

Agenda and Meeting Notice THE NORTH LAKE TAHOE RESORT ASSOCIATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

January 4, 2012 - 8:30 am - 11 a.m. Tahoe City Public Utility District

2012 **Board Members**

Wally Auerbach Auerbach Engineering

Roger Beck Resort at Squaw Creek

Phil GilanFarr CB's Pizza

Allen Highfield Ritz-Carlton

Kali Kopley Uncorked/Petra

Alex Mourelatos Mourelatos Lakeshore Resort

Valli Murnane Tahoe XCountry

Ron Parson Granlibakken

Bill Rock Northstar

Andy Wirth Squaw Valley

Jennifer Merchant Placer County

Julie Regan TRPA (Ex-officio)

NLTRA Mission

"To promote tourism and benefit business through efforts that enhance the economic, environmental, recreational and cultural climate of the area."

Meeting Ground Rules

Be Prepared, Engage in Active Listening, Be Respectful of Others, No Surprises, It is OK to Disagree, Acknowledge Comments, but Do Not Repeat Comments

ITEMS MAY NOT BE HEARD IN THE ORDER THEY ARE LISTED

A. CALL TO ORDER - ESTABLISH QUORUM - Chair / Vice-Chair

B. AGENDA AMENDMENTS AND APPROVAL (Motion)

- 1. Agenda Additions and/or Deletions
- 2. Approval of Agenda

C. PUBLIC FORUM

Any person wishing to address the Board of Directors on items of interest to the Resort Association not listed on the agenda may do so at this time. It is requested that comments be limited to three minutes, since no action may be taken by the Board on items addressed under Public Forum.

D. REPORTS & ACTION ITEMS

- 3. Welcome new Board Members: Alex Mourelatos, Andy Wirth, Ron Parson, Valli Murnane, Bill Rock!
- 4. Executive Committee Nominations and Election 2011 Chair/Vice Chair Motion (10 minutes)
- 5. Olympic Bid Request Andy Chapman, Andy Wirth Motion (20) minutes)
- 6. Autumn Food & Wine Update Andy Chapman, Judy Laverty-Capach (20 minutes)
- 7. Committee Assignments (Marketing, Lodging, Infrastructure/Transportation, Finance, Membership Advisory) -Sandy Evans Hall Motion (10 minutes)

- 8. Golf Course Funding Update Phil GilanFarr (30 minutes)
- 9. TOT Renewal Campaign Volunteer needs and timeline Ron Treabess/Sandy Evans Hall (15 minutes)

E. CONSENT CALENDAR – MOTIONS (5 min)

All items listed under the consent calendar-motions are considered to be routine and/or have been or will be reviewed by committee, and will be approved by one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless a Board member or staff person requests a specific item be removed from the consent calendar for separate consideration. Any item removed will be considered after the motion and vote to approve the remainder of consent calendar-motions.

- 10. Board Meeting Minutes December 7, 2011
- 11. Financial Statements NO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS THIS MONTH
- 12. Approval to add Greg Howey to the company credit card list

All committee meeting briefs are provided for informational purposes only. Minutes are available at www.nltra.org

- Joint Infrastructure/Transportation Committee NO MEETING IN DECEMBER
- 14. Marketing Committee NO MEETING IN DECEMBER
- 15. Membership Advisory Committee NO MEETING IN DECEMBER
- 16. Group Sales Director Sub Committee NO MEETING IN DECEMBER
- 17. Lodging Committee NO MEETING IN DECEMBER
- 18. Finance Committee December 5, 2011

The following reports are provided on a monthly basis by staff and can be pulled for discussion by any board member

- 19. Conference Sales Reports
- 20. Infrastructure/Transportation Activity Report December
- 21. Membership Business Plan Progress Report December

F. MEMBERSHIP REPORTS (5 min)

- 22. Membership Activities and Events Kym Fabel
- G. DIRECTORS' COMMENTS -
- H. MEETING REVIEW AND STAFF DIRECTION
- I. CLOSED SESSION (If necessary)
 - 23. Lease for Association offices/Visitor Center Sandy Evans Hall, Lisa de Roulet (30 minutes)
- J. RECONVENE TO OPEN SESSION

K. ADJOURNMENT

This meeting site is wheelchair accessible.

Posted and e-mailed , 2011



2012 Board of Directors

Three seats shall be elected each year, for three (3) year term as follows. Board Members are elected in early December and their term begins in January:

- (2010-2012) Year A-Large Lodging, Restaurant, Retail
- (2011-2013) Year B-General, Small Lodging, Recreation
- (2012-2014) Year C-At Large, Property Management/Real Estate, Ski Area

Large Lodging- Allen Highfield (2010-2012)

Restaurant- Phil GilanFarr Vice Chair (2010-2012)

Retail- Kaliope Kopley (2010-2012)

General- Wally Auerbach (2011-2013)

Small Lodging- Alex Mourelatos (2011-2013)

Recreation- Valli Murnane (2011-2013)

At-Large- Andy Wirth (2012-2014)

Real Estate/Property Management- Ron Parson (2012-2014)

Ski Area- Bill Rock (2012-2014)

Placer County Board of Supervisors Appointee- Roger Beck (Term same length as elected official)

Placer County Executive Office- Jennifer Merchant (Ongoing)

TRPA (Ex-Officio)- Julie Regan (Ongoing)



2012 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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<u>m</u>

General

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allen.highfield@ritzcarlton.com

Large Lodging

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Alex Mourelatos Mourelatos Lakeshore Resort P.O. Box 77 Tahoe Vista, CA 96148

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Small Lodging

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Fx: 775-588.4527 <u>iregan@trpa.org</u> TRPA (Ex-Officio) Roger Beck

Resort at Squaw Creek

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Placer County Board of Supervisors

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Retail

Valli Murnane

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Recreation

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Ski Area

Phil GilanFarr, Vice Chair

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Restaurant

Jennifer Merchant County Executive Office

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Placer County Executive Office

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At-Large



Executive Committee Ballot

Chair	•
	Ron Parson
Vice (Chair
	Phil GilanFarr
Treas	urer
	Allen Highfield
Secre	tary
	Kaliope Kopley



January 4, 2012

To: Board of Directors

From: Sandy Evans Hall, Chief Executive Officer Andy Chapman, Chief Marketing Officer Andy Wirth, Board of Directors, RTWGC

Re: Reno Tahoe Winter Games Coalition Funding Request

Background

Staff recently met with representatives from the Reno Tahoe Winter Games Coalition (RTWGC) including Nevada Lt. Governor Brian Krolicki. This meeting also included representatives from the LTVA and the South Lake Tahoe Chamber of Commerce. Jon Killoran, Executive Director of the RTWGC, also attended a recent NLTRA Board meeting and presented the organization's current efforts and plans as related to this bid process.

The RTWGC is currently undergoing a capital campaign to raise funds for current activities related to the 2022 Winter Olympic bid. RTWGC is requesting funding participation from the bureaus around the lake as well as from the RSCVA. Each bureau is being asked to contribute in an equal manner. Attached to this staff report is a summary of the funding request information as well as an overview of the timeline and past Olympic economic impacts to Vancouver and Salt Lake City.

Benefits of Bid Association and Successful Bid Outcome

- Reinforces North Lake Tahoe's position as a premier winter sports destination
- Regional promotional value in association with Olympic bid effort
- Marketing opportunity throughout bid process and beyond
- Extension of North Lake Tahoe brand throughout bid effort
- Promotion of area training venues and facilities
- Accelerated regional infrastructure and transportation improvement
- Opportunity for infusion of sustainable green technology upgrades
- 15 days of Olympic celebration
- Long term Winter Olympic legacy

Staff Recommendation

Upon review and discussion with the Board, staff recommends the allocated investment of \$25,000 in FY 2011/12 and an additional \$25,000 in FY 2012/13 towards this capital campaign for the Reno Tahoe Winter Games Coalitions efforts to secure a successful IOC bid for the 2022 Winter Olympics. Funds are available in the Special Events/New Event Development line item within the FY 2011/12 marketing budget and would be budgeted for in 2012/13.



North Lake Tahoe Resort Association Funding Request Information

In requesting funding from the North Lake Tahoe Resort Association, the Reno Tahoe Winter Games Coalition provides the following information to support the request and outlines the potential benefits the NLTRA, its stakeholders and residents of the Lake Tahoe Basin may realize.

Mounting a bid requires general organizational and operational support. In addition, there are many studies and planning documents required for the bid submission. Funding would be used for the following:

- Studies to identify potential Olympic Winter Games venues, within the Lake Tahoe Basin and surrounding Sierra, that would not only benefit the region during the games but before and after as well
- Studies to ensure the environmental enhancement and sustainability of such venues
- Studies and plans for improved transportation opportunities within the Basin and surrounding Sierra, with an emphasis on sustainable public transportation
- Working visits to our region by experts with the U.S. National Governing Bodies (NGB)
 and International Federations of Sport (IF). Such visits provide expert analysis of our
 venue options and potential bid, while also educating these influential leaders about the
 Tahoe area and our potential.

Benefits of bidding include:

- The opportunity to continue and enhance the great collaborative spirit throughout the Basin, by promoting a bid for the largest event we could bring to the area, providing a positive rebranding for the entire region
- Encouraging all from school age children to seniors to embrace Olympic ideals of fair play, perseverance, respect and sportsmanship.

Light the Torch for Reno Tahoe 2022

In 1960 Squaw Valley put our region on the world stage by hosting the Olympic Winter Games. A half century later the Games have grown and so has Reno/Tahoe. We have a tremendous opportunity to welcome the best winter athletes on the planet and by doing so rebrand ourselves to the world as a world class destination and place to do business. Successfully bidding on and hosting the Olympic Winter Games takes many years of planning, preparation and execution.

Potential Bid Timeline

2012 – United States Olympic Committee (USOC) invites interested regions to submit an application

2013 – International Olympic Committee (IOC) accepts single Applicant City from interested countries

2015 – IOC chooses the Host City of the 2022 Olympic Winter Games

Vancouver 2010 Games

Economic impact during the Games (Feb. 12-28)	\$600 million
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Salt Lake 2002 Games

Games operational profit	\$100 million
Amount of profit donated to Salt Lake/Utah non-profits	\$24 million
Amount of profit placed in facilities endowment fund	\$70 million

The Salt Lake 2002 Olympic Winter Games and the business attracted to the area afterwards created \$4.8 billion in sales, 35,000 job years of employment and \$1.5 billion in earnings for Utah workers. The tremendous upgrade of technology and infrastructure throughout the region allowed new and diversified business to move to the area. Salt Lake City is now one of the most desirable places to work and live in the United States.

Reno Tahoe 2022 Opportunities

Opportunity to move infrastructure projects that might otherwise take decades to complete

Vastly upgrade our technological capabilities

Rebrand our region as a world class business and tourism destination

We Can Win

Reno/Tahoe has more accommodations now than Salt Lake City had when it hosted the 2002 Games

We have major in city airports on both sides of the Sierra (Reno and Sacramento) We have the largest concentration of world class ski resorts in the country The world wants to come to Lake Tahoe (the most photographed natural wonder in the world)

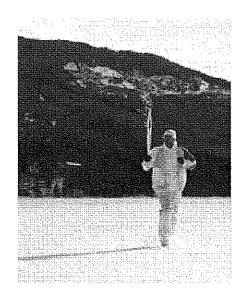
We enjoy a rich Olympic Heritage from the 1960 Squaw Valley Games and the dozens of Olympians from our area

Help us "Light the Torch" for Reno Tahoe 2022



Contact

Jon Killoran
Chief Executive Officer
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Jon.killoran@renotahoewintergames.org
www.renotahoewitnergames.org





Autumn Food and Wine Festival Review, Discussion and Next Steps

- 2011 Ticket Sales Numbers/Revenue and Expenses
- 2011 Geographic Online Ticket Sales
- Review of 2009 Consumer Survey Results
- Executive Committee Discussion
 - o Is event in conflict of our Event Policy?
 - Opportunity to franchise event to community partner and retain Presenting Sponsor status
 - Continue operation of event but expand throughout community
 - o Long term event brand integrity
- Discussion on Next Steps
 - o Input from Board on event direction
 - Convene a restaurant consulting committee
 - o Begin 2012 event programming
 - o Board direction and approval on event future

AUTUMN FOOD AND WINE FESTIVAL 2011

CASH TICKET SALES

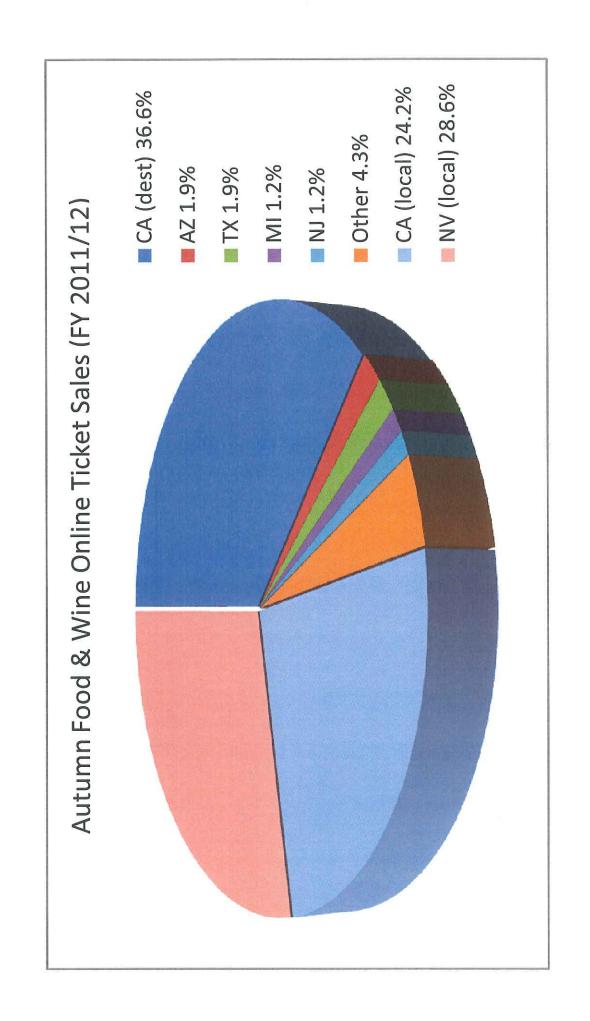
	2011 Tix	2010 Tix	2010 Tix % Change
Grape Stomp Lunches	73	42	73.8%
Gourmet Marketplace/Wine Tasting	497	472	5.3%
Various Ticketed Seminars	118	78	51.3%
Blazing Pans	108	139	-22.3%
Charbay	41	31	32.3%
Grand Tasting	392	404	-3.0%
Total	1229	1166	5.4%
* 2010 does not include Ritz Welcome Reception or Edible Reno Party	Edible Reno Party		

TOTAL OVERALL ATTENDANCE

	2011	2010	
Cash Ticket Sales	1229	1166	5.4%
Vendors	168	92	82.6%
Wineries *	54	70	-22.9%
Restaurants	96	92	4.3%
VIP/Press/Sponsor Comps	255	360	-29.2%
Total	:al 1802	1780	1.2%

* Includes

2011 2010	78997 80523 -1.9%	-64756 -78837 -17.9%	14241 1686	137,000 135,000
	Total Revenue	Total Expense	Profit	PR ROI



Event Attendee Characteristics

A. Geographic Origin

Approximately 74% of those event attendees surveyed lived in California followed by 15% from Nevada. The remaining 11% were distributed across other U.S. regions in small numbers, with no more than 2% of respondents originating from any other single geographic region.

11%
15%
74%

California Nevada Other

Figure 1 Geographic Origin

B. The California Market

Among event attendees surveyed, 74% were from California. Of those from within the California market, 34% lived in the Bay Area, followed by 25% who lived in Sacramento. Locals represented 16% of the California market, 7% of California visitors came from the North Sierra area (including Grass Valley, Nevada City, Chico, Oroville, and Marysville). The Los Angeles and Orange County market represented approximately 7% of the California market.

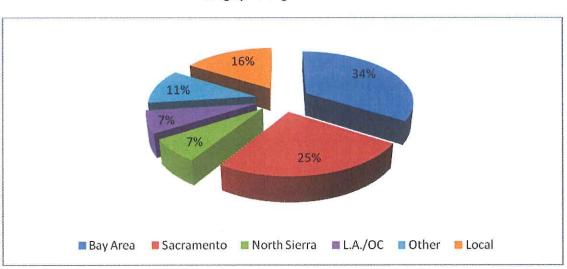


Figure 2
Geographic Origin within California

C. Event Attendee Type

Approximately 22% of attendees surveyed were local residents, 22% were day visitors, 44% were overnight visitors from California/Nevada and 13% were overnight visitors from outside California/Nevada.

13%
22%
22%

Local Day Visitor Overnigh CA/NV Overnight OOS

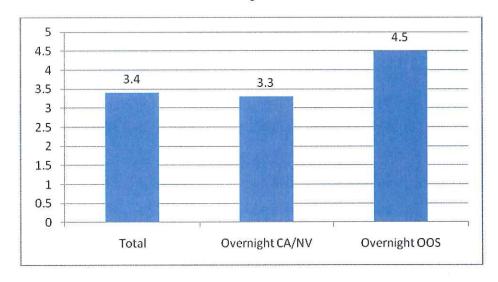
Figure 3 Visitor Type

Note: Overnight OOS = Overnight Visitors Outside of States of CA& NV

D. Length of Stay

The overall length of stay by overnight visitors was 3.4 nights. Of those who attended the food and wine festival, the average stay was 3.3 nights for those overnight visitors from CA/NV while those overnight visitors from outside CA/NV stayed 4.5 nights.

Figure 4 Length of Stay # Nights



E. Overnight Visitor Type of Lodging

Of those who indicated they were overnight visitors, fully 38% stayed in paid lodging, 29% indicated they stayed in their own vacation home and 19% stayed with friends.

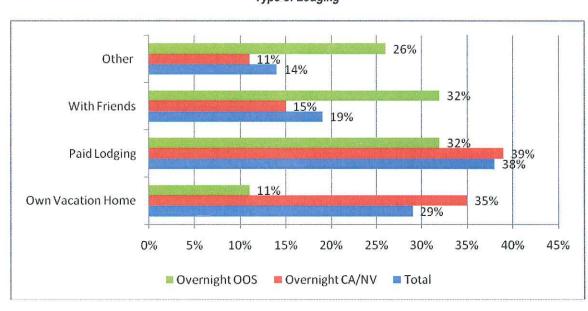
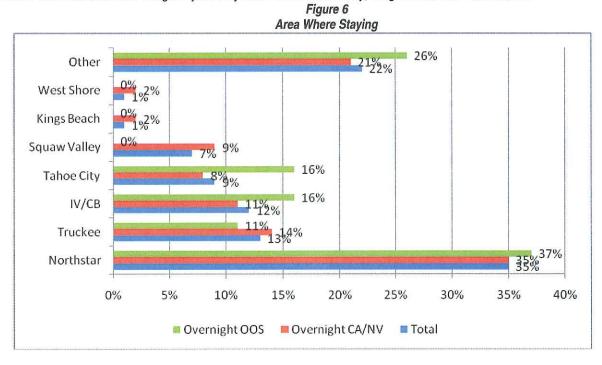


Figure 5
Type of Lodging

F. Area Where Stayed

Of those who indicated they were overnight visitors fully 35% indicated they stayed in Northstar, followed by 13% in Truckee and 12% in Incline Village/Crystal Bay and 11% in Tahoe City, Kings Beach and West Shore.



G. Party Size

The overall party size of event attendees was 3.1 persons with day visitors having the largest party at 3.4 persons.

3.5 3.4 3.4 3.3 3.2 3.1 3.1 3.1 3 3 3 2.9 2.8 Overnight Overnight OOS Total Local Resident Day Visitor CA/NV

Figure 7
Party Size

H. First Time Visitor

Of those surveyed, 9% indicated this was their first time visiting the destination. It appears that the food & wine festival appeals to repeat visitors. As was noted, a significant percentage of visitors who attended the event originated from the California market place (74%). As such it appears that the event serves to encourage repeat visitation from the core California market, as illustrated below. Note the high percentage of first time visitors from outside of CA/NV.

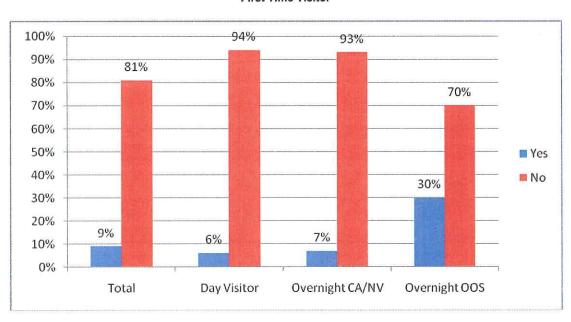


Figure 8
First Time Visitor

6-7

Destination/Event Issues

A. Importance of Event in Trip Decision Making

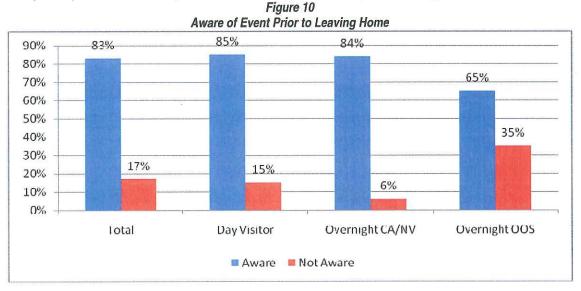
On a scale of 1 to 7 with 1 being very important and 7 not at all important, 43%¹ indicated that the event was very important in their decision to visit North Shore.

60%
50%
48%
43%
40%
37%
30%
20%
10%
Total Day Visitor Overnight CA/NV Outside OOS

Figure 9
Important of Event in Trip Decision Making
Top Box (Very Important)

B. Event Awareness Prior to Leaving Home

Of those surveyed fully 83% indicated they were aware of this special event prior to leaving home.



¹ This includes all answers for those that check 1 or 2 on a scale of 1 to7.



Proposed Committee Positions for Board Members

Marketing

Primary – Eric Brandt (when appointed by B.O.S.) Alternate – Alex Mourelatos

Lodging

Primary – Alex Mourelatos Alternate - Andy Wirth/Ron Parson

Membership Advisory

Primary – Kali Kopley Alternate – Valli Murnane

Finance

Primary – Alan Highfield (Treasurer) Primary2 – Bill Rock

Infrastructure/Transportation

Primary – Wally Auerbach Primary – Phil GilanFarr Alternate – Kali Kopley

Primary Role: Attend all committee meetings, represent board position/direction, report on any action items/request for approval to board at monthly board meeting. Contact Alternate when unable to attend a meeting. If alternate is also unable to attend, contact CEO to reach out to other board members and brief them on issues and agenda packet.

Alternate Role: Read all committee agendas, packets and minutes and stay apprised of all committee issues. Attend meetings as desired or when Primary committee member is unable to attend.



January 5, 2011

To: Board of Directors

From: Andy Chapman, Chief Marketing Officer

Re: Marketing and Lodging Committee Appointments

Marketing Committee Lay Member Appointments

Below is the criteria used in the Marketing Committee appointment process.

- "Lay" members are selected based on marketing experience (highest priority), type of business affiliation, and geographic representation.
- "Lay" members are appointed at the January Board meeting with the first meeting of the committee in late January.
- Interested parties for Pool A appointment must submit a letter of interest and resume no later than December 28th, 2011.
- The NLTRA Executive Committee will review applicants and provide a recommendation to the Board at its January 4th meeting.

Background

At its November meeting, the Marketing Committee discussed its committee member makeup and the various seat and term rotations. The committee discussed creating 3 three seat committee pools. Each of these pools would serve for a three year term. Pools B and C (detailed below) are currently established pools with currently serving committee members. Committee members in Pool B will serve through December 2012, with members in Pool C serving through December 2013 (it is noted that upon the term of Pool C in 2013, only three seats will be reappointed, and not the four that are currently held). Newly appointed committee members in Pool A will serve through December 2014. This system will create three open seats each year while insuring consistency in the committee with the remaining six seats. The committee also discussed the desire to recruit committee members from the following business sectors: Small Business, Event Management, Restaurant, Retail, Cross Country, and Activity Provider. Staff sent out a variety of press releases through the local media outlets as well as outreach through the North Lake Tahoe Chamber of Commerce.

Below is a list of applicants that sent letters of interest.

- 1. Davy Ratchford, Marketing Director, Northstar California
- 2. Deanna Gescheider, Director of Marketing, Homewood/JMA Holdings
- 3. Marguerite Sprague, Executive Director, North Lake Tahoe Historical Society

Board Members

Primary – Eric Brandt Alternate – Alex Mourelatos

POOL A (New members appointed for 2012 thru 2014)

- 1. Open Seat
- 2. Open Seat
- 3. Open Seat

POOL B (New members appointed for 2013 thru 2015)

- 4. Becky Moore, Director of Sales and Marketing, Squaw Valley Lodge
- 5. Les Pedersen, Director of Sales and Marketing, Resort at Squaw Creek
- 6. Deb Darby-Dudley, Owner, HD96 Publishing

POOL C (New members appointed for 2014 thru 2016)

- 7. Brett Williams, President, Agate Bay Realty
- 8. Heather Allison, Director of Sales and Marketing, The Ritz-Carlton Lake Tahoe
- 9. Kevin Hickey, Owner, Tahoe Adventure Company
- 10. Julie Maurer, Vice President of Sales and Marketing, Squaw Valley

Lodging Committee Appointments

Board Member Representative

- 1. Board Member: Alex Mourelatos,
- 2. Alternate Board Member: Andy Wirth/Ron Parson

Existing members of the committee continuing another term:

- 1. Large Lodging Representative: Heimo Brandstatter, Resort at Squaw Creek
- 2. Large Lodging Representative: Christy Beck, Village at Squaw Valley
- 3. Small Lodging Representative Lakeshore: Kay Williams, Tahoma Lodge
- 4. Vacation Home Rental Representative: Brett Williams, Agate Bay Realty
- 5. Vacation Home Rental Representative: Debbie Milani, Coldwell Banker
- 6. Bed & Breakfast Representative: Bill Matte, Shooting Star B&B

New Committee Appointment

1. Small Lodging Representative: Stephanie Mearse, Tahoe City Inn

The 2012 Committee Chairs will be selected by the Committee at first meeting.

Board Discussion and Possible Action

Upon discussion and review of committee's direction, that the Board approve the marketing committee's three pool term structure and to appoint the Pool A applicants for a three year term and the new member to the lodging committee.



2012 Marketing Committee - Pending Board Approval

RESORT ASSOCIATION BOARD MEMBERS

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Alternate
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COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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NEW MEMBERS

Davy Ratchford Northstar at Tahoe P.O. Box 129 Truckee, CA 96161 Ph. 530.562.1010 dratchford@vailresorts.com

PLACER COUNTY REP

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Becky Moore Squaw Valley Lodge P.O. Box 2364 Olympic Valley, CA 2364 Ph. 530.583.5500 ext. 4013 beckym@gpeak.com

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Marguerite Sprague
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2012 Lodging Committee – Pending Board Approval

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Alex Mourelatos

Primary

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COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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cbeck@squaw.com

Debbie Milani Coldwell Banker P.O. Box 5518 Tahoe City, CA 96145 Ph. 800.655.0608 rentals@stayinlaketahoe.com

NEW MEMBER

Stephanie Mearse Tahoe City Inn 8391 Bantry Court Elk Grove, CA 95758 Ph. 916.248.0009 Zoegirl27@hotmail.com

PLACER COUNTY REP

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Bill Matte Shooting Star Bed & Breakfast P.O. Box 1573 Carnelian Bay, CA 96140 Ph. 530.546.8903 tahoeshootingstar@gmail.com

Kay Williams
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kaywilliams@granlibakken.com



January 4, 2012

To: Board

Board of Directors

From: Ron Treabess, Director of Community Partnerships and Planning

Re: Infrastructure Committee and Transportation Committee Membership

The following 10 NLTRA committee members are recommended for Board approval to serve two year terms commencing in January, 2012, and ending December 31st, 2013. The remaining members (Placer Co) are appointed by Placer County and have all requested to be reappointed. Their terms, if reappointed by Placer County, will also end on December 31, 2013. As the two committees continue to meet as a joint committee, staff recommends that the committee members, once approved, elect one chairperson and one vice chair for the joint committee from either the Transportation or Infrastructure Committee membership. Wally Auerbach has graciously served as the Chair, as has Vice Chair Gary Davis, during 2011.

2012 Recommended Committee Members

Infrastructure Committee-12 Members, 6 appointed by NLTRA, 6 appointed by Placer Co

Wally Auerbach	NLTRA	Pat Perkins	Placer Co	
Kali Kopley	NLTRA	Guy Perman	Placer Co	
Phil GilanFarr	NLTRA	Sue Kyler	Placer Co	
Gary Davis	NLTRA	Keith Vogt	Placer Co	
Ken Foster	NLTRA	John Pang	Placer Co	
Eric Sather	NLTRA	Vacant	Placer Co	

Transportation Committee-No Limit to NLTRA appointees

Rob Kronkhite	NLTRA	Will Garner	Placer Co
Jan Colyer	NLTRA		
Dave Paulson	NLTRA		



2012 FINANCE COMMITTEE

RESORT ASSOCIATION BOARD MEMBERS

Allen Highfield Ritz Carlton Highlands 13031 Ritz Carlton Highlands Ct.

Truckee, CA 96161 Ph: 562-3005 Fx: 562-3001

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PLACER COUNTY REP

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Placer County Executive Office

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Kimberly Frushon Crandall & Company CPAs, LLP 761 Northwood Blvd. Incline Village, NV 89451 Ph: (775) 831-1787 kfrushon@tahoecpas.com

Mike Salmon **Tahoe Donner Association** 11509 Northwood Blvd. Truckee, CA 96161 Ph: 587-9418



Membership Advisory Committee Members

Business Associations automatically have a seat at the committee:

- Village at Northstar Association
- Squaw Valley Business Association
- West Shore Business Association
- Incline Community Business Association
- Tahoe City Downtown Association
- North Tahoe Business Association

<u>2012</u> BOD – Kali Kopley	2013 Valli Murnane	<u>2014</u> Valli Murnane
Chair - Caroline Ross	X	x
Business Service	X	X
Sherina Kreul	Sherina Kreul	X
Restaurant	Restaurant	x
Michael Gelbman	Michael Gelbman	Michael Gelbman
Retail	Retail	Retail



January 4, 2012

To: Board of Directors

From: Sandy Evans Hall and Staff

Re: Tahoe City Golf Course Purchase Update

This agenda item has been included so that any update that is available can be presented at the Board meeting. Negotiations between the partners involved are still taking place and it is not clear at this time whether new information will be available. It is highly probable that a request for TOT funding will be made at the February 1st Board meeting.



January 4, 2012

To: Board of Directors

From: Ron Treabess, Director of Community Partnerships and Planning

Re: Update on TOT Renewal Campaign

Staff will present a brief update as to the next steps in the TOT renewal process. For the Board's reference, staff has attached the strategic recommendations prepared by the consultants based on the results of last summer's voter survey. This report, which was presented to the Board in September, includes an overview of the key findings, highlights of the public opinion results, suggestions of next steps for non-advocacy community education and some for the advocacy campaign.

We are recommending that members of the original steering committee, who wish to continue in this process, along with Board members, form a joint education/advocacy committee to move the renewal forward. It is understood that public monies can be spent only on non-advocacy materials, and that advocacy efforts must be funded by private sources. Staff can assist with the advocacy effort as long as it is on a volunteer, non-paid basis.

In requesting Board members and others to volunteer, we want it understood that this process will begin now and conclude with the June 4th election. The current 2% TOT tax expires in October, 2012.



To:

Sandy Evans Hall, CEO/Executive Director, NLTRA

Ron Treabess, Director of Community Partnerships and Planning, NLTRA

North Lake Tahoe Survey Review Sub-Committee

From:

Catherine Lew, President/CEO, The Lew Edwards Group

Jennifer Rindahl, Senior Associate, The Lew Edwards Group

Date:

July 29, 2011

Re:

Strategic Recommendations

DRAFT WORK PRODUCT - CONFIDENTIAL. DO NOT CIRCULATE.

This draft work product is internal and for your reference only, and not intended for circulation.

ELECTION FEASIBILITY

The Lew Edwards Group's (LEG) analysis of the Public Opinion Research conducted by the FM3 from July 5-17 reveals that <u>a majority-requirement</u>, North Lake Tahoe TOT Continuation Measure is definitely feasible and will be successful in June 2012.

As you may recall, the ballot question is asked three times in the survey (when respondents have no information, again following factual information and finally, after critical information is provided). In the initial ask, the Measure garners a total of 84% support amongst likely June 2012 respondents, 56% of whom are 'Definite Yes.' After voters hear additional information, support amongst likely June 2012 voters reaches a high of 90% before settling at 85% (60% Definite Yes) after all information has been shared. With a margin of error of 6.9% for the June Sample, support is well above the margin of error.

While these results are quite strong, the survey does show strong voter sensitivity to current economic conditions, and support is directly tied to a desire to maintain what voters already have, without raising taxes, rather than a desire for major improvements or large projects. As the Chamber of Commerce is very credible, it will be important to maintain the support of your members and the business community moving forward, and avoid any suggestions that the current TOT is harmful to the economy or job creation. Finally, it is important to note that

respondents are adamantly opposed to a sales tax measure and any suggestion of increasing the NLT-TOT is a polarizing one. It is critical that our team focus exclusively on renewing what you already have and telling the story of your accomplishments and future needs, without over-reaching.

SURVEY HIGHLIGHTS

While only 48% of voters consider North Lake Tahoe to be heading in the right direction, overall, voters are otherwise satisfied with their local community organizations and services.

- 74% of voters have a very/somewhat favorable opinion of the "Public Utilities District in their area" and 68% have a very/somewhat favorable opinion of The North Lake Tahoe Chamber of Commerce.
- "Jobs and unemployment" and the "Condition of the local economy" were the only problems that over 50% of respondents considered to be either extremely or very serious problems and should be carefully considered in any strategy moving forward. (65% and 64% respectively)
- While not rising to the level of concern expressed over jobs and the economy, the next most serious concern was "The amount of traffic on local roads" with 48% of respondents considering it to be an extremely/very serious problem.
- Only 10% of respondents considered "too many tourists visiting the local area" to be either extremely/very serious problem. Likewise, only 26% of voters believe "too much growth and development" to be an extremely/very serious problem.

PROJECT PRIORITIES

As you know, we tested a total of 32 different projects directly related to the TOT, and current or future services. Unlike some surveys, where support is fairly consistent amongst all potential projects, your voters expressed very clear preferences for projects that would maintain current parks, bike trails, beaches and the environment as well as those that spur the economy, while outright rejecting new projects and/or even simple improvements to the facilities that they currently have. (Support varies from a high of 89% extremely/very important to a low of 14% extremely/very important depending on the project.)

Top Six Projects

- ✓ Ensuring all funds are used exclusively for the North Lake Tahoe area (89% extremely/very important)
- ✓ *Maintaining public beaches and shoreline recreational areas* (81% extremely/very important)
- ✓ *Maintaining existing bike trails, beaches, parks and public facilities* (78% extremely/very important)
- ✓ *Creating local jobs* (75% extremely/very important)
- ✓ Avoiding impacts on natural habitats (71% extremely/very important)
- ✓ *Stimulating economic development in North Lake Tahoe* (68% extremely/very important)

Maintain versus Repair/Expand/Improve

As you know, many of the project priorities tested nuances of language in order to determine overall support for maintaining services versus expanding or improving them. The differences were stark. LEG will be providing the NLTRA team with very specifically focused and worded education/communication templates as a result of our exhaustive analysis of polling results. It is critical that the team resist word-smithing these documents. As you can see below, the mere turn of a phrase can erode support by dramatic percentage points, making precise, "on-target" communications, key!

- ✓ *Maintaining existing bike trails, beaches, parks and public facilities* (78% extremely/very important)

 Maintaining and repairing local bike trails (61% extremely/very important) (-17%)

 Expanding local bike trails (47% extremely/very important) (-31%)
- ✓ Maintaining public beaches and shoreline recreational areas (81% extremely/very important)
 Improving local beaches (40% extremely/very important) (-41%)
- ✓ *Maintaining local parks* (79% extremely/very important)

 Improving local parks (49% extremely/very important) (-30%)

Note that even adding the word 'repair' to maintaining services causes support to drop substantially.

Lower Priority Services

The following services received less than 40% combined extremely/very important support. Even though voters previously expressed a fairly high level of concern about traffic congestion, they seem less inclined to directly support a new project that could potentially help mitigate this issue. Voters also place a lower priority on supporting museums and the arts in comparison to their parks and beaches.

- ✓ Installing and maintaining regional way-finding signage and mile markers (14% extremely/very important)
- ✓ Providing early snow removal on bike trails (15% extremely/very important)
- ✓ Building an ice rink (18% extremely/very important)
- ✓ Expanding and improving local visitor centers (24% extremely/very important)
- ✓ Creating water shuttle service along the West and North shores of Tahoe to reduce traffic congestion (24% extremely/very important)
- ✓ Supporting local visual and performing arts centers (28% extremely/very important)
- ✓ Expanding local bus, shuttle and trolley services (33% extremely/very important)
- ✓ Supporting museums, cultural and heritage facilities and exhibits (35% extremely/very important)
- ✓ Reducing the impact of tourists on the local area (37% extremely/very important)

MESSAGING

While all of the messages tested in the survey resonated strongly with your voters, when providing education it is important not to overwhelm voters with too much information. As such, we recommend sticking primarily with the following top four messages, which have "very convincing" intensity levels in excess of 51%.

The tourism industry is an important part of our local economy, employing nearly seven thousand North Tahoe residents. This measure <u>will continue</u> to promote economic development and improvements to our local area that will help ensure that North Lake Tahoe remains an attractive destination. (87% resonance, 55% "very convincing")

This measure simply continues, with NO increase, the local two cents per dollar occupancy tax that tourists—not residents—pay. We should continue to make out-of-town visitors pay this small price to maintain and improve the parks, beaches, bike trails and other local services they use. (87% resonance, 54% "very convincing")

The North Lake Tahoe T-O-T has generated more than 19 million dollars for our area. These local dollars have been used to secure matching funds from state, federal, county and local sources,

generating 150 million dollars for local projects we could not otherwise afford. We should continue this vital source of local funding. (87% resonance, 53% "very convincing")

North Lake Tahoe homeowners and property owners would <u>NOT</u> be taxed under this measure. (82% resonance, 51% "very convincing")

Also of note is the fact that while voters expressed a strong desire for jobs and economic growth in North Lake Tahoe, the potential to use this measure to actively stimulate the local economy was met with a certain suspicion, and was a full 11 points lower than any other message. For example, we do not recommend use of the following message:

"In this tough economy, many North Lake Tahoe residents are unemployed, and small businesses are suffering. This measure <u>will stimulate</u> the local economy by creating jobs for local contractors and residents, and by drawing more customers into the region to use our shops, restaurants, and locallyowned lodging." (66% resonance – 16% Don't Believe)

While voters obviously appreciate what the measure is doing and strongly support its continuation and the promotion of economic development, it will be important to stick with the simple message of "maintain and continue" without attempting to promote additional services.

FISCAL ACCOUNTABILITY, SUNSET CLAUSE & OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

Not surprisingly, it will be important to stress key Fiscal Accountability safeguards for your community, including those that are mandatory by law, as they are critically important to your constituents.

- ✓ Ensuring all funds are used exclusively for the North Lake Tahoe area (89% extremely/very important)
- ✓ Requiring publicly available, annual independent audits of all funds and expenditures (87% much more/somewhat more likely to support)

Meanwhile, voters expressed a clear preference for a ten-year sunset clause. While we think it's feasible to have a sunset that falls between 10-20 years, we would not recommend eliminating the sunset clause from the measure.

✓ Continuing the North Lake Tahoe transient occupancy tax for no more than 10-years (68% much more/somewhat more likely to support)

Continuing the North Lake Tahoe transient occupancy tax for no more than 20 years (55% much more/somewhat more likely to support) (-13%)

Continuing the North Lake Tahoe transient occupancy tax with no time limit (47% much more/somewhat more likely to support) (-21%)

Finally, while a majority of voters express support for an oversight committee to recommend how funds are spent, there was absolutely no preference as to the make-up of this board and whether or not to include publically elected officials.

- ✓ "Having the current North Lake Tahoe Resort Association recommend how funds should be spent" (54% much more/somewhat more likely to support)
- ✓ "Adding publically-elected officials to the committee that recommends how funds should be spent," (54% much more/somewhat more likely to support)

However, at the same time, one of the top negative messages was a direct attack against the NLTRA. Expanding the oversight committee to include publically elected officials, PUD representation, or other stakeholders moving forward could successfully inoculate against this potential Achilles Heel.

Funds from this measure are overseen by the North Lake Tahoe Resort Association, a private special interest Board without any representation from local residents. This is like the fox guarding the henhouse. (49% very/somewhat convincing)

FACTORS THAT ERODE VIABILITY

While the following messages resonated at a much lower level than previously discussed educational messaging, it is important to understand that in addition to attacks against the Resort Association, the following messages do have traction and could erode support should they be deployed on a large scale.

Resorts say they need this measure to provide money for more buses and shuttles, but these vehicles are already empty and are not well-used. (53% very/somewhat convincing)

Funds from this measure only go to build more and more trails and buildings that local communities are then forced to maintain. We simply cannot afford to build more projects that can't be maintained. (48% very/somewhat convincing)

Educating the voters as to the facts regarding the current TOT, and that the purpose of continuation is simply to maintain current projects rather than expand or build new, will help to neutralize the above arguments.

ADDITIONAL REVENUE OPTIONS

At the end of the survey we tested three alternative funding measures that would provide approximately \$1 million a year in additional funding.

- Establishing a new, half-cent sales tax was not viable. This mechanism only received 38% support while 60% were opposed.
- > 54% of respondents supported establishing a 1% recreational use fee, but 44% were opposed.
- ➤ 48% of respondents supported increasing the current North Lake TOT by 1%, but 49% were opposed, a polarizing finding. We strongly recommend focusing on renewing what you already have, and not over-reaching by considering any type of increase.

PUBLIC INFORMATION RECOMMENDATIONS

While the survey results show healthy viability, it is potential that still needs to be harvested. Therefore, it will be necessary to provide basic information to voters to effectively tell your story, remind voters of the importance of this funding and what's at stake, and to prevent potential confusion or apathy.

The key focus of the Information Message is to ensure that both voters and opinion leaders are properly educated/reminded that this is NOT a new tax, that it simply continues a measure that is already in place, and will allow North Lake Tahoe to continue to maintain parks, bike trails and beaches.

We recommend implementing the following educational vehicles prior to moving forward at the County level to place a Measure on the June 2012 ballot.

<u>Informational Speakers' Bureau:</u> An Informational Speakers' Bureau should be deployed in order to properly inform the North Lake Tahoe community about what's at stake. LEG will prepare a recommended Speakers' Bureau toolkit. Education should include what the current North Lake Tahoe TOT supports, what it is likely to support moving forward, and what would happen without these funds.

<u>Key Influential Updates</u>: We would recommend the Association mail at least three update letters to your Opinion Leaders over the course of the next several months, to update them on the results of the survey, project priorities and the nature of your planning, while giving them

an opportunity to provide additional feedback prior to ballot placement. LEG will draft the first update letter.

<u>Website and Media Needs</u>: LEG will develop messages, facts and information about the TOT Measure for placement on your website and inclusion in your newsletter. The website should also invite questions or comments and any inquiries reviewed by staff routinely.

As all parties had initially presumed a November 2011 election, LEG's partnership with NLTRA reaches its natural conclusion today. However, we are glad to conclude our partnership in August with a Steering Committee/Board Briefing on polling results, at no additional cost to NLTRA. We will also prepare and transmit the Public Education templates (FAQs, website copy, Speakers Bureau Toolkit, etc.) as part of the conclusion of this phase of services.

As an advocacy campaign will still be necessary, we would suggest re-establishing our partnership after the first of the year when the NLTRA team is ready to launch its political campaign. LEG looks forward to partnering with you on a successful TOT renewal advocacy campaign.

IMMEDIATE NEXT STEPS

- Schedule Steering Committee and Association Board Briefing on Results
- Determine best manner of briefing District Managers and County on Results
- Draft Public Information Educational Outreach materials