

AMERICAN FORK CITY COUNCIL
SEPTEMBER 5, 2023
SPECIAL SESSION MINUTES

Members Present:

Bradley J. Frost	Mayor
Kevin Barnes*	Council Member
Staci Carroll	Council Member
Ryan Hunter	Council Member
Rob Shelton	Council Member
Clark Taylor	Council Member

Staff Present:

David Bunker	City Administrator
Terilyn Lurker	City Recorder
Patrick O'Brien	Development Services Director
Anna Montoya	Finance Director
George Schade	IT Director
Cameron Paul	Police Chief
Susan Goebel-Canning	Public Works Director

Also present: Elizabeth Gray, Ernie John, Tim Holley, Miss American Fork Shaye Johnson, Anette Stephens, Hadley Bryant and family, Charlie Southwick, and about 30 additional citizens.

The American Fork City Council met in a special session on Tuesday, September 5 2023, Mountain Meadows Park (now Monarch Park), 420 West 380 South, commencing at 9:05 a.m.

Mayor Frost welcomed everyone to the park for this special session.

ACTION ITEMS

1. Review and action on a resolution approving the re-naming of Mountain Meadow Park to Monarch Park.

Mayor Frost read through the resolution approving the name change from Mountain Meadow Park to Monarch Park:

WHEREAS, the American Fork City Council has the authority to name or rename public parks, buildings, and streets; and

WHEREAS, American Fork City currently has a park located at approximately 420 West 300 South named “Mountain Meadow Park;” and

WHEREAS, Anette Stephens and her 3rd grade class presented to the city council the importance of the Monarch Butterfly and the decline of the Monarch Butterfly due to habitat loss in the past decade; and

WHEREAS, Top monarch butterfly experts in Utah have identified the park area as one of the best available monarch butterfly habitats remaining in Utah; and

WHEREAS, American Fork City is supportive of preserving the habitat of the Monarch Butterfly and have encouraged the preservation of the park area to better preserve the habitat for the Monarch Butterfly; and

WHEREAS, American Fork City has been designated a Monarch City by the Monarch City USA Organization.

NOW, THEREFORE, the City Council of American Fork resolves to change the name of “Mountain Meadow Park” to “Monarch Park.”

Council Member Hunter moved to adopt Resolution No. 2023-09-37R approving the re-naming of Mountain Meadow Park to Monarch Park. Council Member Taylor seconded the motion. Voting was as follows:

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Ryan Hunter, Council Member
SECONDER:	Clark Taylor, Council Member
YES:	Carroll, Shelton, Taylor, Hunter
ABSENT:	

With the help of Miss American Fork Shaye Johnson, Anette Stephens, and Charlie Southwick, Mayor Frost unveiled the new sign for Monarch Park.

Mayor Frost invited Hadley Bryant, a student who came to the city council in April 2022, to the front to share a few remarks.

Hadley Bryant thanked Mayor Frost for making Monarch Park possible and for allowing her to speak at today’s event. She read the following statement:

Two years ago, my third-grade class studied monarch butterflies. We hatched monarch caterpillars and watched them grow. They turned into chrysalises, then turned into monarch butterflies. Finally, we released them into the wild so they can migrate and make more offspring and save their species.

Not only are the monarch butterflies beautiful, but they help our planet by pollinating wildflowers.

Our teacher, Ms. Stephens, has been researching butterflies and found that their habitats were being destroyed around the country. With all the population growth and construction, the American Fork wetlands are a very important area for the monarch butterflies.

The wetlands include important plants like milkweed. Milkweed provides nourishment and a safe spot to lay eggs. If the Monarch butterflies don’t have a place to lay eggs and eat, they will go extinct. One thing we can do is help provide plenty of milkweed along their migration path. Milkweed has the word weed in it, but it’s not actually a weed. People mistake this plant for weeds and pull it from the ground, which removes plants to lay eggs on and reproduce. When they migrate, they go over the ocean and a lot don’t make it. If there is no milkweed, they will die.

A year and a half ago, my class decided to make speeches and share them at the city council. We shared our ideas and concerns to save the wetlands. Not long after that, we were so pleased when Mayor Frost decided to take action and help add butterfly way stations in American Fork. One of the first things he did was have a monarch butterfly way station included in the new landscaping at the American Fork Hospital. I spoke at the ribbon cutting at that way station. I was so happy to speak and share about how amazing and beautiful the monarchs are.

I am so happy there is another way station for the monarch butterflies. Little steps like these can make the world better for monarch butterflies and the world a better place for us.

Anette Stephens thanked Hadley Bryant for being here. Ms. Stephens stated on April 12, 2022, she and 22 students attend the city council meeting to share what they learned about monarch butterflies. She indicated that Mayor Frost had told them he would do what he could to protect the monarch butterfly habitat and make it a safe place they could have field trips. She thanked Mayor Frost and the city council for working on saving this pristine wetland monarch habitat and for keeping monarch butterflies around for generations.

Mayor Frost explained that parks are not only well-maintained land, but native habitats that may not be seen in other parks. He noted the city would be applying for grants to help aid in preserving the monarch butterfly habitat. He thanked the council for approving this action to help preserve monarch butterflies. He stated monarch butterflies migrate up to 3,000 miles and will go to the same places they were the year before.

Mayor Frost thanked everyone for coming and invited the public to walk into the park to look for monarch butterflies, where they would tag and release a few butterflies.

*Council Member Barnes arrived.

2. Adjournment.

Council Member Shelton moved to adjourn the meeting. Council Member Hunter seconded the motion. All were in favor.

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 a.m.



Terilyn Lurker, City Recorder