



Donner Summit Association (DSA) Core Action Team Meeting

2023 Year in Review

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Donner Summit Association (DSA) Core Action Team Meeting
Thursday, January 12, 2023 5-6 PM
In-person Meeting Hosted by Donner Ski Ranch



Donner Ski Ranch, January 13 (DSCN3989.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 5:04 PM by Pat Malberg.

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

Others: Don Malberg, Julie Brannegan, Nick Martin, and Geno Martin.

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 December Meeting:

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

4. Financial Report (Tom):

Monthly Report: Tom had distributed a report in advance. A \$10,000 payment to Stantec was balanced by cost sharing funds received from Sugar Bowl and Truckee Donner Land Trust.

5. Placer County Report (Nick)

Placer County has been focusing on Tahoe Basin planning; as a result, there has been less attention to Donner Summit. Nonetheless, Placer and Nevada Counties are continuing to work toward an agreement on shared responsibilities for services at the Summit. Jeff Thorsby and Hardy Bullock continue to support these efforts on the Nevada County side; a meeting is scheduled for next week. Among other topics, the scope of the agreement needs discussion. Tom asked whether the recent flooding around the new South Yuba bridge will be discussed. The bridge was a Nevada County project but the flooding impacted primarily Placer County residents (of Serene Lakes). Nick said he was only recently made aware of the flooding and needed more information. After a short discussion, **Mike offered to provide Nick with a map showing where the flood waters reached the bridge**; that might provide clues about where they originated (and why).

Placer County's Board of Supervisors meets at Lake Tahoe on January 24. An effort is made to hold one meeting in the eastern county each quarter, subject to weather and other limitations. There will be an emphasis on issues of interest to people in the eastern county during the January meeting. The recommendations of the Capital Projects Advisory (CAP) Committee will be presented. This year's recommendations only allocate \$5M of \$7M available; the remainder is being held in reserve for future allocation. Nick noted that past recommendations have favored transportation-related projects; but there has been increasing interest in housing. Pat wondered how housing fits within the originally stated goals of the Transient Occupancy Tax — that it would support visitor needs. Nick replied that people serving visitors need housing.

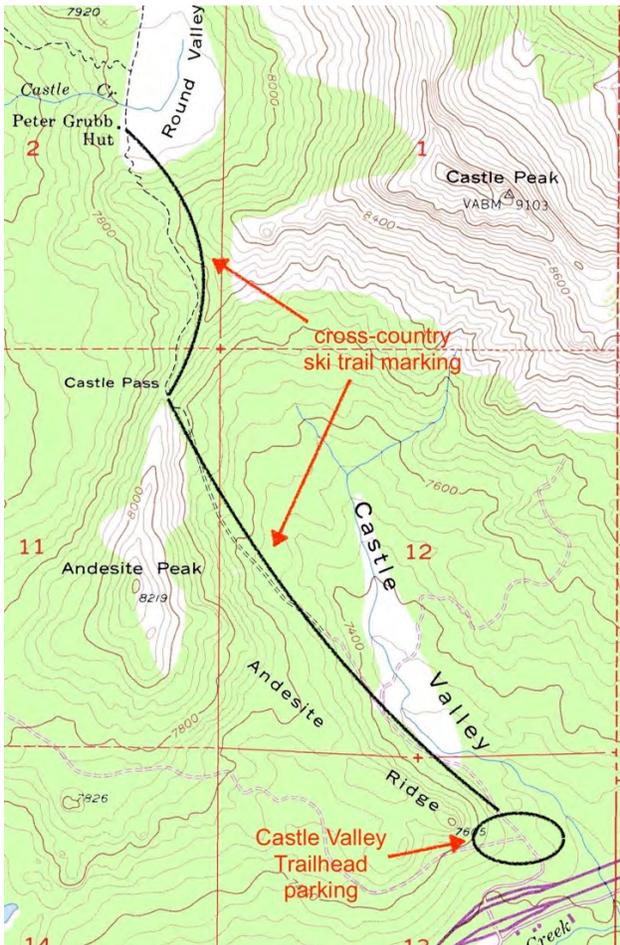
6. Nevada County Report

There was no representative from Nevada County present, so no report was given.

7. Projects

- a. Recreation Master Plan: The next (virtual) meeting of the team updating the RMP will be Wednesday, January 18 (3-4 PM). Bernadette Bezy has distributed an agenda which includes a verbal overview of the key changes. That will be followed by 1-2 weeks of off-line review by key stakeholders, possibly including USFS, Nevada and Placer Counties, and DSA. The goal is to have the final document delivered no later than February 7. Bill said he has requested an extension of the funding grant since the RMP is not finished and he was not aware that December was the deadline; he has received no response.
- b. Hub Status: Bill turned in two claims for reimbursement and a final quarterly report to Placer County; he has not received acknowledgement that any of those were received. Nick said the people are still there; **he will check on status.**
- c. New Memorial Bench: John Svahn received the original inquiry and offered in December to work with the family; Pat has not heard anything since.
- d. Nevada County Funding Request: At the December meeting, Pat mentioned that she had received a request from Nevada County to list projects DSA might submit to the county for federal funding. Her list included vault toilets and signage for the west end visitor center. She imagines a community meeting during which inputs for the visitor center would be solicited, a stakeholder meeting to evaluate the requests, and design planning that would be forwarded to USFS for construction. There is also a need for a vault toilet at the PCT-South trailhead, but that is on the Placer County side of the county line.
- e. Tunnel Video: The 1882 Foundation, which seeks to commemorate (in an instructive way) congressional passage of the Chinese Exclusion Act, has expressed interest in creating a virtual tour of the Summit Tunnels. Chris Parker suggested contacting Greg Murtha, who has a web site at <https://experience.xplorit.com>. The web site has example videos that include 360° views of visitor sites that have links to other attractions or supplementary information. Bill said that these are scalable and could be used to assist visitors in planning time at Donner Summit. Greg Murtha has estimated the cost of the video requested by the 1882 Foundation at \$6800; there was consensus that this seemed like a good idea. If the cost could be shared among the 1882 Foundation, DSA, and the Donner Summit Historical Society, it might be very manageable.
- f. Castle Valley Trailhead: The South Yuba River Citizens League has been selected by the California Department of Parks and Recreation/Off-

Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Division for a grant to plan a trailhead on the north side of I-80 at Castle Valley. Alecia Weisman will lead the effort; she has been leading SYRCL's Van Norden Meadow restoration. Over the next few months stakeholders will be contacted and a preliminary design will be developed by a professional firm. The goal is to have a 95% design by the end of 2024, which could be used to seek construction funding. DSA was invited to a briefing in December to comment on the proposed procedure; more information should become available in the next few months. Dick believes that continued DSA participation will be useful.



- g. Castle Pass X-C Signing Project: Nevada County will be announcing a new round of Outdoor Visitor Safety grants in a few days. Dick believes that DSA could submit a request for better signing of cross-country ski trails north of I-80. He has been involved with a project started by Nevada County Search and Rescue for about five years. They want better signing to reduce the frequency of search and rescue operations; but the project stalled before COVID when NCSAR could not find funding for the signs. Dick estimates that the cost of the signs would be in the vicinity of \$10,000. He needs to talk to possible local vendors, then submit a proposal outline within the next month. Erika Seward has provided encouragement.

8. Web/Computer

Dick said the DSA 'news' web page was updated earlier today. The cadence of updates has been weekly since the idea was hatched during last year's review/update session (the March 2022 DSA 'tune-up' meeting). Updating the web site has been a manageable amount of work, with technical

assistance from Jeannie Smith. Tom said Jeannie's latest invoice was only \$31, so the cost has been very reasonable.

Pat noted that Palisades Tahoe has submitted a partially revised Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for a major development. It may be discussed at the Donner Summit Municipal Advisory Council meeting on February 16. Although many miles from Donner Summit, the development may impact the Summit because of increased traffic. **Pat suggested that Board members read Attachment A to these minutes; it points to the revised EIR.**

9. Internal Matters

The next DSA Board meeting will be February 9 at Sugar Bowl. **Chris will review accomplishments in 2022 and lead a discussion of where DSA should be heading in 2023. Pat will confirm the location with Chris.** This review/discussion will be similar to the one held in March 2022. Dick will distribute 'artifacts' from the March meeting.

10. Adjournment:

There being no other business, Pat adjourned the meeting at 6:18 PM.

Minutes approved by the DSA Board of Directors at its meeting on February 16, 2023.

signed by DSA Secretary, Richard Simpson, _____



Storm damage,
January 2023
(DSCN3988.JPG)

**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT/RESOURCE AGENCY
Environmental Coordination Services Division**

AMENDED NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF A PARTIALLY REVISED DRAFT EIR FOR PUBLIC REVIEW

***** Amended to note potential change in meeting location due to weather conditions *****

Placer County has released a Partially Revised Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the project listed below:

PROPOSED PROJECT: Village at Palisades Tahoe (formerly, Squaw Valley) Specific Plan (PSPA 20110385)
(State Clearinghouse No. 2012102023)

PUBLIC REVIEW AND COMMENT PERIOD: November 30, 2022, to January 30, 2023

PROJECT LOCATION: The Specific Plan area (plan area) is located within the 4,700-acre Olympic Valley in northeastern Placer County and within the Sierra Nevada. Portions of the plan area are located in both the west and east sides of Olympic Valley. The valley is located west of State Route (SR) 89, approximately nine miles south of the Town of Truckee, and seven miles northwest of Tahoe City and Lake Tahoe, but outside of the Lake Tahoe Basin. The plan area encompasses a total of approximately 94 acres. The approximately 85-acre main Village area is located on the west side of the valley at the base of the Palisades Tahoe Ski Resort; the approximately 8.8-acre area referred to as the East Parcel is located approximately 1.3 miles east of the main Village area and 0.3 mile west of the intersection of SR 89 and Olympic Valley Road.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: Palisades Tahoe Development Company (formerly Squaw Valley Real Estate, LLC) requests approval of a mixed-use development that includes resort residential, commercial, and recreation uses, as well as parking and other visitor amenities, and employee housing. No changes to the project description have occurred since the project was approved in November 2016. The 85-acre main Village area proposes up to 1,493 bedrooms in up to 850 units, including a mixture of hotel, condo hotel, fractional ownership, and timeshare units. Approximately 297,733 square feet (206,211 square feet net new commercial) of commercial space is proposed for the entire plan area. The 8.8-acre East Parcel proposes employee housing for a maximum of 300 employees, off-site parking, shipping and receiving, and a small retail market. A conservation corridor is proposed for the length of Washeshu (formerly, Squaw) Creek through the plan area to support improvement of terrestrial and aquatic habitat conditions, improved water quality and sediment management, and increased flood conveyance capacity. Other improvements include circulation improvements, bicycle facilities, a transit center, new/extended utility infrastructure, new/improvements to existing recreational facilities and amenities, and a Village open space network. The Specific Plan would be developed over an estimated 25-year buildout period.

BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE OF PARTIALLY REVISED DRAFT EIR: An EIR was prepared for the project and certified by the County in November 2016. A lawsuit challenging the adequacy of the EIR was subsequently filed, challenging the County's approvals, including the County's certification of the EIR, and asserting that the EIR analysis was inadequate for several reasons. The Placer County Superior Court rejected all of the plaintiff's arguments and upheld the adequacy of the EIR; the plaintiff appealed the decision. In August 2021, the Third District Court of Appeal partially reversed the trial court's decision. The ruling directed the trial court to enter a new judgment granting a petition for writ of mandate and specifying the actions the County must take to comply with CEQA consistent with the Court of Appeal's ruling (Ruling). In July 2022, the Placer County Superior Court entered judgment in favor of the plaintiff and issued a peremptory writ of mandate requiring that the County vacate its 2016 project approvals and not readopt the project approvals or certify a revised EIR unless and until the County complies with CEQA by correcting the deficiencies in the EIR found by the Court of Appeal.

The County has prepared the Partially Revised Draft EIR to address the CEQA adequacy issues in accordance with the direction provided by the Court, which is limited to the project's potential impacts on the following resources:

transportation and circulation, air quality, noise, hydrology and water quality, and hazardous materials and hazards (wildfire).

SIGNIFICANT ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS: The Revised Draft EIR identifies potentially significant project impacts with respect to transportation and circulation, air quality (cumulative), noise, and hazardous materials and hazards (wildfire). Most of these potentially significant adverse impacts would be mitigable to less-than-significant levels.

PUBLIC MEETINGS: A public meeting will be held on January 19, 2023, to receive comments on the Revised Draft EIR. Public comment will be offered in-person and virtually through a Zoom meeting webinar:

- ▲ North Tahoe Event Center, 8318 N. Lake Boulevard, Kings Beach, California (weather permitting – see below)
- ▲ Zoom Webinar, <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84463664666>, Webinar ID #844 6366 4666. Use ‘raise hand’ function to comment.

If weather conditions necessitate a change in the physical meeting location, the meeting will be moved to the Planning Commission Hearing Room, 3091 County Center Drive, Auburn, CA 95603. Any change in the location will occur at least 24 hours prior to the meeting and will be posted on the Planning Commission website at: <https://www.placer.ca.gov/2403/Planning-Commission>. The Zoom meeting webinar information will remain the same.

The Placer County Planning Commission meeting will begin at 10:00 a.m.; however, consideration of the proposed project is not time certain. Please refer to the meeting agendas at the following link up to one week prior to the meeting for updated information: <https://www.placer.ca.gov/AgendaCenter/Planning-Commission-53>

WHERE DRAFT EIR MAY BE REVIEWED: The Revised Draft EIR is available for review during normal business hours at the Tahoe City Library (740 North Lake Boulevard in Tahoe City), the Truckee Library (10031 Levon Avenue in Truckee), the Olympic Valley Public Service District (305 Olympic Valley Road in Olympic Valley), the Placer County Community Development Resource Agency offices in Auburn (3091 County Center Drive, Auburn) and Tahoe (775 N. Lake Boulevard, Tahoe City), and the County Clerk’s Office (2954 Richardson Drive, Auburn). The Revised Draft EIR is also available online at: <https://www.placer.ca.gov/8213/Village-at-Palisades-Tahoe-Specific-Plan>.

SEND COMMENTS TO: Placer County Community Development Resource Agency, Environmental Coordination Services, 3091 County Center Drive, Suite 190, Auburn, CA 95603; or email cdraecs@placer.ca.gov no later than 5:00 p.m. on January 30, 2023. Pursuant to procedures set forth in Section 15088.5(f)(2) of the State CEQA Guidelines, reviewers are directed to limit their comments to the information contained in the Revised Draft EIR. Specifically, comments should be limited to the revised discussion of the project’s potential impacts related to transportation and circulation, air quality, noise, hydrology and water quality, and hazardous materials and hazards (wildfire).

For more information on the project, please contact the senior planner, Patrick Dobbs, at (530) 745-3060.



Donner Summit Association (DSA) Core Action Team Meeting
Thursday, February 16, 2023 5-8 PM
In-person Meeting Hosted by Sugar Bowl



Sugar Bowl Village Conference Room, February 16 (DSCN4134.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: Tom Denzler, Pat Malberg, Bill Oudegeest, Chris Parker, Dick Simpson, Mike Spain, John Svahn, and Beth Tanhoff.

2. Approval of Agenda:

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

3. Approval of Minutes from the January Meeting:

MSC-U (Bill, Tom) to approve the January meeting minutes after correcting the year from 2022 to 2023.

4. Financial Report (Tom):

Monthly Report: Tom had distributed a report in advance. There was minimal activity during the month ending January 31; there were no donations, and expenses were minor (less than \$100). We have \$100K for maintenance of Hub in a CD; and we have another \$38K that is unrestricted. \$14400 has since been paid to Dan Goddard for work on the Shade Structure. Bill ordered seven posters (\$213.17) which are being sent to Washington, DC, for Pat's presentation at an 1882 Foundation event at the Kennedy Center; one hundred copies of two brochures are also being sent. Pat's travel expenses are being covered by the 1882 Foundation.

MSC-U (Bill, Chris) to spend the funds already committed by Bill to support the 1882 Foundation presentation (Bill, Chris) for 1882 Foundation.

5. Placer County Report:

No one from the County was present, so several Board members contributed.

On February 9 Chris made a presentation to a Kings Beach joint (Olympic Valley and North Tahoe) Placer County MAC meeting on traffic and congestion. The meeting started at 6 PM and ran to 10:30; there were lots of complaints from people in Olympic Valley and the West Shore and not much response from County representatives who claimed to be working on the problems. Congestion is something that simply doesn't go away. John said that the Town of Truckee had a similar discussion on February 14.

Pat contacted Jordan Knighton about our most recent thoughts on Gould Park — constructing an information kiosk (perhaps three flat panels mounted on a stone foundation and protected by a small 'roof'). Pat admitted that we have not followed through with Placer Parks; but the County has also not completed their vegetation removal that was planned in late fall. Jordan replied that JK Architecture and Engineering (JKAE) could put something together; **Pat will follow up with Kelly.**

6. Nevada County Report

Carissa Binkley no longer works for Nevada County; no one else from the County was present to report, so several Board members contributed.

Pat met with Erika Seward on Zoom about upcoming funding opportunities.

The Outdoor Visitor Safety Fund grant program opened on February 8; proposals will be due on March 15. OVSF will have \$430K available and Nevada County expects to fund five to seven projects in the \$10K to \$100K range. Board members wondered whether this could fund installation of a vault toilet at The Hub; but the discussion veered toward the dormant JKAE design of a pair of covered portable toilets, which would be both cheaper and easier to install. Placer County is already paying for toilet maintenance at the site; perhaps that could be continued if we acquired a semi-permanent toilet facility. Chris said he has new insights into how to get UPRR agreement for such an installation, which would be required.

Dick provided an update on the cross-country ski trail marking project, which originated with Nevada County Search and Rescue. The project is still viable, but USFS is asking for smaller and simpler route markers at an average spacing of ¼ mile. NC SAR and Dick are willing to go with smaller signs but at closer spacing than ¼ mile; the goal is to help lost backcountry skiers return to I-80, and ¼ mile spacing seems ineffective.

Dick will participate in a webinar about the OVSF application process on February 22. He needs to understand the mechanics of submitting proposals; but it may be that the USFS sign requirements make the project too small for OVSF consideration. He can help prepare a proposal for the covered toilets, if we decide to go forward with those (either separately or jointly with the trail marking). A third suggestion — that DSA obtain a ‘message board’ to advise travelers about conditions ahead on Donner Pass Road — was discussed but eventually discarded as inappropriate for DSA because of management and maintenance requirements.

The California Land and Water Conservation Fund has a grants program for the acquisition or development of land to create new outdoor recreation opportunities for the health and wellness of Californians. An LWCF grant could fund DSA’s West End visitor facility; but requests are due by June 1, and there is a steep matching fund requirement. We would need cooperation from the Truckee Ranger District, a rough design, and stakeholder input before submitting a request. None of those seems likely in the time available.

Federal funding is also possible, especially for a large project such as the west end of Van Norden Meadow Welcome Center, and the deadline is the end of the year. However, it is risky in that it is tied to federal earmarks.

7. Projects

- a. Recreation Master Plan: The latest version of the Plan should be ready next week. Erika Seward has expressed interest in extracting parts of the Plan for use by Nevada County.

- b. Hub Status: Nothing new.
- c. Logan Vadasz passed away recently. His family expressed interest in funding a bench at The Hub, which would be installed under the overhang of The Shed. John is handling the arrangements.

8. Review of 2022 and Strategic Plan for 2023 (Chris):

Chris noted that the original plan was to have such a review annually. The first, and most recent review was in March 2022. The following are some tangible results from 2022:

DSA should have a *Corporate Calendar*, which lists its important events for the year. These are:

- Board meetings, now switched to the third Thursday each month to avoid Tom's conflict on the second Thursday.
- Summit Clean-up on the first Saturday in June
- Beer Fest, scheduled for September 23 at Soda Springs Mountain Resort
- Christmas party in December

Short biographies of DSA Board members should be added to the web site. Pat has already written one

Other Board members should write something by next month. See <https://www.truckeedonnerlandtrust.org/board-of-directors> for examples, but use first person.

New member recruiting and onboarding process:

- Need a 'job descriptions' for Board members (**Dick will draft**)
- Need young people, more women, business owners
- Need a Sugar Bowl Villager (Noah Kaufman?)
- Someone from Gateway Mountain Center

Specific names:

- Mike will ask Katie**, who runs Woodward; lives on the Summit
- Stewart Wells (the younger)
- Craig Coombs lives on Summit
- Teeney Hood or Katie Mansfield from USFS
- Kaitlin Baker
- A graphic designer Beth knows who lives on the Summit

Enhance communication with other Donner Summit entities – e.g., HOAs, businesses

Can we put some on our e-mail lists?

DSA Committees: Ours tend to be organized around projects —
Visitor (welcome) Center Committee
Recreation Master Plan Committee

Vision and Mission statements have been updated and placed on DSA's web site (<https://www.donnersummitca.com/vision-mission-statements>).

Culture and Values Statement: We started on this last year, but it was never finished. Culture and Values is a big item at Sugar Bowl this year. Sugar Bowl has moved some x-c ski trails so they don't infringe on Washoe sites — a result of their Culture and Values exercise. Bridget Legnavsky is bringing Washoe youth to the Summit ... honoring First Nation people in our neighborhood.

Getting the statement right involves a lot of wordsmithing. The statement could begin "We value and cherish the natural environment ... " then add words about where we think boundaries lie (for example, we like trail signs but not too many). TDLT says it builds trails where people can ride mountain bikes; but TDLT does not build mountain bike trails. Think about how we should partner with USFS in Van Norden Meadow; what values will be important in that relationship? **Each Board member should bring a thought to the March meeting that could contribute to this Culture and Values statement.** Bill suggested just coming up with a list of meaningful words.

Brand Identity: This is in pretty good shape; DSA is becoming better known. Dick pointed out that we have two logos; should we restrict our use to one? Some organizations have a 'brand book' which tells when and how to use their logos. Pat suggested adding "The voice of Donner Summit" under the logo. Pat would like a refrigerator magnet with the DSA logo that she could send to new members.

Strategies: how to get from where we are to where we would like to be. Strategies come in three flavors: past, present, and future.

Promote and Develop Public Infrastructure:

Past:

The Hub
Monument
Master Recreation Plan (part 1)
Donner Pass Road

Present:

Master Recreation Plan (part 2)
Welcome Center
fire preparedness

housing
sanitation
internet connectivity

Future:

Parking
Trailheads

Trail development. Pat would like to see a real trail to the Tunnels; the current trail is dangerous. Could this be a new work day project?

We should connect with Alicea Weisman about the recreation plan for Van Norden Meadow.

Leverage Public Funding Opportunities:

Placer County TOT:

Past:

Monument
The Hub
Master Recreation Plan (part 1)

Present:

finish Master Recreation Plan
outdoor welcome center
Gould Park

Future:

1882 Foundation (will put in first \$6K for Xplorit)

Nevada County:

\$500K welcome center
Nevada County Recreation Resiliency Plan

American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA):

Toilets
Trash

Help Steward/Maintain Community's Public Recreation Assets:

project work days
graffiti
trails
cleanup days
Van Norden Meadow restoration
peak visitation mitigation

Develop and Maintain our Standing and Relationship with Land Stewards, Public Agencies, and Non-Profits:

List of ~40 Stakeholders.

Improve Communication with the Public and Members:

Brand assets
Web site (does VTT link to DSA?)

Facebook and Instagram
Donner Summit Activity and Snow Report
Celebrate Successes
Events (sporting events need long lead time for permitting)

Assure Organizational Fiscal Viability:

Bolster membership
Raise robust levels of unrestricted funding
Establish and follow financial policies and procedures. What is our procedure for approving 'small' purchases between BoD meetings? **Dick will draft a procedure for requesting and approving expenditures.**

Maintain Best Governance Practices as a Vibrant and Effective Organization:

Board make-up and engagement (who are we missing, new to Summit family, Sugar Bowl residents; see page 4)
Committees (mandated, standing, ad hoc).

Dick will draft a procedure for preparing meeting agendas

Operate without debt
Three levels of financial review (treasurer, bookkeeper, and accountant)
Work toward certified audit
Year-round active fundraising
Fiscal policies (verify documentation)

Executable Plans:

Public Use Trails, and Recreation Facilities Plan – July 2021:
Schedule meeting to review actionable items from priority list
Next steps with public announcements
Implications for Nevada County Recreation-Resiliency Plan

Donner Summit Welcome Centers:

SBC study
Schedule stakeholder alignment meeting (limited invitations).
What is the Welcome Center plan, what is it not?
What functions and programs are implied?
Desired architectural expression and scale.
Develop DSA project development plan.
What sort of concept or design follows?
Request for proposal – design concept
Cost estimate
Funding
RFP for construction

Funding for construction
Bidding and negotiation
Construction

Nevada County Recreation Resiliency Master Plan (ongoing):
What are the opportunities for collaboration/completion under this plan?

9. Internal Matters

Next DSA Board meeting will be on March 16 (John's birthday)

10. Announcements

Beth mentioned that volunteers with the Adopt-a-Highway program must now watch a safety video. There was consensus that we provide the safety video link to our volunteers when we have Clean-up Days.

11. Adjournment:

There being no other business, Pat adjourned the meeting at 7:14 PM.

Minutes approved by the DSA Board of Directors at its meeting on March 16, 2023.

signed by DSA Secretary, Richard Simpson, _____



DSA Board: John Svahn, Bill Oudegeest, Tom Denzler, Beth Tanhoff, Chris Parker, Pat Malberg, Dick Simpson, and Mike Spain. Photo by Beth Tanhoff and Don Malberg.



**Donner Summit Association (DSA) Core Action Team Meeting
Thursday, March 16, 2023 5-6 PM
In-person Meeting Hosted by Sugar Bowl**



Sugar Bowl Village Conference Room, March 16 (DSCN4254.JPG). Compare with photo on page 1 of the February minutes.

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 5:38 PM by Pat Malberg.

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

Others: Don Malberg

2. Approval of Agenda:

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

3. Approval of Minutes from the February Meeting:

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

4. Financial Report (Tom):

Monthly Report: Tom had distributed a report in advance. DSA still has its \$100K CD for Hub maintenance plus several tens of thousands of dollars for general expenses. Tom has not received reimbursement from Placer County. Chris said TTF is also having trouble getting reimbursements.

The 1882 Foundation will be visiting Northern California March 28-30; they would like a gathering in Truckee, and Pat has been contacting potential attendees including county supervisors, historical associations, etc. Many have already said they will attend. Pat would like to treat them to lunch at Zano's. She expects about 15 people and estimates the cost would be \$200-300.

MSC-U (Bill, Beth) to appropriate up to \$500 for the 1882 Foundation lunch hosted by DSA at the end of March.

5. Placer County Report:

There was no representative from Placer County and no one present had news.

6. Nevada County Report

Pat received a request for a letter of support from Jeffrey Thoresby. Nevada County staff is putting a grant application together for the Adaptation Planning Grant Program (APGP) through the Governor's Office of Planning and Research. The letter would support the County's grant application with the Climate Transformation Alliance.

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

Dick will obtain the request from Pat; he will draft the letter and send it to Pat for her signature and mailing.

7. Projects

- a. Recreation Master Plan: Chris said there is nothing new. Stantec is behind; they may be having power problems. Chris' assistant (Dana) tried to get in touch, but wasn't able to reach anyone.
- b. Hub Status: Bill said there is nothing new.
- c. Gould Park/Placer County Parks: Jordan Knighton said he would tell Kelly in his office that Pat would contact him about Gould Park. Pat sent him Dick's reports on Gould Park but has not had a chance to talk to him. She will plan to do so before the next meeting.
- d. 1882 Foundation: Pat leaves Monday for the Foundation event in Washington, DC, on March 21 where she will make a presentation about tunnel graffiti. She has become very passionate about this project. Although most of DSA's work has been overpainting graffiti on the exterior of tunnels and snowsheds, the Foundation may be more interested in drill holes inside the tunnels and what can be done to restore them.

Several representatives from the Foundation will be in Northern California in late March. They are planning meet with the USFS Regional Forester for Region 5, visit the Placer County Historical Museum, and meet with recreation staff in Nevada County. They will spend most of March 30 at Donner Summit and in Truckee. They would like to meet with Donner Ski Ranch and a meeting with Bridget Legnavsky at 4:30 PM. There are drill holes in the Tunnels that should be cataloged and cleaned up.

Bill noted that the Foundation has agreed to pay for the 360° video that can be used to give virtual tours at the Summit. A smaller video display at The Hub has been postponed unless additional funding can be found.

- e. Nevada County Outdoor Visitor Safety Fund: Dick submitted the concept proposal for ski trail marking north of I-80 on March 15. If it is approved, a full proposal will be required by the end of April. The budget for the project is estimated to be \$3K; but Dick needs to get firmer numbers from a potential vendor in Truckee in time for the final submission.

8. Internal Matters

- a. Board Member Bios for Web Site: After brief discussion, it was agreed that these should be written in the third person (rather than first, as was decided at the February meeting). Dick will format anything that he receives and work with our webmaster to get the bios on the web site.

Everyone was encouraged to submit a biography before the next meeting.

- b. Job Description for Board Members: Pat reviewed the draft from Dick; there were no additional suggestions.
- c. New Board Members: Beth contacted a possible recruit; he has done graphics and would be willing to work as a volunteer; but he is not interested in joining the Board.
- d. Request/Approval Procedure for Expenses: No comments on the draft.
- e. Agenda Creation: No comments on the draft.

*MSC-U (Dick, Tom) to endorse b, d, and e and to create a new document called DSA Standing Rules which includes these. **Dick accepted an action item to do this.***

- f. Culture and Values Statement: There was consensus that the first and third bullets in Dick's draft were reasonable. The second should be rephrased to emphasize the importance of supporting economic well-being of Donner Summit rather than focusing on encouraging visitors to stay. The fourth prompted extended discussion on what DSA values and how to translate that into statement. Bill wasn't convinced that a Culture and Values Statement would be useful; but Chris said that these are commonly helpful in establishing common interest relationships with major donors.
- g. Future Meetings: The next DSA Board meeting will be on April 20.
- h. September Event: DSA's Board meeting in September is on September 21. Beth said she will be away from Donner Summit starting about September 14 and wondered whether the Event should be rescheduled from the date elected at the February meeting (September 23). There was consensus to leave the Event date unchanged.

9. Announcements

Chris is interested in putting together a Forest Resiliency Coalition. DSA, TDLT, USFS could be part of it. He is working with Blue Forest; they can help get CalFire grants for forestry. Organizations like PG&E have a stake in these efforts. Mike asked that Soda Springs and Boreal be included. Chris said Mammoth and Sierra Tahoe are doing something similar.

Pat would like to start thinking about a date for the West End stakeholders to meet; this would include a site visit, so it would have to be after snow melts (July?).

10. Adjournment:

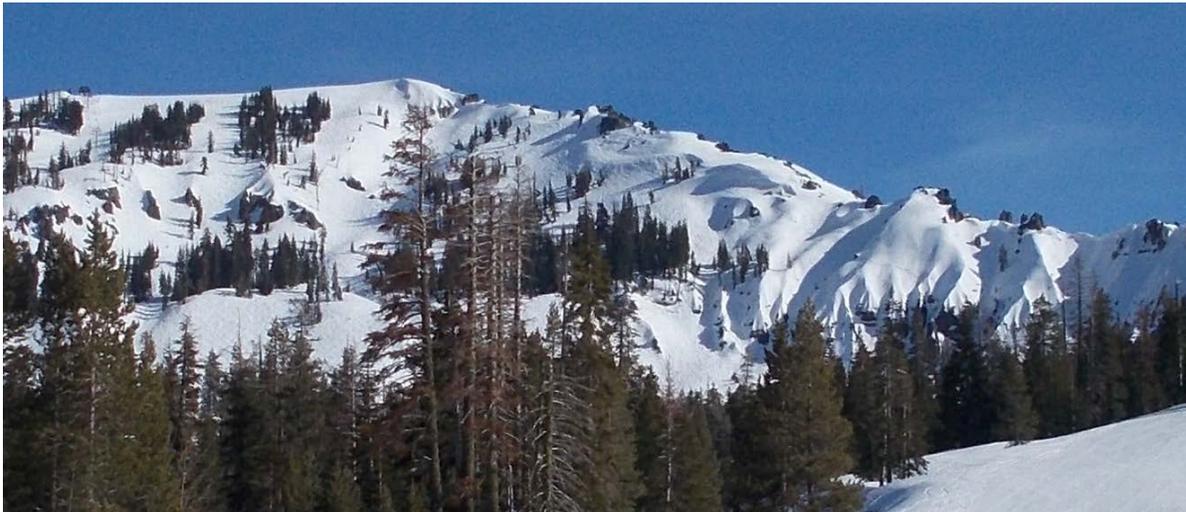
There being no other business, Pat adjourned the meeting at 6:44 PM.

Minutes approved by the DSA Board of Directors at its meeting on April 20, 2023.

signed by DSA Secretary, Richard Simpson, _____



Donner Summit Association (DSA) Core Action Team Meeting Thursday, April 20, 2023 5-6 PM In-person Meeting Hosted by Sugar Bowl



Mt. Lincoln from the Sugar Bowl Village Lodge, April 20 (DSCN4400.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 5:04 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 and Elan Tanhoff

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 March Meeting:

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

4. Financial Report (Tom):

Monthly Report: Tom had distributed a report in advance. There was no income during the past month. Expenses included the \$312 annual subscription fee for our web site and a reimbursement (\$302) to Pat Malberg for hosting the 1882 Foundation luncheon at Zano's in Truckee (see below). Reimbursement from Placer County has been received for contract work, but the amount is less than expected. Nick said that there has been some confusion in the Placer County office; he expects this can be worked out.

Tom inquired with High Sierra Tax Service whether DSA could get a financial audit and IRS Form 990 for the Trail Marking Project by the end of April (see below); but HSTS is backlogged months. He has a second lead.

Tom said he is using a laptop loaned by Truckee Donner Land Trust for DSA financial work. He is starting to receive warnings that the QuickBooks software will not be supported after May 31. **John will look into the issue.**

5. County Reports:

- a. Placer County (Nick): Placer County's Board of Supervisors (BoS) will meet in Tahoe May 9; they try to do this quarterly, but winter gets in the way. These meetings focus on 'east side' issues, and cover many of the things that Nick works on. Nick expects the Facilities Department will make a presentation on how to deliver services better on the east side. Population increases on the west side have prompted changes; there are no equivalent population changes on the east side, but other things change such as visitor numbers. Another question is how to use County buildings on east side better, and a third is parking management. An e-bike sharing program is being considered for town centers. Chris asked about housing projects; Sugar Bowl is always looking for housing solutions.
- b. Nevada County: There was no report from the County; but Dick said that a letter to Jeffrey Thorsby had been sent by Pat after the March DSA meeting supporting Nevada County's application for the Adaptation Planning Grant Program (APGP) through the Governor's Office of Planning and Research.

6. Projects

- a. Recreation Master Plan: Chris did not get a chance to review the latest version of the RMP. Dick reviewed the first 5-6 sections and concluded it was “good enough”. There are still a small number of corrections that would be desirable; but, if Stantec’s plan is to wrap their work up and pass an editable version of the document to DSA for final revisions, he thinks that would be fine. **Chris will ask that Stantec do that.**

Then the question is what to do next. There were several suggestions including (1) meet with stakeholders, explain the result, and ask for feedback; (2) celebrate at a future meeting or special event; (3) thank contributors; and (4) meet with County supervisors, giving them bound copies of the plan.

- b. Hub Status: Bill said there is nothing new. Chris said Dana Smariga is leaving Donner Summit and will become one of his “bi-coastal” employees. She has been leading the effort to complete the Shade Structure, which will be difficult to continue remotely. Parts for the Structure are in hand, but little can be done until snow melts. Beth has ordered a “winch” which will be useful in erecting the Structure.

Bill said the 1882 Foundation has funds for an electronic kiosk at the Hub; it would provide information in video form to visitors. Installation will require services from an electrician; Steve Alexander was suggested; **Bill said he would contact Steve.**

- c. Gould Park/Placer County Parks: Pat said there is nothing new. She is waiting for snow to melt before moving this project forward.
- d. 1882 Foundation: Pat organized and hosted a luncheon for the 1882 Foundation at Zano’s in Truckee. Twenty-five people attended from a wide range of local organizations. She judged it very successful. Many attendees spoke about how their organizations have been actively involved in discovering and publicizing contributions of the Chinese laborers to construction of the Transcontinental Railroad. Rotha Carlson, Director of Truckee Libraries, said they will be hosting a screening of the *Legacy* video at the Truckee Donner Park and Recreation Community Center on May 10 (6-8 PM). It is aimed especially at high school grades 9-12 and young adults (18-24).

Pat has submitted a list of attendees and a reimbursement request to Tom. Someone asked whether anyone attended from Sugar Bowl Academy; no one did. Beth provided the name of the new head of the school, and **Pat offered to contact him.** After the meeting at Zano’s, there was a second meeting at Donner Ski Ranch with 1882 Foundation

representatives, the Tuttles, and Topher Marlatt, new Manager of Clair Tappaan Lodge. Then there was a third meeting at Sugar Bowl with Chris and new President and CEO Bridget Legnavsky. Pat judged these also to be successful; she noted that Bridget wants Sugar Bowl employees to know about the railroad tunnels and the history that goes with them.

- e. X-C Trail Marking: Dick has drafted a proposal which seeks funding from Nevada County to mark two backcountry ski trails north of I-80 in the Castle Valley area. The proposal must be accompanied by an audited financial statement from DSA and a copy of its IRS Form 990. If either is unavailable by the April 28 deadline, he does not plan to submit the request. He also needs more guidance from USFS on sign design and placement and more information from Nevada County Search and Rescue about the number of calls they have received for assistance. If the proposal is not submitted, DSA could fund the project on its own and could complete the work this spring when snow is still very deep; but USFS guidance on signage is still needed. Dick will see what new information he can uncover in the next few days, then decide on submission.
- f. Broadband Workshop – A workshop is planned in Grass Valley May 12 (10 AM – 3 PM) to discuss broadband needs in rural Nevada County. Dick has registered; no one else on the Board was able to attend.
- g. Cleanup Day: John said the Truckee clean-up day is usually the first Saturday in June. Ours coincided with theirs last year, and we could probably do the same this year. There may still be snow on June 3, but Pat felt that road surfaces and shoulders would be clear so we could go ahead. Mike will be on vacation for all of June; but he said the Soda Springs dumpster would be available.

7. Internal Matters

- a. Logos: Dick said Brian Tafel designed a logo using the words “Donner Summit California”, and this was promoted by Nathan Wieler on branding grounds several years ago. But Dick recalls that DSA felt that “Donner Summit Association” would be better. Pat asked Brian whether he would change the design but nothing happened. Dick has been able to modify the original design, so we now have two. Should we pick one? Regardless of the wording, we have used several choices of color; should we pick one?

After a short discussion it was unanimously agreed that DSA would keep two logos — “Donner Summit Association” would be used for correspondence and official documents, and “Donner Summit California” could be used for merchandise. Most liked the darker red color (which Pat

later determined to be B5293A from an old message from Brian) but felt that variations were acceptable.

- b. Board Member Bios for Web Site: **Mike, Beth, and John have not submitted bios. An informal deadline of May 18 was set.**
- c. Culture and Values Statement: There was consensus that the revision distributed with the agenda was acceptable. But Pat said she would like to highlight each statement with a single word — for example, Community, Environment, ... **She will work on one word summaries.**
- d. Future Meetings: The next DSA Board meeting will be on May 18 at Nancy O's Gallery in Soda Springs. We will discuss next step(s) for RMP.

8. Announcements

Beth mentioned that the Tahoe Truckee Community Foundation is looking for an existing project aimed at defensible space. TTCF has some money that could go to the sponsoring organization.

The Serene Lakes Property Owners Association (SLPOA) is looking for a place to put a fire camera — it may go on Soda Springs Ridge. If it is on land owned by Powdr Corporation, Powdr will have to approve the placement.

Mike talked to Alecia Weisman about the schedule for the recreational component of the Van Norden Meadow Project. Alecia said they will continue Meadow rehabilitation this summer, though it will probably be delayed by the late snow melt and runoff. She indicated the recreation component is not likely start until 2024. Pat would like to hold a meeting 'on site' as soon as possible after snow melt to discuss possibilities.

Dick is planning to join a virtual meeting about Castle Valley planning on June 8.

9. Adjournment:

There being no other business, Pat adjourned the meeting at 6:13 PM.

Minutes approved by the DSA Board of Directors at its meeting on May 18, 2023.

signed by DSA Secretary, Richard Simpson, _____



Donner Summit Association (DSA) Core Action Team Meeting
Thursday, May 18, 2023 5-6 PM
In-person Meeting Hosted by Nancy O Gallery and Glass



Summit Meadow from Van Norden Dam, May 18 (DSCN4514.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 Vice President Bill Oudegeest. Pat Malberg was unable to attend.

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

Others: none

2. Approval of Agenda:

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

3. Approval of Minutes from the April Meeting:

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

4. Financial Report (Tom):

Monthly Report: Tom had distributed a report in advance. There was little financial activity during April. Bill noted that DSA is still waiting for a \$55K reimbursement from Placer County; Chris said that Truckee Trails received one reimbursement recently but is waiting for two more.

Tom said he and Beth have been looking for a new firm to handle DSA's more serious accounting, such as filing tax returns. Our previous firm is seriously backlogged and wouldn't be able to do new work until August. Tom thinks Norris Accountancy might be able to help, but nothing specific has been arranged. **Chris will provide him with another possibility.**

The Windows 10 loaner laptop that Tom has been using to run QuickBooks belongs to Truckee Donner Land Trust; although it is six years old, TDLT wants to retain ownership but is willing to let us use it indefinitely. The QuickBooks license expires soon; renewing it would cost more than \$1000, so Tom is looking for alternatives. He thinks he can find something closer to \$200. He would want to be able to transfer existing data to the new application, and we would want it to be able to generate the kinds of 'reports' that we are getting from QuickBooks. Chris suggested adding some basic computer security protection. **Tom will discuss security software with TDLT when he talks to them about installing new financial software.**

MSC-U (Chris/Beth) to appropriate up to \$300 for new financial software.

5. County Reports:

- a. Placer County: No County representative, and nothing new from others.
- b. Nevada County: No County representative, and nothing new from others.

6. Projects

- a. Recreation Master Plan: Chris has submitted edits to Bernadette and Kate at Stantec, but he has heard nothing back. **He will try again.** DSA received a bill from Stantec a couple weeks ago; Chris said it is not likely the final bill.
- b. Hub Status: The Hub is buried in snow. Bill looked for a place to mount the Himelstein plaque but gave up. Beth found a few loose items and moved them into The Shed. Chris said one of the Dan Goddard structures

at Sugar Bowl has collapsed; Bill thinks we are OK at the Hub. Dick mentioned that a portable toilet has been crushed; that may be the unit that Placer County has been funding.

- c. Gould Park/Placer County Parks: Nothing new.
- d. 1882 Foundation: There was a 20-minute Zoom today. The Foundation has offered to buy a digital kiosk for The Hub, and they will pay for installation. But the unit will be portable (below); it could not be left outside during winter, so it would either be stored in The Shed or sent on tours at lower elevations — such as to libraries or schools.



- e. X-C Trail Marking: Dick decided not to submit the grant request to Nevada County's Outdoor Visitor Safety Fund. Nevada County has done very few search and rescue operations recently, so the critical need for more trail marking is no longer clear. USFS continues to request markings no more frequently than once every ¼ mile, so the proposed solution does not meet the original need. DSA was not able to get an audited financial report in time for the submission.
- f. Broadband Workshop – Dick attended the workshop in Grass Valley on May 12; it was mostly a briefing by State officials on plans to extend 25 megabit per second service into underserved areas and a chance for those officials to assess needs in the communities to be served. A 'middle mile' internet line will run parallel to I-80 over Donner Summit, and 'last mile' internet service providers can tap into that as frequently as every ½ mile to feed local customers. But Dick is unaware of any local operators who are interested in providing 'last mile' service in the Summit area. Chris noted that AT&T is in the process of planning last mile service to owners of Sugar Bowl properties; he thought that DSPUD might be in a position

to do the same for others on the Summit though it is not presently in the telecommunications business. John felt that DSA should be an advocate, and Beth recommended that Dick talk to Nick and Jeffrey about possibilities within each county; and **Dick agreed to do so.**

- g. Cleanup Day: Beth has prepared promotional materials for our Clean-up Day (June 3), which coincides with Truckee's. She has a poster, which will be printed and distributed. Our activity has been registered with Nevada County's Adopt-a-Road Program, which will provide trash bags. Mike will make sure the dumpster at Soda Springs Mountain Resort is available. Chris said Tom Knill is the contact at Sugar Bowl; **Beth will reach out to him.** Beth will be at the Soda Springs General Store for registration, but she has other obligations and will not be able to do much cleaning.
- h. Measure T: DSA has received requests from TDLT and Serene Lakes Property Owners' Association for letters of support to be included with their applications for funding from Truckee Fire's Measure T. TDLT would use the money for a forestry project in the western part of Royal Gorge; SLPOA would use its funds for a 'fire camera' on Soda Springs Ridge. Dick has drafted letters of support for each request.

MSC-U (Chris/Tom) to approve the letters of support.

John abstained from the vote. **Dick will finalize the letters and send them to Pat for her signature.**

- i. SummitFest: Beth said Tom Applebaum and his band are not available for a repeat of their 2022 performance. Several other possibilities were mentioned (Blues Monsters, Norm Follette and his band, Jon Harvey and his band (if he has one)); **Beth will follow up.**
- j. Summit Valley: Although several people have tried, it has been hard to get USFS to invest in any recreation planning for Summit Valley. Alecia Weisman has said that restoration work will continue in the eastern half of the Valley this summer, but she does not expect any movement forward on recreation until 2024. Considering the heavy snow from this winter, any activity in the Valley (including a site visit to begin recreation thinking) will be late. Mike said that the pedestrian bridge over the South Yuba River, which was overloaded and destroyed by snow will be removed using a crane; since the new automobile bridge has a sidewalk, no new pedestrian bridge is planned.

7. Internal Matters

- a. Web Site Board Member Biographies: Short biographies for all Board members are now at <https://www.donnersummitca.com/team-members>; most are accompanied by photos.
- b. Culture and Values Statement: Nothing new.
- c. Future Meetings: The next meeting will be June 15. Tom is on vacation 29 May – 9 June; so he should be available. Mike will take two vacations in June, bracketing the 15th; so he should also be available.
- d. Meetings with Zoom Connectivity: Several members voiced support for making meetings accessible to remote participants. John, who often connects by phone, said that Zoom would be better. **Chris offered to set up a recurring Zoom meeting, and several said they could bring laptops to facilitate connectivity.**

8. Announcements

There were brief notes about the impact of the 2022-23 winter on Donner Summit and surrounding areas. Bill said CalTrans reported 19 full-day closures of I-80. Chris had heard that Truckee sustained the equivalent of five years of local road damage in the single winter season. There were over 50 days requiring avalanche controls at Sugar Bowl. Soda Springs suffered more days closed than in any previous winter season. All looked forward with cautious optimism to a more benign winter in 2023-24.

9. Adjournment:

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

Minutes approved by the DSA Board of Directors at its meeting on June 15, 2023.

signed by DSA Secretary, Richard Simpson, _____



Donner Summit Association (DSA) Core Action Team Meeting
Thursday, June 15, 2023 5-6 PM
In-person Meeting Hosted by Nancy O Gallery and Glass



Summit Meadow from Van Norden Dam, June 15 (DSCN4647.JPG).

Motions and votes are given in *italics*; action items are in **red bold**. For various reasons, the minutes below do not reflect the strict chronological order of discussions during the meeting.

1. Welcome:

The meeting was called to order at 5:02 PM by Pat Malberg. Chris opened a Zoom connection at about 5:20 PM, and Tom volunteered his tablet as the interface.

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

Others via Zoom: Julie Brannigan (SLPOA) and Kari Sinoff (SBC).

2. Approval of the Agenda:

Beth requested that discussion of the September SummitFest be moved earlier in the agenda.

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

3. Approval of Minutes from the May Meeting:

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

4. Financial Report (Tom):

Monthly Report: Tom had distributed a report in advance. There was little financial activity during May.

Bill said we have still not received a \$55K reimbursement from Placer County. Bill has contacted the County; although they have the request for reimbursement, they have apparently lost the supporting material. Bill has sent the package of supporting material again, but he has not received an acknowledgement that it was received in spite of at least one follow-up request.

Tax and Accounting Services: Pat suggested going with High Sierra Tax Services for our 2023 tax filing. The tax documents are not due until September, and Tricia said she is willing to do the work now that she is through her busy season. **Tom will contact her.**

Mitzi Hodges has arranged for donation of a laptop to DSA. Tom will switch DSA's financial records to the new system once he has closed out the last fiscal year, which ended May 31st.

Investments: Beth said the CD which has our funds for the Lamson-Cashion Hub has matured. We have been getting 0.45%, but there are new CDs available at 4.08% APR for both 7- and 11-month terms. There was Board consensus to renew the CD for 11 months at the higher rate; **Beth will follow up.**

Merchandise: **Beth will talk to Mitzi about re-launching the apparel operation.**

Trailhead Ambassador: Pat is seeking \$5K so that we can have a trailhead ambassador at the Railroad Tunnels. **Chris will help Pat contact Allison Pedley of Truckee Trails Foundation about this.** Nick Martin and Jeffrey Thoresby have expressed support and are looking into providing part

of the funding. The 1882 Foundation has also expressed interest in contributing. John said Perry Norris is still interested; **John will check whether Perry would contribute to the financing.**

5. County Reports:

a. Placer County: There was no County representative present, but Nick Martin submitted a short report by e-mail. (1) A gas pipeline along Hwy 28 on Tahoe's North Shore is being replaced. There will be 24-hour traffic control between Tahoe City and Kings Beach with up to 90 minute delays. (2) A transportation-focused town hall will be held on July 6; it will be virtual and recorded. (3) A second town hall focused on evacuation and led by Placer County's emergency services team is scheduled for August 17. (4) A new North Lake Tahoe web site (<https://www.placer.ca.gov/tahoe>) has been launched; send comments to Nick.

b. Nevada County: There was no County representative present but Erika Seward submitted a report by e-mail.

(1) **Habitat Conservation Funds**: Erika submitted an application to the California State Parks Habitat Conservation Fund for \$565,000 for the Van Norden Meadow Recreation Project (Nevada County lead agency, subcontracting SYRCL). Awards will be granted by the end of 2023. In tandem with the meadow restoration project that began in 2022, the Van Norden Meadow Recreation Project will improve, reroute, connect, and construct up to five miles of multi-use trail to enhance equitable access and maintain environmental quality by (a) minimizing the potential for disturbance to sensitive wildlife habitat through improved trails, and development of two trailheads with parking areas and bathrooms, (b) providing ADA accessible trail access, including boardwalks and bridges, to this unique habitat, and (c) promoting the aesthetic and educational benefits that a restored meadow provides by building viewing platforms/decks and developing interpretive signage. This Project addresses top priorities that were identified in two local planning and public use documents, *The Soda Springs Area Plan* and the *Donner Summit Public Use, Trails, and Recreation Facilities Plan*, in that it improves recreation opportunities, community access, and ecological quality of the 485-acre project area. The two trailheads will provide onsite parking areas so that users can access both trailheads by car to get to different areas of the trail. The proposed trail alignment will connect with other nearby trail systems in the Donner Summit area – as outlined in the *Donner Summit Public Use, Trails and Recreation Facilities Plan* – so that mountain bikers, equestrians and hikers can access this trail without a car.

- (2) **Truckee Donner Recreation and Park District:** The Quimby and Nexus Fee Study updates were approved at the Board of Supervisors meeting this week. Erika will be meeting with TDRPD and Supervisor Bullock in mid-July to discuss recreational improvements and the *Soda Springs Area Plan* Recreation Policy to advocate for investment of impact fees to Donner Summit.
- (3) **Outdoor Visitor Safety Funds:** The evaluation panel should be providing recommendations for Board consideration in early July.
- (4) **Nevada County Recreation and Resiliency Master Plan:** Erika requested help in spreading the word about this initiative via social media, newsletters, and recreation provider contacts. She provided a flyer (Attachment A) for printing and posting at area businesses, recreation facilities, trailheads, etc. She would love to see great representation from the Donner Summit area.

6. Projects

- a. Recreation Master Plan: Chris has asked Stantec about status of the RMP, but there has been no response. **He will try again.**
- b. Hub Status: Bill did a cleanup at the site; but Pat thinks it could use more and wondered whether we should schedule a work day. Tom asked about the bike repair station, which appears to be loose. Bill said the carriage bolt stud is loose in the concrete; repairing it would not be easy because the carriage bolt would have to be dug out. It may be just as easy to drill new holes in the concrete. Pat said she had received a thank-you note from Nancy Himelstein about the plaque added to one of the information kiosks at The Hub in memory of her late husband.
- c. Gould Park/Placer County Parks: Pat sent a note to Andy Fisher inquiring about status and plans? She has also contacted Kelly Hofsteder. She has received no response from either. **Dick will send the Gould Park PDF to Pat, who will forward it to Kelly and Andy (if they don't already have it).**
- d. 1882 Foundation: Today's Zoom was about the 1882 Foundation history tour, which goes to Virginia City this year. It is already sold out but interested people can sign up on a waiting list.
- e. Broadband Workshop –Kari Sinoff is with Sierra Business Council and is project manager for the Gold Country Broadband Consortium. One of her roles is to track county, state, and federal broadband grant funding, identify priority unserved areas, and align internet service providers with broadband project grant opportunities in underserved areas. Kari said

there was an attempt to get high-speed wireless through Soda Springs a couple years ago; but it turned out to be too expensive. Since then, technology has improved (and become less expensive); Oasis Broadband has expressed interest in revisiting high-speed wireless at the Summit, and one of their representatives could make a presentation to a future DSA meeting. The urgency now is to get responses to a Digital Equity Survey which will help determine how funds are allocated. \$66B is available across the U.S. for infrastructure deployment with an emphasis on underserved communities. The survey should be completed by each household by June 30; it will take about 5 minutes. Kari works with both Nevada County and Placer County; both want to get the Summit connected for residents and tourists. Kari wants 250 responses from each county; the count so far is well short of that goal.

- f. Cleanup Day: Over 50 people participated, each signing a release that was provided by Nevada County. This was one of four such events that the County requires for participation in its Adopt-a-Highway Program. The cleanup was followed by lunch at Donner Ski Ranch. There was some confusion over assigned areas with some areas being cleaned several times and others being missed. Dick suggested that more effort be invested in providing maps to volunteers that show exactly where they should concentrate.
- g. SummitFest: Beth will be out of the country on September 23, and Tom Applebaum's band is already committed for that date. She would like to move the event either before her departure (preferable) or after she returns. The two best candidates appear to be September 9 and October 14. There was consensus that September 9 might be better; but it conflicts with Donner Party Hikes (which are earlier in the day and may not have an overlapping demographic) and is only a week after the Labor Day weekend (which may not attract second home owners who might need to visit the Summit twice within 10 days. October 14 would only be a few days after Beth returns to the Summit and has a higher probability of unfavorable weather. **Beth will check whether the band is available and whether Soda Springs Resort could host.**

7. Internal Matters

- a. Web Site Board Member Biographies: Short biographies for all Board members are now at <https://www.donnertsummitca.com/team-members>; all are accompanied by photos.
- b. Culture and Values Statement: Pat has abandoned trying to reduce each statement to a single word. Chris suggested that others might try; in the worst case, this could be revisited at the 2024 'tune-up' meeting.

- c. Future Meetings: The next Board meeting will be July 20.
- d. Board Members: Five Board members have terms that expire at the end of 2023 (Oudegeest, Parker, Simpson, Spain, and Svahn).

MSC-U (Dick, Tom) to reappoint all five members to new two-year terms.

Pat said that the Board needs more members, especially women. But someone then noted that there are only three members with terms expiring in 2024. Dick explained that this imbalance has resulted from the ways members have been appointed and/or left the Board; he offered to take a one-year term which would restore the balance. But Bill offered a different motion.

MSC-U (Bill, Pat) to make Dick's term three years.

- e. Officers: Dick said that the DSA officers are appointed at this meeting although their nominal terms won't start until 2024. The current officers are:

President: Pat Malberg
Vice President: Bill Oudegeest
Secretary: Dick Simpson
CFO/Treasurer: Tom Denzler

MSC-U (Dick, Chris) to reappoint the current officers to new terms.

8. Announcements

After the meeting Beth remembered that there will be a celebration of life for John Kirrene on June 25 3-7 PM at Donner Ski Ranch. All are welcome; food will be served. John was a long time resident of PlaVada and member of DSAA before the merge. He loved to sing in the Truckee Choir and in the mountains. He also loved Ireland and his Jameson whiskey and always had a tale to tell.

9. Adjournment:

There being no other business, Pat adjourned the meeting at 6:06 PM.

Minutes approved by the DSA Board of Directors at its meeting on July 20, 2023.

signed by DSA Secretary, Richard Simpson, _____

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Donner Summit Association (DSA) Core Action Team Meeting
Thursday, July 20, 2023 4:30-5:30 PM
In-person Meeting Hosted by Nancy O Gallery and Glass



Castle Peak from Onion Ridge (aka Forest Service Ridge) with arrow leaf balsam root flowers in the foreground (DSCN4791.JPG)

Motions and votes are given in *italics*; action items are in **red bold**. For various reasons, the minutes below do not reflect the strict chronological order of discussions during the meeting.

1. Welcome:

The meeting was called to order at 4:32 PM by Pat Malberg. Chris opened a Zoom connection, but no one connected.

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

Others: None

2. Approval of the Agenda:

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

3. Approval of Minutes from the June Meeting:

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

4. Financial Report (Tom):

Monthly Report: Tom had distributed a report in advance. There were no donations and only a few expenses in June.

Bill said we have still not received an expected \$55K reimbursement from Placer County. He has sent supporting information four times. Several people are looking into this at the County. Beth said she had received a \$15K payment from Placer County today; but that is \$40K short of what is due.

Tax and Accounting Services: High Sierra Tax Services has filed our reports for 2022; no tax was owed, and an extension had been requested. HSTS is working on the reports for 2023, and Tom expects those to be submitted by the end of August.

Investments: Interest on the CDs has been included in the financial statements.

Merchandise: Beth had nothing to report. An order for shirts has come in; **Beth will check what we have in stock (or can recover from the Store).**

Trailhead Ambassador: Pat had nothing to report.

5. County Reports:

- a. Placer County: Nick e-mailed that the Placer County Board of Supervisors will meet at Granlibakken on July 25 (9 AM – 5 PM). A five-year agreement between the County and the North Lake Tahoe Resort Association for oversight and administrative support associated with the Capital Projects Advisory Committee will be discussed. Then there is a proposal to disband the CPAC. The agenda has been posted at <https://www.placer.ca.gov/DocumentCenter/View/71497/2023-072523-FINAL-Agenda>. Nick also e-mailed that the County is hosting an evacuation and safety town hall on August 17; time and location are to be determined.

- b. Nevada County: The Nevada County Board of Supervisors will meet in Truckee on the morning of August 22, then at Van Norden Meadow for an orientation and tour by the South Yuba River Citizens League (SYRCL) at 2 PM. The County has asked for lunch suggestions, and there was consensus that DSA should offer to cater lunch under the new Shade Structure at the Lamson-Cashion Hub. DSA could use that time to explain what it has accomplished. There would presumably be reimbursement from the County to DSA for expenses; details can be worked out.

6. Projects

- a. Recreation Master Plan: Pat received an amendment to the contract; it extends the window for spending funds from January 1, 2023, to December 31, 2023. She has signed and returned the amendment. Chris has not had much luck getting Stantec's attention on finishing the RMP; so he has assigned that task to Dana Smariga, who is now working for Chris remotely in Maryland.
- b. Hub Status: The Vadasz memorial bench has been ordered, and the Shade Structure supports have been installed. The Shade awning needs to be added.

The 1882 Foundation has bought its digital kiosk, which is a small computer and a display screen. It needs power, so Bill met with Steve Alexander and a Sugar Bowl employee to trace what appeared to be electrical conduit at the site; but they couldn't find where it went. He has also looked into having PG&E install an electrical panel that could run the kiosk; but the expense and time required for installation plus the ongoing costs are concerns. Bill has investigated running the kiosk from a solar panel; it needs 90 watts. There are plug-and-play units that produce 1100 watts. Beth wondered whether Gold Zero would donate a unit; **John said he will talk to Ace Hardware about a discount.**

John asked whether the railroad cars at The Hub could be tethered to their tracks with longer chains; but Bill said that was not a good idea. The original chains have been replaced by simple locks because people were breaking the chains and removing the cars.

- c. Gould Park/Placer County Parks: Pat sent notes to Andy Fisher and Kelly Hobstедder inquiring about status and plans. She has received no response from either. This initiative has been moved to Pat's back burner while attention is focused on west Van Norden Meadow. At some time in the future there may be an opportunity to partner with the new owner of the private campground at Cisco Grove; Pat has made contact, but this would need development.

- d. Graffiti: Pat distributed Dick's report from the July 15 graffiti abatement activity. Tom, Dick, and Pat came from DSA; there were 19 volunteers from the Dartmouth Outing Club of Northern California. John helped with logistics. With the large group of youthful volunteers, a lot was accomplished. DOC-NC is doing another work weekend in October; Pat will stay in touch in case a follow-up can be scheduled. In the meantime, Pat wanted to thank Courtney Meyerholz of Sugar Bowl for providing access, including a special exit at noon when the group ran out of paint and called it quits. **Dick will send a copy of the report to Bridgit Legnavsky**. One of the volunteers from DOC-NC (Dan) said he had a video of a group tagging the tunnels; **Pat will contact Dan about the video**.



Dartmouth Outing Club volunteers after overpainting graffiti on the domed part of Tunnel 7 (DSCN4881.JPG).

- e. 1882 Foundation: There have been several follow-ups to the graffiti report, which Dick sent to the 1882 Foundation. Ted Gong suggested that the report be converted into a press release. Terry Guen suggested that (1) signs be posted informing visitors that the tunnels are of national historic importance; (2) the National Trust for Historic Preservation be asked to publish a follow-up article about the Tunnel Preservation progress; and (3) NPR be asked to do a public interest piece. John said there were three signs, but they are currently in Perry Norris' garage; **he will contact Perry**. Pat added that National Geographic is doing an article about the tunnels in August — mostly pictures rather than text — and that the Foundation has developed a set of puzzles about the tunnels aimed at children.

- f. Portable Toilets (Lake Mary) – Pat asked whether anyone knew the source of two portable toilets placed on Old Donner Pass Road near Lake Mary. If they are public toilets, then there may be no need for a toilet at the PCT South trailhead. No one knew where these came from.
- g. Van Norden Meadow. DSA has been invited to join in a briefing by SRYCL about plans for starting the recreation component of the Van Norden Meadow project. The meeting is August 3 at Soda Springs Resort (3:30-5 PM).
- h. Promontory Anniversary Next Year: The person who arranged the tunnel concert several years ago would like to do reprise. Pat suggested that it include wine tasting and be scheduled as part of DSA's July 4 activities in 2024. There was consensus to keep this possibility open; it will need advance planning, especially if alcohol is involved.
- i. SummitFest: Beth said the event will be October 14 at Soda Springs Resort; Beth will be back from travel by then. A caterer and Tom Appelbaum's band — Backseat Drivers — are available. Beth is writing a letter to potential sponsors; she wondered whether DSA preferred a few large items for the silent auction or a range of offerings (which is more difficult to manage). There was consensus that a range is better even if it involves more work. There was a question about whether the winner of last year's hut stay at Frog Lake had been able to book a date; John said that virtually all winter dates had been booked by the time the winner had been identified. This year's prize will include wording to the effect that no specific booking is included — that the winner should expect to find a suitable date sometime in Summer 2024.
- j. Beacon Testing at the Hub: Dick said he has tried to contact the patrol group that wanted to install an avalanche beacon tester at The Hub, but he has received no response. He has tabled this proposal until the advocates provide more information.
- k. Donner Pass Road Closure: Bill wrote an article based on a meeting held with Nevada County people about the road closure; Dick has distributed a longer draft report. The County has replied with comments; but Dick has not had a chance to review them. The bottom line is that the road will likely remain closed through most of August and possibly longer depending on what engineering conclusions can be drawn from ongoing studies of rock stability.
- l. Broadband at the Summit: **Representatives of Oasis Broadband have offered a presentation at the DSA Board meeting in August.**

7. New Business

Camping on the Summit: Pat has observed campers around the old ASI building; she wondered whether “No Camping” signs could be installed. Dick said there are also campers down the east side near the vista point. **Pat will call Jenna Prescott; blocking the ASI spot with boulders may suffice.** Mike said Soda Spring’s planned campground is a couple years away. Donner Ski Ranch is apparently advertising parking at \$10/night.

Summit Needs: Megan Siefert (Headwaters Science Institute) suggested a meeting of all non-profits to hash out Summit needs. Mike said Powdr Corporation has money that could support such an effort; he said a few \$K have been targeted to mostly Truckee-based charitable organizations in previous years. Matt Gall is the contact at Boreal.

8. Internal Matters

- a. Future Meetings: The next Board meeting will be August 17 (5-6 PM) at the Shade Structure.

9. Announcements

John suggested to Lucy Blake, who is planning a visitor center in Sierraville., that she should visit the Lamson-Cashion Hub as a model.

10. Adjournment:

There being no other business, Pat adjourned the meeting at 5:33 PM.

Minutes approved by the DSA Board of Directors at its meeting on August 17, 2023.

signed by DSA Secretary, Richard Simpson, _____



Donner Summit Association (DSA) Core Action Team Meeting
Thursday, August 17, 2023 5-6 PM
In-person Meeting at the Lamson-Cashion Trail and History Hub



DSA Board meeting under the Shade Structure at the Lamson-Cashion Hub
(DSCN5160.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 5:08 PM by Pat Malberg. Pat, Beth, and Tom provided hors d'oeuvres and drinks. Chris set up a Zoom connection, but no one connected.

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

Others: Elan Tanhoff

2. Approval of the Agenda:

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

3. Approval of Minutes from the July Meeting:

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

4. Confirm e-vote

An e-mail vote was conducted on August 2. Bill Oudegeest had requested \$750 to pay half of Greg Murtha's estimated additional costs in producing a 3-D video tour of the Summit Tunnels (see agenda Attachment B). The e-vote was 7 in favor with Mike Spain not voting. The vote was confirmed by the members present at this meeting.

5. Financial Report (Tom):

Monthly Report: Tom had distributed a report in advance. We received a \$15K reimbursement from Placer County for the Recreation Master Plan (mentioned at the July meeting). There is still \$55K in outstanding reimbursements (see below). There were a few donations during the past month.

Tax and Accounting Services: Taxes are all in for the Tax Year (TY) ending May 2022 and for the TY ending May 2023. Tom said working with High Sierra Tax Services was fine; turn-around for TY 2023 was only two days once he submitted the paperwork. Tom has also sent an updated non-profit statement to California's Attorney General.

Stantec: We received two invoices from Stantec in early August (covering charges for the periods ending November 2022 and April 2023); these totaled \$26012. A final bill is expected later. Tom requested guidance on how these should be reported. They cover work done in TY 2023, but the invoices weren't received until TY 2024. Tom prefers to count them as expenses in TY 2024; to count them in TY 2023, we would have to refile our tax reports at additional cost. Since we pay no taxes, this seems like an unnecessary expense.

MSC-U (Tom/Bill) to recognize the Stantec invoices dated November 2022 and April 2023, but received in August 2023, as expenses in Tax Year 2024.

After we pay Stantec, our operating funds will fall below \$20K. Although we expect no large expenses in coming months, Tom wondered whether we could use some of the money stored in the CDs to boost the operating funds back

over \$20K. Pat said the CD funds are dedicated to maintenance of The Hub. If we have expenses of those types, we could tap into the CDs; otherwise, they are off limits.

IRS: DSA received two notices regarding late filing of 2022 tax documents. The first noted that DSA was apparently late; the second acknowledged receiving the late filing. Tom will work with High Sierra Tax Services to craft an appropriate reply. The penalty for late filing may be as high as \$4K.

Merchandise: Beth said Mitzi still has merchandise, and we can fulfill orders received.

Trailhead Ambassador: Pat had nothing to report.

6. County Reports:

- a. Placer County: There was no report.
- b. Nevada County: Nevada County's Board of Supervisors will meet in Truckee on the morning of August 22. Pat will make presentation on DSA, and Bill will make presentation about The Hub. Lunch will be in Truckee, catered by the Soda Springs General Store, which will be reimbursed by the County. Then the Supervisors will go to Van Norden West for a presentation about the Meadow and its restoration by Alecia Weisman.

7. Projects

- a. Recreation Master Plan: Chris said Dana Smariga has been contacting Kate Gray every few days; there has been some progress, but the final RMP is not ready yet.
- b. Hub Status: Bill turned in DSA's claim for \$55K in reimbursement last December to meet the 2022 end-of-project deadline. He has inquired at several levels of County government, including through Nick Martin, DSA's liaison. Recently County Counsel has advised that the contract expired and that a new one needs to be written, which will require approval by the Board of Supervisors. County staff have said that the approval will be included in the consent calendar for the Supervisors' meeting on September 12. The new contract will include \$16K in funds that DSA could not spend for a toilet enclosure at The Hub. There was consensus within the DSA Board to accept the new contract; how to spend the \$16K can be discussed later since the new spending will be at the end of 2024.

The Hub's Shade Structure has been installed. Bill is now turning his attention to annual rigging of the sails. He would like Sugar Bowl to install the sails each spring since they will do the same thing at Summit Haus and have the necessary equipment. Sails need to be labeled so corners go to correct poles. Chris said Sugar Bowl knows how to do this and it will be best to have staff develop the procedure. Sails will stretch, so chains have been included to allow adjustments after deployment.

Pat noted two dead trees near The Hub and wondered whether someone should be retained to cut them down. **Beth will call Miles Medenhall.**

- c. 1882 Foundation: The Foundation wanted a digital kiosk, which could tell visitors stories behind the Summit and its Tunnels. The kiosk has arrived. It has a desktop stand rather than a pedestal, so it needs to be exchanged for the correct model. The operating system is Windows 10; instructions are limited. Bill is looking for someone who would be able to make the kiosk operational. Tom said TDLT has a tech who knows Windows. Powering the kiosk from a solar panel is still under investigation.



Bill (left) demonstrated the digital kiosk (DSCN5161.JPG).

- d. Van Norden Meadow: Several members of the DSA Board met with Alecia Weisman and USFS representatives to discuss recreation in Van Norden Meadow and construction of a visitor facility near the old dam. A report from the meeting was included with this meeting's agenda as Attachment C. A next step is to come up with a design for the visitor facility; Pat suggested a grant request for TOT funds to retain a designer. There was discussion about who could do the work and how much it would cost. Chris thought an amount upwards of \$60K might be right; **Pat will contact Kelly Hobstetter for an estimate** with the understanding that JKAE would be paid for the design if funding were awarded. **Chris will provide Pat with Kelly's contact information.**
- e. SummitFest: Beth has a sponsorship agreement with Loomis Basin Brewery. She said Donner Creek Brewing was not interested last year, and we were too late in requesting sponsorship from Fiftyfifty Brewing

last year. To solicit sponsorship from a brewery, we need to estimate how many kegs should be supplied. A license from ABC will be requested. Beth needs help from Pat on composing a letter requesting auction items. Beth will provide lists of potential donors to people with connections. She is comfortable with the big donation items; but she won't have time to deal with small items. John Svahn has offered a stay at Frog Lake. **Pat and Beth will meet Tuesday to flesh out the letter.** Beth thinks recruiting day-of-event help will not be difficult.

- f. Donner Pass Road Closure: Paving is scheduled for Tuesday. Opening by Labor Day seems feasible.
- g. Graffiti: New signs are up; but new graffiti is appearing inside the tunnels.

8. New Business

None.

9. Announcements

Speed signs: Beth said locals have asked whether Nevada County would support installation of radar speed signs like the ones that SLPOA and Placer have added in Serene Lakes.

Headwaters Recreation and Resiliency Funding, Lunch Discussion: There will be a meeting at Judah Lodge on August 31. Participants include PG&E and Blue Forest.

10. Internal Matters

- a. Future Meetings: The next Board meeting will be September 21 (5-6 PM) at a location to be determined.

11. Adjournment:

There being no other business, Pat adjourned the meeting at 6:05 PM.

Minutes approved by the DSA Board of Directors at its meeting on September 21, 2023.

signed by DSA Secretary, Richard Simpson, _____



**Donner Summit Association (DSA) Core Action Team Meeting
Thursday, September 21, 2023 5-6 PM
In-person meeting at Donner Ski Ranch**



Bench at the Lamson-Cashion Hub, donated in memory of Logan Vadasz
(photo provided by John Svahn)

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 5:04 PM by Pat Malberg. Chris Parker set up a Zoom connection; two people connected.

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

Others: Steve Carle (SLPOA liason), Nick Martin (Placer County), and Ann Reisenauer (part-time Serene Lakes resident).

2. Approval of the Agenda:

John requested addition of a letter of support for a TDLT forestry project in the northwest corner of the Royal Gorge property.

Dick moved and Tom seconded approval of the agenda with addition of the letter of support at item 7. The motion was carried unanimously (MSC-U).

3. Approval of Minutes from the August Meeting:

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

4. Financial Report (Tom):

Monthly Report: Tom had distributed a report in advance. During August he received an invoice from Stantec for \$26,012; no one knew whether this is the final bill for the Recreation Master Plan. Xplorit sent an invoice; we pay half (\$750) and the Donner Summit Historical Society pays an equal amount. When all is said and done, we have about \$122K, including \$100K in CDs for maintenance at The Hub.

Placer County Reimbursement: Nick said the delay resulted from the fact that the Board of Supervisors (BoS) cannot approve contracts for more than a year. Ours was initially for a year; but then it was extended, and there have been administrative complications in getting all the new approvals lined up. Nick thinks this will be on the consent calendar for the BoS meeting on September 26, which means we should receive payment in October.

Trailhead Ambassador: Nick assumed DSA was working with Nevada County on supporting the Trailhead Ambassador program. **Pat will follow up after she gets contact information.**

5. County Reports:

- a. Placer County: Nick reported on behalf of Placer County. (1) There is an ad hoc town hall meeting in Olympic Valley this evening with Supervisor Gustafson on topics of interest there — future expansions by Palisades Tahoe, management of County services in the field, green waste, fire risks, evacuation planning, and the parking reservation program which is

a partnering of Palisades with the County. The town hall format is an attempt to improve engagement with local areas outside MAC meetings. They are intended to be topically specific. (2) The Board of Supervisors will meet at Lake Tahoe on October 17; the next Tahoe meeting will likely be in late February. Nick encouraged attendance by DSA reps; local participation is viewed favorably by County officials. Topics on the agenda are likely to be (i) a proposal for housing on the North Shore including about 80 rental units and a couple dozen market-rate townhouses for local workers; (ii) an update to the parking ordinance which will include better signage and enforcement; (iii) a proposal for \$21M in new housing from the North Tahoe Alliance; (iv) clean-up of the County ordinance on short-term rentals that was passed two years ago (Placer County authorized 3900 STR permits, but only 3300 have been claimed so far; by contrast, the Town of Truckee currently has an 18-month waiting list for STR permits); and (v) amendments to the County's Tahoe Basin Area Plan which might allow small developments (or adjustments to existing developments) that are consistent with environmental protection.

- b. Nevada County: Pat and Bill (Oudegeest) went to the Nevada County BoS meeting in Truckee on August 22. They presented an overview of past and ongoing DSA activities. The Board then toured the Summit, including the west end of Van Norden. Jonathan Cooke-Fisher and others from the Truckee Ranger District were present. Pat felt there was an excellent exchange of views among all present.

6. Projects

- a. Recreation Master Plan: Chris had nothing new to report. The Plan has been delivered; now DSA has to decide what to do with it. We could take a low key approach and simply post it on our web site. More effective might be to have a formal handoff in which we present printed copies to representatives of key agencies such as USFS, Nevada County, and Placer County. DSA might then be able to schedule follow-up meetings to discuss implementation of recommendations in the Plan. Nick suggested that preparing an executive summary of the key points would be useful to those receiving the plan; it could be based on the priorities identified. Dick wondered whether anyone in DSA has actually read the final version; it was his understanding that Stantec was handing its final version to DSA but that final tuning was expected and that Stantec would not object to having its name on a DSA-edited final if the content was not changed significantly. **Chris will send an e-mail to RMP Committee members asking for final comments.** John wondered whether Kevin Starr might be included since there are several recommendations about TDLT projects.

- b. Hub Status: Bill e-mailed that we have not received the replacement parts for the video kiosk. He also wondered when we should take down the Hub Sail. It could come down any time now that summer conditions have passed. **Chris will coordinate with Sugar Bowl (and Bill).**

John reported that a bench, in memory of Logan Vadasz, has been delivered and installed at The Shed (see photo above).

- c. 1882 Foundation: Pat said the Foundation is doing a hike at the Summit this weekend; their bus tour is next weekend. Pat is looking forward to a meeting in Roseville to which she has been invited with UPRR personnel.
- d. Van Norden Meadow: Kelly Hobstetter has offered to work on the design for the West End facility; he has prepared an initial drawing (Attachment A). There was general agreement that this is a great next step after the West End meeting on August 3. Alecia Weisman of SYRCL will contact USFS to get their reaction.

Dick mentioned that there doesn't appear to be much parking in Kelly's drawing; he was expecting additional parking on top of the old dam, but others said they were satisfied with parking along the access road. There may also be a problem with property lines; some of the parking and the primary restroom are on what appears to be Powdr Corporation property and we have no agreement with them about access through their parking lot let alone construction of facilities. There was support for a pedestrian bridge over the spillway; but that will require additional funding. Chris thinks planting mature trees is not practical at the Summit; there may be some species that would grow, but which ones?

Chris asked programmatically: what does DSA expect people to do at this site — what will draw visitors to this location? What is the “sense of space” here? Do people want to picnic, hike, fish, ... where do their dogs poop? Dick suggested a Native American theme — with input from Washoe and other native peoples. Pat thinks the design team could take our broad ideas and make them specific. Chris noted that the “make-or-break” is whether USFS is coming along with us. Alecia e-mailed that we need to fit within the envelope defined in the USFS NEPA report.

- e. Gould Park: Pat met with Ted Rel and Andy Fisher of Placer County Parks earlier this week in Auburn; this followed up on a meeting held at Gould Park on July 27, 2022. Ted and Andy repeated that they have \$90K for an upgrade at Gould Park and are enthusiastic about the proposals put forward by DSA about making the park an entry portal to the Donner Summit area. Ralph Gibson (Placer County Museums Administrator) is also very interested and is particularly knowledgeable about the history of Cisco Grove. Pat has arranged a meeting with Ralph

and others Tuesday (September 26) to discuss possibilities further. She met with Kelly Hobstetter this morning; he loves the ideas for this project and will prepare a preliminary sketch of the site; he cannot participate in the Tuesday meeting, but he has promised a high-level concept that can be discussed. Placer County was planning to carry out a fuel reduction project at Gould Park last fall; but Casey Lyons said this has to be done through the Resource Conservation District, and the work has been postponed to 2024. **John offered to provide contact information for Bob Gilliom.** Bob remains active with the Placer County Land Trust; his family was instrumental in establishing Gould Park, and John thought they might be willing to contribute to an upgrade.

- f. Summit Fest: The date remains Saturday, October 14. Pat has completed the paperwork for using the Soda Springs Mountain Resort venue. SLPOA has donated leftover beverages after closing the Serene Lakes Snack Shack. Pat will sign the liquor license application. A few sponsorships still need to be wrapped up (DSR, Sugar Bowl, ...); Pat hopes those can be completed this week. Dick asked about tickets and publicity; Pat assumes EventBrite will be used for advance sales, and she will have posters and banners. **She will e-mail Beth.** Most materials saved from last year can be reused. Dick and Tom have other commitments that day; but Ann hopes to be available to help.

7. New Business

John Svahn requested a letter of support for a grant application from TDLT to the Sierra Nevada Conservancy. The funds will support a forestry project on 500 acres in the northwest corner of the Royal Gorge property.

MSC (Chris, Tom) – to approve the TDLT letter of support.

The vote was 4 in favor, none opposed; John abstained. **Dick will prepare a letter for Pat's signature (Attachment B); she will then forward it to John to meet his September 28 deadline.**

Pat said Tamara Lieberman had contacted her by phone and followed up with a summary letter (Attachment C) about a possible connection between ALS and a cyanotoxin (BMAA, a neurotoxin) found in blue-green algae. High concentrations of the neurotoxin were found in water samples collected at Serene Lakes two years ago. She would like to raise funds for more testing, routing donations through DSA because it is a 501(c)(3) organization. Tamara does not know how much money would be involved. Dick urged caution since DSA would need to know more about how the money was being spent in order to defend the tax deductibility of the donations. He also said that Sierra Lakes County Water District had tested for these toxins and the results were negative. However, after checking the SLCWD meeting package

for September 14, he discovered that the negative tests were for PFOS and PFOA ('forever' chemicals). There is no information about cyanotoxins in the SLCWD Consumer Confidence Report dated June 2023. The DSA Board opted to defer a decision until legal advice can be obtained.

8. Announcements

Chris said Sugar Bowl's Belt Room is open Friday-Saturday. Dick will add this to the DSA News web page.

9. Internal Matters

- a. Future Meetings: The next Board meeting will be October 19 at a location to be determined. This may be the same night as a Donner Summit MAC meeting, in which case our meeting will be 4-5 PM rather than the usual 5-6 PM.

10. Adjournment:

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

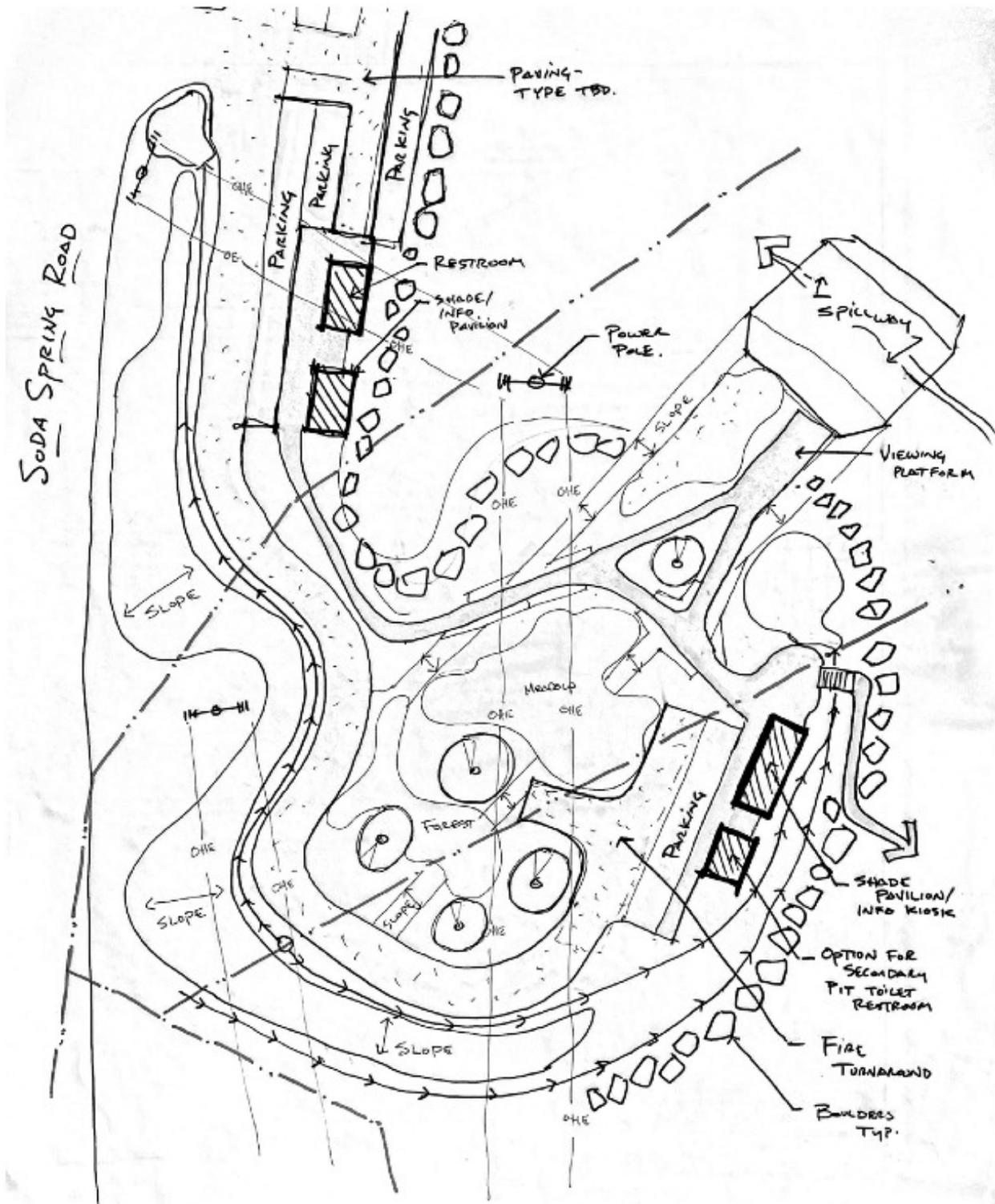
Minutes approved by the DSA Board of Directors at its meeting on October 19, 2023.

signed by DSA Secretary, Richard Simpson, _____



Castle Peak from the west side of Round Valley (DSCN5313.JPG)

Attachment A – Van Norden West Visitor Site



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Attachment B

Draft Letter of Support for Truckee Donner Land Trust



DSA Core Action Team

Tom Denzler, Treas.
Pat Malberg, President
Bill Oudegeest, V. Pres.
Chris Parker
Dick Simpson, Secy.
Mike Spain
John Svahn
Beth Tanhoff

Others

Beth Tanhoff, Admin.

P. O. Box 674
Soda Springs, CA. 95728
September 22, 2023

Chris Dallas, Central Area Representative
Sierra Nevada Conservancy
11521 Blocker Drive — Suite 205
Auburn, CA 95603

Re: Grant Application #1663

Dear Mr. Dallas:

I am writing to express the Donner Summit Association's support for the Truckee Donner Land Trust's Northwest End Royal Gorge Health and Fire Resilience Project. The proposed project is on an approximately 500 acre piece of the property; it is a critical project for our region.

DSA feels that wildfire fuels reduction work is of utmost importance for the region and is supportive of TDLT's efforts on the Royal Gorge property. Forest restoration and fuels reduction in this area not only helps protect the communities on Donner Summit from the threat of catastrophic wildfire but it also helps protect important habitat and resources such as the headwaters to multiple critical watersheds, including the North Fork of the American River and the South Fork of the Yuba River.

In its current state, this part of the property is severely overstocked with trees, a large percentage of which are standing dead or diseased trees. Removal of these trees will be hugely beneficial in the event of a wildfire in the area.

The Northwest End Royal Gorge Health and Fire Resilience Project will have a direct positive impact on our community; we fully support it.

Sincerely,

Patricia 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.

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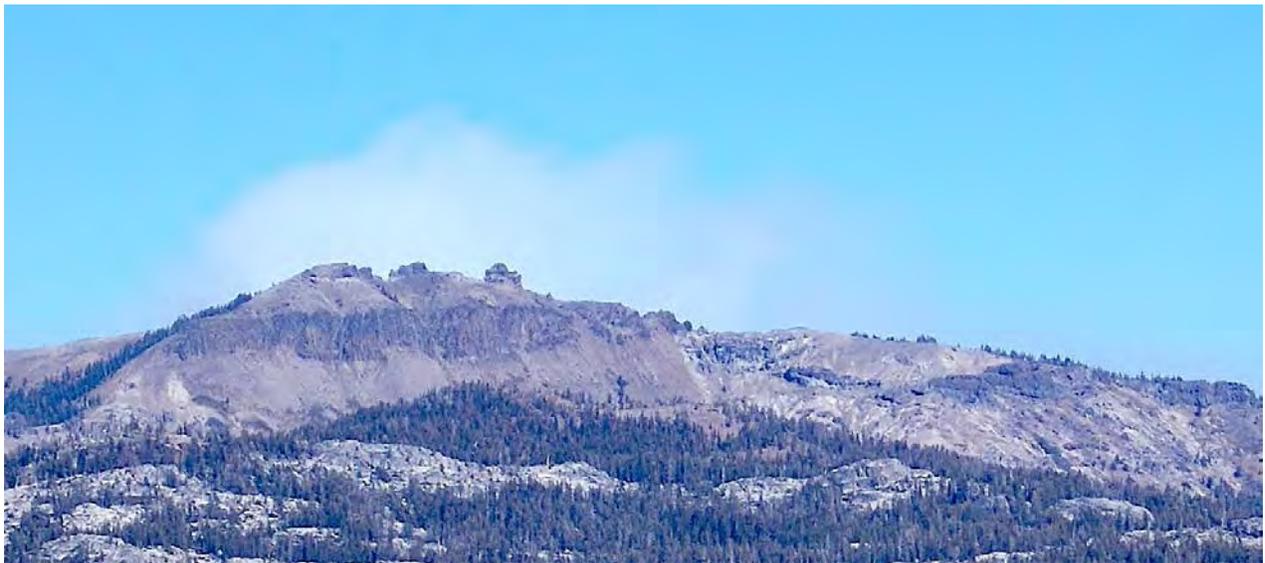
Attachment C — Cyanotoxin Fundraising Request

It is well known that the Donner Summit Area has lost more than its fair share of people to ALS. Two summers ago samples of water were collected from Serene Lakes as part of a study lead by scientist at Dartmouth, University of New Hampshire (UNH) and University of Montreal (UM) connecting ALS with a cyanotoxin BMAA (a neurotoxin) found in blue-green algae. High concentrations of BMAA were found in some areas. This past summer the study was not continued due to lack of funding. When this came to the attention of a couple of local people they came together to see what they could do.

We are in the very preliminary stages. Professor Jim Haney of UNH has said he will direct us as to what he needs us to do. He will also let us know how much money we need to raise. In order to request donations we need a 501 C 3 to receive them and are requesting DSA consider being that organization. We can make a presentation to your board to answer questions. We probably should have some type of a written agreement as well. Someone from DSA could attend our meetings as well.



Donner Summit Association (DSA) Core Action Team Meeting
Thursday, October 19, 2023 5-6 PM
In-person meeting at Soda Springs Mountain Resort



Smoke behind Castle Peak from a prescribed burn near Sagehen Creek, as seen from the Palisades Creek Trail (DSCN5450.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 5:04 PM by Pat Malberg. Zoom host Chris Parker was away, so there was no Zoom connection. John Svahn connected through Pat's iPhone.

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

Others: Steve Carle (SLPOA liaison) and Elan Tanhoff.

2. Approval of the Agenda:

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

3. Approval of Minutes from the September Meeting:

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

4. Financial Report (Tom):

Monthly Report: Tom had distributed a report in advance. October has been busy, but there was little activity during September. DSA received invoices for liability insurance, Xplorit video services, and tax preparation. Tom and Beth are working with Trish of High Sierra Tax Services about getting tax reports in order. There were a couple donations.

Trailhead Ambassador: Pat received a nice note from Allison at Truckee Trails Foundation about the Trailhead Ambassador program, but she is not expecting much activity until 2024.

5. County Reports:

- a. Placer County: Nick Martin e-mailed that there was nothing of importance for DSA from Placer County this month.
- b. Nevada County: There was no report from Nevada County. Erika Seward is on vacation until October 23.

6. Projects

- a. Recreation Master Plan: Dick was going to read Stantec's 'final' version of the RMP; but he has not had time to do anything. John understands that Kevin is signed up to do the same thing, but John has heard nothing. Dana Smariga has identified at least three paths to a final document, depending on the complexity of changes needed. Bill emailed at the end of September that he uses InDesign almost daily and would be willing to make updates. After final edits, the next step is to decide how to distribute the plan – print hard copies and distribute? If so, to whom, how, and when? **Chris was given an action to determine a date when the RMP Committee can meet to decide this next step.**
- b. Hub Status: The shades need to be taken down before snow but after the corners are labeled. **Chris needs to take the lead.** Bill has taken down the bike rack; but a \$40 tool for doing some of the disassembly has gone missing from The Shed. Pat has signed the Placer County contract

extension and sent it back. Reimbursements should start flowing. **Bill will check on payment status and Pat will confirm with the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors that all approvals have been obtained.**

- c. 1882 Foundation: The Foundation had its biweekly Zoom today. Five people participated; Dick was the only non-1882 person in attendance. Most of the discussion was about meetings and negotiations with Union Pacific Railroad to get their support for designation of the Summit area as a National Historic Landmark. John Kusano said one missing piece of the digital kiosk is on the way; but he has not figured out how to obtain the second missing piece. Bill said that one item is out of stock, and he has not been able to determine when it might become available again.
- d. Van Norden Meadow: Kelly Hobstetter has provided a new conceptual diagram for the site (see attachment A). Pat has seen a list of projects funded in Placer County by the Transient Occupancy Tax and she is concerned that we may not be able to submit our TOT applications or that TOT funds may have run out. Bill said Placer County officials will be meeting next week to decide on a schedule for the next grant cycle. Alecia Weisman has suggested a meeting of proponents during the week of October 30; those present agreed that either October 30 or 31 would be acceptable. **Pat will follow-up with Alecia on scheduling.**
- e. Gould Park: Pat has talked to Bob Gilliom and Patty Schifferle about DSA's thoughts regarding an upgrade of visitor facilities. A meeting in Auburn has been scheduled for Thursday, October 26 (3-4 PM). Dick has another Zoom starting at 4 PM; but he could take that on his phone if the Gould Park meeting ends in time. John said the original Park project was guided by the Placer Land Trust, where Bob Gilliom is still active. **John or Pat will contact PLT about our plans.**
- f. Summit Fest: Beth said that the event was successful, but she was disappointed in the turnout (95 adult tickets plus 9 child tickets). Net income was \$5341.84 (see below). Sponsors included Soda Springs Mountain Resort, Jaborski Construction, JK Architecture and Engineering (JKAE), Loomis Basin Brewing, Lagunitas/Leon Sharyon, Sugar Bowl, Truckee Donner Land Trust, Gateway Mountain Center, Boreal Corporation, Auburn Ski Club, Donner Ski Ranch, and Nancy O Gallery and Glass. Nearly 30 volunteers supported the event. Finances are summarized in the tables below:

Expenses:	Amount:
Band	600.00
Food	2330.52
Fees	140.65
Total:	3071.17

Revenue Sources:	Amount:	Count:
In-Person Ticket Sales (gross)	1146.00	
Eventbrite Ticket Sales (net)	734.01	
Beer/Wine Tickets	760.00	152
Other Drink Tickets	66.00	33
Swag	577.00	28
Auction	3220.00	10
Jaborski Sponsor	1000.00	
JKAE Sponsor	500.00	
Other Donations	410.00	
TOTAL	8413.01	

Catering was based on 300 attendees, which was the actual number last year. Beth, Tom, Mike, and others are disposing of surplus consumables. Most surplus food was donated to Donner Trail Elementary School.

Dick thought that attendance might have been higher if there had been more advance publicity; he did not have anything more than the date for the DSA News web page until about a week beforehand. There were competing events at Soda Springs General Store (overlapping in time) and Rainbow Lodge (immediately after).

Much of the planning fell to Beth, who was out of the country until early October. There was general agreement that a committee should oversee the event next year so the workload can be spread around. It was also agreed that the 2024 date should be chosen soon to minimize conflicts. It should be a 'generic' date, repeated in future years. The third weekend in September was floated; **this will be revisited at the November DSA Board meeting**. Mike said that Soda Springs should be available in future years; this year was not a problem except that staff did not have clear instructions on when the event would begin and end.

7. New Business

- a. Cyanobacteria: In September Tamara Lieberman had asked whether DSA could handle contributions to a research project on possible cyanobacteria contamination of Summit water supplies — specifically at Serene Lakes (see Section 7 of the September minutes). Dick asked the Sierra Lakes County Water District and was told that California has no requirements for cyanobacteria testing; but there are no prohibitions on collecting samples and testing by individuals or organizations. SLWCD is confident, in the absence of conflicting evidence, that its treatments are adequate to protect its customers. Bill noted that there is no scientific evidence of harm from cyanobacteria in treated water. Dick's conclusion from reading the original request is that Ms. Lieberman and her colleagues simply want DSA to pass contributions to a professor at the University of New

Hampshire so that donors can get a tax deduction because of DSA's 501(c)(3) status. He sees no benefit to DSA and some administrative burden since DSA will have to track the donations and document that UNH uses the funds in a way that is consistent with 501(c)(3) requirements. He is puzzled that the Lieberman group cannot obtain tax deductions by giving directly to UNH. No one spoke in favor of accepting Ms. Lieberman's request; there was no formal vote on the request, but there was consensus not to consider it further.

- b. Donner Summit Firewise: Dick said that he has been volunteering recently with the SLPOA Safety Committee (SLPOA-SC), which addresses both propane and wildfire safety issues. SLPOA-SC has recently completed a pilot project using volunteers to evaluate defensible space risks at a few hundred properties in Serene Lakes. In 2024 the Truckee Fire Protection District (TFPD) will use professionals to evaluate risks at *all* properties in Serene Lakes. Those results will be folded into a community assessment of fire risks in Serene Lakes. The report will be input to Firewise USA, which will decide whether TFPD (and, specifically, Serene Lakes) qualifies as a Firewise Community, which may have insurance and other ramifications. Professional assessments are being carried out so that each neighborhood within TFPD is evaluated every three years on a rotating basis.

A second component of Firewise certification is compilation of an 'action plan' by a local committee, which identifies problem areas that can be improved and sets out a checklist for achieving improvement. The action plan must be updated annually. Dick said that there are now several active Firewise communities within TFPD but that the area roughly including Norden, Soda Springs, and Kingvale (NSSK) is not covered (see Attachment B). He suggested that trying to establish one could be a worthwhile objective for DSA. He also said that encouraging a few homeowners or businesses in NSSK to "grow their own" Firewise community would be most effective. There was general support for this proposal and a few names were tossed around; but no specific action was taken.

8. Announcements

Beth said that Donner Trail Elementary will be holding its annual Thanksgiving fundraising dinner on Saturday, November 11, from 5:30 to 8 PM. Adult tickets are \$25 and kid tickets are \$15. There will be an auction for high value items. Elan is selling raffle tickets for \$1 each; a raffle ticket will be drawn every minute during the event. For more information, visit <https://event.auctria.com/f24713c0-170d-49ce-8346-17d94b439986/>

9. Internal Matters

- a. November Meeting: Pat expects there will be a Placer County Municipal Advisory Committee meeting on the third Thursday in November. There was consensus to meet on that date, but at 4-5 PM if the MAC meeting is confirmed. **Mike will check whether we can meet in Boreal's new conference room, in which case we might be able to get a tour of Boreal by starting at 3:30 PM.**
- b. December Meeting: The December meeting has often been transformed to a combination business/social event. The third Thursday in December is very close to Christmas, and Beth will be unavailable on the second Thursday. The holiday 'meeting' was tentatively scheduled for December 7 at Nancy O Gallery and Glass.

10. Adjournment:

There being no other business, Pat adjourned the meeting at 6:10 PM.

Minutes approved by the DSA Board of Directors at its meeting on November 16, 2023.

signed by DSA Secretary, Richard Simpson, _____



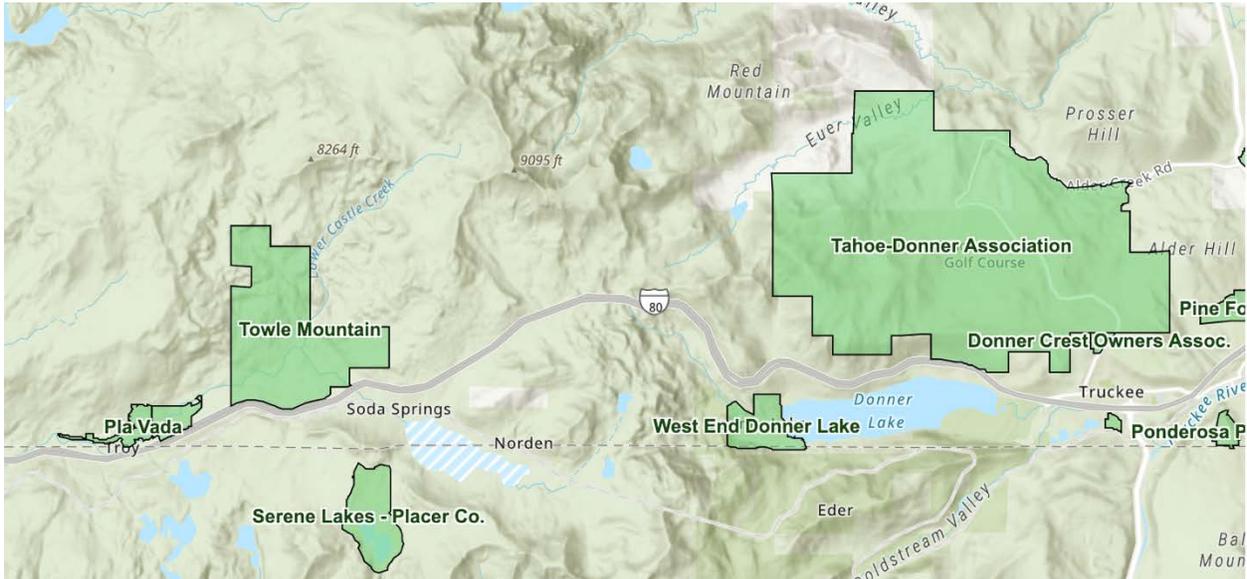
Long Lake (DSCN5452.JPG)

Attachment A – Van Norden West Visitor Site (Revised)



Attachment B

Firewise Communities within Truckee Fire Protection District (central)



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

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Donner Summit Association (DSA) Core Action Team Meeting Thursday, November 16, 2023 5-6 PM In-person meeting at Boreal/Woodward



Lamson-Cashion Trail and History Hub (DSCN5534.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: Tom Denzler, Pat Malberg, Bill Oudegeest, Chris Parker, Dick Simpson, Mike Spain, and Beth Tanhoff.

Others: Kristi Paterson, Julie Brannigan (representing SLPOA, by phone)

2. **Approval of the Agenda:**

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

3. Approval of Minutes from the October Meeting:

MSC (Dick, Tom) to approve the October meeting minutes. Chris abstained.

4. Financial Report (Tom):

Monthly Report: Tom had distributed a report in advance. There was income of about \$5K each from Truckee Donner Land Trust (for the Logan Vadasz bench and its maintenance) and from the SummitFest community event. Expenses were about \$3400, most of which were SummitFest expenses. A \$55K reimbursement was received from Placer County early this month; it will appear in next month's report.

Documents: The California Registry of Charitable Trusts requested missing documents. Exactly what was missing was not entirely clear; but Tom returned a collection of documents that should meet their concerns.

Merchandise: Beth contacted Mitzi, who has been handling printing; Mitzi will provide what is needed. **Beth will look into remitting sales tax.**

5. County Reports:

- a. Placer County: Nick Martin e-mailed new parking rules from Placer County Board of Supervisors. Ordinances have changed, strengthening parking regulations in snow country and on private property. Illegal parking fines in snow country have been raised from \$50 to \$150; and there are now enhancements for repeated violations, which could include successive days.
- b. Nevada County: Pat said the Recreation Coalition meets every six months — next on December 7, which is the date of DSA's holiday social event (see below). **She will try to determine whether there is anything of special importance to DSA on the agenda.** Supervisor Bullock is scheduling meetings to see how the County can support civic organizations. **Pat will try to set up something — possibly in January.** One potential topic for discussion is the County Recreation Resiliency Plan and whether DSA can contribute more to it.

6. Projects

- a. Recreation Master Plan: Chris has not had time to edit; but Dick stepped in and has completed his review, which is a marked up copy with suggested edits. Dick said he could edit the PDF, but Bill recommended editing the InDesign document if we can get a copy from Stantec. Bill uses InDesign regularly, but he doesn't want to edit at the level Dick did.

Beth will look into obtaining a license for InDesgn, then do the edits (she has previous experience). Chris has asked Stantec for the RMP InDesign files.

Dick said he obtained informal quotes for printing the plan — FedEx Office in Palo would print and bind them for \$103 per copy. The Boss Office in Truckee would do the same for \$85/copy (both plus tax). There was discussion about how many copies should be printed, and ten seemed like a reasonable number. They could be presented to government officials, non-profits, and others.

MSC-U (Tom / Dick) to authorize printing 10 copies at up to \$100 each.

- b. Hub Status: Shade sails were taken down a couple weeks ago. Bill said he plans to be present when they are re-installed next year, using the labeling codes that were added before they were taken down. He asked whether Sugar Bowl can provide the labor needed in 2024. Chris suggested that Bill discuss this with Bridget Legnavsky at a Donner Summit Historical Society event this weekend.
- c. 1882 Foundation: The Foundation had its biweekly Zoom today. Bill and Pat said there was little new. The Foundation is talking about an interpretive center at the entrance to Tunnel 6. Greg Murtha said the 360 degree video would be coming 3 weeks ago; but Bill has seen nothing yet.

On a separate (but related) topic, Pat said there is interest in a benefit concert at Tunnel 6. Funds could be applied to graffiti abatement, recognition of Chinese laborers, and other causes. Kristi Paterson has a contact who might be willing to help if it is low profile. **Pat will discuss this with others over lunch tomorrow.** Bill said a performance on China Wall might be even better than in the tunnel; but this gets away from the “low profile” concept.

- d. Van Norden Meadow: Several people, including Alecia Weisman (South Yuba River Citizens League), had a virtual meeting on October 31 to discuss moving forward with the recreation component of the Van Norden Meadow project. There was consensus that SYRCL should take the lead in seeking design funding because they are already deeply involved in Van Norden Meadow and have negotiated good working relationships with the Forest Service. The Placer County TOT Grant window opens in December and closes January 10. DSA can be expected to assist, but SYRCL will submit.
- e. Gould Park: Pat met Bob Gilliom and his second wife about possible upgrades at Gould Park; both were very enthusiastic, but they don't like having a bridge spanning the river because it would interfere with the

historic view of the river. There have been conversations since with Jeff Darlington, president of the Placer Land Trust, and Loren Clark, now retired from Placer County but who was centrally involved in 2008 with establishment of the park. Both are very enthusiastic.

Pat hopes to add contacts with Loren Clark and Jim Gould in the near future. Pat will seek an estimate for the cost of a design study from Kelly Hobstetter; then the proposal can be drafted and submitted for Placer County TOT funding.



South Yuba River viewed upstream from near the proposed bridge (DSCN3199.JPG)

- f. Summit Fest 2024: At its October meeting DSA agreed that setting a date for the 2024 event now would simplify planning next year. After discussion it was decided to go with September 21. Tom said there is a major event the following week at Palisades Tahoe. Beth will be out of the country September 11-15. We need to distribute responsibilities in 2024 so that less depends on having Beth on site leading up to the event.

7. New Business

- a. DPR Parking: Dick said that he had received a request from Topher Marlatt at Clair Tappaan Lodge for help negotiating with Nevada County about an encroachment permit the County had requested from the Lodge. This apparently followed from some damage to vehicles in the CTL parking lot during snow removal last winter. Dick was not able to find anyone else along Donner Pass Road (DPR) who had been asked for an encroachment permit, and Topher has since dialed back his own concern a bit. For now it appears that DSA can keep its ears open until both the problem and the County's proposed solutions are more clear.
- b. TART: Topher also asked for TART contact information. Apparently TART is providing "on demand" service to Tahoe Donner, and Topher would like to see something similar for Donner Summit. Chris suggested

that Topher contact TNT-TMA (Truckee-North-Tahoe Transportation Management Agency). He said Sugar Bowl is expanding its shuttle service along DPR to Donner Summit Lodge near I-80. Several thought ski areas might be willing to support TART service; but scheduled bus service between Truckee and the Summit several years ago was not cost effective.

8. Announcements

Chris is meeting with Truckee Donner Land Trust and parks people about trails — specifically the Memorial Overland Emigrant Trail and the Donner Lake Rim Trail. He thinks progress is being made on both and that approved routes through and around Sugar Bowl are not far off. When asked, he said that a more comprehensive update to the DSA Board might be possible in 60 days, or at the March ‘tune up’ meeting.

Julie said that SLPOA is hosting a Zoom presentation on November 28 about otters.

9. Internal Matters

a. December Meeting: The December meeting will be (mostly) a social event on December 7 starting at 5 PM. Nancy O’s Gallery and Glass will host. **It could be open to the Summit community, in which case advance registrations would be required for logistical planning. If by invitation only, we need to decide who to invite.**

b. January Meeting: The January meeting is tentatively scheduled for January 19.

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 December 7, 2023.

signed by DSA Secretary, Richard Simpson, _____



Donner Summit Association (DSA) Core Action Team Meeting
Thursday, December 7, 2023 5-6 PM
In-person meeting at Nancy O Gallery and Glass



Tom Denzler at the DSA holiday party, which followed the business meeting
(DSCN608.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 5:07 PM by Pat Malberg.

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

Others: Steve Carle (SLPOA); Ann Reisenauer; Tom's wife, Erlinda; and Steve's cousin, Nathan Williams.

2. Approval of the Agenda:

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

3. Approval of Minutes from the November Meeting:

MSC (Dick, Tom) to approve the November meeting minutes. John abstained since he didn't attend the meeting.

4. Financial Report (Tom):

Monthly Report: Tom had distributed a report in advance. There was income of \$55K from Placer County, which brings us up to date on those reimbursements. DSA now has \$186K in checking and savings. There were minor expenses for web services; all agreed that these were very reasonable. Dick and Pat complimented Jeannie Smith for her excellent help maintaining the web site.

5. County Reports:

- a. Nevada County: Kimberly Parker told Chris that Nevada County just approved \$20K to promote Donner Summit. Ms. Parker wants to discuss possibilities. **Chris will put her in touch with Dick.**

Erika Seward wants to have a meeting next week regarding recommendations for Donner Summit in the draft Nevada County Recreation Resiliency Plan. The recommendations will be presented to the Board of Supervisors in January. Bill was not on the invitation list, but Pat asked him to participate. Chris can only meet Tuesday; he has some other names that might be useful to include.

6. Projects

- a. Recreation Master Plan: The RMP is in the hands of Stantec with Dick's final edits. It is not clear what Stantec's schedule is. At the November meeting it appeared that Beth would do the edits; but Stantec offered to complete the work by November 29 at no additional charge to DSA (without fully understanding the scope of the edits).
- b. Hub Status: The Hub is dormant for the winter.
- c. 1882 Foundation: The Foundation has decided to switch to monthly (rather than the current biweekly) meetings. Most activity is in either Washington, DC, or in the rural Chinatown project.

- d. Gould Park: The rules for requesting TOT funding were supposed to be posted on December 6, but Bill has found nothing on the web site and Placer County staff are not answering their phones. The deadline for submitting applications is believed to be January 10. DSA will request letters of support from Placer Land Trust, Truckee Donner Land Trust, USFS, Sugar Bowl, South Yuba River Citizens League, Placer County Parks, Ralph Gibson, and Bob Gilliom. John suggested including the Nisenan Tribe. **He offered to solicit the letters of support**, working through the Placer Land Trust in the case of the Nisenan.

Kelly Hobstetter has provided a new conceptual sketch of the Gould Park site; it shows the bridge linking the two sides of the river (see Attachment A). Others have agreed with Bob Gilliom that the bridge should not infringe on the view of the river from the “artist’s deck”. Pat thinks Bob might be agreeable to the bridge if it were far enough upstream so as not to interfere with the view from the artist’s platform at the corner.

7. New Business

- a. Boreal Donation: Pat received an e-mail referencing a donation to DSA from the Boreal Ridge Corporation; but no one in the meeting was aware of such a contribution, and Tom said he has seen nothing in his financial work.
- b. Truckee Winter Carnival: Bill noted that the Museum of Truckee History is reviving the Truckee Winter Carnival, scheduled for February 2-4. The event is free and family-friendly. It will include snow person making, ice skating, and historical presentations. For more information, see <https://museumoftruckeehistory.org/events-and-articles>. This appears to need no special involvement from DSA.
- c. National Railway Historical Society: There was a recommendation from a recent NRHS convention in Reno that a plaque be installed at Donner Summit commemorating its role in the Transcontinental Railroad. Bill is not sure where such a plaque would go and how it would be funded since UPRR seems uninterested.
- d. Wood Energy: Chris mentioned that Sugar Bowl is exploring the possibilities of setting up a plant that would convert biomass into energy —as either heat or electricity. If the latter, the plant size would be on the order of 1 MW. Northstar is already well along in planning a 2 MW facility. Fuel would come from Cabin Creek green waste or from locally harvested trees which are currently being sent to disposal sites. The next step is a feasibility study; Sugar Bowl may request a letter of support from DSA when it seeks grant funding for the study. There could be a

connection between this effort and Nevada County's Recreation Resiliency Plan.

8. Announcements

Mandy Stewart invited DSA to meet with Nevada County Supervisor Hardy Bullock either at a place of DSA's choosing or at Bullock's office. Pat replied that he could join us when we meet on third Thursdays, or we could go to meet him somewhere. March looks great for Bullock; could we selectively share our Tune-up meeting with him? Chris thinks we could do this at Sugar Bowl (near the swimming pool) on March 21. If we started our Tune-up at 4 PM, Supervisor Bullock could join at 6 PM when we were summarizing and wrapping up.

The origin of the fanciful names and fascinating history is the subject of "States: The Places We Run", a new Western States Trail name-book by Tevis Cup Rider Hal Hall and Western States Runners Tim Twietmeyer and Bob Crowley. The authors have invited us to preview their STATES e-book link at and step into the rich history of the Western States Trail. Then on February 9th from 7:00 to 9:00 PM, at the General Gomez Art Center, 808 Lincoln Way, Auburn, the authors will host a multimedia presentation, a book signing table, and a raffle. For more information, call 530-537-2241 or email info@PARC-Auburn.org (<https://historyexp.org/states/>).

9. Internal Matters

a. Future Meetings: Pat distributed a proposed schedule for 2024. Dates are:

January 18	May 16	September 19
February 15	June 20	October 17
March 21	July 18	November 21
April 18	August 15	December 19

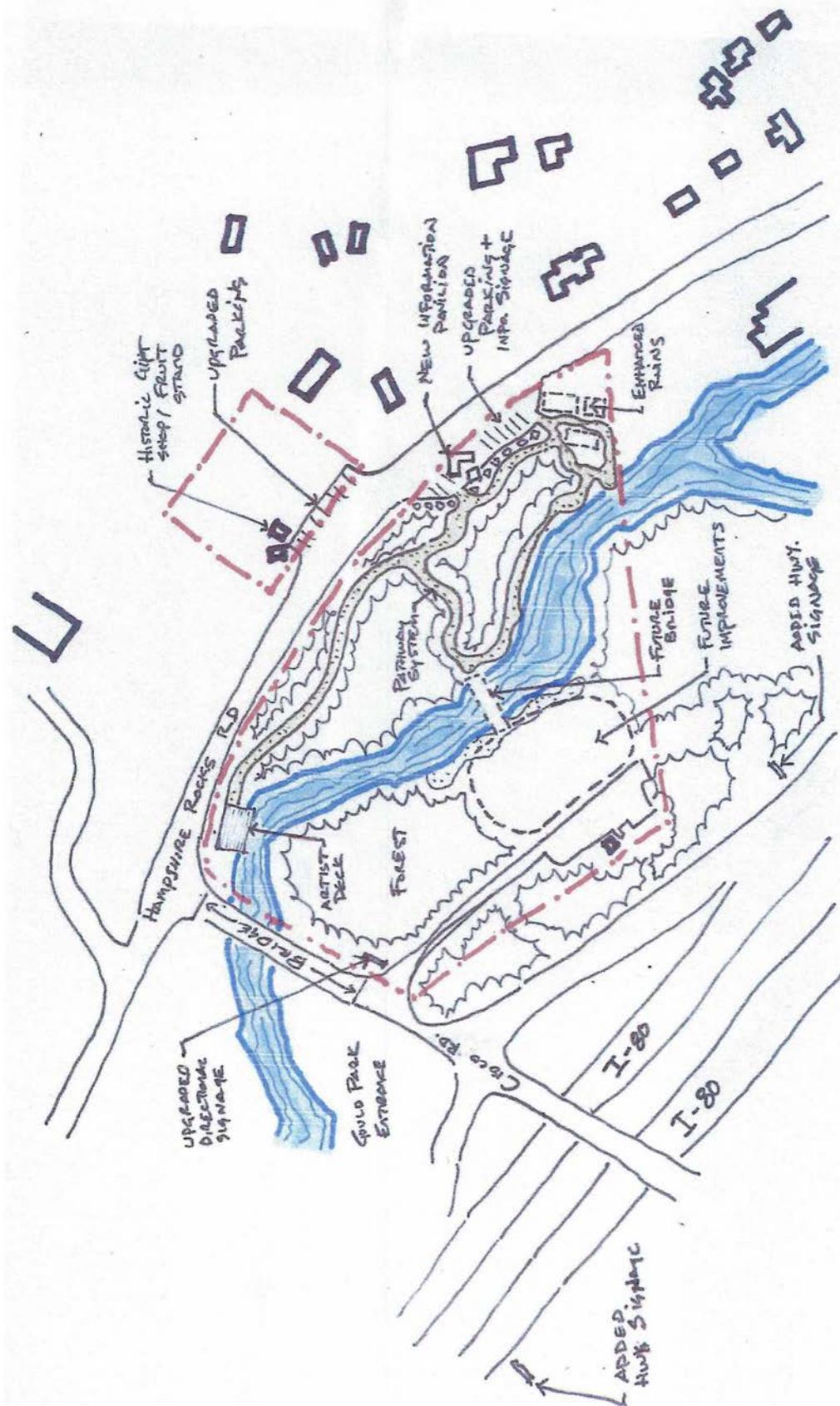
10. Adjournment:

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

Minutes approved by the DSA Board of Directors at its meeting on January 18, 2024.

signed by DSA Secretary, Richard Simpson, _____

Attachment A



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

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A 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization