



**PARKS AND RECREATION  
OPEN SPACE TRUST FUND ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

In-Person and WebEx

Location: Government Center, 2001 S. State Street SLC, Utah 84118

June 22, 2023, | 11:00 AM-12:00 PM

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**In Attendance**

**Board Members:** Rhetta Mciff, Deborah Gatrell, Sarah Reale, Kael Weston, Angela Gong, Benjamin Cook, Carrie Butler

**Absent:** Bennion Gardner, Nate Blouin

**Staff:** Walt Gilmore, Heidi Shegrud, Lisa O'Brien, David Johnson, Jason Wolf, Xochiatl Thomas, Liz Sollis, Alyssa Downard

**Citizen Participation:** Steve Van Maren

**CALL TO ORDER**

Walt calls the meeting to order and asks all attendees if they received the agenda and the meeting minutes from April 17, 2023.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Steve Van Muren commented regarding the rules related to closed meetings.

**BUSINESS ITEM** – APPROVAL OF DRAFT MINUTES FROM APRIL 17, 2023

Ben motions to approve the minutes, Rhetta seconds the motion. Minutes approved.

**BUSINESS ITEM** – Chair Determination

Bennion Gardner is nominated by Kael Weston and seconded by Carrie Butler. Matter is discussed. Strengths of nomination are brought by Rhetta Mciff and Kael Weston. All voted in favor.

**BUSINESS ITEM** – Bylaws

Walt intends to work on the bylaws to update them with David Johnson to present a draft at the next board meeting.

**BUSINESS ITEM** – Meeting Schedule

Walt opens the discussion to the board of a proposed meeting schedule. It's determined to meet every other month. The next meeting is to be August 24, 2023, from 4-5 pm. Kael would like to present to the Council and update what this board has accomplished with the budget they have been given.

**OPEN SPACE LAND ACQUISITION / CONSERVATION EASEMENT** –

Walt presents to the board an update on the Lund Property Acquisition. This is the 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting this parcel has been discussed. Walt would like to finalize the recommendation to the Mayor's Office. Walt explains that the

County had an appraisal done and so did the landowners and a price was agreed upon between those two.

David Johnson reminds the group that it is always up to the board to open or close a meeting. Reminds the statue requires the discussion of real property only if the discussion would prevent best terms. This is to be determined on a case-by-case basis.

A PowerPoint illustrating why the County would like to acquire the land is brought up for all to view. The location of the property is 777 & 787 West Bayport Way, Taylorsville, Utah. It is located near the river and the existing Little Confluence Jordan River Trailhead. Walt states the County is very interested in acquiring the property to create looped trails and destinations along the Jordan River Trail. To the west is Murray City's Nature Center. Walt describes a trail system within this property to create a mile of trail that can be used by neighboring residents and users of the Jordan River Trail.

Price of the property is discussed.

Rhetta Mciff asks if this property is in the 100-year flood plain. Based on the map it appears that it is. Walt mentions that this area was not flooded this year and reminds the group this was a high-water year. Walt asks for a motion.

Deborah makes a motion to recommend the acquisition of this property. Rhetta Mciff and Carrie Butler second.

Bennion will work on a recommendation letter to send to the Mayor.

Carrie Butler asks about trail connections into the neighborhoods. Walt likes to see those connections. Trail connections will need to be negotiated.

Kael would like the board to be involved with a public roll out to signal to other landowners the idea of educating the county regarding how the tax dollars are being spent towards open space. He would like to involve the Mayor and or the council to promote that. Liz Sollis will reach out to the Mayor's Office. Kael would like the board to engage landowners to help share their reasons for considering open space vs private transactions. This could help motivate other landowners.

Rhetta asked Walt about working with the Health Department and creating wayfinding signs for trail users. Walt says that his department will continue the effort of partnering with the Health Department in events and signage along trails.

David checks back in to verify with Walt he heard an audible yes from everyone. Walt confirms he did.

Liz recaps the request from Kael. That the open space board wants to write an op-ed that would come from the community and host a media event that would take place in September on a property the county has acquired using the \$5 million allocated by the Mayor and the Council.

Walt mentions that when the county updated the application process the county did receive an influx of applications.

Walt requests a motion to adjourn.

David asks if there was a formal vote to approve the minutes. Just to make sure there is a formal vote for approval of the minutes. Each member votes yes to approve the minutes.  
Again, to make sure Deborah requests a formal vote to approve Bennion as the Chair. Each member votes yes.

Deborah would like to open discussion for business for the next meeting.  
Walt lets the group know they can email him anytime with business items to add to the agenda.

Deborah would like to understand if there have been conversations with Rio Tinto regarding trail access. Walt says there have been high level talks.

Walt thinks there might be an opportunity to have Rio Tinto come to speak with the board.

Deborah is concerned about the trail access through Rio Tinto property and would like to see a way to provide permanent trail access to and on existing trails such as the C for Cypress on the hillside.

Walt explains a partnership between Rio Tinto and the County while working on the Butterfield Canyon Trailhead.

Kael would like to look at what other counties across the country in other states such as Colorado, Arizona and New Mexico are doing to manage and acquire open space. What do their bonds look like? What are their state legislatures doing to match developer funds? Kael would like to learn about more options to educate ELECTED leaders regarding open space, he would like to guide the legislators regarding good models towards spending money in the service of open space. Kael would like to use the next few months to get smart on the models that are working to acquire more resources to put towards more open space.

Walt suggests that a subcommittee be formed to do this research. Kael volunteers his time to help find data to bring back to the group for discussion. How to find serious money to devote to open space. He would like to show some leadership from Salt Lake County. Angela would like to help with that effort as well.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Walt takes motion to adjourn and thanks everyone for their participation.

Deborah moves to adjourn. Kael seconds the motion to adjourn.