

Formal Meeting
Thursday, December 7, 2023
5:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

Join Via Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85882467329?pwd=OUdOb1d5eHRnL2lEV01zMlkvZ3hHZz09>

Or Join at the Public Lands Administrative Building: 1965 W. 500 S. Salt Lake City, UT 84104
Upstairs Parks Training Room

Join by phone
Phone: +1-253-215-8782
Webinar ID: 858 8246 7329
Access code: 127214

Approved Minutes

1. Convening the Meeting	5:00 PM
A. Call to order - Kerri Nakamura - Dave John - Meredith Benally - Phil Carroll - Aaron Wiley - Melanie Pehrson - Jenny Hewson - Samantha Finch - Ginger Cannon - Clayton Scrivner - Brianne Binnebose - CJ Whittaker - Talula Pontuti	
B. Chair Comments Ms. Binnebose reminded everyone this is the last board meeting of 2023 and highlighted some of the Board's accomplishments this year. She also reminded everyone that they will be discussing potential new subcommittees at the retreat and encouraged members to come prepared to discuss these at the retreat. Ms. Binnebose said all Board members need to be in at least one subcommittee per their bylaws so they can all share the workload.	5 mins
2. Approval of Minutes	5:05 PM
– Approve November 5, 2023 meeting minutes Ms. Cannon motioned to approve the minutes. Mr. John seconded the motion. The Board unanimously voted to approve the November minutes.	5 mins
3. Public Comment	5:10 PM
– Verbal comments are limited to no more than 3 minutes; 15 minutes total. Written comments are welcome. <u>Elliot Mott</u> Mr. Mott explained some issues with people accessing the Jordan River, and West Valley has removed their takeout. People need to access the river of around 2100 S along the right-hand side. The City needs to do something about this gap to make it easier for the public to access the Jordan River. Mr. Mott's other comment on the Jordan River is that it is near Fisher Mansion. There are issues with the road people use as a river trail and limited parking access.	

Jim Webster

Mr. Webster said he was the anonymous constituent applicant for Miller Park's CIP grant. He shared with the Board that he and Lewis Kogan submitted the three things proposed for the project. He had a document in his hands he referenced. The items proposed in the document were deemed infeasible, but it doesn't explain the reasons. He referenced a photo of Miller Park with a bridge. Part of the bridge was a retaining wall built by Salt Lake County in 1978. It was demolished by Public Lands in 2014. Mr. Webster submitted the CIP application to reinstate that wall and the pathway below. He shared, within the document he was referencing, that the construction drawings for the 2014 work do not include the upper trail mentioned in the document. He went on to share that the upper trail happened because the lower trail was demolished. The wall within the upper trail is built along and is coming apart. He said that many of Public Land's opinions within the document are based on a Geo. Technical report Jim Nordquist said he wasn't aware of the wall being demolished. He lives near Miller Park and has to watch people use the insufficient lower path. Before the path was demolished, a petition was going around, which was ignored, and now CIP is being ignored. He invites the Board to listen to your constituents.

Travis Winn

Mr. Winn said he runs a non-profit called Free The Game. They've partnered with Public Lands to do a street soccer court at Sherwood Park and Salt Lake County at Sugarhouse Park. They have a CIP application to convert unused concrete pads into street soccer courts. He said a lot of soccer is pay-to-play, and not everyone can afford that. These courts aren't costly to build. He shared that they've had local artists come and do some artwork on the courts.

4. Director's Report & Staff Items**5:25 PM**

- Introduce Landscape Architects – Tom Millar

5 mins

Mr. Millar shared he wanted to take the time to introduce his staff, as they will each present to the Board in the future. He introduced three of the four new landscape architects or associate landscape architects now in the Public Lands Department. They will be managing and designing projects and helping Public Lands fulfill the design and partially some of the project construction.

Mr. Troy Anderson shared he's been with the City for about 1 ½ years. He used to work in a private practice for 20+ years. Some of the projects he is working on are Allen Park, Foothills Trails, and Liberty Park projects.

Mr. Bruce Brown shared he's been with the City for over 30 years. He's worked on most of the trails and parks around. He has several projects he's working on, and right now, his biggest is Marmalade Plaza, along with 6-7 other projects.

Ms. Kathryn Sonntag shared that she is an associate landscape architect. She started with the City in January. Before working for the City, she spent eight years at MGBA, a private landscape architecture firm doing both planning and landscape architect work. Before that, she was with Envision Utah. She has a master's degree in landscape, architecture, and environmental planning from USU. She works on Allen Park, Marmalade Plaza, Liberty Park, Memory Tree Grove Project, and Bonneville Shoreline trailhead.

- Summary of current high-priority department items. – Kristin Riker

5 mins

Ms. Riker said that staff have been working on their budgets for FY2025 and are hoping to be on the Board's February agenda. They're a little late presenting to the Board, but she thinks staff can still share their budgets with the Board and get their advice and recommendations to the Mayor on time.

She also shared one of the tasks they are working on is an emergency budget request for funding for urgent needs at Liberty Park. The greenhouse had a condition assessment done, and it's been determined that it's unsafe for staff to be there due to structural stability, asbestos, and lead. The staff has been moved, and they have a structural engineering assessment to see if the newest greenhouse area could still be used if they complete the lead, mold, and asbestos mitigation. They are asking for funding, and if that can't be done, they are asking for funding for new hoop houses to put at Liberty Park so staff can continue growing the plants. She continued to discuss the greenhouse storing and growing process and funding. The funding request is also to put in new gates at Liberty Park. She continued to discuss the efforts staff are making at Liberty Park.

Ms. Pehrson asked if the CIP application for Liberty Park is going in this year's CIP application submission. Ms. Riker said yes and apologized that the Board didn't get to review, but sometimes that happens, and staff have needs they need to push through. There are two applications for Liberty Park, both for the greenhouse. Ms. Riker continued to discuss the Liberty Park CIP applications.

Mr. Carroll asked if the staff has looked into using the LDS hospital to store their plants. Ms. Riker said she didn't know they had greenhouses. She said they will use the University of Utah greenhouses for their native plant propagation program. It works for that program because they distribute plants all over the City. It's a nice partnership with the university; it gets students to come in and help and learn about native plant propagation. Staff will use those for trails and natural lands. For the parks, it's hard to have something so far off-site. Ms. Riker said it was a good idea and asked Mr. Carroll if he had a contact. The Board and staff continued to discuss storage for plants in the greenhouse.

- Allen Park Update – Kat (Maus) Andra

15 mins

Ms. Andra shared her screen to display an Allen Park update presentation for adaptive reuse and management plans. Public Lands and their consultant team have been working with the community for the past year to gather feedback and determine the future uses and programming for Allen Park. They are almost ready to share their final concept and design. They've done multiple rounds of broad public engagement and have met frequently with a technical and community advisory committee; she thanked Ms. Finch for being a big part of that. Ms. Andra explained the first round of engagement was to gather big ideas of what folks wanted to see in the park. From these ideas, staff created three concept designs, which they evaluated in their second round of public engagement.

1. Concept #1: Art in the Wild – This focuses on the natural environment, bolstering some wildlife habitats, education, and the ecology site while integrating a few artists in residence studios onsite—this option removes most structures.
2. Concept #2: Art & Sciences Collective – This concept had few opportunities for environmental improvements but saved most of the structures for community and artists' studios. This concept preserves the existing tree canopy.
3. Concept #3: Cultural Village – this concept added new structures to the park to add to the capacity to house community organizations, artists, and scientists.

Ms. Andra shared that all this information is also available on their website. As folks weighed in on those options, it was clear that concept A, which was the concept that removed the most structures, was the highest valued. People valued the natural spaces, the restoration elements, the community gathering spaces, the outdoors, and the habitats. Ms. Andra continued to share the findings for Allen Park.

Ms. Andra shared a visual of a rough draft concept for the park. This began with removing most structures celebrating the environment but retaining a few additional structures that the concept proposed. It includes a plan for parking, a trail connection to the east to connect to the rest of the

City, some stream access points to Immigration Creeks, improvements to the creek, lots of native and ornamental planting, and some pedestrian lighting. She continued to discuss the rough draft concepts for Allen Park. She shared that they are collecting comments until January 15th, and a virtual open house will be on December 11th. The goal is to make the final concepts available at the end of January. Ms. Andra continued to discuss the final concept plan. Mr. Carroll asked if there was any evidence that indigenous people used this area. Ms. Andra said in their cultural landscape report that they explored what was not a significant area for that period of time. The period of significance came a little bit later. Mr. Carroll said it would be to acknowledge that somewhere with a sign. Ms. Andra said they will have a signage plan. Ms. Cannon asked where the trail connection would be. Ms. Andra said there are a lot of challenges. The easement goes through the Garfield school and connects to 1500 East, just south of the Blaine Nature Preserve. It would be logistically challenging as the slopes here are steep. They will pursue the feasibility of that pretty heavily. Ms. Cannon asked if there was any possibility that transportation or Public Utilities could provide funding out of the bond since it's a trail. Ms. Andra said that Public Utilities would be working with the ecological sub-consultant Public Lands is working with to pursue additional funding, specifically for the creek, and transportation is looking at Federal funding that could be utilized for the trail connect. The Board and staff continued to discuss funding mechanisms. Ms. Cannon asked if there was a rough estimate of how many parking spaces will be available. Ms. Andra said there's a space in the north of the park that they want to eliminate and concentrate all the ADA parking on the southern drive. The northern gateway to the park is visually significant historically, which they want to maintain. The goal is to have all the ADA stalls that can fit 2-3 in the southern drive, and then a parking area near 1400 East can accommodate 12 stalls, with one being ADA accessible. The Board and staff continued to discuss parking at Allen Park. Ms. Hewson asked if the staff was concerned with the public comment period during the holidays. Ms. Andra said they considered it, and as a team, they feel like the engagement up to this point has been robust. They are confident that most of the comments they've received up until now will formulate the plan right now and just wanted to allow folks to share some final thoughts. Ms. Riker asked Ms. Andra to clarify that this is the entire plan for the park and that the \$4.5 million from the GO Bond will not cover the construction or implementation of the entire plan. Ms. Andra said yes. The GO Bond will focus on landscaping improvements to open more park areas to public access. The Board and staff continued to discuss Allen Park.	
- Staff Updates. – Ashlyn Larsen Ms. Larsen shared that they are making progress on creating a calendar to inform Board members of upcoming events to ensure they follow OPMA.	5 mins

5. Action Items	5:55 PM
- Review and approve letters of support for Internal and Constituent CIP Applications Ms. Larsen shared her screen to display the Board’s draft letter. Ms. Pontuti updated the letter using last year’s as a starting point. Ms. Pontuti explained how she began creating the letter. She made two versions of the letter. One shows the top five rankings for internal and the top 10 for constituent applications. The other version displays the rankings for all of them. She thinks the shorter one is better visually. Ms. Binnebose asked Board members to indicate which version they wanted, longer versus shorter. Ms. Cannon said she liked the shorter version because it had more impact. Ms. Nakamura agrees with the shorter version, as all the applications go forward anyway. Ms. Pontuti said she would like feedback on the written paragraphs and why projects were not chosen based on all the provided comments. She continued to explain how she formulated the content of the letter. Ms. Cannon referenced a section Ms. Pontuti had highlighted regarding changes they had suggested last year for the CIP application in the future. Ms. Pontuti read the paragraph to the Board and staff. Mr. Millar said he does not recall them discussing it, but he’s not invited to any of those meetings that don’t include discussion applications that apply to them. He encouraged the Board to include whatever they wanted in the letter. The Finance Department creates the application, establishes the timeline, and oversees the process. Mr. Millar said he would send out a blank application to the Board. The Board and staff continued to discuss the CIP application. The Board and staff continued to discuss the CIP application and CDCIP ranking. Ms. Pontuti asked the board if they wanted to make any edits and asked them to please mark them in the first version of the letter. She aims to have all the finalized decisions Monday night after the 5:30 PM deadline. The Board and staff continued to discuss their deadlines for the letter and CIP rankings.	10 mins
6. Board Discussion	6:05 PM
A. Review rankings and prioritizations for Constituent CIP Applications Ms. Binnebose reminded the Board that after today’s discussion and question and answer with staff, Board members have until Monday, December 11th at 5:30 PM to make any adjustments to their first-round rankings. This will ensure Board members have enough time to finalize and deliver the letter by December 14th. Ms. Larsen shared her screen to display the Board’s Constituent CIP rankings. The Board’s current top 10 rank is as follows: 1. Citywide Park Restroom Planning Study and Fairmont Restroom Conceptual Design 2. Liberty Park Greenhouse Restoration 3. Riverside Park Pathway Loop 4. Jordan River Trail Food Forest + Partner Garden 5. Street Soccer and Futsal Courts 6. Poplar Grove Park Lighting 7. Pocket Park Community Space 8. International Peace Gardens 9. Jordan River Trail Safer Crossing Improvements 10. Playground Shade Ms. Cannon shared that part of her ranking process was related to funding. If the CIP application had no estimated funds, it went down in her rankings. She also preferred projects with an internal or private match or something going on that the GO Bond could supplement or impact fees. She also looked at how it would activate the space and meet the critical needs of staff and the community. Ms. Binnebose said her repeat applications go to the top of her list for prioritization. Ms. Finch shared that she visited some smaller parks, like Fault Line, and talked to people using the space. She brought up that staff has its own CIP and plans to do something with restoring playgrounds based on needs. It’s her way of rejecting the idea that we should just pick parks themselves and that staff	45 mins

should have more control over which playgrounds need updating. The Board liked this point. Ms. Binnebose thinks the International Peace Gardens is a nice cultural and historical space for many people, so preventing vandalism would be great. The Board continued to discuss their criteria for constituent CIP ranking.

Mr. Wiley said his big focus was diversity, equity, and inclusion. One of the projects that stuck out to him that wasn't on the top of the list was the calisthenics project. As neighborhoods change, it's important to consider people who could benefit from those parks in their community. He also liked the basketball court and thinks it represents a lot of equity and inclusion of spaces that need to be activated. Mr. Wiley continued to discuss including amenities that activate parks. Ms. Pehrson brought up that something similar was presented a while back. Ms. Riker said this sort of project at Liberty Park has its hurdles because of the Historic Landmark Committee. She said it would be nice if this request were at a different park. The Board and staff continued to discuss the calisthenics project.

Ms. Hewson likes the Peace Gardens project and wondered if potential external funding sources like grants exist. She asked if the Food Forest project was the unsanctioned community garden. She said she ranked this high because anything provisioning food in that environment is appealing and community-driven. Mr. John agreed with Ms. Hewson's comments. Mr. John added the garden also provides medicinal plants. Ms. Pontuti shared that the garden was also one of her top choices. She shares that she teaches a high school class to seniors to teach them about cultural connections and how they connect to food in general. The Board and staff continued to discuss the garden project.

Ms. Finch thanked the Board for their prioritization of the Fairmont Restrooms. She is happy to see any sort of pilot that goes off in Fairmont and will benefit the entire City. She shared she ranked the Fairmont Park East Enhancement and Fairmont Park Basketball Court low. She does think the East Enhancement is required. She encouraged board members to visit Fairmont to see the growth happening in that area, as enhancements need to happen at some point. Still, due to the GO Bond and the benefits Fairmont will receive from the tennis courts and regional money enhancing it, it's getting love now. The field surrounding the current half-court is heavily utilized for other field sports. She wonders if there needs to be larger public engagement for the basketball court project. Ms. Finch also shared she ranked the Jordan River Trail Safer Crossing lower as transportation could probably help with this project. She was under the impression from Mr. Millar's comments that this project may be evolving and transportation taking the lead. Board members had their top 10, and all the projects were ranked as Board members ranked them. The Board and staff continued to discuss this project and the rankings.

Ms. Hewson asked the Board how they ranked the East Bench Preserve the way they did. Ms. Cannon said she's there a lot, and it has a lot of issues and is highly utilized. She added she felt like it would be included with the Foothills, so why would it be ranked. While it has issues, it's a highly active area, lacking many other projects. Ms. Pehrson asked if this project would be included with the Foothills. Mr. Millar said the Foothills plan focuses on Immigration Canyon and North Salt Lake. This project is just south of the Foothills, but the acquisition of property in that area and the improvements in that area would be dependent on receiving funding, probably through CIP.

Mr. Scrivner asked the Board why they ranked the 5th West Commons Conversation Centers the way they did and what was missing from that application. Ms. Cannon said it ranked high because she saw it as activating the space. Ms. Nakamura noted that it was well-used when visiting the space. Ms. Cannon asked Ms. Nakamura if she felt like it needed seating areas. Ms. Nakamura said she saw many people walking their dogs, sitting on the bench, and reading. The Board continued to discuss the 5th West Commons project. Mr. Scrivner also asked the Board why they ranked the 8th East Parks

and Pathway they did. Ms. Cannon said she didn't think it was a strong application. Ms. Cannon said she had lived on 8th East for many years and wondered how it would work. Ms. Nakamura said it's a beautiful street with beautiful sidewalks, so while it's a super cool idea to put a trail through, there are so many other streets that don't even have any paths to walk right now. Ms. Pehrson shared that the Pocket Park Community Space was an application she put in based on feedback from people she's spoken to within that area. Right now, it's just a grassy space that no one uses. She said that many people have requested that something be put there. The Board and staff continued to discuss the 8th East project. Mr. Millar said he wants to hear as many comments on these projects as the Board has. He's writing down all the ideas that are coming up and ways they can encourage the applicant to improve their application. Ms. Nakamura said it was hard to find the Victory Tennis courts. She is asked if the county will not let people park for tennis in the county parking lot. Mr. Millar said there is parking, but you must walk all the way around. She's supportive of public tennis courts to keep them accessible to those who can't afford to pay to play. Ms. Riker said this tennis court is very active. Ms. Finch said she ranked the Liberty Wells Community Garden higher as she always passes it, and it seems like a perfect spot for the community garden. She said the Mayor, at one point, one of her priorities was community gardens. There's a big space right next to it currently. She also said she loves the playground shade and is pleased with the rankings overall. Ms. Riker said she's excited to see how the Board's rankings will compare to the CDCIP because she feels this group is the most representative staff has had. The Board and staff continued to discuss CIP rankings. Ms. Pehrson asked if staff works with transportation on trails and how they decide on the management and operation of trails. Mr. Millar said they do work with transportation. Once the trail is built, it's a Public Lands trail. Implementing a new trail or significant improvement to a trail depends on where it is, whether it's on its property or along the street right away. Mr. Millar used the 9-line trail as an example. It was a transportation project and will be maintained by Public Lands. Mr. Millar said that some work being done to the Jordan River Trail around 200 South is being worked on by Public Lands, Engineering, and U-DOT. The Board and staff continued to discuss trails. Ms. Binnebose reminded the Board that after tonight's discussion, they have until 5:30 PM Monday to make any final comments or adjustments to their rankings.	
B. Chair and Vice-Chair Nominations Ms. Binnebose invited the Board to nominate a Chair and Vice-Chair. She reminded everyone they have until the January meeting to accept or decline your nomination. Ms. Finch nominated Mr. Scrivner for Chair. Ms. Finch nominated Ms. Pehrson for Vice-Chair. Ms. Pehrson accepted the nomination. Ms. Pehrson said she nominated Ms. Nakamura, but she said maybe next year so she can learn more. Ms. Finch nominated Ms. Cannon, but she declined over email. Ms. Pehrson nominated Ms. Hewson for Chair. Ms. Nakamura thanked Ms. Binnebose for the work she's done.	5 mins
C. Subcommittee Reporting <u>Communications Subcommittee</u> Ms. Binnebose said this month's Communications Subcommittee meeting focused on the agenda, CIP, and the letter. That's what they've been working on. Their minutes are in the folder. She said one of the action items is the January agenda item and thinking about a process for when community members want to give presentations to the Board, so they wanted to have some ideas and conversation starters to help facilitate that discussion in January. <u>Trails Subcommittee</u>	5 mins

Mr. Whittaker said they met, but there's nothing to discuss until the City reports on the findings from the consultants' work. He noted that Mr. Fonarow sent them an email saying that the staff expects all that work to be finished before the end of the year. He said there was a delay due to a management change in the SE Group consultant team.	
D. Board comments and question period Ms. Finch asked if any subcommittee wants to do a more formal presentation/update on their work over the year. If so, she'd like to have more time dedicated to subcommittees. As a new Board member, Ms. Nakamura liked this idea; it would be helpful to understand what the subcommittees are, their goals, and where they are headed so she can figure out which subcommittee to join. Ms. Cannon said this is something suggested in the Bylaws to have this sort of reporting, and Ms. Larsen put together a list of the current subcommittees, who's a member of each, and that's in the shared files. Ms. Larsen said it's in the onboarding presentation. Ms. Nakamura asked what the staff's inventory of urban trails that aren't related to the Foothills is, as she is wondering if there needs to be a focus on that. Mr. Whittaker said the Foothills Subcommittee is not just the Foothills Trails; it's the Foothills in general. Ms. Riker listed off the 9-Line Trail, Folsom Trail, McClellan Trail, Parley's Historic Nature Park Trail, and Jordan River Trail. Ms. Nakamura asked Ms. Pehrson if she had ever considered opening up her idea for the Jordan River Trail Subcommittee to encompass all urban trails. Ms. Pehrson said she hadn't thought of expanding it, but she doesn't want the scope of it to become too broad. However, it's worth considering if they can narrow the purpose. The Board and staff continued to discuss subcommittees.	10 mins
E. Next meeting: January 4, 2023	5 mins
F. Request for future agenda items Ms. Larsen shared her screen to display the draft agenda for January. Ms. Binnebose reminded everyone the meeting was in person only. Ms. Binnebose said this meeting would have many staff updates the Board has requested: Foothills, Emerald Ribbon, and Miller Park. Urban Forestry is being pushed to February. There will also be an icebreaker. Ms. Cannon asked if there could be an agenda item for the Board to discuss their goals and priorities for the year and if there was a way to push the staff presentations to another month. She doesn't want the retreat to be a longer, standard meeting. Ms. Riker said any of the staff topics could wait. Ms. Riker talked about some options for their February meeting. Ms. Cannon said they're required to review stuff in advance, and then their Board meetings could be shorter. Ms. Finch has been pleased with how things have gone this last year. Ms. Cannon would find it helpful if they could receive staff presentations ahead of time. The Board and staff continued to discuss this. Mr. Whittaker said he's confused about the Foothills because they've been waiting on a report for months. He would propose moving the Foothills update to February as the Foothills Subcommittee won't even see the report before the retreat. He asked the Board how they would feel about moving the Foothills update to another month and dedicating a meeting to it. Ms. Riker said when meetings are done at the Public Land's building, people can participate virtually, so it would be better to have the update done another month. Ms. Riker said the golf update could be adjusted, too. Ms. Cannon said she is hearing to remove all the staff updates and use that time for other Board topics. Ms. Larsen said she'll need to double-check with Ms. Maponga on the Emerald Ribbon update as an upcoming engagement or something is happening for that project that may need to be shared with the Board. She also said the Miller Park topic is on the agenda as the Board requested to hear the staff's presentation so that, as a Board, they can discuss having stakeholder presentations. Ms. Finch said she would like to keep Miller Park on the agenda.	5 mins

Ms. Binnebose said they could remove golf and the Foothills update and keep Emerald Ribbon and Miller Park, which would free up time to add to the Miller Park and Emerald Ribbon discussions. Ms. Pehrson asked what the conversation would look like to discuss Board goals. Ms. Binnebose said it would just be an open discussion about how the Board feels. Ms. Nakamura noted it could also be driven by the discussion from legal and their powers and duties. The Board and staff continued to discuss the retreat agenda. Mr. Carroll asked if staff needs are being met. The Trails Subcommittee has talked to Mr. Fonarow about having quarterly meetings with the Foothills users to get better input so he has greater insight into where the conflicting interests are. Ms. Riker asked for clarity on the staff's expectations of the PNUT Board for projects. Ms. Carroll said just in general. Mr. Carroll asked how the staff embraces all the conflicting needs and desires of the Jordan River. Ms. Riker said every decision has two decisions and conflicting opinions. The Board and staff continued to discuss the staff's decision-making efforts. Ms. Cannon motioned to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Carroll seconded. The Board unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting	
7. Adjourn	7:30 PM