



**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF
THE DONNER SUMMIT MUNICIPAL ADVISORY COUNCIL
Thursday, January 15, 2015**

Pursuant to notice given, the regular meeting of the Donner Summit Municipal Advisory Council (DSMAC) was held on Thursday January 15, 2015 at the Judah Lodge at Sugar Bowl in Norden, California.

1. Call to Order

CHRISTOPHER PARKER called the meeting to order at 6:02 PM. A quorum was established.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Parker, Malberg, and Heald

MEMBERS ABSENT: Wiggins and Wexler

STAFF PRESENT: Kastan and Friedman

2. MAC Member Introductions

Council members introduced themselves.

3. Approval of Agenda

MALBERG/HEALD/UNANIMOUS

4. Approval of Minutes of April 17, 2014

MALBERG/PARKER/Carried with abstention from HEALD

5. Supervisor / Tahoe Field Representative Reports

KASTAN reported the Placer County Board of Supervisors is meeting at Granlibakken in Tahoe City on January 20, 2015. The items regarding the Animal Shelter and TART branding being presented tonight will be heard by the full Board at that time. Sue Busby has been appointed to the North Lake Tahoe Resort Association Board of Directors.

6. Community / Public Safety Reports

No reports were presented.

7. Public Comment

There were no comments on items not on the agenda.

8. Information Non-Action Items

A. The TART Branding Project – Will Garner, Placer County Public Works Manager – Transit Services

WILL GARNER reported that for the past few years, a group of stakeholders including the ski areas, NLTRA, the Town of Truckee, and Placer and Nevada Counties have been meeting as the Resort Triangle Transit Vision Coalition to consider expanding transit services for residents and visitors. Services included are TART, Truckee Transit, the Night Rider, and the Airport Express. One issue identified is the confusion with so many agencies offering a variety services. As a result, a Branding Committee was formed. GARNER showed the new TART logo that is in keeping with the new brand being launched so area transit services can be more easily identified. Other uses for the new color scheme and logo are the website and signage. There will also be one phone number for user information. GARNER answered questions clarifying the program and the purchase of new equipment.

A question was asked about Nevada County's involvement in the local transit service. KELLY BEEDE from the Town of Truckee explained the Town operates the Donner Summit shuttle. SUE BUSBY asked about the bus shelters. BEEDE said the Town builds and maintains the shelters in Truckee.

B. Animal Shelter Services for Eastern Placer County – proposal to close the Tahoe Vista Animal Shelter and merging services at the Town of Truckee Shelter – Wesley Nicks, Director, Placer County Environmental Health, Public Health and Animal Services

NICKS reported on the decision to close the Tahoe Vista Animal Shelter and merging services to the new shelter in Truckee, forming a Regional Shelter Agreement to serve the area. The current shelter opened in 1972 and handles 110 animals each year. The building is small and needs many upgrades. The challenges include the difficulty in cleaning the building, the play area is small and needs to be shoveled in the winter, and the building is not ADA compliant. It costs approximately \$340 per animal and the average length of stay is over 4 months for dogs and 8 months for cats. Given the costs and TRPA restrictions, the existing shelter cannot be enlarged, nor can a second story be built.

The proposed agreement with Truckee is for 30 years. There will be a one-time fee of \$750,000 and the cost to shelter animals is approximately \$250, resulting in a \$100,000 annual savings. The Truckee facility has a much higher adoption rate and the facilities for the animals are much better. Placer County Animal Control officers will still patrol eastern Placer County areas.

NICKS discussed the improvements to animal control being made, regardless of whether or not the Tahoe Vista shelter closes, including upgraded software and the "Free Ride Home" program. A new facility is being built on the west side of the County at a cost of approximately \$20 million.

HEALD said she works a lot with dog rescues and has visited about 90% of the shelters in Northern California. She is thoroughly impressed with the Truckee facility.

MALBERG asked if there have been a lot of comments from the public regarding this proposal. NICKS explained that many in Kings Beach and Tahoe Vista would rather see a new shelter in their area, although some people like the idea of sharing resources with other jurisdictions.

The topic was open to public comment. Three people spoke. They all said they had just recently heard of the issue and are asking the Board of Supervisors not make a decision on this at the January 20 meeting, but to give the community at least 6 months to investigate options.

**C. Lodge at Ice Lakes – request to convert the existing Ice Lakes Lodge into four (4) residential units
Allen Breuch, Supervising Planner – Tahoe, Placer County Planning Services**

BREUCH presented the request for a Minor Use Permit to convert the existing hotel/bar/restaurant into four residential units, including new decking and a four-car garage. He showed site maps indicating the location of the project on the property. The project will be heard by the Zoning Administrator at the February 4 meeting in Tahoe City.

The applicant, RONALD AU, representing one of 2 families that own the property, addressed the group saying the design for the conversion has not been confirmed yet. It could be 2 or 3 units, depending on what is found as they get into the existing structure. He explained the options being considered. Landscaping in the front is being planned in order to make the property look more residential and provide more privacy. BREUCH explained the permit will state "up to 4 units."

The Council asked questions clarifying the proposal. This request is not to sub-divide the property; it would be more like an apartment building with one owner. No variances are being requested. HEALD asked if the Ice Lakes CC&Rs allow this use. AU said the 8 surrounding lots were part of the Ice Lakes association under the CC&Rs. A Board of Directors or Committees were never formed so perhaps the CC&Rs are not in effect. That said, he has attempted to contact all other 8 owners. Those he has spoken to were generally pleased that this

high impact, high use property will have less impact, noise, and trash. There was 1 adverse comment from a neighbor that the lodge/restaurant/bar won't be there. AU said he and his partner have discussed using the 2 lots across the road for a small restaurant and bar, using the liquor license and equipment that was included with the purchase of the property. That could be a long-term plan.

The topic was open to public comment. There was a brief discussion on the prior use of the property and the proposal.

**D. Soda Springs Area Plan and Donner Summit Area Association (DSAA) Update
Pat Malberg, MAC member**

MALBERG reported the Area Plan team has had 4 public meetings to discuss land use and historic, natural, and recreational resources. A meeting to consider transportation and infrastructure will be held in conjunction with the DSAA Annual Meeting. MALBERG invited everyone to attend tomorrow's "walk and talk" with a member of Nevada County Planning Department. For information on participating with the Soda Springs Area Plan, go to the Nevada County website.

DSAA has a Trails Committee that has adopted a section of the Pacific Crest Trail. MALBERG announced upcoming DSAA events, including a public forum to be held in April or May to consider visions for the Van Norden Meadow area.

E. Sugar Bowl / Royal Gorge Operations Update – Chris Parker, MAC chair

PARKER reported the work on the Donner Summit Lodge is almost completed. The Sugar Bowl Corporation Board took action to allow the Truckee Donner Land Trust to include the lands of Sugar Bowl in TDLT's CEQA documents to connect some multi-use trails into the Royal Gorge Rim Trail. The Sport House recreational facility is open for hotel guests and homeowners. There is consideration being given to setting up a club structure at some point so others can join.

PARKER reported only about 60 kilometers of trails are open at Royal Gorge because of the lack of snow. Permissions are being sought to grade over snow bridges in order to keep connections open. The old Academy building is being used for short-term employee housing. Hopefully providing low cost housing will help the challenges to finding employees, which has been an area-wide problem this year.

A brief discuss followed regarding how the traffic control at the light is set up to mitigate heavy traffic flows. It was agreed a meeting will be convened to consider traffic solutions on high-use days.

9. MAC Member Reports

No additional reports were given.

10. Future Agenda Items

- A presentation from the Mosquito & Vector Control office in Truckee
- Environmental Health report on the Trash and Wildlife Survey results
- County Auditor regarding TOT
- Resort Association report from Sue Busby – what projects they're involved in, subsidies to transportation, etc

11. Date and Time of Next Meeting – April 16, 2015 at 6:00 PM

12. Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 7:52 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Friedman, Recording Secretary