

DONNER SUMMIT AREA ASSOCIATION

Board Retreat Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, September 3, 2008

Lieberman Household

Next meetings:

- **First Tuesday of the month at 5:30, ongoing: Board Working Meetings**
- **Wednesday, September 10, 2008, 5:30pm at Sara Taillon's house: Executive Committee meeting**
- **Tuesday, October 7, 2008, 5:30pm at Dan Wexler's house: DSAA Board Meeting**
- **Saturday, October 25, 2008, 9am – 12:30 pm at Sugar Bowl's Judah Lodge: Free Educational Seminar on Climate Change in the Sierra Nevada. Short Board meeting to follow.**
- **Saturday, November 8 from 9-5pm at Judah Lodge, Sugarbowl: Summit Summit 3, the Community Charrette on Economic and Community Revitalization**
- **Tuesday, December 2, 2008, 5:30, Location TBD: DSAA Board Meeting**
- **Saturday, June 13, 2009: Annual Summit Cleanup**

Attending:

Board:

Pat Malberg, President
Sara Taillon, Secretary
Carrie Hoyt
John Kirrene

Ron Kolbe
Tam Lieberman
Rebecca Meyerholz
Dan Wexler

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 18:30 PDT

1) Board Member Introductions

2) General Business:

- a) Sara moved that Pat spend \$180 to apply for our non-profit bulk mail permit. John seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.
- b) Sara will send out the list of volunteers from General Membership Meeting.
- c) SLPOA (Serene Lakes Property Owners Association) donated \$1500 towards the Community Charrette.

3) DSAA Mission and Vision

a) Motto

"One voice from Cisco Grove to Rainbow Bridge"

b) Mission

Our Current Mission:

Representing the people of the historic Donner Summit community for the preservation of the area's rugged mountain character and natural resources by providing active coordination for community development issues.

c) Vision

Our Current Vision Statement:

The Donner Summit Area Association members desire to maintain the unique natural beauty and special character of the area for the public benefit, and to assure that the area remains a special place to live, work, and visit.

To this end the Association will proactively develop a long-range conceptual development plan for the Area. This plan will incorporate various elements of land usage, zoning, facilities and enhancements, types of growth, maintenance of natural areas, and any other appropriate desires. The goal of the plan is to provide the greatest possible benefit to the general public.

The Association will function as a conduit for communication between the area residents, owners and visitors and Nevada and Placer County and other appropriate agencies which influence the growth and development of the Donner Summit Area. The long range plan developed by the Association will guide the Association's response to proposals for development and growth through regular contact with County Supervisors and attendance at County Supervisor Board meetings the Association will maintain current knowledge of proposals which affect the Donner Summit Area and be able to comment upon these proposals in a timely manner. The Association will also be able to bring proposals and suggestions to the appropriate authorities for consideration.

The Association recognizes that further growth and development is inevitable and desires to influence that growth to assure the highest overall quality of life possible. In particular the Association desires to enhance the attractiveness of Soda Springs and the surrounding area for visitors, residents and businesses. Ensuring a safe, orderly flow of traffic, pedestrians, and bicyclists is a high priority.

Comments:

- General: Some people thought the Vision as it is currently written reads more like a Mission Statement and that we might consider swapping our Mission with our Vision. No action was taken on this point.
- Paragraph 1:
 - Background (Dan): The Board really wanted to include three distinct groups of people who “live, work and visit” Donner Summit.
 - The current Board strongly agrees that the wording in this section accurately represents our vision.
- Paragraph 2:
 - The Board felt like the wording of this paragraph might be too specific.
 - Using the term “development plan” has been problematic, because it is a very specific term in county government parlance. Also, a Development Plan, as defined by the County, includes nothing about economic, social or community building vision, which is important to DSAA and to the Donner Summit community.
 - We do want to be involved in enabling the Donner Summit community to create it’s own vision for the future of Donner Summit.
 - We commit to representing the voice of the community to the right people to enable the Community to create its own vision and determine its own future, to the best extent possible.
- Paragraph 3:
 - Background (Dan): Because the DSAA was formed right after an Economic Development Study which the community felt was not reflective of its views, and the unveiling of the Royal Gorge project plan submitted to the County for Summit

Valley (Van Norden Meadow), there was some concern that the community was not involved in County decisions that affect Donner Summit.

- Again we liked the basic meaning of this paragraph, but thought the wording was too specific. Rebecca recommended removing the phrase about “regular contact with County Supervisors and attendance at County Supervisor Board meetings” and the Board generally agreed. **The Executive Committee will suggest a rephrasing for this part of the Vision at some point before the next general membership meeting.**

- Paragraph 4:

- Many people liked the concepts and ideas behind this paragraph, but thought it might benefit from a little wordsmithing.
- Tam interpreted this paragraph as saying that DSAA would actually, directly do the work mentioned in this paragraph ourselves, as opposed to being conduits of information and facilitators of such projects.
- Pat wanted to incorporate wording which reflects that we are facilitators and that we reflect the views of the community. There was general agreement.
- Rebecca suggested considering combining this paragraph with the 2nd paragraph, because they both address development, growth and planning issues.
- John liked it exactly as-is and pointed out that there may be a benefit to not changing anything about the original vision and mission, and challenged ourselves to work within the construct of the original mission and vision. The original Board worked very hard on the original mission and vision and a lot of public input was gathered to create it.
- No action was taken. **The Executive committee might consider suggesting some rephrasing which reflect the thoughts shared above.**

- 4) Democratic Deliberation Principles: We reviewed the Democratic Deliberation Principles, which the DSAA Board formally adopted for all our deliberations on July 14, 2008.

The key elements in the concept of democratic deliberation are:

- A rigorous analytic process:
 - Create a solid information base
 - Prioritize the key values at stake
 - Identify a broad range of solutions
 - Weigh solution pros, cons and tradeoffs
- An egalitarian social process:
 - Adequately distribute speaking opportunities
 - Ensure mutual comprehension
 - Consider other ideas and experiences
 - Respect other participants

- 5) DSAA Committee Structure and 2008-2009 Committees and Projects: We reviewed our existing commitments for 2008-2009. Each project or committee is organized under our existing committee structure (see Appendix A). For each project or sub-committee, we brainstormed a list of tasks, who should address them and timelines for each task.

a) Community Issues & Programs (Mickey is Chair)

- i) Sub-Committee: Trails and Parks: Pat gave a brief report of the August 27, 2008 meeting between Tom Skjelstad (DSPUD), Pat Malberg (DSAA), Peter Van Zant (Sierra Watch),

Linda Waddle, John Rodriguez (Placer County Park Dept. director), and Vance ??? (our Placer County contact):

- (1) DSPUD wants to exercise its latent powers to become a Parks and Recreation Department, so it could apply to use the \$340,000 set aside from resort development fees for public parks in Placer County.
- (2) Any project submitted to the County for use of these funds would require broad public support. There are two ideas currently being discussed: (1) establishing the Emigrant Trail route as a deeded public asset that would be protected in perpetuity and (2) building a public park and community center building.
- (3) There is apparently a comparable amount of money available in a similar fund on the Nevada County side. We are trying to get more details about those funds.
- (4) **Carrie motioned that Pat write a letter to Placer County in support of DSPUD exercising its latent powers to become a Parks and Recreation department. Dan seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.**

ii) Community Issues Projects and Sub-Committees Discussion: We talked about each of the projects and sub-committees already active for this committee. See below tables for details.

Sub-Committee: Trails and Parks 2008 - 2009

WHAT	WHO	WHEN
Establish regular meeting times	Alisha, Nancy Latimer, Emily Wexler, John Kirrene, Linda Waddle, Peter Mayfield(?), others from volunteer list	Now!
Send volunteer list from General Membership Meeting	Sara	Now!
Contact volunteers for this committee	Alisha	Soon!
Establish liason from Parents group to Trails Committee	Rebecca	At September 17, 2008 parents group meeting
Get a permanent committee chair	???	
Act as liason with County for Trails committee	Pat	Ongoing

Project: Community Person of the Year 2008 – 2009

WHAT	WHO	WHEN
Find a chair (possibly Sue Busby?)	Tam to ask Sue	Soon
Send volunteer list from General Membership Meeting	Sara	Now!
Create a job description for this role	Executive Committee	Soon
Publicity	???	Spring
Collect nominations	???	May / June
Choose Community Person of the Year (vote)	DSAA Board	June
Arrange for a prize	???	Spring

Press Release	???	July
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Sub-Committee: Educational Seminars 2008 - 2009

WHAT	WHO	WHEN
Find a chair	DSAA Board	Now!
Brainstorm a list of topics / speakers	DSAA Board	October Board meeting
Arrange speakers and locations	???	Ongoing
Publicity	???	Ongoing

Project: Community Charrette on Economic and Social Revitalization

WHAT	WHO	WHEN
Add a sign-up form to the website	Dan	Now!
Generate a task list and recruit volunteers	Pat and the Board	Now!
Start publicity process (create and post fliers, etc)	Sara	Now!
Obtain the proposed budget and request approval of the budget from the DSAA Board	Pat	By our October Board meeting.
Arrange Logistics	???	Soon
Circulate results	???	November / December

Sub-Committee: Annual Summit Cleanup, Saturday June 13, 2008

WHAT	WHO	WHEN
Arrange for food and party	Carrie and John with Maria Montano	May
Publicity	Sara	May
Arrange dumpsters	Nancy Latimer and Jennifer Montgomery	May
Organize volunteers, cleanup areas, etc	Nancy Latimer and Jennifer Montgomery	May

Sub-Committee: Donner Summit Parents Group

WHAT	WHO	WHEN
Get approval from existing group to be under DSAA umbrella	Rebecca	at September 17, 2008 parents group meeting
Report committee news back to the Board regularly	Rebecca	Ongoing
Work with Trails group and DSPUD on parks idea	Rebecca	Ongoing
Consider applying for First 5 Placer County \$5000 grant for toys for playgroup	All	???

b) Fundraising & Communications

Sub-Committee: Membership 2008 - 2009

WHAT	WHO	WHEN
Discuss membership database requirements	Pat, Dan and Sara	Soon
Research possible membership database solutions and cost	Dan and Sara	Soon
Draft new membership renewal letter	Tam and Sara	Soon
Send out renewal notices	Sara	Quarterly
Update membership database	Sara	Ongoing

Project: Annual Community Picnic 2009

WHAT	WHO	WHEN
Send out list of volunteers from General Membership Meeting	Sara	Now!
Mentor new chair for 2010	Tam	Ongoing
Enlist more sub-committee chairs for the picnic (raffle, games, sponsor solicitation, community booths)	All	By spring
Determine Date for Picnic	Fundraising Committee	Soon
Organize and cook food	Carrie and crew	Spring
Publicity	Sara	Spring
Get sponsors	???	Spring
Get raffle prize donors and organize raffle	???	Spring
Organize entertainment	John	Spring
Organize logistics	Don Malberg ???	Spring
Find and organize community booths	???	Spring
Organize live and/or silent auction ???	???	Spring

Project: Annual Giving 2008

WHAT	WHO	WHEN
Draft letter	Tam and Sara	October
Print, address and mail letters	Everyone!	November

Sub-Committee: Grants 2008 - 2009

WHAT	WHO	WHEN
Meet to discuss grant task list	Tam and Emily Wexler	Soon
Identify DSAA projects and grants to apply for	Tam and Emily with DSAA Board	Soon
Submit grant applications	Emily	Ongoing
Submit follow-up reports for grants received	Tam and Pat ??	As needed

Sub-Committee: Media Contact 2008 - 2009

WHAT	WHO	WHEN
Contact Peter Wiley (volunteered for media contact during General Membership Meeting)	Tam	Now!
Write job description	Executive Committee with Tam	Soon
Submit press releases	???	Ongoing

Project: Website

WHAT	WHO	WHEN
Add link to page with large view of DSAA calendar (“Current Events”)	Dan	Now!
Identify other small changes that can be made to improve the website this year without a major overhaul	All	Ongoing

c) Executive Committee (Current Board Officers and Past President)

Executive Committee 2008 - 2009

WHAT	WHO	WHEN
Establish and update policies and procedures	Executive Committee	Ongoing
Consider drafting policy to allow Executive Committee to approve certain actions without entire Board, such as press releases and anything that requires quick action and where no objection is expected	Executive Committee	Ongoing
Develop Board Meeting agendas and arrange for special guests	Executive Committee	Ongoing
Liason with counties and various community groups	Pat	Ongoing
Review DSAA Vision Statement and consider recommending some minor, specific changes to the entire Board	Executive Committee	???
Draft 2009-2010 Budget	Executive Committee with DSAA Board	May / June
Taxes	Alisha	???
Financial Reports	Alisha	Monthly for Board Meetings
Board Meeting Minutes	Sara	Monthly for Board Meetings

General Membership Meeting agenda, presentation and logistics	Executive Committee with DSAA Board	June
Arrange for 3 rd party review of books	Alisha	June ???

- 6) Future Role: There was some general discussion about whether we how we envisioned DSAA’s future role. We agreed that there are a lot of really large scale potential projects with which we may be involved, like transportation improvements, building a park or community center, and any number of other ideas that come out of the Community Charrette, Will DSAA be directly responsible for big projects like these, or will it take more of a facilitation role in projects, ensuring that the community voice is well-represented? This is an open question upon which we should continually reflect.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 20:53 PDT

DSAA 2008 – 2009 Committees & Projects

