

Utah State Scenic Byway Committee

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, July 13, 2023, 11:00 am-12:30 pm

Virtual Meeting via Zoom

Committee Members Present via Zoom: Camille Johnson, Kathleen Gonder, Chris Hansen, Shanna Memmott, Chris Potter, Amy Shumway, Scott Strong, Ed Woolford

Committee Members Excused: Nancy Brunswick, Evan Glenn

Guests via Zoom: Nate Seacrest, attorney for Reagan Outdoor Advertising

WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS

Camille Johnson, committee chair, opened the meeting and welcomed all in attendance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: Scott Strong motioned to approve the September 19, 2022, meeting minutes as presented. Chris Hansen seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously. MOTION PASSED

GRANT RECIPIENT UTAH PATCHWORK PARKWAY

Edward Woolford reported that everything was running smoothly. Chris Potter has been working with the group to put together the grant award and should be ready to submit to the federal highway to finalize the agreement and contract within the next 2 weeks. It will take several more weeks before it is approved. Once the grant agreement is approved, the Federal Highways Commission will release the monies to the Utah Department of Transportation. Then they will work with the Patchwork Parkway group to get a consultant onboard to start designing the interpretive panels and kiosks. Construction should start during the summer of 2025.

Camille Johnson voiced concern over cost increase since submittal and the lack of funding to perform the whole scope of work. Chris explained that if there is any variance from the time you submitted to the time you are awarded there is an area in the grant agreement you can go to and explain the discrepancy, but it is up to the Federal Highways Commission to decide if they will allow that. You are committed to what you put in your application. He suggested always adding inflation factors when submitting.

The Patchwork Parkway Committee is working on some in-kind options as a solution to cost increase.

SEGMENTATION REPORT

Chris Potter explained the two ways a segmentation can occur:

- The property owner can send a notification to the Utah Office of Tourism explaining that their property does not meet scenic byway criteria and they want to be segmented out. It then becomes the Utah Office of Tourism's responsibility to review that claim. If they agree with the claim, it is segmented out. If they disagree the Utah Office of Tourism must hire an administrative law judge to review the claims.
- The property owner goes before their local governing body and presents their claims. If the governing body agrees, they can be segmented out of the byway.

The second scenario recently was implemented in Ballard, Utah and the section in question was segmented out.

Administrative rules need to be updated every 5 years and it is getting time to start thinking about those changes. Chris Potter will add the Ballard Segmentation and the Zion National Byway designation to the administrative rule. He would like the committee to notify him if any other changes need to be made.

Ed Woolford will give Chris Potter the paperwork for the Zion National Byway Designation.

TRANSPORTATION INTERIM COMMITTEE HEARING

Camille Johnson attended the Interim Committee hearing held in May. She will attend the August Interim Session to discuss the value of the Byway Committee.

The state is considering discontinuing the Utah State Scenic Byway Committee. Camille Johnson and Chris Potter are working on a statute to continue the committee with the same structure as exists. An MOU between the State of Utah and the Utah Office of Tourism would be put in place, so we can continue to meet and help with the federal grant process.

COMMITTEE VACANCIES

The group decided to wait to fill committee vacancies until after the Interim hearing in August.

NEW BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Ed Woolford asked for a new list of byway contacts.
- Camille Johnson suggested an online seminar for grants.
- Chris Potter suggested continuing a “Get to know our byway” presentation. The committee felt like it was helpful to learn about all the byways.
- Ed Woolford suggested a group email with byway coordinators. He would forward information to them when necessary.
- Ed Woolford and Chris Potter discussed the Notice of Funding Opportunity that is expected to come out very soon.
- Kathleen Gonder asked about combining applications to have a better chance of getting grants. Chris Potter and Ed Woolford discussed the downfalls of doing that.
- Chris Potter suggested a virtual panel to help with the grant process.

MEETING ADJOURNED

The next committee meeting will be held October 3, 2023