

North Tahoe Citizen Action Alliance

PO Box 289, Tahoe Vista, CA 96148

Office: 530-546-8125

www.ntcaa.org

Jerry Wotel, Temporary Newsletter Editor

NTCAA News

Our new email program has been implemented to make that system more responsive and efficient. Four interactive community email mailing lists have been created and are in operation, Kings Beach, Tahoe Vista, Tahoe City, and Homewood Community. You have been subscribed to the email list in your community, as well as the NTCAA organizational list. The NTCAA mailing list will only be used for the newsletters and special announcements. It is now informational only. The operation of this new system has been emailed to each of you.

A schedule of events and meetings will be published with each newsletter. It will always be on the last page and you can post it under a refrigerator magnet. These will not be announced again by email reminders. Only changes, additions, or corrections from the newsletter schedule will be emailed. During the winter months, the newsletter will be published monthly at the middle of the month.

We continue to announce our presence to the community and sign up new members. We now have 128 members. The picture shows Jerry & Cindy Wotel at the Mexican Independence Party in Kings Beach, distributing fliers and accepting new members.



I have also been invited to speak before the Rotary Club and Kiwanis Club about NTCAA and its principles.

The NTCAA Community Enhancement Program (CEP) workshop was a success. Brenda Hunt, TRPA CEP Program Manager, and Placer County's Jennifer Merchant presented the program and answered numerous questions. Attendees all left with a better understanding of the CEP, but not necessarily happy with the details.

Jerry Wotel, President

North Tahoe Issues

Environmental Thresholds

At the last Board of Governors' meeting, their staff report on the Lake Carrying Capacities, a form of measurement of the health of the Tahoe Basin, was discussed. Every ten years the TRPA reviews the thresholds. Thirty-eight thresholds were discussed. These standards will be imposed on all development projects. Input had previously been received from many environmental organizations, including UC Davis.

It was apparent that some Board members were unhappy with some of the standards, as well as the significant lack of progress on TRPA's staff in improving certain thresholds, and it was clear that the staff had not accepted most of the recommendations from the Sierra Club, The League to Save Lake Tahoe, and UC Davis. UC Davis's strong rebuke to the TRPA staff which had initially

claimed the Lake's water clarity was improving changed the report before the meeting to reflect the steady decline in Lake Tahoe Water clarity.

The Board voted to approve the report, together with its one-sided view of the Lake's health and measurement standards, with Placer Board member Bruce Kranz voting against acceptance of the report (as did 2 other members). Further, two other Members voted in favor of the report provided their strong objections were noted for the record.

We are now reviewing that the Lake is not meeting the previously established Carrying Capacities; TRPA's standards are incorrect and often too easy to meet and often not based on current science. We plan to develop scientifically correct standards with UC Davis and the Sierra Club that will be presented to the TRPA. It appears the TRPA will allow development provided it conforms to their potentially flawed standards, and is one of the leading causes of the Lake's decline in environmental health.

Ron Grassi, Advisory Board

Ordinance for Hazardous Plants

A pilot ordinance for North Tahoe to control fire fuel supply will be initiated in February 2008 for a twelve month period. It will require a developed property owner to have a 100-foot defensible space around his home. If this exceeds his property boundaries, then the adjoining property owner will be required to supply the balance on their property, whether developed or undeveloped, at their expense. If property owners refuse to comply with the above policy, they will be sent a notice. If they continue to refuse, the fire department will hire a contractor to perform the clearing, and send the bill to the property owner. If payment is refused, a tax lien will be attached to the property.

However, none of the above applies to public lands. If you have a Conservancy lot next to you that requires clearing, it is up to you to clear it, but you will need permission to do so.

North Shore Community Issues

Kings Beach

A letter has been received from CalTrans specifying that the four lane, and three lane alternative without on-street parking, are acceptable. The three-lane alternative with on-street parking has been rejected. However, their preferred choice is the four-lane alternative. Placer County Public Works says this letter is not sufficient by itself to make the decision. They will present an update to the Board of Supervisors on October 22 at the BOS public meeting at Lake Tahoe.



Three major developments for Kings Beach have applied for CEP status, Domus Affordable Housing, Ferrari Family Resort, and SK Brown Project (BB, LLC). These will have a profound impact on the character of the community. After

the CEP is approved, details on these will be available for comment.

Tahoe Vista

Sandy Beach – The fractional ownership development revised EIR/EIS has been released for staff review. Issues re-evaluated from the original report were noise, recreational, and fire access. This development of about 6 acres is designed to remove over 400 trees, 85% of the total.

National Avenue – The grant for redevelopment of this property is still being sought. An appraisal will be done and the purchase agreement prepared. This is expected to be completed by the end of the year. There is a question whether the commercial floor space from the original batch plant will be banked or retired.

Tahoe Sands – More employee housing and beach access has been requested by the TRPA APC. Design alternatives are also needed.

Tahoe City

Placer County reports they are ready to move ahead with construction of the marina garage. 95% of the design and construction documents are ready. They are obtaining final permits. A variance has been obtained to reduce the size of parking spaces to 8.5 ft wide. All parking will be open to the public; none will be reserved. The final approval of the Placer BOS meeting date has not been set. The TRPA BOG approval meeting will be November 28. Construction is planned to begin May 1, 2008.

West Shore Community Issues

Homewood

The Homewood Mountain Resort (HMR) plans are continuing to be developed and we should consider that the Environmental Impact Study (EIS) may request further changes in the plans. All projects in an adopted community plan or adopted TRPA master plan are eligible for special project allocations. HMR is mentioned as not in compliance. The TRPA Staff is requesting the re-wording of the eligibility requirements at the Board of Governors meeting on 10/24, which would allow HMR to be in compliance.



Allocations of commodities under the Community Enhancement Program are an important factor, allowing additional commercial floor space, increased tourist accommodation units, and increased density or height of the project. If the TRPA allows the change, HMR may be allowed these commodities. If not, HMR may have some difficulty in the increase size and density in the project.

We strongly believe all of North Shore and West Shore should all be thinking in terms of how much development would be appropriate for Homewood Community. What amount of development would fit the scale and character of our town? Come and express your ideas/concerns at our “Community Workshop” on Saturday 27, 2007, 1 PM – 4 PM, in the Lakeview Room in Tahoe City, on 330 Fairway Drive. NTCAA would really appreciate hearing what you think and we will be sure to review the responses of this Community Workshop in our next newsletter.

Susan Gearhart, Director

Upcoming Events/Key Dates

A community interactive workshop on issues related to the Homewood Mountain Resort will be held on Saturday, October 27. Attendance at events shown in bold type is encouraged.

Monday, October 22 & 23	Placer County BOS Meeting	9 am, NTCC Kings Beach <i>Agendas at www.placer.ca.gov/bos/Agenda.aspx</i>
Wednesday, October 24	TRPA Governing Board	9:30 am, TRPA Offices <i>Agenda available from the TRPA web site 10/19</i>
Thursday, October 25	Bruce Kranz Coffee	9 am, Gar Woods Restaurant <i>Former Assemblyman Tim Leslie will attend</i>
Saturday, October 27	NTCAA Homewood Workshop	1 pm, TCPUD Lakeview Rm <i>Homewood Community discussion</i>
Wednesday, November 7	NLTRA Board Meeting	8:30 am, TCPUD Board Rm
Thursday, November 8	NTRAC Meeting	6 pm, NTCC Kings Beach
Tuesday, November 13	NTPUD Board Meeting	3 pm, NTCC Kings Beach
Wednesday, November 14	TRPA APC Meeting	9:30 am, TRPA Board Room
Friday, November 16	TCPUD Meeting	8:30 am, TCPUD Board Rm
Wednesday, November 21	North Tahoe Fire PD	6 pm, TCPUD Board Room
Wednesday, November 28	TRPA Governing Board	9:30 am, NTCC Kings Beach <i>Vote on Tahoe City Marina Garage</i>
Thursday, November 29	Bruce Kranz Coffee	9 am, Gar Woods Restaurant