals for New Projects:

- a. Recreation Master Plan II: A meeting is being arranged for next week with Stantec. Chris has a new employee (Dana) who will watch over the Stantec work.

Pat asked about square pipes in The Shed. Chris said the shade structure will be built with round pipes; he doesn't know anything about square pipes. Bill said he didn't know anything about them either. Kelly Hobstetter (JKAE pro bono) has been very helpful in moving the shade structure forward. There will be a contract for structural engineering with Linchpin SE. The structure is "temporary", so no permit is needed. The pipe will need to be procured.

- b. Ratify Stantec Contract: Mark said Stantec's hourly rates are all over the place; he would prefer to see better documentation of rates in a future contract. Chris said this is a fixed cost contract, so the rates quoted aren't meaningful in terms of what DSA pays.

MSC-U (Dick, Chris) to approve the Stantec contract.

- c. Hub Work Day and Rocks: Rocks were carried from Soda Springs Mountain Resort to the Hub and dropped in place; it wasn't the preferred location, but the machinery couldn't get closer. We will need a winch to move them after the shade structure is completed.

Pat kept the brochure dispensers filled while Bill was traveling in Iceland. The brochures have proven to be extremely popular.

A sign is needed at The Hub, pointing to the tunnels; it would save a lot of questions and answers. John encouraged sign planning so that a sign forest does not sprout.

- d. Graffiti: Seven people (total) overpainted graffiti on Saturday (August 6) and the following Monday. There are about three five-gallon buckets of paint left. John Scott wants to do "elephant snot" graffiti removal. Pat has arranged for Sugar Bowl support on Thursday, September 1; John will bring climbers to work, and Sugar Bowl will provide pressure washing equipment. Mike said there may be a contingent from Boreal.



Sugar Bowl Road bridge, east side, before (left, DSCN3337.JPG) and after (DSCN3340.JPG) graffiti abatement.

- e. Visitor Center (VC) Concepts: Dick summarized DSA's visit to Gould Park. Four people from DSA (Pat and Don Malberg, Dick, and Mike) met with three people from Placer County Parks (Andy Fisher, Casey Lyons, and Ted Rel). They concluded that County Park property on the north side of the river is more suitable for development as a visitor center portal than the existing park property on the south side. County personnel are worried about extra costs associated with maintenance if the existing park facilities are promoted like a highway rest area. The north side has more history, including rock foundations; Lyons is preparing to contract for fuelwood reduction there, after which it may be easier to see its future potential.



Tunnel 7 west side before (left, DSCN3362.JPG) and after (DSCN3398.JPG) graffiti abatement.



Pat Malberg (left) presented a plaque to Jordan Knighton recognizing his contributions to DSA visitor center design during a subcommittee meeting on July 29 (DSCN3290.JPG).

- f. 1882 Foundation Meeting: Bill, Pat, and Dick Zoomed with several people involved with the Foundation at noon today. Phil Sexton and Sue Lee, who made a presentation to DSA in June about the historical significance of Chinese laborers in constructing the transcontinental railroad, also participated. They are excited about the possibilities of partnering with DSA on developing an interpretive and educational center at the site of the Chinese workers camp. The camp has been proposed as a National Historic Landmark; if approved, the designation could come as soon as this time next year. There were several requests for more information about DSA and its plans for a visitor center. A follow-up Zoom is scheduled for August 25 with a presentation by DSA.
- g. Fall Social Event: Pat and Beth have run into problems getting the event off the ground. To serve beer or wine, DSA would need a license from the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control; Pat has navigated these paths for DSAA's July 4th events; but they are more complicated today, and Pat doesn't want to go through the process again. In addition to the ABC license, servers of alcoholic beverages have to be trained to do that work, and proper security needs to be arranged. Several thought that obtaining the license and finding trained servers would not be difficult and that beer/wine could be a powerful draw to the event.

Several alternative formats were proposed, but many would require licensing or training in some form. Some of the more viable appeared to be a pot luck format, a BYO event with or without selected free foods, or a

switch to The Hub as the venue where Sugar Bowl might be able to provide support. An advantage of Soda Springs is that the event could be moved inside in case of bad weather.

John wondered whether the purpose of the event is to acquaint community members with DSA or to get the community “together”; focusing on both may be ineffective. There was discussion of whether to charge attendees or make the event free but recover some of the cost from pay-to-play activities.

Other ideas included selling merchandise, an auction, live music, electronic music piped from a smart phone playlist, and a scavenger hunt.

Pat asked Board members to send her their preferences for how to proceed.

7. Computer/Web Report (Dick):

The ‘fresh’ part of the web site has been converted to a four-season activities page, accessible from the home page (<https://www.donnersummitca.com>) as “News”. It is updated weekly, usually on Thursday and more frequently when there is special news to report. There are also pages devoted to the Van Norden restoration and to graffiti abatement that are being updated regularly. Dick noted that he doesn’t know how many people look at the web site (or who they are); in response to a question, he said **he will ask Jeannie Smith, who does the technical support, for suggestions on how to obtain statistics.**

8. Internal Matters:

- a. Future Meetings: The next meeting will be September 8 at Pat’s cabin on Lake Mary.

9. Announcements:

None.

10. Adjournment:

There being no other business, Pat adjourned the meeting at 6:26 PM.

Minutes approved by the DSA Board of Directors at its meeting on September 8, 2022.

signed by DSA Secretary, Richard Simpson, _____



Donner Summit Association (DSA) Core Action Team Meeting
Thursday, September 8, 2022 5-6 PM
In-person Meeting Hosted by Pat Malberg at Lake Mary



Deconstruction of the old Van Norden spillway and dam (DSCN3489.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.

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

Others: Nick Martin (Placer County), Jeffrey Thorsby and Kimberly Parker (Nevada County)

2. Approval of Agenda:

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

3. Approval of Minutes from the August Meeting:

MSC-U (Bill, Tom) to approve the August meeting minutes.

4. Financial Report (Tom):

Monthly Report: Tom had distributed a report in advance. There were contributions (not reported previously) offsetting expenses. Tom noted that Sugar Bowl contributed \$5K, which was a previously promised grant match.

5. County Reports:

Placer County: Nick said Placer County is starting a one-year pilot program to encourage owners of second homes to enter into first-time long-term leases with local workers. The goal is to provide more housing for workers. The program will be managed by an organization that is already operating similar programs in Truckee and elsewhere. The County will seed the program with \$400K destined for participating property owners and \$100K for operations. The program will provide larger payments to owners who have bigger houses (renting to more people) and whose leases run longer. The incentives could be as much as \$24K per year in addition to the rental payments. There have already been 100 applications; the County expects 15-20 to be approved based on the funding available. Nick provided a link to the web site (<https://landinglocals.com/northlaketahoe/>) after the meeting.

Placer County has brought in Gloria Stearns as its new Economic Development Program Director; Nick would like to get her connected to DSA. She has been on the job about 3 months.

Nick asked for guidance on what DSA would find interesting in future reports. Pat said anything that might directly affect DSA or the Summit would be important. MAC meetings provide updates on things happening across the County as a whole; targeting the Summit audience would be helpful. There have been attempts to get a two-county MAC organized for the Summit; but they have sputtered and failed when questions about funding and staff support were raised.

Nevada County: Jeffrey introduced Kimberley Parker, who is the County's first Economic Development Program Director. As Board members reciprocated by introducing themselves, she noted that her husband has been a ski instructor at Sugar Bowl for 10 years. Kimberly has been in her new

job 5 weeks; before that she was Executive Director of Sierra Nevada Memorial Hospital Foundation. Jeffrey also mentioned that Erika Seward is the County's first Senior Administrative Analyst for Recreation; she was not able to make this meeting.

Jeffrey said that hearing from DSA (and similar organizations) and taking that information back to the County is very useful; it helps the County develop priorities and plans that align with what those local groups are trying to accomplish. Nevada County has only two permanent MACs, so information flow through those channels (particularly to/from Donner Summit) is less dependable.

Placer County has taken leadership on trash and sanitation at the Summit. There is now a grant from Nevada County to Truckee Trails to solve some of these problems from the Nevada County side. Is there a way to build on these parallel efforts with a cost-sharing mechanism? What are the immediate, mid-term, and long-term priorities that could be addressed by working together?

Nevada County still has funds, originally set aside for the Donner Summit Visitor Center, to work on long-term solutions to Summit problems. The County learned a lot from the Donner Pass Road project; for example, there were unforeseen impacts on local businesses when subcontractors did not respond to problems those businesses were facing during construction.

There will be a Zoom meeting between DSA representatives and Erika and Kimberly on September 14; it will focus on planning that led to the DSA Visitor Center (VC) proposal, why the proposal was never submitted, and subsequent work on VC concepts. Dick has prepared a slide set and a list of requests; after he has made final updates, **he will send copies to the people expected. Pat will work with Jeffrey on an agenda and points to emphasize in discussion.** Jeffrey was planning to be in Truckee tomorrow starting about 7 AM; he and Pat arranged to meet at the Summit on his way to Truckee. Jeffrey has a conflict on September 14, so this will give them a chance for preliminary discussions.

Chris said he has two requests of Nevada County. First, Sugar Bowl has housing at Donner Summit Lodge, but the zoning is not compatible with that use. There is a similar problem with housing in the old ASI building at the Summit. Chris has had preliminary discussions with Nevada County's Planning Director (Brian Foss); a 'zoning text amendment', which would add 'housing' at DSL, appears appropriate at that location and might be initiated by the County. **Kimberly agreed to check with Brian about DSL.** Chris will need to initiate the change at the old ASI building.

Chris said his second request was more general. DSA and other organizations want more sanitary facilities; Truckee Trails requested grant money to provide some, but only two got through the approval process. Placer County is already providing funding for the portable toilet at Donner Summit; is there a way to get more funding for more facilities from both counties?

Jeffrey said these issues are common across all recreational areas, and they are not always as simple as they may seem at first glance. For example, State Parks considers law enforcement needs when new toilets are being considered since graffiti and vandalism may be problems. Nick wondered whether a 'community service district' could be formed, supported by both counties. Forming a such a district would require a vote of the local parcels.

6. Reports from Ongoing Projects, and Proposals for New Projects:

- a. Recreation Master Plan II: Bi-weekly meetings with Stantec are being held, being driven by Bernadette Bezy of Stantec. Dick has worked with Kate Gray on the inventory and its maps. Other people may be called in to help as this moves forward over the next 3-4 months. Pat asked John whether he could arrange a meeting with Jonathan Cook-Fisher of USFS to discuss open questions in RMP2; **John said he would try.**
- b. Hub Status: Bill said the newly created graffiti signs have been received from the fabricator; the next question is where to put them. John said he may be able to find volunteers to drill holes in the granite; maybe the Climbing Coalition can help.

Chris said Dana Mariga is leading the shade structure installation. They are racing to get pillars installed. The 'sails' will be added once the dimensions of the supporting structure are known. Chris thinks there should be no problem spending the grant money before the contract expires.

Bill noted that not many brochures were taken from the Hub dispensers over the Labor Day weekend. However, lots of people are visiting the Hub, and there have been many comments about how good the site looks.

- c. Toilet Services: Pat just received reimbursement for one United Site Services toilet at the PCT-South trailhead for one month; the charge was close to \$500, up from over \$300 that we used to pay SaniHut. But SaniHut has not provided a toilet in 2022, so United was the next best choice. An advantage of United is that they service the toilet twice a week rather than once. The toilet at Donner Pass Road is overused. Pat has discovered a third firm, Quick Space, which already provides toilets for

Sugar Bowl. They will provide a toilet to a non-profit for \$140/month; this may be our choice for 2023.

Nick is not receiving complaints about trash and toilets, so he assumes all is well. Several said that trash is good, but toilets are still an issue — specifically the one at the corner of Donner Pass Road and Old Donner Pass Road. Pat has been trying to have it moved, but no one seems able to arrange it. Placer County arranged for the first toilet in February; it has been at that location for a while. **Nick will see what he can do in terms of relocating it.**

- d. Graffiti: Before the overpainting day (September 1), DSA ordered three more buckets of paint for \$500. There is another \$1K available; Pat wondered whether we should order more and suggested another 3 buckets. Tim Kustic kept the 2021 paint over last winter and it was usable with rollers. Paint in unopened containers was in better condition. We will not have sprayers for more work this year; they require the freshest paint. Dick thought one gallon might be enough to finish the work this year. John may have a paint source (possibly a donation); if that can be worked out, there was consensus to get 3 more buckets.



6 August 2022 5 PM



1 September 2022 1 PM

Tunnel 7 photos before and after the graffiti work day.

- e. Nevada County Visitor Center (VC) Funding/Meeting: That will be the Zoom meeting on September 14 mentioned above under the Nevada Count report.
- f. Chinese Historical Society (CHS): The Summit Tunnel Conservation Association (STCA) is seeking designation of Tunnels 6 and 7 as a National Historic Landmark. STCA is going through the Secretary of Interior, rather than Congress, which they hope will be faster. They hope to have the process completed within a year. CHS has been holding bi-

weekly Zoom meetings with partner organizations to track progress; DSA has participated in the last three.

The original goal of the 1882 Foundation — a third, related organization — was memorialization of Chinese laborers who built much of the transcontinental railroad in California. The Foundation is currently focused on obtaining a permanent center at the Summit which would educate visitors and provide a home for research. During the most recent meeting, they also discussed a mobile facility, which could be driven to events. DSA has sent its Feasibility Study and VC proposal to the Foundation, for their information.

Ted Gong, who is one of the leaders of these efforts, will be in the area on October 3, a day after an educational tour focused on Chinese contributions to the West, and would like to meet with DSA about VC plans. Jeffrey said GoNevadaCounty.com could publicize activities.

- g. DSA Fall Social Event: The event will be at Soda Springs Mountain Resort on September 24 from noon to 3 PM. Admission is \$15 for adults, with a lower rate for children. Back Seat Driver will provide live music. Beer and swag will be available for purchase. The General Store will donate ice; Mike offered a refrigerator or freezer, and there was consensus that the refrigerator might be sufficient. Nancy Oudegeest is donating a class at her gallery plus and art piece, the Truckee Donner Land Trust is donating a stay at their new Frog Lake huts. Sugar Bowl, Donner Ski Ranch, and Boreal are donating ski passes. There will be corn dogs and hula hoops for kids; Beth will investigate a bounce house, but Mike warned about potential insurance issues.

Mike said Powdr Corporation wants a license agreement with DSA that covers the event (Attachment A); Powdr also wants a certificate of insurance (Attachment B). He distributed copies of both to the Board before the meeting, but most members had not had a chance to read either. Dick noted that the license agreement gives the date as September 3 and the time as noon to 4 PM; he recommended September 24, 10 AM to 5 PM.

MSC-U¹ (Dick, Chris) to authorize Pat to sign the license agreement amended to September 24, 10 AM to 5 PM.

Beth will contact DSA's insurance company to obtain the necessary certificate of insurance.

¹ Mike Spain abstained.

7. Computer/Web Report (Dick):

Dick said the web site is being updated weekly; with shoulder season approaching there are fewer activities to publicize, but he has been finding 6-8 each week so far.

At the August meeting there had been interest in web site user statistics; Dick contacted our webmaster who suggested using Google analytics, tied to a DSA administrative e-mail account. Beth said the existing account could be used, or a new one set up. In either case, the goal is to get a snapshot of web use without spending a lot of time and money answering use questions.

8. Internal Matters:

- a. Future Meetings: The next meeting will be October 13 in the Sugar Bowl conference room².
- b. Krista is running out of 'bandwidth' after moving to Auburn. Pat read a message from her, resigning from the Board but saying that she hopes to be able to contribute in other capacities in the future. A brief discussion followed about possible new Board members.

9. Announcements:

The SYRCL Yuba River cleanup is September 10-17. DSA should tell people they can help. The Monument area is always needing clean-up.

10. Adjournment:

There being no other business, Pat adjourned the meeting at 6:34 PM.

Minutes approved by the DSA Board of Directors at its meeting on October 13, 2022.

signed by DSA Secretary, Richard Simpson, _____

² After the meeting, Pat remembered that we had discussed having a meeting at Boreal, which could include a tour of new facilities. She investigated with Mike and confirmed availability; unless there are objections, the October meeting will be at Boreal.



Donner Summit Association (DSA) Core Action Team Meeting
Thursday, October 13, 2022 5-6 PM
In-person Meeting Hosted by Boreal Mountain Resort



Deck scene at the DSA social event and fundraiser on September 24 (DSCN3594.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 5:05 PM by Pat Malberg.

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

Others: Don Malberg, Nick Martin (Placer County), Erika Seward (Nevada County), and Ben Terwilliger (Pioneer Commerce Center)

2. Approval of Agenda:

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

3. Approval of Minutes from the September Meeting:

MSC-U (Bill, Chris) to approve the September meeting minutes.

4. Financial Report (Tom):

Monthly Report: Tom had distributed a report in advance. Some of the transactions were still settling; he promised an update later.

Beth summarized results from the social event and fundraiser on September 24. It was very successful, thanks in part to the weather. 139 adult tickets and 17 children's tickets were sold. Gross revenue was \$6714, expenses totaled \$1177.29, and fees were \$134.64 resulting in a net \$5402.07 to DSA. The live auction brought in the most money (\$2750), ticket sales were second (\$1666). There were also donations from Matt Jaborski (\$500) and Beth Tanhoff (\$300). We paid the band \$500 and food cost \$420.81.

There was consensus to make this an annual event. Soda Springs Mountain Resort was a great venue, providing backup indoor seating if the weather had been bad; for them, this is quiet time, and they are willing to host again. The beer concession is willing to repeat.



Backseat Drivers (Ray, Marty, Tom, and Ken) setting up for the DSA social event/fundraiser (DSCN3593.JPG).

5. County Reports:

Nevada County: Erika said she has been on the job approximately three months and is currently spending a couple days each week in Truckee. She looks forward to more interactions with DSA.

She noted that Chris and Dick had attended the Measure V Q&A session hosted by Supervisor Bullock. More information about the ballot measure is available at <https://www.nevadacountyca.gov/3526/Measure-V>. Chris said that opposition signs have been appearing in Truckee and wondered who is behind that campaign

Erika said the Recreation Resiliency Master Plan went to the Board of Supervisors; Design Workshop is the contractor chosen to develop the plan. Chris had submitted a letter of support on behalf of Sugar Bowl, which was read to the Supervisors. Design Workshop will study how Nevada County recreation responds to negative events and conditions such as climate change, wildfires, and heavy snow. They will gather data until May seeking input such as from DSA's Recreation Master Plan. Then they will formulate projects that could improve resiliency and identify possible funding sources. Erika sees possible collaborations with Placer County in developing the plan. Expect meetings every 4-5 weeks for the first three months; there will be surveys and public workshops.

Erika is also looking for information that could be included in a year-end report on what is happening around the County – who is coming into the area, where are they going, what are they doing, where did they come from? She wondered whether there are devices that count the number of people using trails; they exist, but no one knew of any in use around Donner Summit. Bill asked how one would count visitors; for the most part, DSA has only anecdotal evidence. Historical Society brochures go quickly from dispensers, but we don't know who takes them. If money is needed to do tracking, Erika said it may be available. Pat worried that we may have to limit parking at the Hub at some point; how do we know when we have reached that limit? Chris said Sugar Bowl does traffic counts every day, and Sugar Bowl knows where its customers come from. He is sure Boreal has similar information. But this is winter only. Truckee Trails Foundation — on behalf of Visit Truckee Tahoe — may be collecting visitor information year-round; can we/Erika get some of it?

Pat said that Donner Summit used to have to “go down the hill” to make contact with County officials; she is very grateful to have county representatives now coming to our meetings.

Placer County: Nick said the Placer County Board of Supervisors will be meeting at Lake Tahoe on October 25 starting at 9 AM. The meeting will be live-streamed to anyone interested but unable to attend. He mentioned that the current Capital Projects Advisory (CAP) Committee cycle closes tomorrow. The North Lake Tahoe Tourism Business Improvement District is up and running after a year and a half of preliminaries; it will be overseen by the North Lake Tahoe Resort Association. There will be an eastern County town hall in December; town halls work in parallel with Municipal Advisory Councils to advise the Board of Supervisors.

6. Reports from Ongoing Projects, and Proposals for New Projects:

- a. Recreation Master Plan II: Chris said that initial edits to DSA's Recreation Master Plan (RMP) are in place; we need to go through it again. Dick and Chris are already working on this; Pat would like to participate, but she can't access the collaborative web site. **Chris will help Pat.** Chris said the plan is to finish in about five weeks, but Dick thought Christmas is more likely based on Stantec's originally announced work schedule. Chris met with Jonathan Cook-Fisher (USFS) who said he is willing to talk about the RMP. Stantec will bill us later for the work.
- b. Hub Status: The Shade Structure footings have been excavated and reinforcing steel is being installed. Concrete will be poured Tuesday. The structure was designed by JKAE, and metal fabrication is being done by Dan Goddard. The complete structure will not be usable until next summer, but all the pieces will be finished by the end of this year (our deadline for reimbursement from Placer County).
- c. Nevada County Visitor Center (VC) Funding: Pat said the \$500K informally set aside for a Donner Summit VC must be for brick and mortar construction; it cannot be spent for 'planning'. We need to talk to Jonathan Cook-Fisher about this, since our contribution to the Van Norden Recreation Project would be a VC at the meadow's west end. NEPA will be required, then DSA can kick in some of the Nevada County VC funds for construction.

Erika mentioned that one Nevada County concern is where to store snow removal equipment; this ties into resiliency, but is not necessarily related to the VC. Pat mentioned that the 1882 Foundation is also looking for a building in the Summit area.

- d. Graffiti: Pat said John Scott did some graffiti abatement this morning; he used all of the old paint; so what is left is new paint which should store better over the winter. Pat is eager to see whether the most egregious graffiti is still visible from Donner Pass Road.

- e. Measure V: There was a brief discussion of Measure V, its objectives, and funding. Chris said he and others in Truckee are concerned about allocation of monies collected across all of Nevada County — specifically, that eastern Nevada County does not always receive allocations commensurate with need. Measure V fixes the fraction of the sales tax increment that must be spent east of the I-80/CA20 split, and that may be too rigid. For example, smoke from wildfires in the western foothills impacts Truckee; so fire mitigation on the West Slope can be money well spent for the east side.

Moved by Bill, seconded by Dick, and carried by a 4-0-1 vote (Beth abstaining) to endorse Measure V.

7. Letter of Support for Land Trust Forest Project:

John Svahn had submitted a draft letter of support for a Truckee Donner Land Trust forestry project in the western part of its Royal Gorge holdings.

MSC-U (Chris, Bill) to approve the letter of support (Attachment A).

Dick will make some minor edits, format the letter onto DSA letterhead, and send the letter to Pat for her signature.

8. Computer/Web Report (Dick):

Dick distributed some figures (as part of the agenda) showing web site use. On a typical day there are 20-40 visits. The vast majority of visits are from devices in the U.S. (843 or 95% in a recent month); Canada, Australia, the U.K., Germany, and France provided 4-9 visits each. Dick was afraid that his own visits to check and update content were biasing the statistics; but he uses a Mac with Safari, and that combination is less than 15% of the total.

9. Internal Matters:

- a. Future Meetings: The next DSA Board meeting is scheduled for November 10. Pat would like to schedule the December meeting at Nancy O Gallery and Glass. Details will be worked later.

10. Announcements:

Pat recommended that everyone look at the video at sierratrails.org

A celebration of Mark Himmelstein's life will be October 22 (2 PM) at Serene Lakes Lot 1 (the beach). Pat's book group discussed what could be done in addition, other than mount a plaque somewhere. She recalled that one kiosk

at the Hub has never been claimed and suggested that DSA dedicate it to Mark's memory.

MSC-U (Dick, Chris) to dedicate the final kiosk to Mark Himmelstein.

Beth said that Donner Trail Elementary School is having a fundraising Thanksgiving dinner at Sugar Bowl on Saturday, November 19. More information and tickets (\$25 per adult, \$15 per kid) can be found at donnertrailpro.org/thanksgiving.

Julie Brannegan is new SLPOA liaison to DSA.

11. Adjournment:

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

The meeting was followed by a very informative tour of the Boreal/Woodward facilities led by Alex von Braun, one of Boreal's Lodge Services Supervisors.

Minutes approved by the DSA Board of Directors at its meeting on November 17, 2022.

signed by DSA Secretary, Richard Simpson, _____



Gould Park (Cisco Grove), October 12 (DSCN3716.JPG)



Donner Summit Association (DSA) Core Action Team Meeting
Thursday, November 17, 2022 5-6 PM
In-person Meeting Hosted by Sugar Bowl
in Coldstream Room, Judah Lodge



Rainbow Bridge (DSCN3837.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 5:03 PM by Pat Malberg.

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

Others: Bridget Legnavsky (new Sugar Bowl President/CEO)

2. Approval of Agenda:

Bill moved and John seconded approval of the agenda after adding an introduction of Bridget Legnavsky. The motion was carried unanimously (MSC-U).

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 had distributed a report in advance. He had included an update of his September report.

DSA has \$175,737.59 in assets; of this \$100K is dedicated to maintenance of the Lamson-Cashion Hub. \$5000 is inbound from the Truckee Donner Land Trust and another \$5000 is coming from Sugar Bowl; both will be used as matching funds for completion of DSA's Recreation Master Plan. Several thousand dollars in donations in memory of Mark Himmelstein have been received; these include a group donation of over \$4K from 26 people in southern California.

There was discussion later in the meeting about the best procedure for handling maintenance expense for the Lamson-Cashion Hub (and other DSA projects). Bill wants to purchase a replacement brochure holder for The Shed; one of the two originals was broken when someone tore the cover off. There was consensus to begin budgeting for ongoing expenses. **Mike offered to adapt a form used by Boreal for this purpose.**

MSC-U (Dick, Beth) to approve purchase of a replacement brochure holder.

5. Introduction of Bridget Legnavsky:

Bridget has been selected as the next President/CEO of Sugar Bowl Corporation. She has been on site with her family for about three weeks, after moving from New Zealand, where she spent ten years as General Manager of the Cardrona Alpine Resort. In 2020 her responsibilities were expanded to include the Treble Cone Ski Area. Most recently she was the Experience Officer for RealNZ, the parent company of Cardrona and Treble Cone while continuing to manage both ski areas. She admitted that she had been spending a lot of time traveling during the past year and spending time in board rooms. The opportunity to settle in at Sugar Bowl and work and live in the community was one of the strongest attractions for taking the new position.

6. County Reports:

Nevada County: No one from Nevada County was able to attend the meeting; but Carissa Binkley had sent a written report, which Pat summarized.

Elections: Nevada County processed 28,824 ballots immediately after the November 8 election; another 18,000 mail-in and drop-box ballots remained to be counted. Updates are expected on Tuesdays and Thursdays until the count is completed. Final results will be sent to the California Secretary of State by December 8 and certified by December 15. Until then, all results remain unofficial.

Youth Job Corps: Paid internships are available to youth in non-profit and government settings. Interested youth and organizations interested in hosting them (paid for by the program) should call '211' and ask about Youth Job Corps.

Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS): Nevada County is participating in an update of the regional CEDS, which builds resilience and diversity into the regional economy. The document is required by the U.S. Economic Development Administration and other agencies to qualify for future funding. Local input is needed. A survey is available at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/YNNN8WW> which will help get people started.

Defensible Space Advisor Training: The Nevada County Firesafe Council is holding its next training session for Truckee area residents on December 7-8. The two-day class covers basics of fire behavior, defensible space, home hardening, available resources, Firewise USA® communities, and how to conduct a Defensible Space Advisory Visit. Advisors can then conduct DSAVs and access available resources to learn more. E-mail info@areyoufiresafe.com to sign up.

Placer County: Nick Martin was unable to attend, and there was no written report.

7. Reports from Ongoing Projects, and Proposals for New Projects:

- a. Recreation Master Plan II: Dick and Chris have been working with Stantec to resolve errors and update content that has changed since the original draft was released 15 months ago. Both have completed their work, and Stantec should be able to start updating its master copy of the document by Thanksgiving.

- b. Meeting with USFS: Chris and Pat met with Jonathan Cook-Fisher, who agreed to allocate some of Katie Mansfield's time to a USFS review of the Recreation Master Plan so that the plan is consistent with the agency's vision, especially regarding recreation elements to follow the Van Norden Meadow restoration. DSA's Hub West is looking good; USFS has a link that specifies design requirements for facilities like DSA's concept (https://www.fs.usda.gov/sites/default/files/fs_media/fs_document/TheBuiltEnvironmentImageGuide-2001-09.pdf).

DSA wants to dovetail its proposal for Hub West with completion of the meadow restoration sometime in 2023. Pat said she is impressed with the new bridge in the eastern meadow, which should easily support Royal Gorge trail grooming equipment and service vehicles from USFS, PG&E, and others. Mike said he can now see Van Norden Meadow when he arrives at work because the dam is so much lower.

- c. Hub Status: Chris explained that The Hub is on property owned by Union Pacific Railroad and leased to Sugar Bowl; Sugar Bowl has then given permission to DSA to use the land for The Hub. Dan Goddard was going to put in the steel posts for the Shade Structure, but the work has been delayed. Chris said Dan has promised to complete the work within the next four weeks so that invoicing fits within the time frame of the funding grant from Placer County. The cover for the Shade Structure is also in final design stages. Installation will have to wait until The Hub is clear of snow, but we'll have all of the parts in hand.
- d. 1882 Foundation: The Foundation seeks to broaden public awareness of the history and the continuing significance of the 1882 Chinese Exclusion Act. One of its initiatives is to obtain National Historic Landmark designation for the tunnels built at Donner Summit as part of the first Transcontinental Railroad. Barbara Wyatt of the Foundation was in San Francisco last week for a conference of the American Society of Landscape Architects where she gave a presentation on Summit Tunnels and Camps, which is also of interest to DSA. Barbara had planned to visit Donner Summit after the conference, but the trip had to be canceled because of the recent snowstorms.
- e. Holiday Social Event: An event had been discussed at the October meeting. Since then, Pat has been in contact with Denise Hann, who has offered her place behind Donner Ski Ranch for the event. They have a pizza oven, and Denise suggested that the Hanns could provide basic pizza foundations to which attendees could add toppings they had brought. After discussion, it was decided to accept Denise's offer. The questions then are how many people to invite. **Pat and Beth will consult with Denise, review the list of people and organizations**

who are affiliated with DSA, and extend an appropriate number of invitations.

- f. Measure V: Dick had included election results in the agenda, showing that Measure V had failed by a small margin. DSA had endorsed Measure V, a wildfire protection proposal that would have increased sales tax in Nevada County by 0.5%. Given that ballots are still being counted, this was premature.

8. Internal Matters:

- a. Future Meetings: The next DSA Board meeting is the holiday social event on December, 8 when it is unlikely that any significant business will be conducted (with possible exception of approval of minutes). Pat noted that DSA needs to discuss the recreation plan for Hub West in more detail. She would like to have a 'catch-up' meeting to review recent accomplishments and plan for the next 12 months. After discussion it was decided to have the January meeting on the third Thursday (January 19) with these two topics as primary. **Chris suggested that we meet at Donner Ski Ranch; Pat agreed, and she will make arrangements.**

9. Announcements:

- a. Beth reminded attendees of the Donner Trail School benefit dinner at Sugar Bowl on November 19. In addition to a pre-Thanksgiving dinner, there will be auction items. More information and tickets (\$25 per adult, \$15 per kid) can be found at donnertrailpro.org/thanksgiving. A limited number of tickets may be available at the door. Organizers are looking for volunteers to help with preparation, setup, and cleanup at the event itself. Volunteer at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C054EA4AD22A4F58-2022>
- b. Truckee Donner Land Trust donated 5 gallons of paint (value \$106) to the most recent Graffiti Abatement effort.

10. Adjournment:

There being no other business, Pat adjourned the meeting at 5:57 PM.

Minutes approved by the DSA Board of Directors at its meeting on December 8, 2022.

signed by DSA Secretary, Richard Simpson, _____



Donner Summit Association (DSA) Core Action Team Meeting
Thursday, December 8, 2022 5-6 PM
In-person Meeting Hosted by Mike and Denise Hann
Lake Angela Road, Norden, CA



Table with raw materials for pizza and beverages after the business meeting (DSCN3899.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 5:13 PM by Pat Malberg.

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

Others: Denise Hann (host), Mike Hann (host), Don Malberg, and Elan Tanhoff

2. Approval of Agenda:

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

3. Approval of Minutes from the November Meeting:

MSC-U (Chris, Dick) to approve the November meeting minutes.

4. Financial Report (Tom):

Monthly Report: Tom had distributed a report in advance. Pat noted that total assets include \$100,000 earmarked for maintenance of the Lamson-Cashion Hub, about \$43,000 in cash, and about \$30,000 in reimbursements expected from Placer County.

5. Announcements

John said that he has been contacted by the family of a recently deceased supporter of the area; they might be interested in funding a bench with plaque at The Hub. Fundraising is in progress and the timeline favors something in summer 2023. It should have disabled access and a location near The Shed is being considered. **John offered to be the DSA contact with the family.**

Pat reported on the latest Zoom meeting of the 1882 Foundation. They are interested in creating a '3-D' tour of the Tunnels, similar to video tours of available properties in the real estate industry. The challenge is to find a photographer. **Chris may know one (Craig Murtha).** They are also interested in video displays at the Summit on topics related to Chinese railroad workers. The displays would require electrical power (perhaps provided by solar panels) and would be weatherproof (but taken down during winter).

Alecia Weisman of SYRCL is heading a factfinding team for USFS which could lead to construction of a Castle Valley trailhead on the north side of I-80 opposite Boreal. DSA will participate in an early meeting at Sugar Bowl on December 15 (4 PM). Larger meetings are expected in 2023.

Dick is investigating the possibility of obtaining funding for a signage project in Castle and Round Valleys. He will meet with Erika Seward (and possibly others) on December 16 via Zoom (11 AM). The goal is to improve signage so that fewer winter search and rescue mobilizations are needed.

DSA has received a request from Nevada County to complete a Congressional Funding Request form; this would apparently provide government agencies with a picture of federal funding requests in Nevada County. Pat suggested that the people involved in assembling DSA's Recreation Master Plan (RMP) should discuss this on December 14 at 2 PM. **This will include Bill, Chris, Mike, Pat, and Dick; Chris offered to host the meeting at Sugar Bowl.**

There was brief discussion of pending work at The Hub, the need to assemble invoices before the end of December, and the need to submit a final reimbursement request to Placer County based on the invoiced work. **Bill will compile the report; Chris and Beth will provide invoices,** including from Dan Goddard who is still working on the Shade Structure.

Chris reviewed a schedule for completing the RMP. Both counties and USFS are being contacted now for their input; Stantec expects to have a final draft in January and a version that can be published in February.

Beth mentioned a new organization — Donner Lake Interagency Partnership for Stewardship (DIPS) — which seeks to protect and enhance the long-term ecological and community health of Donner Lake. DIPS had an open house last night and is looking for partners (see attachment A). Several thought this could be good for DSA which could have an important contributing role.

The Board spent a moment remembering John Kirrene, who passed away recently; he was a founding member of DSAA, a predecessor of DSA.

6. Internal Matters

The next DSA Board meeting will be at Donner Ski Ranch on January 19. **Chris will review accomplishments in 2022 and lead a discussion of where DSA should be heading in 2023.** This review/discussion will be similar to the one held in March 2022.

7. Adjournment:

There being no other business, Pat adjourned the meeting at 5:47 PM. Attendees then enjoyed a social event around pizza cooked in the Hann's new pizza oven.

Minutes approved by the DSA Board of Directors at its meeting on January 12, 2023.

signed by DSA Secretary, Richard Simpson, _____

Attachment A – DIPS Initiative

From: Michele Prestowitz <mprestowitz@truckeeriverwc.org>
To: Beth Tanhoff (beth.tanhoff@evrealestate.com)
Subject: DIPS Open House
Date/Time: Thu, Dec 8, 2022, 5:15 PM

Dear friends of Donner Lake,

Thank you to those of you who attended the DIPS Open House last night. We had lots of great conversations. Your passion for Donner Lake, concerns, and ideas reinforce why we are doing this work.

The purpose of the **Donner Lake Interagency Partnership for Stewardship (DIPS)** is to implement a coordinated stewardship plan to protect and enhance the long-term ecological and community health of Donner Lake. In support of this work, DIPS developed the [2021 State of Donner Lake](#) and [2022 Stewardship Plan](#) to guide programs, actions and recommendations. These documents will be updated annually to track progress and inform ongoing stewardship at Donner Lake.

To date, we've identified nearly 100 recommendations based on the following goal topics:

1. Collaborative, Multi-Agency Structure
2. Water Quality
3. Ecological Health
4. Cultural and Historic Resources
5. Recreational Use and Capacity
6. Transportation, Safety, and Parking
7. Community Health

We encourage your to review the [2021 State of Donner Lake](#) and [2022 Stewardship Plan](#) and share your thoughts with us. We want to hear from you! What is most important to you at Donner Lake? Your responses can help guide future Stewardship Plans. Please click [HERE](#) or email me at mprestowitz@truckeeriverwc.org to share your thoughts.

Special shout out to the DIPS Core Team for their great energy and collaboration: California State Parks, Tahoe Donner Association, Town of Truckee, Truckee Donner Land Trust, Truckee Donner Public Utility District, Truckee Donner Recreation and Parks District, Truckee Meadows Water Authority, Truckee Sanitary District, and the Truckee River Watershed Council

Thank you and take care,
Michele Prestowitz (she/her), Project Director | 530.550.8760 x 4
www.truckeeriverwc.org