



Donner Summit Association (DSA) Core Action Team Meeting

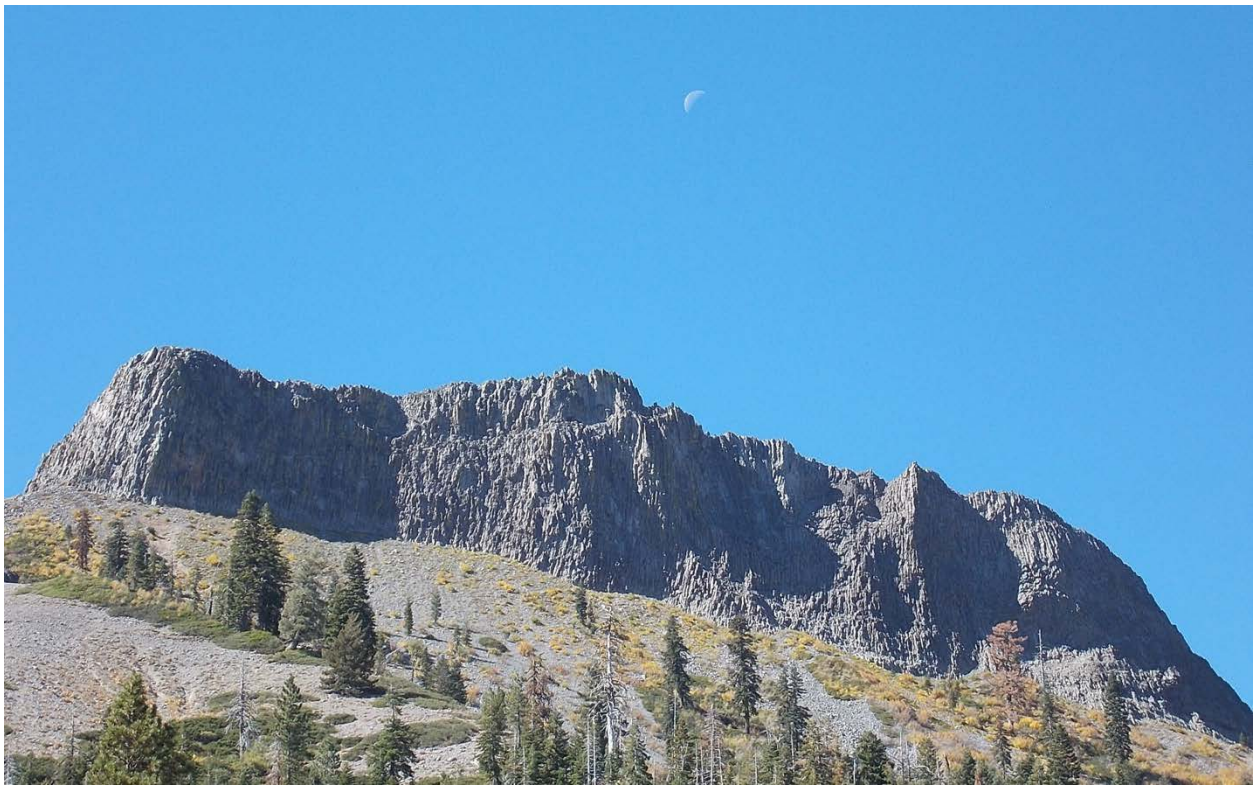
2024 Year in Review

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Donner Summit Association (DSA) Core Action Team Meeting
Thursday, January 18, 2024 5-6 PM
In-person meeting at Nancy O Gallery and Glass



Crescent Moon over Devil's Peak (October 2023; DSCN5448.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 (by phone), Pat Malberg, Bill Oudegeest, Dick Simpson, John Svahn (by phone), and Beth Tanhoff.

Others: Stouffer Egan (local homeowner) and Nick Martin (Placer County)

2. Approval of the 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 (Mike, Bill) to approve the December meeting minutes.

4. Financial Report (Tom):

Monthly Report: Tom had distributed a report in advance. The highlight was clearing a possible penalty for late filing with IRS; everything is now on track and there is no penalty. We had a liability insurance payment; total annual insurance cost is about \$2300. There were two donations in December.

5. County Reports:

- a. Nevada County: There was no County report, and no one in attendance had anything to add.
- b. Placer County: Nick said the Placer County Board of Supervisors (BoS) usually meets twice monthly; but there may be special meetings in addition. The Board likes to hold one meeting each quarter in Tahoe; the next will be February 27 when the agenda will likely emphasize east county issues.

The February 27 agenda is still being prepared. Nick expects there will be Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT) reports from previously selected grant recipients. Short Term Rental (STR) ordinance amendments will be considered, and final touches will be added to a new STR advisory group which will monitor implementation of the STR rules. The STR cap has not been reached; about 3900 permits are available, but only about 90% have been claimed so far. An Olympic (winter sports) museum has been proposed; Placer County is a partner in the project, which is reaching final stages of planning.

The District 5 seat on the BoS is up for election in November 2024. There are five candidates, including current District 5 Supervisor Cindy Gustafson and current District 3 Supervisor Jim Holmes, who has been moved into District 5 by redistricting. County staff have to remain neutral, but Nick and his colleagues are trying to keep ongoing District 5 projects out of the fray.

Lindsay Romack, who has had positive interactions with DSA in the past, is being promoted into a new community engagement position.

6. Projects

- a. Recreation Master Plan: At its November meeting, the DSA Board agreed that Chris would obtain the RMP InDesign files from Stantec and that Beth would complete the final edits. On November 21 Dana Smariga (working for Chris) reported that Stantec had offered to do the edits at no additional cost and would complete the work by the end of the month. After Dick delivered the final edits to Stantec, there was a long pause until early January when Kate Gray said Stantec had not been anticipating another round of edits and that they would develop a plan and finalize the document by the end of the month. Dick has since tried to contact Kate; but she is on vacation through January 22.

After discussion, the Board agreed that **Dick would contact Kate after she returns from vacation and request Stantec's plan for completion.** Nick added that Placer County, which funded the RMP, is actively interested in seeing the completed document.

- b. Hub Status: The Hub is dormant for the winter. The only open issue is whether Sugar Bowl will put up and take down the shade sails each year.
- c. 1882 Foundation: Bill participated in the most recent Foundation Zoom meeting; he reported that there is nothing new for DSA. There have been recent articles about the Foundation's work in local papers, emphasizing concerns about graffiti on the tunnels and snowsheds (<https://www.sierrasun.com/news/the-push-for-a-national-landmark-at-donner-pass/>).
- d. West Van Norden Meadow: Dick said that Alecia Weisman requested a letter of support (LoS) for a South Yuba River Citizens League grant from Placer County's TOT program. DSA and SYRCL have discussed the project several times, agreeing that SYRCL should take the lead. Time was short; so he composed the LoS following a suggested draft from Alecia, and Pat signed and delivered it in time for the SYRCL submission.

John was asked about the transfer of Van Norden Dam to USFS; he said June 2024 is now the target. Nick noted that most of the area in the SYRCL proposal seems to be in Nevada County; he warned that the request may be denied on those grounds. Mike said that property lines may not be what they seem. He has been trying to determine where property lines lie along the top of Soda Springs Ridge where there is interest in installing a wildfire detection camera. Map discrepancies of 150-200 yards (mostly east-west) are being discovered.

- e. Gould Park: DSA was going to apply for a Placer County TOT grant to upgrade Gould Park; but it turns out that Gould Park is not within the TOT district, so the project would not be eligible for funding. Andy Fisher (Placer County Parks) has offered help in finding another funding source. \$89K is available from the Placer County general fund; that amount would be ideal for a grant match — if we can find a grant. Pat said Andy's vision of the upgrade and ours are very well aligned. Pat suggested paving the proposed parking area opposite the old gift shop and adding a historic kiosk as an interim improvement. The paving could be done as part of regular Placer County maintenance of the adjacent roadway. If Placer County could follow through on its planned vegetation reduction within the park area, that would be another enhancement at no cost to DSA. **Pat will contact Andy**, who has expressed an interest in attending our next meeting. **Bill will provide a photo of the information kiosk at the base of Donner Summit Canyon**. We could probably also add the bicycle repair station at less than \$3K. **John offered to help**.

7. Computer/Web Site

- a. Old Meeting Minutes: Minutes from past DSA Board meetings have been reorganized into annual files — see, for example, all minutes from 2021 at <https://static1.squarespace.com/static/58c72349be659492dac6334c/t/6597632ae998b8660f4e159b/1704420148455/2021.pdf> Jeannie Smith has provided a table of contents for each year so that records of specific meetings can be located quickly. Aggregation into annual files makes searching for subject matter faster if the time of a discussion is known only approximately.
- b. Web Site Upgrade: Nevada County has provided \$20K to promote Donner Summit through DSA's website and social media. Alex Silgalis, who already does web site work at <https://gonevadacounty.com>, is under contract to create new and upgraded content. He is working with Dick, Beth, and Jeannie Smith and has already constructed a new web page

“Winter Fun” and drafted a second on the “20 Mile Outdoor Museum”. Alex and Dick agree that the new material must be maintained by DSA starting in July for the effort to have long-term value. Bill said he has not been able to access material on Google Docs; **Dick will resend his edited version of the 20 Mile Outdoor Museum text to him.**

8. New Business

Possible 2024 Fundraiser: Pat has no specific news on the possible fundraiser. Her friend Kristi Paterson, who attended the November Board meeting, might be able to organize a musical event which would include a ‘celebrity’, if available. Stouffer said there is a new owner at Sugar Bowl — a musician — who might be available as a backup if the targeted celebrity should be waylaid. He said the music group Dark and Stormy is very popular with the Sugar Bowl crowd and at least two of their members have local roots; they might be a draw on their own. **Beth and Stouffer agreed to look into possibilities.**

9. Announcements

Bill said that the Truckee Winter Carnival, which started in the 1800s, is being revived. It will be held February 2-4. They need volunteers. For more information, go to <https://tdrpd.org/318/Truckee-Winter-Carnival>

10. Internal Matters

Future Meetings: The next DSA Board meeting is scheduled for February 15. DSA’s annual ‘tune-up’ is scheduled for March 21 (4-6 PM). **Pat will invite Nevada County Supervisor Hardy Bullock for 5-6 PM**, when we will discuss County relations and our future plans. Chris had offered to provide a venue at Sugar Bowl; **Dick will remind Chris.**

11. Adjournment:

There being no other business, Pat adjourned the meeting at 6:20 PM.

Minutes approved by the DSA Board of Directors at its meeting on February 15, 2024.

signed by DSA Secretary, Richard Simpson, _____



Donner Summit Association (DSA) Core Action Team Meeting
Thursday, February 15, 2024 5-6 PM
In-person meeting at Soda Springs Mountain Resort



Sugar Bowl from Van Norden Meadow (DSCN5834.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 5:00 PM by Pat Malberg. John Svahn had set up a Google Meet connection for several people who expected not to be attending in person.

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

Others: Stouffer Egan (local homeowner) and Ted Rel (Placer County Parks)

2. Approval of the Agenda:

Alisa Adriani had requested a letter of support for a forestry grant proposal earlier in the day.

Bill moved and Tom seconded approval of the agenda with addition of Alisa's request under New Business. 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.

4. Financial Report (Tom):

Monthly Report: Tom had distributed a report before the meeting; it included summary information for the most recent quarter. He said there had been little financial activity in the past month; there were a few web expenses, and he had booked a donation from Boreal Ridge Corporation in December, when the check was dated. For the year so far, there has been about \$88K in income (including \$70K in reimbursements from grants) and about \$9K in expenses (including insurance and fundraising). Pat asked whether this meant DSA has about \$186K on hand; Tom confirmed that figure, noting that \$100K is earmarked for Hub maintenance.

5. County Reports:

- a. Nevada County: No one representing Nevada County was present, and no one else had any new information.
- b. Placer County: Nick Martin had e-mailed that he would be unable to make this meeting; but both he and Lindsay Romack plan to attend in March.

6. Projects

- a. Recreation Master Plan: Stantec delivered its final version of the RMP in early February via a limited access on-line folder to Dick, Pat, John, Chris, Dana Smariga, and Kevin Starr. It is unknown how many actually downloaded the files, but Dick has both the PDF and the InDesign files. **He will make sure that Beth gets copies and arrange with Jeannie to put the PDF on the DSA web site.** There was consensus to carry out the plan to print 10 copies that was approved in November.
- b. 1882 Foundation: Bill said there is nothing new.
- c. Gould Park: Ted Rel said Placer County Parks received \$92K for upgrades to the Cisco Grove property from the Placer County CEO a few years ago. Ted has not had staff since the County's master plan was approved last year; so the money has remained unspent. Parks has developed some

ideas in the meantime such as improving the appearance of the stone houses and upgrading the historical signage. He feels the younger generation does not like static displays, so he is thinking about exploiting new technology which can deliver stories to visitors equipped with the right apps.

Ted's department has access to design consultants who could come up with plans that could be presented to the Board of Supervisors for approval. \$92K does not go far in construction; but it could jump-start design, get a few displays in place, and serve as matching funds if a larger grant becomes available. Pat added that DSA has some funds that could be applied. Bill said that DSA has already gone through design steps at The Hub and that the same designs could be used at Gould Park (with different content).

Ted admitted that he has not been to The Hub, though he has driven past and knows where it is. Bill explained what he would find if he stopped — a railroad theme, kiosks with information, and a bike repair station. There are similar signs at the Donner Summit Canyon trailhead near the bottom on the east side.

Another idea that has gained some traction with the County is a platform memorializing Bob Gilliom's first wife, who enjoyed painting at the site. Pat asked whether the platform would require CEQA; Ted replied that a platform within the right-of-way would not. Ted is working on a project in Martis Valley which requires both NEPA and CEQA; there will be an interpretive kiosk for the Washoe people.

Pat and Bill mentioned adding a bicycle repair station at Gould Park; Ted agreed that it was a good location and should not be expensive. Placer County has already seen the benefit of adding bicycle repair stations in other locations.

All agreed that a properly located bridge connecting the north and south parts of Gould Park is an aspirational goal but that designing, funding, and building it would be next to impossible.

Adding signs on the interstate encouraging visitors to check out Gould Park and the 20-Mile Museum would be almost as difficult because most of Ted's contacts in CalTrans have retired. Bill countered that this would be a good time to make new friends.

Ted began to wrap up the discussion by saying that he thinks he can get the fuels management task done on the north side of Gould Park this year

and that he would like to have a set of plans that he can take to the Board of Supervisors. The conceptual drawings by Kelly Hobstetter could be given to Parks' consultants, and Bill mentioned he has a historic map that might be useful. There is already a 20-Mile Museum sign at the historic Forest Gift Shop, and some of the other improvements could be done at relatively little cost.



Remains of the Forest Gift Shop in Gould Park (DSCN2844.JPG).

7. Computer/Web Site

- a. New Logo: Dick said that, in the course of updating the DSA web site (below), Jeannie Smith has regenerated DSA's two logos into files that are easier to port.
- b. Web Site Upgrade: The web site upgrade itself is moving along very well. Nevada County is funding Alex Silgalis to do the work, which is part of a larger effort to encourage visitors to check out businesses and amenities at the Summit and will be completed by the end of June. Alex has been very creative in designing new pages and writing new articles; he and Jeannie (being paid by DSA) have been working well on implementation, while Dick provides content review and editing. Dick invited Board members to look at the new Winter Fun page and links under the Adventures tab on the home page. Pat said that our web upgrades were mentioned at a recent Nevada County Convene, Champion, and Catalyze meeting. Stouffer asked whether anyone is looking at search efficiency

optimization (SEO); Dick said Alex is aware of SEO but that the immediate focus is on improving content.

8. New Business

- a. AT&T Letter of Concern: With the agenda Dick had included a draft letter to the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) about AT&T's request to be relieved of its obligation to provide Carrier of Last Resort (COLR) landline service to customers throughout the state. Although we do not know how many people on the Summit would be affected if AT&T dropped this basic landline service, there are likely to be some; and some people who have Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) telephone service as part of a data/voice package may lose service if AT&T takes the next step of dropping all wired service, which they deny is part of the current application but is mentioned as a possible future step.

*MSC-U (Bill/ Beth) that **Dick craft an improved letter similar to his draft for submission to CPUC.***

- b. Forestry Grant Letter of Support: Alisa Adriani inherited property in the Devil's Peak area when her father passed away. She applied for a grant two years ago to do fuels reduction on part of the property; DSA submitted a letter of support (LoS), but that request was unsuccessful. She has learned of a new funding opportunity through the Tahoe Truckee Community Foundation. The source money comes from CalFire; the deadline for requests is February 20. She has asked for another letter of support.

There was consensus that a healthy forest is good for everyone and that fuels reduction can be an important component of good management. But discussion veered off into other areas — (1) whether a proposal several years ago by the property owner to swap U.S. Forest Service land for an easement on her property allowing hikers to access Devil's Peak was still active; (2) whether the LoS should be contingent on more public access to the property, including on a proposed rebuilt road; and (3) whether complaints about trash, trespassing, and damage on the property were valid. Bill noted that Alisa's father had done a "beautiful job" in a previous forestry project; and **Dick offered to ask for an update on the questions that had been raised.** John said the property in question is definitely in the wind-fetch for Serene Lakes.

MSC-U (Bill/Dick) to send the requested letter of support for Alisa Adriani's forestry grant request.

Dick will draft the letter, circulate it to Board members, and get the signed version to Alisa in time for her submission.

9. Announcements

Pat had four announcements: (1) DSA received a donation from one of Pat's Lake Mary neighbors, (2) Alecia Weisman is making her TOT presentation for Van Norden West funding this evening, (3) a plaque is being prepared for installation at The Shaft, and (4) there is an emergency preparedness forum in Nevada City on February 29.

10. Internal Matters

Future Meetings: There has been confusion about when the next meeting would be held. It was planned as DSA's annual review and tune-up. The regular meeting date would have been the third Thursday in March; but Chris will be away and has reserved Sugar Bowl's SportHaus for March 14 (4-6 PM). Pat had invited Supervisor Hardy Bullock for the second hour on March 21, then changed the invitation to March 14. Most Board members can make the earlier date. For now, we will continue to plan the meeting for March 14.

Pat has no plans for the tune-up itself; and she has not talked to Chris about what he is planning for tune-up content.

The following meeting will be April 18 at Soda Springs Mountain Resort.

11. Adjournment:

There being no other business, Pat adjourned the meeting at 6:04 PM.

Minutes approved by the DSA Board of Directors at its meeting on March 14, 2024.

signed by DSA Secretary, Richard Simpson, _____



Donner Summit Association (DSA) Core Action Team Meeting
Thursday, March 14, 2024 4-6 PM
In-person meeting in the Snowshed Room, Village Hall, Sugar Bowl



Mt. Lincoln from the Sugar Bowl garage (DSCN5947.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 4:04 PM by Pat Malberg. Chris Parker set up a Zoom connection. Attendees drifted in and out over the two hours.

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

Others: Hardy Bullock (District 5 Supervisor, Nevada County), Steve Carle (SLPOA liaison), and Nick Martin (Placer County)

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 February Meeting:

MSC (Bill, Tom) to approve the February meeting minutes. Chris, who had not been present for the February meeting, abstained

4. Financial Report (Tom):

Tom had distributed a report before the meeting. The major expense during February was printing the Recreation Master Plan (RMP). There were a couple donations. \$183.6K is available, although \$100K is in a CD for long-term maintenance of the Lamson-Cashion Hub (The Hub).

5. County Reports:

Placer County: Nick said he had nothing significant to report. Placer County Board of Supervisors (BoS) will meet again in the eastern County in May. The County is getting ready to launch Phase 2 of its housing program, which is similar to a program being run by Truckee.

Chris said Sugar Bowl is trying to get approval for zoning changes which will facilitate use of the old Donner Summit Lodge and Summit House as employee housing. Summit House is partly in Nevada County and partly in Placer County. Supervisor Bullock said Chris should contact his office if he needs help on the Nevada County side.

Nevada County: There was no separate report from Nevada County. An extended conversation with Supervisor Bullock is summarized below.

6. Projects

Gould Park: Pat said there is nothing new; we may have to wait for snow to melt. Pat added that she has not passed on to Ted Rel the kiosk photo that Bill provided. **She asked Chris to see whether he has plans for kiosks in his files.** Bill said no engineering was needed for the six-sided kiosks at The Hub, so there are no “plans”; the vendor simply created the kiosks.

7. Tune-up Prep

Tom had prepared a list of “wins” in 2023 and “priorities” for 2024 (see figure below). This list served as the basis for the next 30 minutes of discussion.

DSA MARCH 2024 PLANNING MEETING

- **Wins / Priorities**
 - Placer County Grants Receipt
 - (\$ 70.2K)
 - Hub Shade Structure & Bench
 - 1882 Foundation Collaboration for hub digital kiosk
 - Van Norden Meadow Visitor Center design development
 - Gould Park improvement planning
 - Donner Summit Recreation Master Plan- Stantec completion
 - Summit Cleanup / Graffiti Cleanup
 - Summit Fest
 - DSA Web Site Improvements
 - Tax & Corporate Filing Update
- **Emerging / Ongoing Priorities**
 - Van Norden Meadow
 - Gould Park
 - Trail Development
 - Emigrant Overland Trail Segments
 - Devil's Peak Access
 - Restroom / Trash Management
 - Graffiti Education / Cleanup
 - Summit Housing/ Business Development
 - DSA Core Team Expansion
 - DSA Marketing (build on weekly communication)

Tom Denzler

Wins this Year:

Nevada County

CCC – participation and inclusivity meant giving the Summit a voice
DSA web site improvements have been funded by Nevada County
We appreciate being prioritized

Placer County

Placer County Grants reimbursed \$70.2K in DSA project expenses

Eastern Hub

The Hub shade structure and bench were completed

Western Hub (Van Norden Meadow)

DSA obtained preliminary designs from JK Architecture
SYRCL is leading the formal design effort (seeking TOT funds)
SYRCL has good ongoing relationships with USFS

1882 Foundation

DSA is collaborating on installation of a digital kiosk at The Hub
Pat went to Washington DC to present about Tunnels and graffiti

Gould Park

Plans are moving forward (albeit slowly) on a park upgrade

Donner Summit Public Use, Trails, and Recreation Facilities Plan (RMP)

The plan has been completed and printed

Distribution and socialization strategy are being developed

Summit cleanup — June 3 with excellent community participation

Graffiti clean-up — July 15, primarily with Dartmouth Outing Club

Summit (Beer) Fest — October 14 with positive fundraising

Missed opportunities

VTT – DSA needs more and regular conversations with Colleen Dalton
even though VTT focus is not on the Summit

Truckee Trails — trail ambassadors

DPR – is the rebuild of Donner Pass Road complete and done right?

DSA brand awareness

Develop a broader reach in what we do, our activities, etc.

How do we communicate what needs to be done?

How can residents and visitors help?

Develop DSA's Facebook page and other social media outlets

Drive those people to our web site.

A Sugar Bowl History Association has started; can we collaborate?

We did not follow up on taking Sugar Bowl employees to the Tunnels

Emerging priorities for 2024:

Toilets

At PCT trailhead and at The Hub

See RMP for more locations

Trails

Need to improve wayfinding

Memorial Overland Emigrant Trail – work with Placer County Parks

Pines to Mines (NEPA recently approved)

Devil's Peak access

Maiden's Retreat, Flora Lake, and Azalea Lake

Rehabilitate and systematize trails with USFS

Parking

Winter

Increase/improve designated-high demand parking

Improve enforcement

Summer

Make parking better organized

Improve signage

Van Norden Meadow

Gould Park

Recruit docents: Summit Tunnels/China Wall hikes with 1882 Foundation

Summit housing

DSA Core Team expansion

DSA Marketing (build on weekly communication)

8. Joint Discussion with Supervisor Bullock

Pat went through the topics outlined above. Supervisor Bullock said he has visited Gould Park on his drives east and west on I-80; he views it as a great resource.

Supervisor Bullock said he plans to rotate staff members through DSA meetings. Each person on his staff has unique expertise, which can facilitate discussions with DSA on related topics; for example, Kimberly Parker focuses on economic issues. Erika Seward is shepherding the Recreation Resiliency Program; there will be a presentation to the BoS on April 6 following a **comment period which ends later this month.**

A trash collection contractor defaulted; but a new one has been found. Sites will be visited on alternate weeks. If DSA thinks some sites need more frequent attention, adjustments can be made. Pat said that one-time support during DSA's Summit cleanup on June 1 would be a big help; volunteers put trash at the roadside and the contractor could do the pickup. **Supervisor Bullock said DSA should send him details on what is needed.**

Supervisor Bullock said he has been working on speed limit reductions along parts of Donner Pass Road (DPR). The problems are most acute along the 'residential' section between I-80 and the Central Sierra Snow Lab. Lower limit signs were installed after DPR was rebuilt; but County staff concluded that those violated the State highway code. Beth noted that there is a school bus stop at the intersection of Lola Montez Road and DPR; many drivers simply ignore stopped buses. Hardy's staff is studying the issue; he suspects they will conclude that lowering the speed limit is still against State code, but there may be a way to appeal. On a slightly different subject, all agreed that restriping of DPR last summer was very late.

Toilets: Pat was contacted by United Site Services; they have reduced their prices to a setup fee of \$359 plus \$290/month with weekly service. Chris said we need to get this figured out. Nick thought a portable toilet lower on the east side might relieve pressure on Summit toilets; but John explained that Nevada County had moved such a toilet to Prosser. TDLT currently funds a toilet at Black Wall; there may be funding for another. Pat wondered whether we could get a 'quantity' discount if we ordered more. **John didn't know but thought he might be able to get an answer.** Nick thought that a well-designed permanent toilet might be attractive for funding, but Chris said that Truckee Trails Foundation was told to remove toilets from one of their proposals because toilets wouldn't be funded. Nick thought that John Groom might remember how this played out from the USFS side. Hardy encouraged continuing to pound on this question and to keep it high in

future planning priority. Pat concluded that well-placed and adequate portable toilets make the visitor experience more pleasant.

Beth asked whether John had anything new on Devil's Peak access. John said he had nothing — that this was really a question for USFS. Dick said he had asked Alisa Adriani for an update from the family after DSA approved her request for a letter of support on a forestry grant request. Alisa had promised one, but he has heard nothing since.

9. Computers and Web Site

Dick reviewed the DSA web site upgrades, including his catalog of businesses and attractions, which is likely the most important feature so far as Nevada County is concerned.

10. Announcements

Beth received an email from Jean Fournier of the Trails and Vistas Program (TVP). They are planning their annual event for Royal Gorge trails on July 27-28 — the same weekend as Serene Lakes Days. TVP has been working with TDLT, Sugar Bowl, and Royal Gorge. Tickets go on sale April 22.

Beth has also received a reminder from Nevada County hoping DSA will do another cleanup, reminding us that we must conduct four per year.

11. Internal Matters

Pat reviewed our current calendar:

Cleanup: Saturday, June 1.

Beer Fest: September 21 at Soda Springs Mountain Resort.

Beth asked whether SYRCL is having a cleanup this year. In 2023 their September cleanup conflicted with our beer fest.

The next DSA Board meeting was confirmed for April 18 at Soda Springs Mountain Resort. Nick will push Lindsay Romack to attend.

The group compiled a preliminary distribution list for the RMP; we have ten printed copies. More could be printed (at about \$85 each), but the PDF is on the DSA web site. The draft distribution list includes 11 people:

Hardy Bullock
Jonathan Cook-Fisher
Jane Christensen
Andy Fisher

Cindy Gustafson
Allison Lehman
Kimberly Parker
Lindsay Romack

Erika Seward
Jeffrey Thorsby
Trisha Tillotson

12.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 April 18, 2024.

signed by DSA Secretary, Richard Simpson, _____



Castle Peak from Castle Pass (DSCN5959.JPG).



Donner Summit Association (DSA) Core Action Team Meeting
Thursday, April 18, 2024 5-6 PM
In-person meeting at Soda Springs Mountain Resort



Slopes at Soda Springs before the meeting (DSCN6011.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. Chris Parker opened a Zoom connection remotely from Orange County.

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

Others: Don Malberg (local resident) and Lindsay Romack (Placer County).

2. Approval of the Agenda:

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

3. Approval of Minutes from the March Meeting:

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

4. Financial Report (Tom):

Tom had distributed a report before the meeting. He said March was quiet financially. There was no new revenue and there were only a couple payments for web-related services. We have about \$78K in net income for the current fiscal year (June-March), primarily because of a reimbursement received from Placer County. Tom will start working on our tax filings after the current fiscal year closes at the end of May.

5. County Reports:

Placer County: (1) Lindsay said there will be a big community workshop in Kings Beach on May 30; its theme will be discovering and shaping the future of North Lake Tahoe. Pat asked whether this would be of interest to people on the Summit. Lindsay said the focus will be on Tahoe; there is nothing specifically applicable to the Summit, but there may be some general topics such as worker housing that would be of interest. (2) The Local Worker Housing program — to help community members purchase housing — has been renewed. There are no income restrictions; but applicants are restricted to people who work in the local area. Any future sale of the home must be to someone else in the local worker community. (3) A new web site — TahoeAlert — allows people in eastern Placer County to enter an address and be directed to the correct alert system. Residents have been plagued with registration problems when it is not clear what system applies — such as Donner Summit, where two counties have jurisdiction. (4) The Placer County Youth Commission is looking for two young people (14-18 years of age) from each Supervisorial District to advise County agencies. (5) SYRCL's grant request for funding to plan for recreation at the west end of Van Norden Meadow was not approved because the funds would have been spent primarily in Nevada County. Lindsay added that the scope of the TOT program has been expanded to include housing, so recreation proposals are likely to receive smaller fractions of the available funding.

Nevada County: Pat and Dick have been invited to a virtual meeting with Erika Seward next Tuesday to discuss status of four projects — winter trail signage, sanitation and trash management, visitor center, and Washoe cultural signage. Pat invited Chris, but he did not respond. **Dick will contact Alecia Weisman about status of the SYRCL proposal for West Van Norden Meadow.**

Beth said there are white and yellow paint chips from road striping now showing up in snowbanks around the post office. As the snow melts, the chips are flowing into drains and will end up in the water supply. Beth thought placing filter/barriers around the drains might help. **Pat will contact Trisha Tillotson.**



Yellow paint chips mixed with gravel on snow near Rainbow Bridge (DSCN6021.JPG).

6. Projects

Gould Park: Pat never got any engineering drawings; so she sent photos of kiosks at the lower Donner Summit Canyon trailhead and at The Hub to Ted Rel of Placer County Parks. She has not heard anything back.

Recreation Master Plan: The DSA Board compiled a preliminary distribution list for the RMP at its March meeting (see below); we have 10 printed copies, but there are 11 names on the list. Pat would like to get these distributed. A brief discussion followed about planning the distribution. Dick thought our goal was to get photographs from a few of the presentations. Others thought that at least some recipients might prefer electronic copies. No decisions were made.

Hardy Bullock
Jonathan Cook-Fisher
Jane Christensen
Andy Fisher

Cindy Gustafson
Allison Lehman
Kimberly Parker
Lindsay Romack

Erika Seward
Jeffrey Thorsby
Trisha Tillotson

1882 Foundation: The Foundation has planned training about Summit Tunnels and contributions from Chinese laborers to the project. The training is primarily for Foundation docents, but others would be welcome (space permitting). It will be held on Sunday, June 9, at Sugar Bowl; but Pat has not been able to get more information on times, content, etc.

Nevada County has asked DSA for its thoughts on changing the name of McGlashan Point to China Wall Overlook (or something similar). The site is next to the vista point on Old 40, overlooks Donner Lake, and provides a good view of China Wall. McGlashan wrote *History of the Donner Party* and was a prominent member of the Truckee community in the late 1800s and early 1900s. He was active in Sinophobic movements in Truckee in the 1880s (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Charles_Fayette_McGlashan). Pat is one of three Board members of the Donner Summit Historical Society; the other two have already voiced their opposition. If this moves forward, changing the name will require action from both California and the federal government. Mike said government is becoming used to these requests. Tom noted that DSA is already campaigning against Tunnel graffiti and has partnered with the Foundation on several events; so we can't duck this issue. On the other hand, we may do better to promote recognition of Chinese contributions than to take a strong stance either supporting or objecting to the name change.



Marker for McGlashan Point at vista point on Donner Pass Road (DSCN6019.JPG).

The Truckee-Donner Historical Society will install a plaque recognizing the town's two Chinatowns on May 10 (10 AM) in Old Truckee. This is the 155th anniversary of the Golden Spike ceremony in Promontory, Utah, commemorating completion of the Transcontinental Railroad.

Donner Summit Road Speed Limit: Supervisor Bullock's office requested support for a proposed speed limit reduction to 25 MPH on Donner Pass Road between the I-80 interchange (exit 174) and Donner Drive. This prompted an

e-mail debate within the DSA Board in early April. A majority of the Board (Pat, Chris, John, Tom, and Beth) approved sending a letter of support that was drafted, signed, and delivered by Pat. How the Board of Supervisors acted is not known.

There was general agreement that enforcement is more important than changing the posted speed limits. Tom said new lane markings have been added to Hwy 174; they tend to keep drivers in narrower lanes and the result is lower speeds. Beth thought snow-resistant signs advising of residential areas might also help. Pat and Dick thought that reducing high snow berms might improve sight lines.

Portable Toilets: Mitzi Hodges offered to transfer a portable toilet to DSA so that we would not have to arrange one of our own. But Pat believes Mitzi's toilet may no longer be available if she has to return it before the snow melts to allow its being moved to the DSA location on Old Donner Summit Road. At Mitzi's suggestion, Pat called Roberta at SaniHut and reserved a toilet to be installed in early June, or before, if the site is accessible.

Clean-Up Day: The event was confirmed for June 1. **Beth will provide advertising. Pat will contact Jenna Prescott about using Sugar Bowl dumpsters. Beth will look into securing an associated meal for volunteers.**

Summit Fest: The date was confirmed for September 21, not September 23 as in the agenda. Mike said Soda Springs is still willing to host the event.

DSA Music Fundraiser: Pat said there is nothing new on this proposed project.

7. Computers and Web Site

Dick summarized recent upgrades on the DSA web site, funded by Nevada County. The site is getting decidedly better. Recent updates have been on the Where-to-Stay and Where-to-Eat pages. There was a brief discussion about how people will access the new information — trends seem to favor Facebook and Instagram, but each will link to the details on the web page. Beth wondered whether the pages about ski clubs could be updated; Dick said that may be possible, though it has not been an early focus.

8. Announcements

None

9. Internal Matters

Future Meetings: The next DSA Board meeting will be May 16 (later confirmed at Soda Springs resort). Pat thought we could meet at Nancy O's, and Dick suggested Clair Tappaan Lodge as possible future meeting sites. **Dick will check availability at CTL.**

Tom may miss the next meeting because of conflicting travel; but he expects to submit a Treasurer's report in any case.

Endorsement Procedure: Recent requests for DSA endorsements and/or support have prompted discussion within the DSA Board about how best to respond. This topic was on the April agenda; but those present agreed to postpone discussion until the May meeting. John Svahn provided some suggestions by e-mail prior to the meeting, which are in Attachment A to these minutes.

10. Adjournment:

There being no other business, Pat adjourned the meeting at 6:07 PM.

Minutes approved by the DSA Board of Directors at its meeting on May 16, 2024.

signed by DSA Secretary, Richard Simpson, _____



Railroad snowsheds cross the northeast face of Donner Peak, as seen from the Donner Pass Road vista point (DSCN6023.JPG).

Attachment A

Which Endorsements to Consider

(from John Svahn; others encouraged to develop similar lists)

I see numerous types of potential endorsements:

- Gov't/ public works projects tied to our mission.
- Gov't/public works projects kinda close to our mission.
- Gov't public works projects not tied to our mission.

- Private business projects that may have public benefit.
- Private business projects that do not have public benefit.

- Non-profit/community organization projects tied to our mission.
- Non-profit/community organization projects kinda close to our mission. (ex: Climbing coalition wants to put in bathrooms on Old 40, or maybe something slightly out of our geographical scope)
- Non-profit/community organization projects not tied to our mission.

- Private businesses requesting a support letter for a grant that has public benefit.
- Private businesses requesting a support letter for a grant that does not have public benefit.

- Non-profit/community organization requesting support for a grant that has public benefit.
- Non profit/community requesting support for a grant, that does not have public benefit.

-
- Individuals requesting support for a grant that has public benefit.
- Individuals requesting support for a grant that does not have public benefit.

I think we need to come up with a list like the one above, and develop a yes/no matrix for every endorsement decision. In addition to providing clarity and allowing us a little more ease/less haste in our decision-making. It provides us with some cover should someone take umbrage with a 'no' decision, or a 'why did you support them and not me' decision.

Oh, one more note: I parsed out grants vs. projects. Maybe we don't need to, but endorsing a project and endorsing a grant application seem like two different things.



Donner Summit Association (DSA) Core Action Team Meeting
Thursday, May 16, 2024 5-6 PM
In-person meeting at Soda Springs Mountain Resort



South Yuba River at popular fishing spot near Big Bend (DSCN6133.JPG)

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

1. Welcome:

The meeting was called to order at 5:01 PM by Pat Malberg. Chris Parker opened a Zoom connection.

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

Others: Steve Carle (SLPOA), Michael Sessi, and Elissa Hambrecht (Sugar Bowl resident)

2. Approval of the Agenda:

Pat said she would like to add discussion of a potential new Board member (added under Internal Matters). Bill said he would like to add discussion of The Hub under Projects.

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

3. Approval of Minutes from the April Meeting:

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

4. Financial Report (Dick):

Dick said he had a brief e-mail report from Tom, who is traveling in the Northwest. There have been no significant financial events during the past month. The DSA fiscal year ends May 31; anyone with reimbursement requests should submit them before that date.

Beth said the Lamson-Cashion CD matures tomorrow. It has been agreed that interest should be rolled over and the CD renewed. Chris, as a signatory on the original CD, is handling the renewal.

5. County Reports:

There was no report (either direct or indirect) from either Nevada or Placer County.

6. Projects

Recreation Master Plan: There has been no progress on distributing the RMP. After discussion, it was decided to contact our liaisons with Placer and Nevada County in an attempt to schedule presentation of copies of the Plan during public comment periods at the beginning of upcoming Board of Supervisors meetings. **Pat will contact the counties; Dick offered to attend to take photos, but he needs to know where and when.**

Steve commented that the RMP PDF is buried on the DSA web site; he suggested moving it to a more prominent position on the web site. **Dick will discuss options with our web site technical manager, Jeannie Smith.**

1882 Foundation: The Foundation has planned training about Summit Tunnels and contributions from Chinese laborers. The first session will be held on Sunday, June 9, at Sugar Bowl and aimed at Sugar Bowl employees and the general public. Time will be 1-3 PM, followed by an optional walk to the tunnels. The plan includes extended training for people willing to serve as 1882 Foundation docents. Elissa Hambrecht is very involved in this idea; she has already recruited four potential volunteers from Sugar Bowl. The Superintendent of Nevada City schools has reportedly recruited another four.

Ted Gong has reported that the National Historic Landmark proposal for the Chinese Summit Camp site and tunnels passed Step 1 in the approval process. For the longer term, Ted wants to see an interpretive center constructed at the Summit.

Pat thinks having DSA “ambassadors” at The Hub would be a good idea. They would provide information to visitors during summer; this would include information about the tunnels, trailheads, and other attractions. It would be in addition to the formal docent-led tours offered by the 1882 Foundation. Bill noted that ambassador work might satisfy community service requirements for high school students.

Gould Park: Pat wrote Ted Rel this morning asking about status; Ted replied that there is no news. Placer Parks personnel are touring all parks in the west county this spring; they will tour east county parks in the fall. Pat told him that DSA would like to co-host a presentation about our ideas for Gould Park when the delegation is in the Summit area. Ted said September 19 would fit their schedule. **Pat said we should plan to do this.**

Donner Summit Toilets: Mitzi Hodges offered to transfer her rental toilet near The Hub to DSA; she will move her toilet when it is clear of snow. Pat has a commitment from SaniHut to place a portable toilet near The Hub at an attractive price. The toilet at the PCT trailhead is used by PCT hikers but it is not convenient for people at The Hub. Chris said he and John received information from Truckee Trails Foundation that Nevada County will provide a toilet and dumpster at Rainbow Bridge and at least a toilet at The Hub. In the past DSA and TDLT shared cost of the toilet at PCT trailhead; John and Pat agreed to do the same this year. There was discussion about the value of having a dumpster at The Hub; in the past, such dumpsters have been filled with household trash. There was consensus to place a dumpster at The Hub, to leave it unlocked, and to re-evaluate the situation if it starts being abused.

Clean-Up Day: Beth has sent an e-mail about the Clean-up Day (June 1) to her list; it is also being publicized on the DSA web site in *DSA News*. A poster has been created but is not yet printed. Dick said he could use the poster PDF if that can be provided. Dick and Pat both volunteered trucks for the event. Dick pointed out a couple problems with the web sign-up form. Bill noted that SLPOA has postponed its “sand fling” to the same date and time as our Clean-up.

DSA Music Fundraiser: Pat said there is nothing new.

Summit Fest: The event is still scheduled for September 21 at Soda Springs; Beth said there is nothing new. Pat offered to handle beer if Beth needs assistance in that area.

The Hub: The shade sails were put up by the vendor last year; then Bill and others took them down as winter approached. The sails need to be reinstalled for summer 2024. Bill knows how to do it, but he can't do the work himself. After discussion, **Bill agreed to contact Jenna Prescott at Sugar Bowl to obtain an extension ladder and a truck (with driver) to take the ladder to The Hub.** Once Bill and Jenna have agreed on a date and time, **DSA will recruit several volunteers to do the sail installation and to clean up the site (gravel and pavement fragments).** Several people in the meeting offered to help; but each had restrictions on dates/times when they could be available.



Support posts for shade sails at the Hub (DSCN6159.JPG).

Chris said that Sugar Bowl is planning to move its summer weekend food and beverage service from SummitHaus to Summit Station (at Royal Gorge).

They think there is a stronger customer base in Serene Lakes. The plan is to open 3-9 PM Fridays and Saturdays, starting June 29.

Graffiti: Dick offered to take the lead on a 2024 graffiti abatement campaign, if DSA wants to do it. **Pat will contact the Dartmouth Outing Club to see whether they might be interested again.**

7. Computers and Web Site

Dick summarized recent upgrades on the DSA web site, funded by Nevada County; the work will be completed by June 30. He mentioned the possibility of archiving announcements of events that appear in *DSA News* and said that Jeannie Smith is considering how to do this in a practical way.

8. Internal Matters

New Board Members: Pat would like to add Elissa Hambrecht to the DSA Board. She is a full-time resident at Sugar Bowl and is very knowledgeable about their activities; she is rounding up Sugar Bowl's history. There was consensus to postpone a formal election until the June meeting; in the meantime **Dick will distribute copies of the nomination procedure to Core Team members.**

Future Meetings: The next DSA Board meeting will be June 20 at Nancy O's Gallery and Glass. It is our annual meeting and the agenda will include appointments and reappointments to the DSA Board and election of officers for the new year. Elissa will be unable to attend in person but may be able to call in.

DSA Endorsement Procedure: Guidelines for DSA in endorsing projects and providing letters of support were discussed briefly during the April meeting. John Svahn had provided a list of criteria that TDLT has found useful. Dick translated those into a 'matrix' and used some recent endorsements to show how it might be used. There was general agreement that this was a useful tool; but there was also consensus that no Board action was needed to either approve it or reject it.

9. Announcements:

Biomass Energy Symposium: Placer County's Water Agency will host the symposium in Roseville on June 26. Pat is very interested in the topic and plans to attend. Chris said Sugar Bowl has received a \$150K grant from USFS to study feasibility of biomass energy production on their property.

Castle Valley Trailhead: Dick said there will be a community meeting June 13 (5-6:30 PM) at Boreal (third floor in the lodge) where USFS and SYRCL will present their 65% design for parking and trailhead facilities at the south end of Castle Valley. Dick has a conflicting meeting of the Serene Lakes water district board of directors; Bill offered to attend the Castle Valley meeting on behalf of DSA, and Chris said he would probably be there.

10.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 June 20, 2024.

signed by DSA Secretary, Richard Simpson, _____



Newly installed 25 MPH speed limit sign on Donner Pass Road (DSCN6163.JPG).



Donner Summit Association (DSA) Core Action Team Meeting
Thursday, June 20, 2024 5-6 PM
In-person meeting at Nancy O Gallery & Glass



Nancy O Gallery & Glass (DSCN6287.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 5:00 PM by Pat Malberg. John Svahn attempted to open a Zoom connection; but he didn't have the access code. Chris Parker was delayed.

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

Others: Steve Carle (SLPOA), Kristi Paterson (Lake Mary resident), and Lorrie Poche (Serene Lakes resident).

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 May Meeting:

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

4. Financial Report (Tom):

Tom had distributed the monthly and annual financial reports by e-mail before the meeting. He said that CD interest (\$3,755) had been posted to the checking account in May as the CD was rolled over for renewal. DSA net income during FY 2023-24 was \$80,721 — most of which was in the form of reimbursements from Placer County for expenses in previous years. DSA received \$11,023 in individual contributions and netted \$5,507 from the 2023 SummitFest. The balance sheet shows \$188,100 on hand compared with \$133,301 the previous year. Administrative expenses were about 7% in FY 2023-24 compared to about 11% averaged over the previous four years. Tom will get started on tax filings, which are due in October.

5. County Reports:

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

Placer: Dick and Pat received an e-mail report from Lindsay Romack, who was unable to attend. Lindsay said that there are two openings on the newly formed TOT Advisory Committee which will make recommendations on expenditure of TOT dollars for projects in the region. One of the two seats is open for a representative from the Donner Summit area. Deadline for applications is July 10. More details and application instructions can be found at <https://www.northtahoecommunityalliance.com/community-vitality/ntca-seeks-volunteer-members-for-tot-advisory-committee/>. Bill said his wife had served 4-5 years on the previous committee, and he did not know whether she was interested. **Pat will contact Nancy Oudegeest and Chris Parker to determine their interest.**

Lindsay also e-mailed that the Placer County Board of Supervisors will be holding their next Tahoe meeting in Kings Beach on June 25. Topics include the Short Term Rental ordinance and wildfire awareness. The full agenda can be found at

<https://www.placer.ca.gov/DocumentCenter/View/80637/2024-062524-Agenda>

6. Projects

Recreation Master Plan: Pat has delivered all ten printed copies of the RMP to government officials as discussed in previous meetings. In late May she delivered copies to Placer County Supervisor Cindy Gustafson and new County Executive Daniel Chatigny. She also gave a copy to Lisa Carnahan to be forwarded to Andy Fisher. In Nevada County she delivered copies to Supervisor Hardy Bullock, Jeffrey Thorsby, and several others. The Nevada County deliveries were timely as the Board of Supervisors was discussing their Recreational Resiliency Master Plan at the same meeting. Pat has also delivered a copy to Jonathan Cook-Fisher, Truckee District Ranger.

1882 Foundation: The June 9 meeting at Sugar Bowl was lightly attended; Bill estimated the total number at fewer than 20. Although it was promoted as a discussion of railroad history and contributions made by Chinese laborers to construction of the tunnels at Donner Summit, it quickly turned to discussions of the status of the National Historic Landmark application. There is concern that the application will be lost if there is a change in Administration after the November elections.

The Foundation is planning to conduct its 2024 “Return to Gold Mountain” bus/rail tour on October 5-6.

Gould Park: Placer County Parks officials will tour parks in the eastern County on September 19. Pat has volunteered a presentation on DSA proposals for improving Gould Park. Discussion followed on exactly what form that presentation should take. It was agreed that a one-page summary of the DSA proposal (possibly including sketch maps prepared by JKAE) be accompanied by a short verbal presentation. **John will ask Bob Gilliom to attend. Pat will confirm arrangements (date, time, appropriateness of the presentation) with Ted Rel.**

Donner Summit Toilets: Mitzi Hodges offered her rental toilet to DSA; it was moved to the Lake Mary PCT trailhead three weeks ago, and we have started receiving invoices for the service. Chris said Truckee Trails Foundation (TTF) is managing two toilets and two dumpsters using Nevada County funds. Truckee Donner Land Trust (TDLT) is also managing several toilets.

In some cases toilet costs are being shared (with each other and with other organizations such as DSA and SLPOA); but those arrangements may not provide optimum transparency. **Chris and John will compare notes.**

Clean-up Day (June 1): Beth said there were 72 signups. Lunch was provided by the Soda Springs General Store (cost \$435 to DSA). Everything worked very well, though the dumpster at Soda Springs Resort overflowed and several piles of snow stakes and other debris still lie along Donner Pass Road between South Yuba Drive and the I-80 ramps to the west (**Beth will investigate**). Sierra Lakes County Water District had offered a dumpster, but it was not used; Board members seemed to favor a large dumpster more centrally located — perhaps at the Store. Beth noted that we need to sponsor four clean-ups each year to meet conditions required by Nevada County for recognition (two signs along Donner Pass Road). Repeating the exercise in mid-summer and late summer were discussed, but no decisions were made.



Sign-in for Clean-up day at the Soda Springs General Store (DSCN6245.JPG).

Castle Valley Trailhead Public Meeting (June 13): Bill e-mailed an extensive summary of the meeting to Board members. The site cannot be expanded because of limits set by natural features. There was no discussion of management, which will be important if the site is to be used for winter recreation. John said TDLT holds contributed funds that could be used toward that goal. There are also no funds (yet) for construction. South Yuba River Citizens League (SYRCL) is managing the design task; SYRCL is requesting comments on the current design by July 1

(<https://yubariver.org/projects/castle-valley-trailhead-and-parking-area-project/>).

Summit Fest: The event is scheduled for Saturday, September 21 at Soda Springs Resort; Beth said there is nothing new. Bill said a notice could be added to the next SLPOA newsletter, but it needs to be prepared and submitted quickly. **Pat asked for assignments so Beth doesn't have to do all of the work; Beth will provide a list of jobs.**

Graffiti: A graffiti abatement day has been scheduled for July 10; Jenna Prescott will provide support, including 9-12 employees who will be paid by Sugar Bowl to overpaint the graffiti; volunteers will be welcome, but notices need to go out soon. **Pat will do an inventory of supplies and determine what needs to be purchased. John will coordinate getting 10 5-gallon cans of paint from Mountain Hardware.**

7. Computers and Web Site

Nevada County Promotion: The Nevada County contractor (Alex Silgalis), who has been upgrading the DSA web site, submitted what looked like a final report about a month ago. Dick has seen little additional work, so he assumes the funds have been spent and the project is over even though the contract runs through the end of June. Web site content can be upgraded by DSA as conditions change. Alex provided statistics showing that visits to the web site have increased significantly since the upgrade began.

Possible Switch to WordPress: Alex and DSA's web technician (Jeannie Smith of NextPixels) both recommend that the web site be moved from SquareSpace to WordPress. Bill said the Donner Summit Historical Society uses WordPress. There was consensus to make the move pending receipt of a satisfactory estimate of cost from Jeannie. Bill offered WordPress books if we need them.

Increase in NextPixels Rate: Jeannie has asked whether DSA would accept an increase from \$25/hour to \$30/hour in her billing. Dick said that he has been extremely satisfied with the working relationship with Jeannie and that the service provided has been a bargain. There were no concerns about an increase in the billing rate.

8. Internal Matters

Future Meetings: The next meeting would normally be July 18 but more than half of the Board will be away. A comfortable majority would be able to

attend a meeting on July 25, so it was rescheduled for that date. **Dick will check whether Clair Tappaan Lodge would be willing to host.**

Reappointments to the DSA Board:

MSC-U (Dick, John) that Tom Denzler, Pat Malberg and Beth Tanhoff be reappointed to the DSA Board for new two year terms.

New Board Members:

MSC-U (Dick, John) that Elissa Hambrecht be appointed to a term ending in 2026.

Kristi was asked whether she would be interested. She would need clearance from her employer to ensure that there is no conflict of interest. **Dick will send Kristi a job description for the Board position.**

Election of Officers:

MSC-U (Dick, John) to reappoint the current DSA officers to new terms beginning in January 2025.

MSC-U (Pat, John) to appoint Beth Tanhoff as DSA's Community Liaison Officer.

9. Announcements:

Pickleball: Lorrie Poche said that a favorite pickleball court in Serene Lakes, carved out of an unused street stub, has been uprooted after a neighbor complained to Placer County about the erection of semi-permanent structures on a public road (and about the noise). Lorrie has gathered 140 signatures on a petition (<https://www.change.org/SereneLakesPickleball>) requesting County support for establishing a permanent pickleball court elsewhere. Pickleball is one of the fastest growing sports in the country and it has strong support in Serene Lakes. Beth said Truckee is putting in courts. Chris said Royal Gorge is willing to put a court at Summit Station; it may not take much more than negotiating details with the manager. John said he is working on an MOU with the local recreation and parks district and that Donner Summit facilities fall within their jurisdiction. Bill thought an article in the SLPOA newsletter might garner support; again, it would need to be submitted ASAP.

Forestry: Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) has awarded \$1.2 M to TDLT for forestry on the north side of Pahatsi Road east of Camp Wamp.

Art Hikes: Royal Gorge will be hosting the 2024 Trails and Vistas event on July 27-28. There is more information at <https://www.trailsandvistas.org>

Van Norden Dam Road: John noted that an individual is seeking closure of the unpaved road along the north side of Van Norden Meadow to all but bicycles and foot traffic. Several expressed concern because the road provides secondary egress when trains block traffic on Soda Springs Road. John thinks this request may become moot once SYRCL completes its proposed boardwalk/trail on that side of the meadow.

Forestry and Restoration Tour: John said that SNC and State Senator Brian Dahle are putting together a tour that will look at forestry and restoration projects in the Donner Summit area. The tour will be August 2 and might be an opportunity for DSA to meet with people on the tour.

10. Adjournment:

There being no other business, Pat adjourned the meeting at 6:12 PM.

Minutes approved by the DSA Board of Directors at its meeting on July 25, 2024.

signed by DSA Secretary, Richard Simpson, _____



Approach to Soda Springs from I-80 exit 174 (DSCN6284.JPG left, DSCN6285.JPG right)



Donner Summit Association (DSA) Core Action Team Meeting
Thursday, July 25, 2024 5-6 PM
In-person meeting at the Malberg Cabin on Lake Mary



Helicopter near Cascade Lakes and Devils Peak during Royal Fire incident
(DSCN6568.JPG)

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

1. Welcome:

The meeting was called to order at 5:10 PM by Pat Malberg. Chris Parker opened a Zoom connection, but no one connected. Dick Simpson was about 30 minutes late because of road work/traffic congestion on eastbound I-80 above Baxter. Pat took minutes until Dick arrived.

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

Others: Steve Carle (SLPOA) and Kristi Paterson (Lake Mary resident).

2. Approval of the Agenda:

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

3. Approval of Minutes from the June Meeting:

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

4. Financial Report (Tom):

Tom had distributed the monthly report by e-mail before the meeting. He reviewed highlights for June.

5. County Reports:

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

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

6. Projects

1882 Foundation: Pat reported that the last conference call was devoted to the usual topics, especially the upcoming tour on October 5-6. She will join Ted Gong and others on September 5 in a meeting at the Sacramento headquarters of Union Pacific to discuss, among other topics, the possibility of an interpretive center to be located on the parking area near the west entrance to Tunnel 6.

Gould Park: Pat distributed copies of two sketches of plans for the site that could be shared with the Placer County Parks Department during their tour of eastern Placer parks on September 19. She has tried contacting Ted Rel about coordinating with County staff about their visit but has not received a response yet.

Donner Summit Toilets: Donner Summit toilet issues have been resolved. Tom has signed a contract with SaniHut and will send it off. Meanwhile, the United Site Services toilet, arranged by Truckee Trails Foundation, has been moved to a more appropriate location.

Summit Fest (Saturday, September 21): Beth has been in touch with Leon Sharyon about Lagunitas beer; there has been a positive response. Her

attempts to contact Loomis Basin have not yet been successful. **She and Pat will follow up. Elissa offered to contact 50-50 about a possible beer donation.** There was discussion about whether to consider having a silent auction; Kristi Paterson suggested offering several raffle items instead, simplifying the fundraising process. **Beth and Elissa will discuss this further.** Beth will also arrange for the legal hold harmless agreement with Mike for the use of Soda Springs for the event.

Graffiti: Organizers decided that it would be too hot on July 10 to have Sugar Bowl employees do a tunnel graffiti project; Jenna Prescott is now on vacation until August 5, after which a substitute date will be negotiated. Nine to twelve employees, paid by Sugar Bowl, are expected. John Svahn had previously offered to obtain ten buckets of paint from Mountain Hardware; that has been revised downward to five buckets. A separate event, scheduled later, will be planned for volunteers from the public.

Pickleball: Chris said Thomas Miner (Royal Gorge Manager) is agreeable to having a pickleball court at Summit Station; he just needs someone from the community to ask, and then they can work out the details.

Sierra Nevada Conservancy Forestry Tour: John Svahn had mentioned that a tour to visit Donner Summit forestry projects is planned for August 2. But there has been no news since the June DSA meeting, and John was not present to provide an update.

DSHS Brochures: Pat noted that the Donner Summit Historical Society prints brochures that are distributed at The Hub; she wondered whether DSA might be willing to pick up some of the costs. As DSHS Treasurer, she recently paid an invoice covering 3000 copies of one 5-fold brochure that cost about \$1000. There are many different brochures; perhaps a donor could be found to contribute toward printing costs; the 1882 Foundation might be willing to contribute toward printing of brochures focused on Chinese laborers and construction of the trans-continental railroad. **Pat offered to contact the Lamsons about whether they viewed brochure printing as a suitable way to spend the funds they contributed toward Hub 'maintenance'.** There was also a suggestion that we come up with a set of QR codes that could be posted at The Hub, doing away with the need for most paper brochures.

Alpenglow Sawmill: Brooke Brumfield approached Beth about supporting construction of a sawmill near Hobart Mills. The sawmill application will come before the Nevada County Planning Commission at 1:30 PM on August 8. Sawmill proponents say that it will help bridge a major gap by creating a local outlet for small diameter logs that otherwise have no place to go. There

has apparently been some opposition from local residents worried about truck traffic and other issues. **Beth said she would forward the request to Dick after the meeting.**

7. Computers and Web Site

Possible Switch to WordPress: Dick received a proposal earlier in the day from Jeannie Smith for transferring our web site from SquareSpace to WordPress. He has not had a chance to study it in any detail. The estimated work is 71 hours spread over 16 weeks and the cost would be \$3980 plus web site hosting and domain name registration fees. Our current SquareSpace license runs through March 2025, so we have plenty of time. Several Board members were concerned about the ease of maintaining content; some platforms assume that content providers are coders, and this is not where we want to be. **Dick will obtain more information.** A formal vote to approve the expense was deferred until the August meeting.

Long-Term Digital Storage: Mike has talked to Powdr Corp IT professionals at Boreal and they have suggested two possibilities. Google Docs can be used for long-term storage and management of digital files (*e.g.*, financial records); but there are security concerns since it is difficult to change access permissions when people depart. Microsoft provides a software suite that allows administrators to change passwords when people with access depart. Mike thinks this might be a better choice for DSA. With Microsoft, we can purchase what we think we need, then add more apps later if desired. Having apps like Excel and Word in the package means that authorized people can access and edit documents without having to download originals and then upload revised files. Mike has not researched costs, but he thinks an annual single-user license might be around \$300; **he will investigate pricing further.** Dick suggested asking our web associates (Jeannie and Forrest) for advice; **he will follow up.**

8. Internal Matters

Future Meetings: The next meeting is scheduled for August 15. Clair Tappaan Lodge has offer to host; but Pat has received a request from Alecia Weisman (SYRCL) for time at the meeting to discuss plans for the West Van Norden 'visitor center'. It could include representatives from USFS, TDLT, Nevada and/or Placer Counties, and the general public. Depending on the scope of the discussion, it is likely to extend beyond 6 PM. **Dick will check with the CTL Manager if this is feasible; if not, Mike offered to host at Soda Springs.**

Rainbow Lodge has offered to host the September 19 meeting. That will be the same day as the Placer County Parks Tour visits Gould Park, but there should be no impact on the DSA meeting itself.

Nevada County Sustainability Summit: This meeting will be September 6 at Martis Camp. Attendance is by invitation only; Pat and Chris are planning to attend.

9. Announcements:

None.

10. Adjournment:

There being no other business, Pat adjourned the meeting at 6:17 PM.

Minutes approved by the DSA Board of Directors at its meeting on August 15, 2024.

signed by DSA Secretary, Richard Simpson, _____



Helicopter dropping water onto Royal Fire (bright streak in lower right) (DSCN6561.JPG)



Donner Summit Association (DSA) Core Action Team Meeting
Thursday, August 15, 2024 5-6:30 PM
In-person meeting at Clair Tappaan Lodge



Entrance to Clair Tappaan Lodge (DSCN6880.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. Chris Parker opened a Zoom connection, but no one connected.

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

Others: Teeny Hood (U.S. Forest Service), Shandon Lloyd (Serene Lakes homeowner), Ann Reisenauer (Serene Lakes homeowner), Erika Seward (Nevada County), Andy Tucker (Serene Lakes homeowner), and Alecia Weisman (South Yuba River Citizens League).

2. Approval of the Agenda:

Bill asked for the addition of a “Hub” item under ongoing projects.

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

3. Approval of Minutes from the July Meeting:

MSC (Dick, Pat) to approve the July meeting minutes. Bill and Mike, who were not present at the July meeting, abstained.

4. Confirmation of e-Vote on Letter of Support for Alpenglow Timber:

Beth had received a request for support of Alpenglow Timber’s application for a lumber mill near Hobart Mills before the July meeting. Beth distributed the request after the meeting and an e-vote approved sending a letter of support 7-1-1 with Simpson opposed and Svahn abstaining. A copy of the letter is attached to these minutes.

5. Financial Report (Tom):

Tom had distributed his report via e-mail before the meeting. Pat asked about a small bank charge. Beth said she believes the charge is a service charge applied by the bank on electronic donations.

At the July meeting Pat proposed using interest on the Lamson-Cashion bequest to pay for part of the printing cost of informational brochures at The Hub. She contacted George Lamson after the meeting, and he agreed that it was an appropriate use of the funds.

Pat added later (see below), that the 1882 Foundation had agreed to contribute toward printing costs of brochures about Chinese railroad workers and the Summit tunnels. **This will require adding an acknowledgement of Foundation support before the next printing.**

6. West Van Norden Visitor Facilities (Alecia):

Alecia introduced the topic and guided the discussion, which lasted about an hour. In the interests of brevity, this summary includes the main points only, rather than a blow-by-blow description of the discussion itself.

Background: A Categorical Exclusion Review (the “NEPA Plan”) was signed in August 2022 by Truckee District Ranger Jonathan Cook-Fisher. It sets boundaries on what is allowed during the Van Norden Meadow Restoration and Recreation Project. The restoration component is well on its way to completion. However, the recreation component has neither been approved nor funded. Although there has been interest in a four-season recreation component, that will not be possible for several reasons. There has also been interest in expanding the recreation component to the ridge south of Van Norden Meadow; but that would have required a wider study, which was not within the scope of the NEPA Plan as originally drafted. This meeting is to determine whether stakeholders are aligned in their visions of the recreation component and, if so, what the next steps should be.

During a site visit in August 2023, representatives from SYRCL, USFS, Truckee Donner Land Trust, Sugar Bowl, Powdr Corporation, and DSA discussed some of the recreational options that might be considered once the major restoration work in Van Norden Meadow is completed.

SYRCL submitted a design proposal for Placer County TOT (Transient Occupancy Tax) funding last year; but it was rejected since the majority of the project would be in Nevada County. Alecia has since been working with Nevada County and DSA on possibly using \$500K in funding that was earmarked for a Donner Summit Visitor Center (VC) several years ago.

The VC was proposed in the Soda Springs Area Plan and approved by the Board of Supervisors (<https://nevadacountyca.gov/995/Soda-Springs-Area-Plan>) in 2016. The VC was subsequently judged to be “feasible” by the Sierra Business Council; but DSA was unable develop a practical plan for VC operations and maintenance. DSA’s Recreation Master Plan for Donner Summit (<https://www.donnersummitca.com/projects-information/2021/8/12/summit-summit-iii>) has since proposed a less ambitious facility with parking, signage, and toilets.

Options: All agreed that a scaled back site — with no “building” — would be necessary given the NEPA restrictions; but there was also agreement that the VC must be appealing and draw visitors. Chris noted that, being on Forest Service property, the design will have to be consistent with the USFS design manual as well as the NEPA Plan. He suggested that thinking of it as

attracting school groups for history lessons might be a good way to visualize the appeal it needs to have. A trailhead facility at Hobart Mills was mentioned several times as an example of a facility that has not lived up to its aspirational goals. Both Pat and Alecia thought that a collaborative approach with the Truckee Donner Recreation Department might be possible, though west Van Norden is out of their usual zone of interest.

Alecia noted that JK Architecture and Engineering has provided a design concept, and Pat said that Jordan Knighton (JK) recently phoned to say that he is very interested in participating in future work. Erika said the Nevada County Board of Supervisors (BoS) remains supportive; but they need something with more substance than a conceptual drawing before they will make an appropriation. Alecia met with Katie Mansfield and they have a good plan for trails; the more difficult part is designing the trailhead—the VC; where are the bathrooms, viewing platforms, trailheads, etc.? This requires a formal step with professional planning. Teeny said the NEPA plan allows for bathrooms and viewing platforms, but perhaps not on the old dam. Alecia noted that, if there is construction on or around the dam, there will need to be geotechnical analysis. Erika said long-term operation and maintenance are concerns for the County. There was general agreement that flush toilets would be too complicated; vault toilets will probably have to do. Shandon suggested that potable water could be an important addition since visitors would want to fill water bottles before starting on hikes. That has some of the complications of flush toilets, but water lines may exist within 100 yards of the site (a topic for further investigation). Teeny thinks that a design professional can take ideas and come up with something that makes sense for the site.

Pat then surveyed DSA Board members on their thoughts. She emphasized that the VC should be a “gathering site” and that a viewing platform with seating and a shade structure or awnings would be attractive. Bill and Dick are concerned that we need to stop arguing about details, find a common vision that fits within the constraints, and bring something to the BoS before they allocate the money to another project. Chris would like three-sided kiosks, such as DSA has installed The Hub; but they are not covered by the Forest Service design manual. Beyond that, he wants to see agreement where stakeholders are aligned and within the NEPA Plan. He fears that downsizing the recreation component too much will make the result unappealing. Pat said we can still toss alternatives around with a design professional, who will be able to recommend what is possible financially and otherwise. Alecia said we should expect 4-5 such meetings with the designer before there is a plan suitable for submission to the BoS.

Next Steps: Alecia and Chris reminded the group that there was originally a restoration project, but no recreation. The NEPA Plan does not include all original desires because that would have forced the Forest Service to initiate a wider range of studies for the “hillside”; but maybe there is enough left to make forward progress. Teeny said working with the Forest Service is not a good way to get 100% of your desires; but there is an opportunity here to get some good results, and working together is a good way to go. The more DSA is involved, the better the result. Erika confirmed that Nevada County recognizes DSA as a partner in this effort. Mike agreed that collaboration is important and said a lack of sharing information may be part of the problem. He would like to see what this looks like if we can get it off the ground; he’s all for moving forward. Bill agreed with Chris about the downsides of reducing expectations; but we need to fit within the parameters of the NEPA Plan. He would like to have a prior agreement from the Forest Service on what will be allowed. We need to start some place; we have money and willingness. Let’s not lose the opportunity. Dick suggested a close reading of the NEPA Plan, using that to establish boundaries on what can be included; having Alecia and Erika behind this effort is powerful support, so let’s not waste the opportunity.

Alecia said she is willing to draft a request for proposals (RFP) that could be sent to potential designers; she expects that the design study could be completed in 6-9 months. Teeny wondered whether there are interpretive opportunities beyond signage; a professional designer might be able to provide suggestions.

Erika said funds have been earmarked for the VC; there would need to be a presentation of current status and next steps to the BoS since the earmarked funds would now be (partly) redirected to a design study. There are BoS meetings on October 8 and 22; Erika would need to have presentation materials two weeks prior. Bill thought DSA could gather stakeholders via Zoom before the next DSA Board meeting on September 19 to discuss elements of the recreation component. Alecia said she might have a draft RFP by September 16 which would include edits from the Truckee Ranger District.

As for construction, Alecia estimated \$600K in costs for trails; paving and curbing the parking area could add up to \$1M. Total for the recreation component could be in the \$3-4M range. But construction comes after design, and we’ll have a better idea of costs after a professional designer reports back.

7. County Reports:

Nevada: Erika noted that the general election in November includes Proposition 4 which would provide state bond funding for fire, water, and natural resources.

Dick and Mike attended a community meeting on revisions to Nevada County's Commercial Cannabis Ordinance at Soda Springs Resort on August 8. The ordinance applies only to unincorporated parts of Nevada County. Revisions would allow cannabis 'farming' at indoor facilities of less than 10000 sq ft, cannabis 'events', and dispensaries. In addition to Dick and Mike, there were three representatives from the County and two people who appeared to be interested in commercial cannabis. County representatives think that only dispensaries would be of interest in the Donner Summit area; at most only one would be allowed and then only after application and review.

Placer: There was no Placer County representative; but Lindsay Romack had sent some potential items of interest to Dick in an e-mail. (1) The Placer County BoS meets twice later in August at the North Tahoe Event Center in Kings Beach. On August 26 there will be a special housing workshop beginning at 2:30 PM. On August 27 the regular BoS meeting includes an update on the Short-Term Rental Working Group's discussions around STR ordinance changes, and there will be a request to fund a consultant to conduct a trails analysis to prioritize trail construction and operations. (2) Meetings about the Village at Palisades Specific Plan were scheduled for August 15 (virtual only) and August 17 (hybrid).

8. Projects

1882 Foundation: As noted above, the Foundation is willing to share expenses of printing brochures about Chinese workers and railroad tunnels.

Gould Park: Ted Rel is developing an agenda for the County's tour of eastern Placer parks scheduled for September 19. Pat does not know whether there will be an opportunity to speak about Gould Park but is working to make one.

Summit Fest (Saturday, September 21): The Johnson Party Band is being recruited to play. A poster is being designed; Beth hopes to have it printed next week. New banners will be printed. Food is being worked. Mike wants to make sure that use of the Soda Springs kitchen conforms to health requirements. Beth said use of kitchen will be limited. Beth needs help recruiting contributions for the auction. Beer will be provided by Lagunitas and Loomis Basin.

Graffiti: Pat said Jenna Prescott has scheduled graffiti removal on tunnels and snow sheds by Sugar Bowl employees for August 22. Pat has obtained the needed paint, but she still needs to get gloves.

The Hub: Bill went to restock brochures at The Hub and discovered that vandals had tried to disassemble the shade structure; the motive is not known. All of the hardware seems still to be there, but one corner of the sail was released. He said Jenna Prescott has offered to have SB employees restore the sail.

9. Computers and Web Site

Possible Switch to WordPress: Dick provided additional information on the proposed switch of our web site from Squarespace to WordPress. Our technical support at NextPixels believes that the site will be easier to maintain under WordPress and they have offered several use cases as examples. NextPixels had submitted a proposal before the July meeting that would cost slightly less than \$4000.

MSC-U (Bill, Chris) to appropriate up to \$4000 to cover the expense of transitioning to WordPress.

10. Internal Matters

Future Meetings: Rainbow Lodge has offered to host the September 19 meeting. That will be the same day as the Placer County Parks Tour (see above), but there should be no direct impact on the DSA meeting itself.

11. Announcements:

None.

12. Adjournment:

There being no other business, Pat adjourned the meeting at 6:40 PM.

Minutes approved by the DSA Board of Directors at its meeting on September 19, 2024.

signed by DSA Secretary, Richard Simpson, _____



July 31, 2024

Kyle Smith
Nevada County Planning Department

**DSA Core Action
Team**

*Tom Denzler
Elissa Hambrecht
Pat Malberg
Bill Oudegeest
Chris Parker
Dick Simpson
Mike Spain
John Svahn
Beth Tanhoff*

Letter of Support: Alpenglow Timber and Crosscheck Services

Dear Mr. Smith,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Alpenglow Timber sawmill project on Highway 89 North. As the unofficial voice of residents and visitors at Donner Summit, the Donner Summit Association (DSA) believes that this initiative aligns with our community's interests and priorities.

The project directly benefits Donner Summit by being the closest resource for the sale/disposal of much of the byproduct of our forest resiliency efforts, which includes smaller diameter logs and woody debris harvested as part of wildfire mitigation efforts. Local processing of these materials saves transportation costs. As a new local business, it will also create local jobs, stimulate more local businesses, and generate revenue that can be reinvested in our community's infrastructure and services.

Supporting the Alpenglow Timber sawmill project is not only a sound decision but also a testament to our commitment to sustainable development and community resilience. We urge you to consider these factors carefully in your evaluation of the proposal and to support its approval

Thank you for your consideration.

Patricia Malberg
President, Donner Summit Association

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

www.donnersummitca.com
A 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization
E.I.N: 87-0806766

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

www.donnersummitca.com
A 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization



Donner Summit Association (DSA) Core Action Team Meeting
Thursday, September 19, 2024 5-6 PM
In-person meeting at Rainbow Lodge



Rainbow Lodge (DSCN7062.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. Chris Parker opened a Zoom connection, and John Svahn joined the meeting.

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

Others: Emily Shapton (Rainbow Lodge), and Don Malberg (Lake Mary)

Emily provided a brief overview of Rainbow Lodge. The Lodge has 27 rooms, which can sleep up to 65 people if all beds are fully occupied. Rainbow emphasizes private rentals; but management is trying to organize 2-3 public events each year, such as the 4th of July event which ran Thursday through Saturday and included a crawfish boil. Weddings are the Lodge's main source of revenue. During winter 2024-25, when weddings are slow, Emily is hoping to open for single room bookings once per month; the bar and restaurant will also be open. As an aside, it was noted that the Lodge owner is returning a historic gondola that has been at Rainbow for many years to Sugar Bowl; it will be transported by helicopter.

2. Approval of the Agenda:

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

3. Approval of Minutes from the August Meeting:

MSC (Dick, Chris) to approve the August meeting minutes.

4. Financial Report (Tom):

Last month was a break-even month. Matt Jaborski donated \$1K which balanced expenditures for graffiti removal and our non-profit insurance premium. Tax documents have been completed and submitted (49 pages). Tom is sending \$50 to the California Attorney General, who registers charitable organizations. The amount varies a bit from year to year depending on our income; in some past years it was \$25.

5. County Reports:

Nevada: Erika Seward may be our new contact with Nevada County now that Jeffrey Thorsby has moved up. Chris and John said that the County Planning Commission approved David Mercer's Alpenglou Timber proposal; but that approval is being appealed by neighbors to the Board of Supervisors on grounds that the impact from increased traffic was not given proper consideration.

Placer: Pat noted that a "biochar" facility is being installed at Cabin Creek; the charcoal/carbon that results can be sequestered by burial.

6. Van Norden:

Alecia Weisman submitted a draft solicitation for a professional to put together a NEPA-compliant design for the West Van Norden “visitor facility”; she asked for our feedback. Dick proposed some edits, which are minor. His more substantive comments were about terms that did not seem to be well-defined — such as “Donner Summit Master Plan”, which he assumes is DSA’s recreation master plan. Chris said that he had come up with similar questions; but both thought the document was on the right track. **Dick will edit Alecia’s draft (using TRACK CHANGES), circulate it to the Board, and forward the final to Alecia within the next few days.**

7. Projects

1882 Foundation: No one from DSA attended the September meeting. Pat believes that the Foundation is hoping the election goes the “right way”, so the requested National Historic Landmark designation is not lost in the transition to a new administration.

Gould Park: Pat and Dick met this morning with about a dozen Placer County Parks commissioners. Pat thought the commissioners were impressed with our ideas. Placer has \$90K to start an upgrade. Casey Lyons meets with a contractor tomorrow to discuss clearing vegetation; he expects the work to be completed before snow.

The suggestion to create a platform at the present site of the Susan Cooley-Gilliom plaque was received favorably. The platform would be big enough that an artist could sit and paint a scene as Susan had liked to do. Size and design of the platform was discussed briefly. John said Truckee Donner Land Trust benches are expected to last ten years. Dick thought that concrete might be a better choice since the site is on a corner which may be buried in heavy snow from winter road clearing activities. Tom said his hiking group is making good use of Gould Park; they like to take a break at Gould Park and use the restroom before moving on to their hiking trailheads.

Summit Fest (Saturday, September 21): Beth said things are coming together. We have received most of the food that Scott ordered. Beth has the Lagunitas Beer already; Katie will bring Loomis Basin beer Saturday morning. The liquor license and insurance are in hand. The menu includes bratwurst (with a vegetarian option), potato salad, green salad, and cookies. The “sandwich” sign has been up in front of the Soda Springs parking lot since Tuesday (much earlier than usual), and banners have been placed in strategic places (banner production was underwritten by JK Architecture and Engineering). The Johnson Party Band will provide live music.

Beth is concerned that we don't have enough volunteers – specifically for breakdown and pouring beer. Chris and Tom offered their help. Elissa and Dick said they can be at Soda Springs by 10 AM and are willing to work to the end. Scott finishes at the Academy at 3 PM Friday; then he will do some preliminary setup and could use some help. Mike said the tables are already out.

Live auction items include ski passes for local resorts and a two-person two-night stay at Frog Lake. Silent auction items include a portable BBQ from Ace Hardware, four (stretching) arcade belts, a Christmas ornament session at Nancy O's, a towel warmer, a 5-liter cooler lunch bag, and art objects.

Graffiti: Jenna Prescott rounded up 13 Sugar Bowl employees to paint over graffiti on August 22. They brought 4-wheelers which were used to carry 25 gallons of paint (\$800) to work sites. Sadly, taggers wrote over one of the panels the next night. The Board discussed whether DSA should purchase a sprayer, which would work more quickly at a cost of at least \$300; no decision was made. John suggested a game camera at likely tagging sites; they cost as little as \$100; but there's a question of what to do with the evidence if taggers are observed. Signs can have some effect; but signs can also be tagged.

8. Computers and Web Site

Long-Term Digital Storage: Mike presented some information he has received from IT professionals at Boreal. They have considered One Drive, One Drive for Business, and IDrive. Costs appear to be in the range of \$5-10 per user per month, but features vary. The high points seem to be:

- Both One Drive and IDrive are highly rated but offer different options. Mike described a One Drive version (at \$6.00/user/month) that offers a comprehensive suite of software tools while still providing similar file hosting/files sharing/backup to IDrive.
- For an additional \$1.00/user/month One Drive for Business offers several services including email; web based versions of Word, Excel, PowerPoint, and Outlook; and chat/call services. The cost of this augmented package is more than basic One Drive but still \$2/user/month less than IDrive
- IDrive at \$8.33/user/month is a robust backup tool; but it also provides the same file hosting/file sharing as One Drive. Its additional services are comprehensive, but Mike does not believe that the extra cost of \$2/user/month is worth the expense given that One Drive's power in

those departments is solid, would serve DSA well, and provides additional tools such as e-mail

- One Drive includes 1TB storage for each user no matter how many users end up in the DSA account over time. It's always just another \$6.00/user/month for each user up to 300. IDrive has the same storage of 1TB/user but it limits DSA to 5 users. If we want more users we can increment the number in steps of 5 users.

Possible Switch to WordPress: Dick said Jeannie has started the transition from SquareSpace to WordPress, but he hasn't seen anything yet. Beth said Jeannie needs a password to unlock some files from the Nathan Wieler era. Beth will look for the password next month (after SummitFest).

9. Internal Matters

Future Meetings: By consensus the October 17 meeting will be at Elissa's; **she will provide an address later**. John and Beth offered their offices in Truckee for later meetings. Mike could host at Boreal for the One Drive demo.

10. Announcements:

Pat said Van Norden Restoration Phase 2 implementation (including relocation of Sheep Pens parking) has been postponed to 2025 because of delays in obtaining permits and recent bad weather.

Beth said the Donner Trail Elementary School benefit dinner will be November 16 at Sugar Bowl's Judah Lodge.

11. Adjournment:

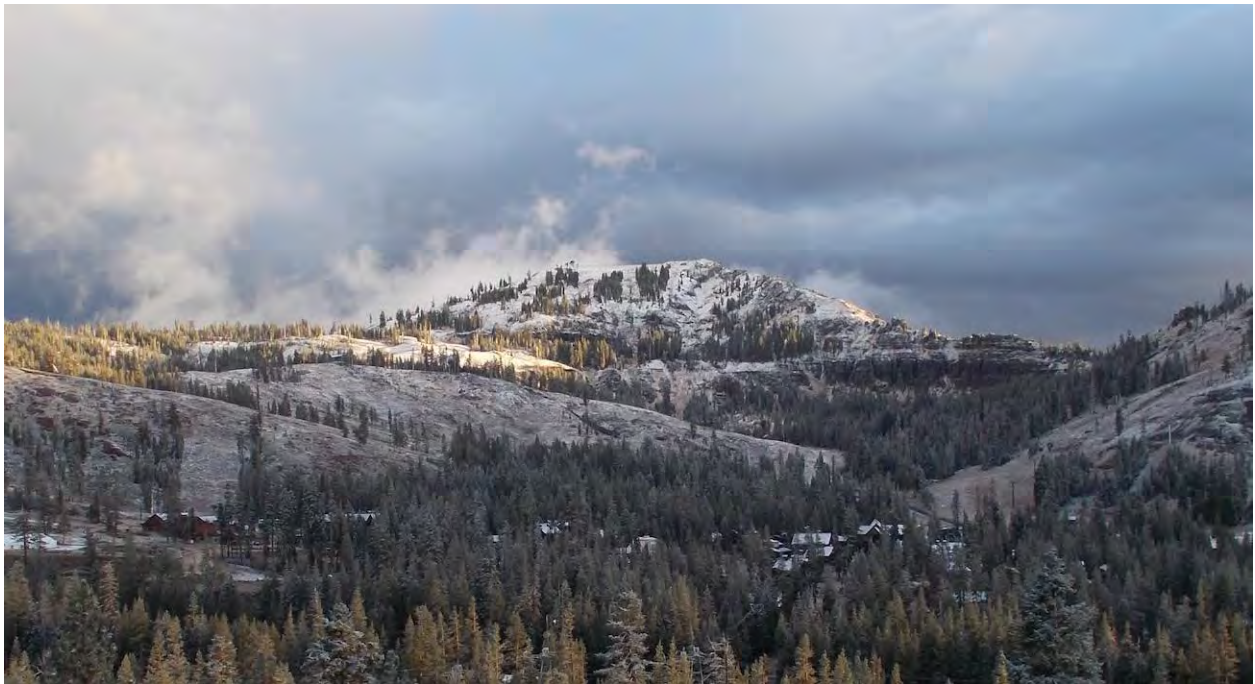
There being no other business, Pat adjourned the meeting at 6:04 PM.

Minutes approved by the DSA Board of Directors at its meeting on October 17, 2024.

signed by DSA Secretary, Richard Simpson, _____



Donner Summit Association (DSA) Core Action Team Meeting
Thursday, October 17, 2024 4:30-5:30PM
In-person meeting at Elissa Hambrecht's home in Sugar Bowl



Snow on Mt. Lincoln after the DSA Board meeting (DSCN7201.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 4:35 PM by Pat Malberg. Chris Parker opened a Zoom connection, and Beth Tanhoff and Audrey Vaughan joined the meeting via Zoom.

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

Others: Kari Sinoff (Sierra Business Council and Gold Country Consortium) and Audrey Vaughan (Placer County CEO Office in Tahoe, by Zoom)

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 September Meeting:

MSC (Dick, Chris) to approve the September meeting minutes. Bill abstained.

4. Financial Report (Tom):

Tom distributed a summary financial report before the meeting. The most significant activity in September was DSA's Summit Fest. Revenue (\$9431) was about 12% higher this year than in 2023; expenses were about \$3187. Swag sales were up.

Tom has been warned that charges for the portable toilets we provide will be going up. We need to request that this year's toilets be removed before the weather changes. Dick said the forecast shows no significant snow in the next two weeks. Bill saw a lot of people at The Hub yesterday, so toilets are still being used.

The Cisco Charitable Foundation contributed another \$454 to DSA in September; Tom doesn't know who arranges this, but Beth thinks it may be Andy Tucker.

5. County Reports:

Nevada: No report.

Placer: Although she had nothing specific to report to Donner Summit, Audrey Vaughan noted that the Lake Tahoe Restoration Act has been reauthorized. It provides over \$300M for the protection and preservation of Lake Tahoe and its surroundings. Over 800 projects have been funded so far.

Placer County is hosting its second Discover and Discuss community event at Granlibakken in Tahoe City on December 5th from 5 PM to 7:30 PM. It is an open house format, food and beverages will be served, and attendees are encouraged to interact with experts in the areas of housing, public works, roads, transit, CDRA/General Plan update, building/engineering, trails, and

environmental utilities as well as with partners from Caltrans and business associations. Registration is not required. For additional information, go to <https://www.placer.ca.gov/9952/Discover-Discuss-Community-Events>

The Placer County Board of Supervisors holds its next Tahoe meeting on November 18-19

6. Broadband at Donner Summit

Kari Sinoff reported that OASIS Broadband has submitted a grant request to Nevada County for installation of several fixed wireless broadband stations in the Donner Summit area, which will provide coverage as far west as Kingvale. Service should be 300 Mb/s down and 100 Mb/s up (or better). OASIS intends to upgrade the stations every 18 months. There could be coverage into Serene Lakes, but Nevada County doesn't want to pay for that service since those customers live in Placer County. Rather than spend time negotiating a cooperative agreement with Placer, the Nevada County Board of Supervisors is expected to vote on the OASIS proposal November 12.

Kari said that a possible station at Sugar Bowl's Christmas Tree facility has been proposed; but Chris said there is no public power at that site. A station on top of Soda Springs Ridge has also been proposed and would provide excellent coverage. A tower was recently installed there to support a fire detection camera, but that site also has no public power. And both sites are in Placer County. These stations may be able to operate on solar power. The real issues are around the county lines.

California recently secured \$1.86B in Broadband Equity Access and Deployment funds, which may become available in 2025. This program is intended to reach people with little or no internet access and/or skills. There is an effort underway to verify maps showing access at the residence level; many such maps are riddled with errors, and Kari has been working with Nathan Schrenk to "appeal" the maps. A successful appeal will make obtaining BEAD funding easier.

Chris said Sugar Bowl was recently upgraded to fiber by Optimum. Mike said Soda Springs and Boreal both have AT&T fiber. The challenge across Donner Summit is getting fiber (or equivalent service) to residents who do not have the market leverage of corporate clients such as the ski areas

7. Projects

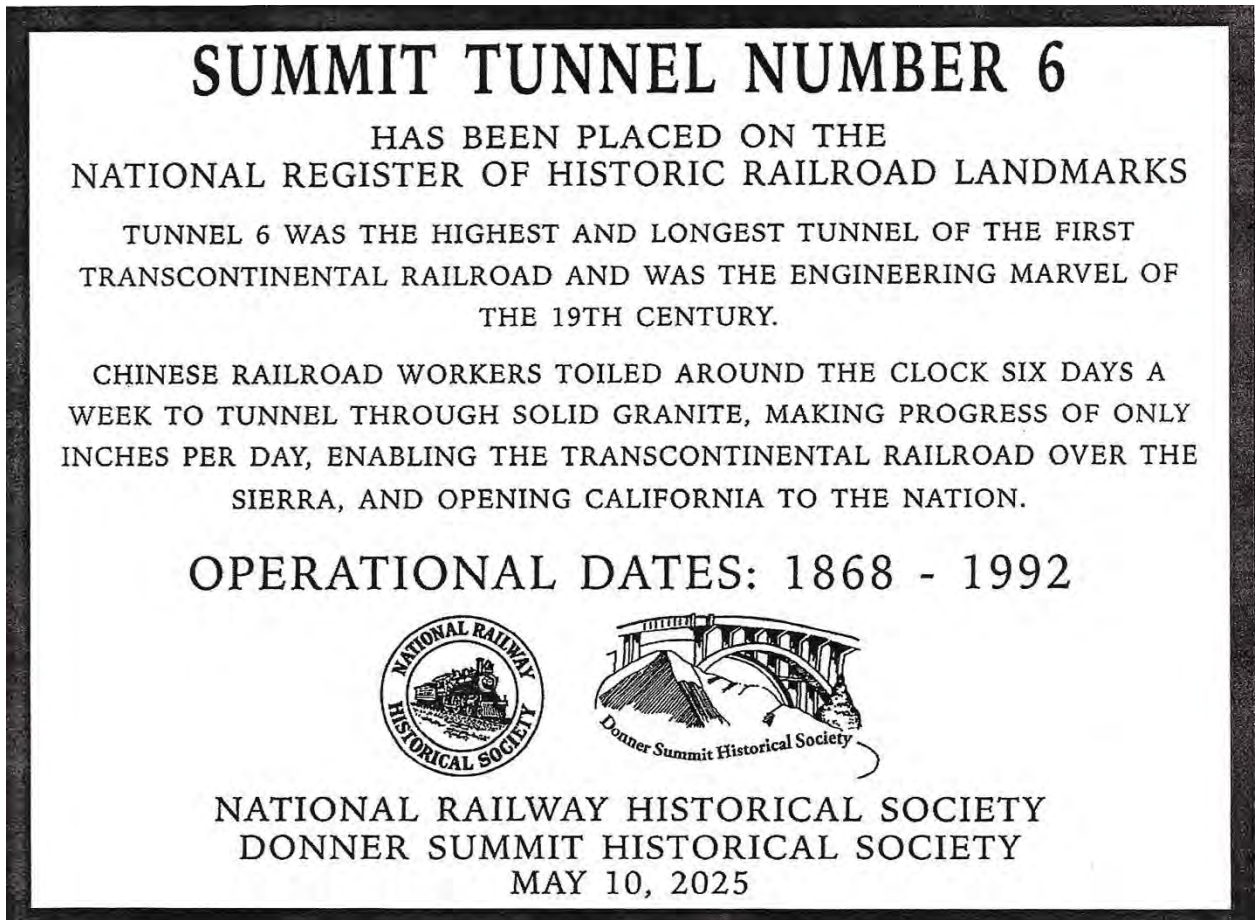
West Van Norden Planning: Pat and Bill attended a recent meeting/tour at Van Norden Meadow with Congressman Kevin Kiley, SYRCL Watershed

Science Director Alecia Weisman, Sugar Bowl CEO Bridget Legnavsky, and a few others. They discussed recent accomplishments and current plans for the Meadow leading to the need for Nevada County's Board of Supervisors to approve hiring a designer for the envisioned visitor facility at the west end of the Meadow.

1882 Foundation: John Kusano canceled the October monthly Zoom meeting so that he could focus on the October 5-6 Return to Gold Mountain tour. He said that the schedule for future meetings is TBD.

National Railway Historical Society (NRHS): Two groups, including NRHS, have visited Donner Summit recently and proposed installing a commemorative plaque (see below) near the railroad tunnels — possibly near The Shaft. Chris said that the “beautification easement” in Sugar Bowl’s lease with the railroad may be sufficient permission from the property owner. He suggested adding the DSA logo to the plaque.

MSC-U (Tom, Elissa) to approve placement of the plaque after addition of the DSA logo.



Gould Park: Forestry work has been completed over the past two weeks; Pat showed photos. Old building foundations can now be seen clearly. Slash still needs to be removed. We need someone to take the next step toward a professional design for the site.

Summit Fest (Saturday, September 21): Beth distributed a report summarizing income and expenses from the event, though she may have forgotten to include the Soda Springs family pass auction item. The report includes recommendations for 2025 — more beer, colder beer, less non-alcoholic beer, more donated auction items, and more pre-event recruiting of volunteer help. There was consensus that the event had been a great success and that Beth was primarily responsible.

Graffiti: No news.

8. Computers and Web Site

Long-Term Digital Storage: Mike prepared a chart showing features of seven digital storage packages for small businesses. All seven are Mac compatible. His chart shows two that only do file storage and sharing. Others have Word, Outlook, e-mail, etc. Microsoft has three for non-profits. Mike started the pre-application for one of the non-profit packages and found that we probably qualify for waived charges. To complete the real application, we need to provide our IRS identification, physical address, mailing address, etc. We have all of those, so **Mike will go ahead with the application and report in November.**

Switch to WordPress: Dick said Jeannie Smith is working on the transition, but there is nothing to see yet. Jeannie has been worried about invoicing, but Dick told her to invoice as each step is completed to a total not to exceed the \$4000 that was approved by the Board.

9. Internal Matters

Future Meetings: By consensus the November 21 meeting will be at Soda Springs. Elissa will be away but can call in. Chris will set up wifi.

The “holiday” meeting will be on December 12, possibly at Nancy O’s gallery. We will confirm next month.

10. Announcements:

Bill said The Hub needs to be disassembled for the winter; Jenna Prescott will have Sugar Bowl employees do it. He also said that someone stole three

nuts from the carts and another person left a bag of trash that needs to be removed. **Pat said she will take care of the trash.**

The Donner Summit Municipal Advisory Committee meets in Judah Lodge at 6 PM today; Pat and Chris will be there.

Elissa said that Sugar Bowl now has the missing gondola car that has lived near Rainbow Lodge for years; it was helicoptered to Sugar Bowl a few weeks ago. With addition of this car, Sugar Bowl now has at least one car of each type that has ever served on the Magic Carpet gondola. Elissa shared a brief video about the recovery.

11. Adjournment:

There being no other business, Pat adjourned the meeting at 5:38 PM.

Minutes approved by the DSA Board of Directors at its meeting on November 21, 2024.

signed by DSA Secretary, Richard Simpson, _____



Lake Mary and Summit Meadow from the PCT (DSCN7218.JPG)



Donner Summit Association (DSA) Core Action Team Meeting Thursday, November 21, 2024 5-6PM In-person meeting at Soda Springs Mountain Resort



Placer County snow removal in action, November 21 morning (DSCN7346.JPG)

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

1. **Welcome:**

The meeting was called to order at 5:03 PM by Bill Oudegeest; Pat Malberg was delayed about 5 minutes on I-80. Chris Parker opened a Zoom connection, and John Svahn joined the meeting via Zoom.

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

Others: None

2. Approval of the Agenda:

Bill asked to add an informational item under #9.

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

3. Approval of Minutes from the October Meeting:

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

4. Financial Report (Tom):

Tom distributed a summary financial report before the meeting. About \$700 was charged by NextPixels for web site upgrade work. Portable toilets have been removed and charges are up to date.

5. County Reports:

Nevada: There was no County representative present; but Pat and Bill met with Supervisor Hardy Bullock on November 13. They discussed general recreation management issues — sanitation, trash, parking, etc. Then they moved on to economic development, including continuing economic stagnation in the Summit area.

Several local people have recommended closing the unpaved road along the north side of Van Norden Meadow; although their voices are loud, they are few and there is no expectation that the road will be closed. Camping along the road is an open issue. Mike said that Powdr Corporation still plans to develop a camping area on its 11 acres near Soda Springs Road; but the timing is unknown. The Powdr site might be open for snow play in winter; in which case, Beth said sanitation would need to be addressed.

There was discussion of the rebuilt section of Donner Pass Road (a success); but Pat noted that the western part of the road (*e.g.*, Kingvale) needs an upgrade — particularly for cyclists. Scheduled striping of the newly rebuilt section will be adjusted so that marks laid down in autumn are not almost immediately erased by plowing during winter. Suggestions that bicycle lanes be marked more clearly apparently cannot be implemented because the paved surface is not wide enough.

Pat summarized that DSA is very happy with attention being given by and cooperation received from Nevada County. There are no big challenges between the two entities. Jeffrey Thorsby indicated that the County is

supportive of allocating \$150K for design studies of a visitor facility at the west end of Van Norden Meadow; funds would come from the originally earmarked \$500K for a visitor center. This would dovetail with a proposal being developed by South Yuba River Citizens League. Pat said that DSA complimented Nevada County on its recently completed Recreation Resiliency Plan, shepherded by Erika Seward, who has now taken Andy Fisher's position in Placer County Parks.

Placer: Lindsay Romack sent an e-mail regarding TOT funding of a shuttle service between Truckee and Donner Summit:

On December 3, Placer County staff will be asking for Board of Supervisors approval for \$230,782 in transient occupancy tax (TOT) to the Truckee-North Tahoe Transportation Management Association (TNT-TMA) for additional park & ride and shuttle service to ski resorts this winter. Part of that funding will be to enhance the Sugar Bowl/Donner Summit Shuttle. The current plan is that it will service two TART stops in Truckee (Cold Stream and West End of Donner) and then go to Donner Ski Ranch, the Judah Loop and then back. It will run two loops in the morning and two in the evening with times being finalized. This will also link with the employee shuttle run by Sugar Bowl. It begins on December 9 and will run daily until April 20, 2025. This funding was recommended by the TOT Advisory Committee and North Tahoe Community Alliance Board of Directors through the "TOT-TBID Dollars at Work" program.

Chris said that Sugar Bowl is hoping to get good ridership so that the service can be expanded in future years. In fact, there might be a "night" run if there is sufficient demand this winter. The bus will not run on I-80; if Donner Pass Road is closed, there will be no service. Sugar Bowl and two other resorts are contributing matching funds. Sugar Bowl's own shuttle will connect Donner Summit Lodge and Summit destinations.

6. Ongoing Projects

The Hub Winter Disassembly: Bill said that Sugar Bowl took down the sails. All of the seasonal equipment has been put into storage.

West Van Norden Planning: There is nothing new in this area except what is noted above under the Nevada County report.

Gould Park: Forestry work has been completed. Dick provided photos which better show the extent of the ruins. **Pat will follow up with Erika on next steps.**

7. Computers and Web Site

Long-Term Digital Storage: Mike was able to get the non-profit Microsoft 365 license; and he likes what he has seen so far. Mike is the “admin” for the license, but **he will try to get a second admin position for Dick.** Bill, Pat, Dick, Beth, and Tom can use 5 of the 10 authorized accounts. Microsoft should have sent an introductory message to those five; but no one received it. **Mike will reinitialize.**

Switch to WordPress: Dick said he has heard nothing recently from Jeannie; but the fact that NextPixels is billing DSA for time spent indicates that work is being done.

Downtown Soda Springs: The lot next to Nancy O’s Gallery and Glass changed hands a couple years ago. The original buyer lost his partner, but a new person has come on board and preliminary plans have been submitted to Nevada County. The new proposal includes a micro-hotel with 18 rooms, food service, and guest facilities. The initial micro-hotel might be expanded in the future by another 18 rooms and/or cabins; but Bill is unsure whether there is enough space for parking on what will be a pair of merged lots.

8. Internal Matters

Future Meetings: Bill confirmed that the “holiday” meeting will be on December 12 at Nancy O’s Gallery. So that Chris can attend a Truckee Trails Foundation holiday party starting at 5:30 PM, the DSA party will be 4-5 PM. There will be a short business meeting before the party starts.

9. Announcements:

Donner Trail Elementary School Benefit: Beth said the benefit on November 16 was “awesome”. There were 125 raffle prizes.

Van Norden Dam: John said, as of Monday, Truckee Donner Land Trust no longer owns the dam; it has been transferred to the Forest Service.

10. Adjournment:

There being no other business, Pat adjourned the meeting at 5:39 PM.

Minutes approved by the DSA Board of Directors at its meeting on December 12, 2024.

signed by DSA Secretary, Richard Simpson, _____



Donner Summit Association (DSA) Core Action Team Meeting
Thursday, December 12, 2024 4-5PM
In-person meeting at Nancy O's Gallery and Glass, Soda Springs, CA



Interior of Nancy O's Gallery and Glass (DSCN7392.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 4:10 PM by Bill Oudegeest, who set up a phone connection. Pat Malberg and Tom Denzler were delayed by snow.

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

Others: Steve Carle (SLPOA), Nancy Oudegeest, and Ann Reisenauer.

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 (Chris, Mike) to approve the November meeting minutes.

4. Financial Report (Tom):

Tom distributed a summary financial report before the meeting. DSA had about \$400 in expenses and received a \$250 donation during the past month. Pat wrote a thank you note to Tucker Norred at Boreal for their donation of \$2000, promised earlier this month but not yet received. She asked whether we could advertise their Play Forever Friday program; **Dick will look into minutes and web site possibilities.**

5. County Reports:

Nevada: There was no County representative present, so there was no report.

Placer: Pat said that she, Bill, and Dick will be meeting with Erika Seward about Gould Park next Wednesday at 10 AM in Auburn. She wondered whether Mike might be available; but he said Soda is closed that day and he needs to take care of some other issues.

6. Ongoing Projects

West Van Norden Planning: Nothing new

Gould Park: See above under County Reports.

7. Computers and Web Site

Long-Term Digital Storage: Mike needs to defer his report until next month; he has been too busy getting Soda Springs ready for the winter season. **Dick offered to help if Mike can get him "admin" privileges.**

Switch to WordPress: NextPixels continues to work on the transition, but there is nothing new to report. There was a glitch in updating the *DSA News* page last week; there appears to be a bug in the SquareSpace software, but

Dick and Jeannie have found a workaround and will use that until we switch to WordPress.

8. Internal Matters

Future Meetings: Pat provided a list of nominal future meeting dates. Mike offered to host the January meeting at Soda Springs Resort.

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

9. Announcements:

Soda Springs Development: Bill said there are four lots in Soda Springs that are ripe for development. He has sent a letter to people interested in developing one. They did not know about the Soda Springs Area Plan, and he thinks their ideas fit very nicely with concepts outlined in that document.

Informational Brochures: Bill has printed thousands of copies of four brochures that are available at The Hub. The new printing includes the DSA logo, since we are paying part of the costs (very roughly \$1 each). Bill said that donations to offset this expense would be welcome.

Beth suggested QR codes in the brochures; but Bill said two already have them and the other two would have to be redesigned to accommodate them. He thinks the return wouldn't justify the effort. All brochures are currently available on the Donner Summit Historical Society web site.

Firewise: Pat said the Lake Mary community has met requirements and is now certified as a Firewise Community. Several noted that Firewise certification doesn't seem to result in lower insurance rates.

10. Adjournment:

There being no other business, Bill adjourned the meeting at 4:25 PM, shortly before Pat and Tom arrived. A modest holiday party followed.

Minutes approved by the DSA Board of Directors at its meeting on January 16, 2025.

signed by DSA Secretary, Richard Simpson, _____