



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, _____