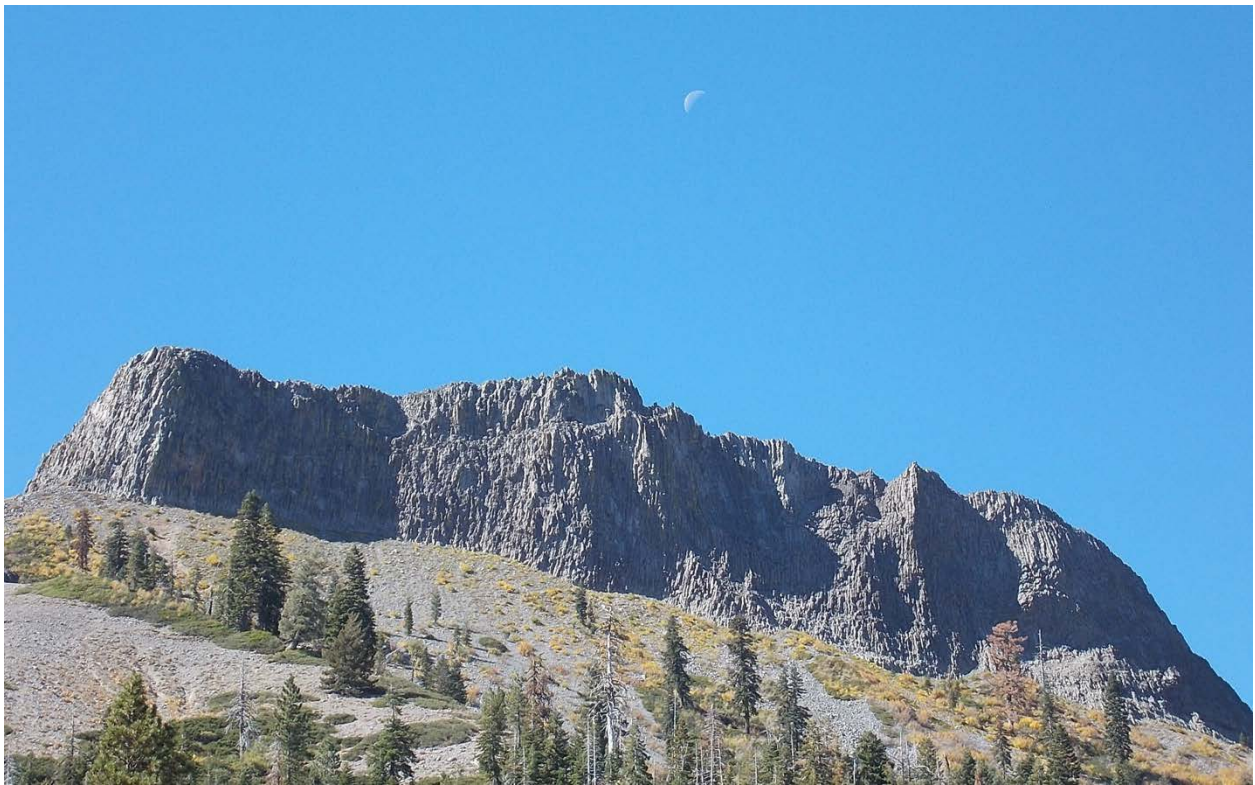




Donner Summit Association (DSA) Core Action Team Meeting
Thursday, January 18, 2024 5-6 PM
In-person meeting at Nancy O Gallery and Glass



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, _____