

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, UTAH COUNTY, UTAH
MINUTES OF SPECIAL PUBLIC MEETING
COMMISSION CHAMBERS, ROOM 1400
OF THE UTAH COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
November 6, 2015 – 6:30 P.M.

PRESENT: COMMISSIONER LARRY A. ELLERTSON, CHAIR
COMMISSIONER WILLIAM C. LEE, VICE-CHAIR
COMMISSIONER GREG GRAVES

ALSO PRESENT:

David Shawcroft, Utah County Attorney's Office	Aniva Willoughby, Alpine
Raylene Jorgenson	Cheryl Butler, USFS
Vern Ebert	Stephen Shelley, American Fork
Jaimee Spencer	Brad Frost, American Fork
Alan Taylor	David Varga, Pleasant Grove
Jeff Ac (signature illegible)	Meg Finlayson, Pleasant Grove
Lon Lott	Neil Peterson, Sandy
Loraine Lott	Kevin Barnes, American Fork
Ernie John	Elizabeth Farnsworth, Orem
Wayne Ashton	Dutch Turner, American Fork
Brian Twyman, Utah Jeep Crew	Brandon Hill, American Fork
Jeff Christensen, Utah Jeep Crew	Kristy Lee, Tooele
Janet Williams, Back Country Horsemen	Teisah Bruh, American Fork
Everett Williams, Back Country Horsemen	Adrianne Durrant, Highland
Judy Taylor, Lindon	Willie Holdman, Heber
Cheryl Pulley, Spanish Fork	Cody Mondale, Provo
Mark Allen, Lindon	Dianne Lind
Jake Anderegg, Lehi	Marisa Wright, Cedar Hills
Jeff Johnson, Provo	Amy Harrison, Orem
Kendall Wimmer, American Fork	Minnon Kummer, Tooele
Hillary Wade, American Fork	Darrin Dalley, Riverton
Gina Smith, Draper	Hyrum Greaves, Lehi
Angela Moody, Alpine	Justin Johanson, American Fork
Izzy Moody, Alpine	David E. Johanson, American Fork
Rich Olds, Lehi	Heather Pulsford, West Jordan
Susan Olds, Lehi	Sherry Kramer, Highland
Teri Sandstrom, Lehi	Ron Kramer, Highland
Scott Sandstrom, Lehi	Dave Christenson, Lindon
Kaels Sandstrom, Lehi	Jeremiah Hodack, Provo
Bob Warren, Provo	Brinn Hodack, Provo
Pam Warren, Provo	Rick Dame, Alpine
Aaron Little, Pleasant Grove	Kelly Creviston, Provo
Doug Kunkel, American Fork	Brian Creviston, Provo

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Brandon Miller, American Fork
Peter Monsen, Orem
Denise Norman, Saratoga Springs
Sandi Baker, Lehi
Michael Wardle, Springville
Emma Wardle, Springville
Michael Morrill, Highland
Ernest J. Johanson, American Fork
Kate McGuinness, Snowbird
Kathleen Gagon, American Fork
Damien Ewell, American Fork
Cindy Dolan, South Jordan
Thayne Harbaugh, Lehi
Andrew Morrill, Highland
Christine McClory, Draper
Jodi Rhodes, Highland
Becky Bailey, Pleasant Grove
Travis Smith, Alpine
Cydney Rollins, Lehi
Colby Rollins, Lehi
Michael Lewis, Payson
Carl Fisher, Salt Lake City
Alvin Crapo, Orem
Rebekah Heath, Orem
Alice Cosper, Alpine
Ashley Black, Highland
Cary Coyle, Cedar Hills
Kurt Williams, Sandy
Jason Goates, American Fork
Whitney Black, Highland
Gretchen Hymas, Highland
Sean Grover, Lehi
Carla Nielsen, American Fork
Nathen Frost, American Fork
Wilma Mortenson
Janice Helmick
Derek Jensen, West Jordan
John Maack, Draper
Dean Phelps, American Fork
Matthew Janke, Highland

Jason Bangerter, Sandy
Lloyd Norman, Saratoga Springs
Matt Blank, Provo
Dalene Davis, Lehi
Isabella Wardle, Springville
Spencer Hign, Provo
Gary Garner, American Fork
Jerry Grover, unincorporated land owner
Robert Shelley, Alpine
Elaine Ewell, American Fork
Austin Reece, Cedar Hills
Spencer Thomas, American Fork
Dan Pulstand, West Jordan
Kevin Rhodes, Highland
Helga Kenyon, Draper
Tanner Maxwell, Orem
John Gottfredson, Highland
Curtis Soderberg, Springville
Roralynne Price, Lehi
Michael Lewis, Payson
Jeff Jensen, Orem
Marlin Sharp, Lindon
Liz Knight, Orem
Christine Heath, Orem
Mindy Black, Highland
Todd Black, Highland
Kurt Williams, Sandy
Dave Jarvis, Provo
Devin Baumgardner, Heber
Scott Hymas, Highland
Greg Paul, Alpine
Kimi McLaughlin, Cedar Hills
Corey Higgins, Lehi
Paul Mortenson
Ed Helmick
Brian Peterson
Junior Bounans, Provo
Karen McCoy, American Fork
Scott Waller, Grantsville
Bridger Durrant, Highland

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Zac Cheney, Lehi
Sheldon (illegible signature), Alpine
Jim Ireland, Alpine
Jonathan Probst, Highland
Patty Reay, Orem
Michael Johanson, Orem
Sherri Wilkinson, American Fork
Ron Kramer, Highland
Tim Irwin, Lehi
Brian Voeks, Commission Office
Andy Farr, South Jordan
Hunt Willowby, Alpine
Ralene Jorgansen
Chris Waller, Lehi
Kristin Shelley, Alpine
Chase McMillan, Orem

Brad Johnson, Provo
Gary C. Taylor, Lindon
Reed Probst, Highland
Thomas Cantrell, Cedar Hills
Cathy Allred, Daily Herald
Jonathan Johanson, American Fork
Brian Wilkinson, Herriman
Keith Irwin, Cedar Hills
Bob Bonar, Snowbird
Vicky Westergard, Clerk/Auditor's Office
Ken Hazelbaker, Cedar Hills
Marissa Wright, Cedar Hills
Janet Williams, Alpine
Hunt Willoughby, Alpine
Judy Taylor, Lindon

Commissioner Ellertson welcomed all present to this special meeting of the Board of Commissioners and the meeting began at 6:33 P.M. Commissioner Ellertson asked that the focus of the meeting be on accuracy of information and not conjecture. If there are questions, he asked everyone to again focus on accurate information and not misinformation. He said it was important to have good, open public dialog. It is an "American Fork Canyon" issue and not just one specific issue. The meeting will consist of public comments of about 3 minutes and will not be a debate.

Pledge: Richard Durrant, Boy Scout from Highland, Utah

Commissioner Lee thanked the 120 plus members of the public for showing up. He commended the public for attending the meeting and showing involvement in the community. He stressed his intent was to listen to the members of the public about their concerns and visions for American Fork Canyon.

Commissioner Ellertson mentioned they recognized there are multiple interests in the canyon. He asked for public record to mention the multiple groups the speakers had an interest in.

PUBLIC HEARING

1. DISCUSS AND RECEIVE PUBLIC INPUT REGARDING PLANNING FOR AMERICAN FORK CANYON

Representative Jake Anderegg, of the Utah State Legislature representing Lehi and a section of Saratoga Springs, described how Representative Kennedy asked him to look at funding for an environmental study on development of American Fork Canyon and what lands the studies would encompass. He commented he was not necessarily opposed to development of the canyon, but was not wholeheartedly

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pushing for it. He thought it was important for everyone to have input in the development of the canyon. He said he would love to see, at some point down the road, development if it was “done right” which would allow the ability to access all 7 ski resorts from Utah County.

Karen McCoy, American Fork, explained she had been a multi-user of the canyon for 51 years. She thanked the commission and the public for supporting the canyon. She suggested someone develop a mobile application that would notify the public if something was affecting the city, neighborhood, county, or public lands close to them. Secondly, she spoke of wishing all the agencies involved in this process would work together. She read a letter concerning American Fork Canyon from a friend who grew up in American Fork but lives now in Louisiana. (Note: She did not state this friend’s name.) The letter said:

“To Whom It May Concern: My experiences in American Fork Canyon generate a multi-generational viewpoint and stance. The canyon has been a part of my family for over 120 years. May, I reiterate 120 years. This is not a whim to make a cry for protection and preservation. I am hoping to preserve public lands for the 5th generation and more. The first generation made their livelihood as farmers. The second generation consisted of teachers, public servants and accountants - all stalwart building blocks of any community. We have valued this land and have created memorable times with family and friends camping, hiking and fishing. My father took great pleasure in and pride in guiding residents and out of state visitors throughout Timpanogos Cave. Family and friends have reunions to this day at Granite Flat. American Fork Canyon is public land that deserves our watchful stewardship. My children love visiting the canyon. We have hiked, cross country skied, and camped in American Fork Canyon and I have 4 grandsons that need to have the chance to experience these public lands. Please let the public deem the use and protection of American Fork Canyon. We are not a few in numbers. We are generations.”

Ralene Jorgansen described herself as a runner and hiker. She said her main concern of commercial development of the canyon was the safety of everyone. She described how the narrowness of the roads caused a safety hazard to people traveling on them. She requested the canyon be kept pristine while having restrictions in access to allow the canyon to remain that way.

Alan Taylor, Cedar Hills, said he had been associated for 20 years in conservation projects, 4WD Assoc., hiking, and mountain biking. He spoke on what he thought was a misdirection about Bob Bonar on KSL where it was said they (Snowbird) would not develop the lower canyon. He commented on how it was upper American Fork canyon that was the issue. He mentioned Mary Ellen Gulch specifically. He added he wanted upper part of Mary Ellen Gulch also off the table for development by Snowbird.

Gina James Pemberton spoke about how she as a survivor of child sex trafficking and does volunteer work with people who have PTSD. She described how people who have been traumatized in urban areas are helped in pristine areas. She commented on how they have a clarity of mind after spending time in the canyons. The less traffic, she said, the better. She also described how many different groups of people have benefited from experiencing the tranquility of the canyon. She said she didn’t see a need

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to develop the “other side of the mountain” and how she thought this side of the canyon should be left alone.

Andrew Morrill, Highland, explained how he thought the canyon should be left the way it is as it is an affordable place for families. If the canyon was developed, he wouldn’t have access to those areas.

Angela Moody, originally from the UK but now from Alpine, commented how she moved to Utah for the natural beauty of the area. She described how the number of areas horseback riders can ride are being reduced due to development. She mentioned how busy the canyon is due to the amount of different groups using it. She ended saying If, the canyon was developed, there would be even less area to ride in.

Andy Farr, South Jordan, spoke on how he grew up in American Fork Canyon and how the memories he has of those times will last for eternity. He described how he frustrated he is with regulations on where he can take his dog. He commented on how he has friends from all over the world that he has taken to the top of the canyon hiking. He said he thought skiing at Snowbird was great but that he didn’t think they needed to go over the top into the canyon.

Steve Irwin described how as a student he fell in love with the area and now is an active user all year round in American Fork Canyon. He said more developed ski areas isn’t needed.

Keith Irwin, Cedar Hills, described how he is a “process guy” and was critical of the process that has been had with regard to the canyon. He asked that going forward there would be people who use this canyon on the committees that address the future of American Fork Canyon.

Janet Williams, Alpine, said she represented a group called Back Country Horsemen. She spoke on the many hours spent helping maintain the canyon. She said the canyon needed to be maintained, protected and a deserved effort to keep it in a pristine state for future generations. Janet urged pro-action in the beginning so the results won’t be a detriment to the canyon.

Whitney Black said she represented horseback riders and endurance racers. She explained how she was recently diagnosed with PTSD. As part of her treatment for it, she and her family went on passes up American Fork Canyon. She explained how she enjoyed riding horses in the canyon with her mother each week. She stressed how sad she would be if that opportunity was taken away from her.

Jeff Johnson, Provo, explained he is a photographer, hiker and skier. He said he enjoys going to the resorts in the winter. He described how easy he can get to any of the resorts and didn’t see any reason to go through American Fork Canyon to get to them 5 minutes faster. He urged there not be any development in the canyon as wilderness cannot be gotten back if it is developed.

Chris Waller, Forest Service Volunteer from Lehi, thanked the Pleasant Grove Forest Service Office by saying how great they were to work with. He described how many people showed up this year to volunteer and to protect the canyon. He said he has been a pass-holder for Snowbird for the past 15

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years but did not support putting ski chairs in Mary Ellen Gulch because the slope is south facing. He said Mineral Basin is most of the time so icy, he doesn't ski there unless it's after a storm. Chris stressed how the road in the canyon is very narrow and dangerous as it is. Adding more traffic would make it much worse.

Willie Holdman, Heber, said he is a professional photographer that grew up at the base of Mount Timpanogos. He said American Fork Canyon is the only multi-user canyon in the area. He described the many different uses of the canyon and urged the consideration of the scenery of the canyon. He asked if there were more development in the canyon, we would need to think about what will happen to the scenery. He described himself as a resort skier. As such, he said we need to say enough is enough. He stated the canyon should be saved for its clean and pristine quality.

Brad Frost, American Fork, said he was on the American Fork Council. He remarked how the commissioners were getting good council from the citizens. He suggested the canyon needs planning. He described how as the population increases, so will the number of people who want to go up into the canyon. To start, he suggested defining the borders or what is Utah County's land. He proposed that we see what Snowbird owns and appropriate money to do so if they are not forthcoming. He thanked the commissioners for their work.

Terri Sandstrom, Lehi, classified herself and her family as multi-users. She said she skis on a weekly basis during the winter at different resorts. She said she did not need a new road to get to Snowbird. She remarked she would like to see transparency in the process as well as input from all the different cities and organizations.

Ken Hazelbaker, Cedar Hills, said he has loved the mountains as an extreme outdoor adventurer. He described how frustrated he has been with the lottery to hike certain areas or to see national treasures. He said he agreed that there is not another resource like American Fork Canyon. He said he thought there needed to be some resources left for the people that want to go into the out of the way places. He mentioned how he liked what happened with Rock Canyon. He urged that some places be kept as public lands.

Jeff Jensen, Orem, thanked the alert citizens that found out about the proposed changes. He said his main frustration was process. He appealed to the commissioners as elected officials to protect these resources. He asked that the lands that have been purchased in the canyon be looked into to see if they have been acquired in a legal and ethical manner. He remarked that he wonders this because the answers are so hard to find out. He described how he went to Germany this past summer to a resort on top of the mountain. This experience made him realize he did not want this for American Fork Canyon.

Jason Bangerter, Sandy, described himself as an avid skier that loves Snowbird. He mentioned the "Live Life Elevated" logo he designed for the travel and tourism industry. He talked about how we need to take care of the land. He described Bob Bonar as an avid environmentalist. He said he personally didn't mind development of the canyon. He said that opening the canyon up to skiing in Mineral Basin would be amazing. He said there was misinformation in the media that they would be building a community of

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cabins, luxury homes and a highway up the canyon. He said they were thinking of building simple ski lifts and things that would protect the environment. The stressed that this would help the citizenry to access the land instead of locking it down.

Dutch Turner, American Fork, told about how his dad was a shepherd in the canyon from 1928-1930. He asked who would benefit from Snowbird expanding into the canyon. He pressed Snowbird to leave the canyon alone and let the people enjoy it that were born and raised here. He remarked how his grandchildren are asking why Snowbird is wanting to “tear up” the canyon.

Mark Allen, cofounder of Protect and Preserve American Fork Canyon, spoke about the Facebook page he developed and how it has grown. He spoke to Dave Fields saying he needed to apologize for calling this group of people “extremist”. He spoke of a meeting in Fox Hollow previously and what was said there. He spoke how pragmatic people put measures in place in other locations that limited commercialization of those lands. He mentioned how people come to Utah for scenic, open-wide vistas that are clean and uncluttered. He asked that for grass-roots, citizen based committees that will develop data points working with different agencies to create best practices. He stated we did not have enough information to make a decision to allow Snowbird to move forward. He asked for public meetings once a month to develop best practices for the canyon. He spoke about the same research Mountain Accord did is needed for American Fork Canyon. He mentioned how the land Snowbird owns is not known. He spoke about the money Snowbird has spent to clean up one mine in the area and wondered what liability they have on all their properties.

Commissioner Graves (about an email he received from Mark Allen and the comments he made previously) read the following portion of an email from Mark Allen which said: “Typically only extreme views are vocalized at these public meetings which leaves public officials with the perspective that all of Utah County shares the opinion of the extreme view.” Commissioner Graves said he did not contest that is what is going on here. He said that in his opinion the email is saying typically that is what happens, but that we are glad that is not what is going on here. He added that they, the commissioners, do not see those present as extreme.

Douglas Kunkel, American Fork, talked about how his dad worked at Solitude Ski Resort as a Cat Skinner. He said he didn’t want American Fork Canyon to look like Solitude. He also said he used to ride bikes in the canyon but there were too many cars in the canyon to ride up there now. He asked that the canyon be left alone.

Hunt Willoughby, former Mayor of Alpine, said Snowbird approached him when he was mayor about this expansion. He said he told them he was against this back then and still is now.

Elizabeth Farnsworth, Orem, said she represented the bikers, horseback riders, and snowshoers. She explained she had been using the canyon for the past 50 years. She described how she, though not a scientist, could tell there was damage to the canyon already due to increasing multiple usage. She urged that the canyon is already challenged and will not take having another new competitor in the canyon. She adamantly declared it was not in the best interest of an already stressed ecosystem to add a new

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component. She continued by listing things that were not needed in the canyon. She said what is needed is trails, campgrounds, and wild vistas that are carefully managed.

Tanner Maxwell, Orem, described how one of the most famous pictures in the Wasatch is of wildflowers in Albion Basin in Little Cottonwood Canyon. He continued saying how to the left and right of that location are gondolas and ski lifts. He mentioned another picture of wildflowers on Timpanogos' slopes where Snowbird wants to put ski lifts. He said he thought that would be a shame. He mentioned hiking in that area last winter where the noise from the lifts and gondolas could be heard. This past summer, he mentioned hiking where the construction noises could also be heard on Hidden Peaks. He said he thought the canyon should be left alone.

Marissa Wright, Cedar Hills City Council through 2012, said she originally heard about Snowbird's expansion when she was on the city council. When she first heard about it, she was excited about an entrance to Snowbird through American Fork Canyon. After a year, she started thinking about how more traffic in the canyon would be dangerous. She said it was just a matter of time before someone would be killed. Her second concern was about how water from American Fork Canyon for American Fork, Lehi, Highland, Alpine and Cedar Hills is depended upon for drinking and lawns. She said there is not enough water. If we build up there, these 4 cities will be crippled.

Kristin Shelley, Alpine, described how 5 generations of her family there are using the canyon as motorcycle riders. She commented on how in America we can speak to our elected officials about concerns such as this. She also spoke on how in America private property rights are respected. She remarked how Snowbird owns a lot of property in the canyon and due to this we can't tell Snowbird they can't use their property. She said she hoped Snowbird would use the land responsibly, listen to what people want and then leave the rest of the canyon alone.

John Gottfredson, Highland, said he was a long-time user of American Fork Canyon. He said he has a graduate degree in landscape planning. He described in analyzing a site for development, they look at the genius loci or the spirit of the place. Most people of Utah Valley consider the genius loci of the canyon something special because it is wild. Introducing commercial development into the canyon would change that spirit. He said he wasn't swayed by arguments of environmental impacts to the canyon or traffic as Snowbird probably has an answer to those concerns. But, he said, they don't have one concerning the spirit of the place. Secondly, he said he didn't want Snowbird to say they weren't going to do this at this time. He would like them to say they won't do this at all.

Zac Cheney, Lehi, spoke how as a multi-user he likes to take his children camping in the canyon in a meadow near Twin Peaks. He said he likes to take them up the canyon and have a campfire to make priceless memories. He described how you can't do these things at the resorts. He reiterated that development is irreversible.

Neil Peterson, Sandy, said he represented motorcyclists. He explained he goes to American Fork Canyon because they have been kicked out of all of the canyons in Salt Lake City. If they are kicked out of this

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canyon, too, they will have to travel farther to ride their motorcycles. He remarked for small families, skiing isn't feasible.

Matt Engst spoke about how his dad took him ATV riding with his uncle. He said he didn't want Snowbird coming in and taking over the land. He described the things he liked to do in the canyon.

Adrianne Durrant, Highland, commented on how her family goes horseback riding in American Fork Canyon. She said she didn't want Snowbird to expand because that would limit hiking and horseback riding.

Tegan spoke about how he begs his dad every day to go up the canyon. He said he doesn't want to lose the canyon.

Junior Bounans reminisced about deer hunting in American Fork Canyon when the mine on Miller Hill was still operating. He said in those days, you could drive a passenger car all the way to Mineral Basin or Mary Ellen Gulch. About future development, he said campgrounds could be better developed at Silver Lake and below Miller Hill. More high elevation campgrounds are needed.

Bob Bonar, General Manager of Snowbird Resort, read a statement that said "As one of the Stakeholders in American Fork Canyon, we appreciate the opportunity to speak this evening about a place that is important to everyone in this room. It is expected that Utah's population will increase by another 2.5 million residents by 2050 according to Envision Utah. Proper planning and preparation will allow each of us to recreate in the mountains while we preserve them for future generations. Snowbird is committed to planning and providing fun, safe and sustainable recreation through such a planning process for the future. Snowbird is not planning to connect the resort to American Fork Canyon at Tibble Fork or anywhere else, or building hotels or condominiums in Utah County or American Fork Canyon. None of Snowbird's private property in Utah County will be included in the Mountain Accord land exchange as requested. Snowbird pledges to continue to work with as we have for 40 years with the Utah 4WD community and other stakeholder groups to continue to provide responsible access to Snowbird's private land in American Fork Canyon."

Kendall Wimmer, American Fork, spoke about several mountain peaks in Utah. He spoke about the different types of skiing in Utah being resort skiing and back country skiing. He thanked Mr. Bonar for allowing bikers to access Snowbird property. He spoke the different ways he can reach Twin Peaks. Developing this area is a "no-brainer". He described single digit growth in alpine skiing but double digit growth in back country skiing. He said this shows what people want. He said it would take courage and vision to preserve this area.

Brandon Miller, American Fork, said he had spent a large portion of his life in American Fork Canyon. He spoke of having known Commissioner Ellertson for years. He commented how he didn't like the slander going around about him and Bob Bonar. He said he was scared that the legislative guy said we should put transportation and ski lifts up American Fork Canyon. He said that was not what this county wants. He spoke about the need to protect what we have in Utah County.

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Robert Shelley, American Fork, spoke about being on every trail in American Fork Canyon over the past 50 years. He described it as a unique place with thousands of acres of wilderness where people can go without seeing anyone. He spoke about the lands people bought as mining claims and not feeling bad about stopping them from putting a ski resort there because they bought mining claims and not ski resorts. He agreed with the comments to plan properly this process so it can remain a multi-use area.

Carl Fisher, Executive Director of Save Our Canyons, said they have been working to protect the canyons for 40 years. He agreed with others saying planning needs to be done to take action on how American Fork Canyon interfaces with Little Cottonwood Canyon, Wasatch Mountain State Park and with Provo Canyon. He said management of how the wildlife is moving around the canyons is also important. Dialog is needed to see if more wilderness areas are needed.

Cindy Dolan, South Jordan, spoke about her father who at 88 is still an active in the Boy Scout Council. He asked that if they did not protect the canyon for no other reason, then to protect it for his Boy Scouts. She explained a personal story where she felt peace and safety up in the canyon after a violent encounter. Because of this, she asked that the canyon be protected.

Stephen Shelley, Silver Lake Summer Home Association, said his biggest concern was the watershed in the north end of the county. He explained any commercial development of that canyon needs to be scrutinized for that purpose alone. He suggested everyone work together because all want to use it.

Ron McMillan, Alpine, thanked the commissioners for this forum. He turned his time over to them to explain the process of decision making, what will happen next, and what the key points are in that the information will come together, and who makes the ultimate decision on land usage.

Commissioner Graves explained that as far as land usage, he and the other two commissioners make the decision on any part of Utah County that is not in a city. Ron asked when the decision would be made about American Fork Canyon. Commissioner Ellertson commented they do not have a plan, so they do not have anything before them as this time. In terms of development, that would be driven by someone who is planning on developing something and is not driven by them. Ron commented that the process going forward is to gather information.

Commissioner Lee explained that the land belongs to the Forest Service, so there are many stakeholders such as private property owners. He explained they are looking at a resource management plan for the entire county. There will be citizen input along the whole process as we look at land use and land policy. One of the first things looked at in land use or land policy is to identify what we have, what we know and where the resources are. It is a longer and comprehensive process and will take some time. Not necessarily micro-ing all the way down into an individual space, but it is going to take some time. He continued saying this meeting was to allow the community to talk to us. He said they are writing down lists and taking notes. He described how the decision making process is complicated and how people think we have all the power. He remarked that is not how our form of government is set up. Our form

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of government does not allow us to have all of the power. But, we do have an opportunity to listen and to try to bring stakeholders together to talk about the processes and what can happen with all the stakeholders involved.

Ron said he appreciated seeing the complexity of the process. He said his greatest fear are decisions made in the dark, out of view of the public. He encouraged the commissioners to come out with a process with the different points by which different kinds of decisions can be made going forward.

Reed Probst, Highland, thanked the commissioners for having this meeting this evening. Many others not here said they were thankful, too. He said he had lived all over the state and were here for employment and recreation. Because of the nearness of the canyon, they were able to do both easily. He also said he was concerned about the water situation.

Judy Taylor, Lindon, described herself as a mother of an off-road club and three biological children. She talked about listening to stories of her husband growing up in this area. She spoke about, due to the development of many areas and the cost of skiing, a loss of being an able to take children out into the outdoors. She said the crime rate will go up if there is not an opportunity to take child into the outdoors.

Chase McMillan, Orem, said he would love to see more permanent protections (multi-use protections). He said this is only one battle. He said if they found the public wanted the public lands to remain free, could there be a more permanent protection designated for them so they can't be swapped with commercial interests that want to develop the land. He wondered if groups could be put together to buy back Snowbird's land. He commended Bob Bonar for coming today and listening to what people say. He added he would like to see them say they would not build private homes either. He ended by saying he thought ski lifts would be a poor use of the land.

Bridger Durrant, a widow from American Fork, spoke of moving to Utah from Arizona with her children so they could find solace and healing in the outdoors. She said they had been season pass holders at Snowbird and other resorts. She spoke about the traffic in Little Cottonwood Canyon while going to Snowbird. She compared the difference in traffic in American Fork Canyon during the winter. She said she would hate to see American Fork Canyon with that much traffic. She commented on her love for the solace she feels in American Fork Canyon.

Commissioner Ellertson thanked all those who have stood for such a long time. He said they will go through the items of interest. He said he thought it was important that we deal with each of those items, understand where we are starting from in terms of what the current situation is, and to begin to move forward. He thanked everyone for their input. He said it was important that there was an orderly process which would require some patience in order to work through these complicated issues

Commissioner Graves commended Richard Durrant and his troop on their bravery in sharing their stories. He said that is why he chose to serve.

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Commissioner Lee spoke on how he and the other two commissioners want to be going in the same direction. He said they had committed themselves to that process. He pointed out a few of the things he heard tonight. He commented on how these issues affect each of us. He remarked that he liked the comment the gentleman said about the different ways to look at the land and how you affect it or how it affects you. He said he looks at the land like a farmer. A farmer loves the land. He wants it to produce and grow. He describe when a farmer or a gardener looks at the land, all can participate in it. Another person looks at the land like a museum. This viewpoint is to lock it away or put it behind glass. He said that wasn't necessarily what we want to do. We need to be really careful not to do "monument statuses" where we lock it away or where we put so many regulations on it to where we aren't the gardening type. He commented that he felt like we, in Utah County, were the gardening type where we want to take care of it.

Commissioner Ellertson added it is important that we retain the multi-uses we now have in the canyon. He continued stressing the other issue that needs to be looked at is transportation. Transportation in the canyon is already an issue. We need to collectively see if access can be improved in the future as it will only get worse as we double in population in the next 25 years. He said we need to work together.

Karen McCoy asked if there is anything on the agenda to start the process of a joint venture with shuttle service to Timpanogos Cave.

Jim Ireland, Supervisor of Timpanogos Cave Monument, spoke about in 2002, the Timpanogos Interagency Land Exchange Act was passed by congress which authorized an interagency visitor's center and administrative building to be shared by the Park Service and Forest Service right outside the mouth of American Fork Canyon. He described how that act came to be. Essentially, he said they have money to complete the planning of that building. The Forest Service acquired 37 acres in Highland on the south side of Hwy 92. He said how no construction money had been designated by Congress yet. The original idea was that that building would have a parking lot for a shuttle system going to cave. In 2011 and 2012, the Park Service did an alternative transportation feasibility study where we looked at all the options. At that time, we decided unless UTA was interested in providing the shuttle, the federal government couldn't afford to pay for that service. The cost to the individual user would be around \$10 a ride which we didn't think people would pay for. The other complication of shuttles was there was no looped road. So, we decided to forgo the shuttle system for now. We are still planning on the interagency building that congress authorized and gave us money to build. We do have the money to build the replacement center for the Visitor Center building at Timpanogos Cave. The existing building will be demolished. Sometimes in September, 2016, we expect to realign Hwy. 92 slightly and pull all of the parking to one side of the road. We expect to build a new visitor contact station for Timpanogos Cave. The building in Highland was designed so if a shuttle is feasible later, there would be land there to support parking it. It is not on the table at the moment.

Commissioner Ellertson thanked everyone for attending and the meeting adjourned at 8:41 P.M.

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The minutes of the November 6, 2015 Special Board of Commission Meeting were approved as transcribed on December 8, 2015.

LARRY A. ELLERTSON, Commission Chair

ATTEST:

BRYAN E. THOMPSON
Utah County Clerk/Auditor

Copies available on the Utah County website at www.utahcounty.gov.
Recorded by Vicky Westergard, Tax Administration Clerk