

DONNER SUMMIT AREA ASSOCIATION
Board Working Meeting Minutes
Monday, February 11, 2008 – Hoyt house

Next meetings:

- **Saturday, March 8, 2008, 5:00pm – 7:00pm, Donner Ski Ranch**
- **Tuesday, April 8 5:30pm - 9pm: mandatory Board training at Carrie Hoyt's house**
- **Saturday, May 3, 10am - noon: Fire Prevention Seminar**

Attending:

Board:

Pat Malberg, President
Mickey Gray, Vice-President
Alisha Lee, Treasurer
Sara Taillon, Secretary
Jim Thomson

Dan Wexler
Tamara Lieberman
Carrie Hoyt
Simone Janssen

Guests: Bruce Kranz, Placer County Supervisor; Collier Cook, Placer County Tahoe Field Representative; Peter VanZant, Sierra Watch; Mary Dewitt; Don Malberg; Mike Livak, Royal Gorge Project Manager; Charlie Houtz; Karen Plank

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 18:33 PST

a) **Special Guest, Bruce Kranz, Placer County Supervisor:**

Supervisor Kranz started by saying that developers need to work with the community. Supervisor Kranz has never seen a development plan approved in exactly the same form in which it was originally submitted, so working with the community to find compromise is critical.

Supervisor Kranz expanded on recent statements that equated the Royal Gorge planning process with a Placer County Community Plan for Donner Summit. Royal Gorge is the largest landowner of undeveloped land on the Placer County side of Donner Summit. As part of the Royal Gorge proposed development planning process, virtually the same steps are going to be followed as would be followed when developing an official Placer County Community Plan, according to Supervisor Kranz. Because the land considered in the Royal Gorge proposed development planning process is most of the undeveloped land on the Placer County side of Donner Summit, the Royal Gorge proposed development planning process would essentially be the same as a Community Plan sponsored by Placer County for Donner Summit.

Several DSAA members pointed out that there are aspects of what we would like to see in a Donner Summit Community Plan which would not be addressed by the Royal Gorge proposed development planning process, including everything on the Nevada County side of Donner Summit (including Cisco, Plavada, downtown Soda Springs and Norden) and other issues like community building, revitalizing the downtown Soda Springs economic center, etc. Supervisor Kranz reminded the Board that areas geographically outside of Placer County could not be addressed in a Placer County Community Plan. The Board agreed that there is a difference in what the DSAA Board and both Counties think of as a community plan. The counties focus on land use within their county boundaries and how proposed development does or does not fit the

County General Plan. The DSAA concept of a Community Plan includes aspects other than land use and development, like social and community issues, and specifically crosses county lines.

Mickey asked if there were no proposed Royal Gorge development, how would we create a community plan. Supervisor Kranz said that, realistically, Community Plans are most commonly addressed when there is proposed development, especially large-scale development. Community Plans are prioritized higher when there is proposed development in part because the developer pays for the planning process. Dan asked how the Board of Supervisors addresses the possible conflict of interest created by developer-funded studies, when the developer has a lot at stake in terms of the outcome of the studies. All consultants are selected and hired by the County. The developer pays for the studies but should have no control over the work done.

The Board asked Supervisor Kranz about how to bridge the dual-county nature of Donner Summit with respect to the Royal Gorge proposed development planning process. Supervisor Kranz explained that both counties will be involved in the Royal Gorge development plan, because LAFCO (Local Area Formation Committee) districts, which govern resources like water, sewage, and fire protection, cross county lines. Peter VanZant shared his experience of cross-county collaboration on the Nevada County Board of Supervisors. He suggested that Supervisor Kranz and Supervisor Ted Owens (Nevada County) could recommend a cross-county planning committee. The counties would work together initially and the processes would diverge. Supervisor Kranz suggested that DSAA meet with county staff to get more clarity on the details of the planning process and how we can be more involved. Supervisor Kranz also suggested that DSAA get involved as a cross-county organization by commenting on each step of the Royal Gorge development plan process.

When asked specifically for his position on the Royal Gorge proposed development, Supervisor Kranz said that he cannot legally adopt a position on any development proposal until the proposal is formally presented to the Board of Supervisors for a vote. If he were to adopt a position prior to that time, he would have to recuse himself from the official vote. Generally, Supervisor Kranz is a “strong property rights advocate” and “does not like to take away from the value of property owners’ property”. Supervisor Kranz has not read the Royal Gorge development proposal in full, but he mentioned that there are some aspects of the proposal that do not appear to fit the Placer County General Plan that would need to be addressed. He did not mention specifically what those issues might be.

Supervisor Kranz assured us that there will be ample opportunity for the community to get involved in the Royal Gorge proposed development planning process. The best opportunity for public involvement is in “discretionary” aspects of the development plan (any changes in the existing General Plan zoning, for example). He urged the community and Royal Gorge to work together. He also advised Donner Summit community members to consider collecting funds to purchase open space, as was done in Martis Valley with Waddle Ranch.

Mickey asked about the Middle Fork project. The County is getting the project back from PG&E in 2013. The County stands to gain \$10-100 million dollars per year. Supervisor Kranz wants to create a policy to use the money solely to set up grants, low interest loans, etc to counties, cities and special districts to spend on fixing infrastructure.

2) Monthly Business:

a) Public Comments:

i) Charlie asked about LAFCOs: The membership composition of each LAFCO is very specific (*X* county representatives, *Y* fire reps, etc). Charlie asked if the Board of Supervisors has more or less power than the LAFCO. Peter said the authority is different – for example, LAFCO cannot change zoning. The county cannot implement zoning changes that would contradict LAFCO water or sewer capacity decisions, etc. If a LAFCO says there are not water or sewer resources, the county must respect that decision. LAFCO is most commonly involved in jurisdictional changes (ex: a fire district area of service change).

b) Approval of Agenda: Tam suggested adding discussion of the earlier portion of the meeting with Supervisor Kranz under New Business.

c) Approval of Minutes: Dan motioned to approve the minutes and Alisha seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with no discussion.

3) New Business:

a) Discussion of Bruce Kranz Meeting: Tam suggested that we should move forward with our own Community Visioning process, outside of the County confines, because our community vision includes a lot more than just land use and development. Our concept of a community vision includes aspects like sense of community, economic viability, social infrastructure, etc. Tam also recalled her experience on the Land Trust Board. Perry Norris, Land Trust Executive Director, is so effective in part because he develops relationships with government officials, developers, etc. The success of the Land Trust is also because Perry is a paid, full-time, employee of the Land Trust. We must still be involved in the Royal Gorge project planning process with the County, but we should move forward in parallel with a more community-based, cross-county visioning process.

4) Monthly Business, Cont:

a) Treasurer's Report:

o Financial Reports: Alicia distributed financial reports including P&L statements and balance sheets. All of our bookkeeping is now in QuickBooks. Alisha will distribute financial reports enough in advance of our Board Meetings so that we can approve them during our regular Board meetings. **Dan asked Alisha for the past three years of high-level financial reports for our insurance application. Dan will send an official request with the details of the information he needs. Alisha and Pat will meet to discuss tracking accounting for each grant.**

o Tax Filing: **Ron is filing for our state tax exempt status. Ron and Dan will meet Saturday to review and finalize the details of our application.**

b) Correspondence:

i) TTCF: We sent a thank-you letter to TTCF for a recent \$500 grant.

ii) We received an email from Phebee at TTCF for a status update regarding our grant funding.

c) Committee Reports:

i) Fundraising and Membership: The Fundraising Committee met on January 23 to discuss the 4th of July picnic (scheduled for July 5). Dan suggested we check-in with Susan Phebus of Donner Trail School to make sure they were not hoping to take over this event. Charlie suggested we could work together with the school (for example, the school could run a rummage sale). Dan suggested that we solicit our member businesses to donate prizes in exchange for some form of publicity. **Every board member will need to volunteer in some form for the picnic.**

i) Economic Vitality: Pat handed out copies of the 2004 Nevada County Donner Summit Economic Development Study and suggested that we review this study as a starting point for

an Economic Infrastructure and Viability discussion. There are some important pieces of information in this study, including demographics and certain select suggestions for improvement. We would also ask local businesses to participate in an economic viability visioning processing. Pat suggested we ask SNA and SBC for advice on how to proceed.

- ii) Education and Community Building: Dan has not made any further progress on the Fire seminar. It was suggested that this seminar focus specifically on the Proposed Fire Assessment issue. We would like to schedule the seminar Saturday, March 8. **Jim will ask Cal Lodge if we can hold the seminar (and a follow-up general meeting) there.**
- iii) Community Visioning: The Summit Summit II did not define guiding principles as clearly as we hoped, but did generate a lot of good ideas. The Community Visioning Committee proposed that we move forward by formalizing the ideas that were expressed strongly in the Summit Survey as guiding principles. That would assure that the principles reflect majority opinion and in fact the survey questions can easily be re-worded to become Guiding Principles.
- iv) Information Technology: No report.
- v) Organization Coordination: There is a report on the water district meeting and Royal Gorge application process written by Joe Gray on the SLPOA website. SNA is having their conference Sept 12-14 in Kings Beach. Pat suggested that DSAA be represented at this conference.
- vi) Infrastructure: Pat suggested we have a public meeting, Saturday, March 8, after the fire seminar. Jim will look into holding this meeting at Cal Lodge. The infrastructure committee met about policies and procedures (see handout). We will have a Board training in early April. Sara motioned that we allocate up to \$400, in addition to grant funding, for Board Training. Carrie seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

5) Continuing Business:

- a) Insurance: \$1,000,000 of D&O (Directors & Officers) insurance has an annual premium of \$1150. Coverage up to \$500,000 would be \$800/yr. The second type of insurance is liability insurance. Coverage for individual events is \$300-500 per event. Coverage for the full year up to \$1,000,000 is \$450/yr. This coverage would not include alcohol at events. We would like to be able to serve alcohol at the picnic. **Dan will look into the cost of allowing alcohol.** We also asked about whether or not we should have people sign waivers at our events. Carrie motioned that we allocate \$2000/year for D&O and liability. Mickey seconded and the board unanimously approved the motion. **Dan will distribute copies of the policy when it is signed.**

- 6) Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 21:41 PST.

NEXT DSAA MEETINGS:

- **Saturday, March 8 5pm-7pm at Donner Ski Ranch: DSAA general meeting and Fire Assessment Seminar**
- **Tuesday, April 8 5:30pm - 9pm: mandatory Board training at Carrie Hoyt's house**
- **Saturday, May 3, 10am - noon: Fire Prevention Seminar**
- **June: Preparation for Annual Meeting**
- **July 5: DSAA Picnic**

Respectfully submitted,

Sara Taillon, Secretary