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9 **MINUTES OF THE CENTRAL WASATCH COMMISSION (“CWC”) STAKEHOLDERS**
10 **COUNCIL ECONOMY SYSTEMS COMMITTEE MEETING HELD THURSDAY,**
11 **FEBRUARY 8, 2024, AT 3:30 P.M. THE MEETING WAS CONDUCTED BOTH IN-PERSON**
12 **AND VIRTUALLY VIA ZOOM. THE ANCHOR LOCATION WAS CWC OFFICES,**
13 **LOCATED AT 41 NORTH RIO GRANDE STREET, SUITE, 102, SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH.**

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15 **Committee Members:** Dave Fields, Chair
16 Morgan Mingle, Co-Chair
17 Mike Doyle
18 Ed Marshall
19 John Knoblock
20 Tom Diegel
21 Patrick Nelson

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23 **Staff:** Lindsey Nielsen, Executive Director
24 Samantha Kilpack, Director of Operations

25
26 **OPENING**

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28 **1. Chair Dave Fields will Open the Meeting as Chair of the Economy Systems Committee**
29 **of the Central Wasatch Commission Stakeholders Council.**

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31 Chair Dave Fields called the Central Wasatch Commission (“CWC”) Stakeholders Council Economy
32 Systems Committee Meeting to order at approximately 3:30 p.m. and welcomed those present.

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34 **2. Review and Approval of the Minutes from the November 28, 2023 Meeting.**

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36 **MOTION:** Ed Marshall moved to APPROVE the November 28, 2023, Meeting Minutes. Morgan
37 Mingle seconded the motion. The motion passed with the unanimous consent of the Committee.

38
39 **REVIEW ECONOMIC SYSTEM PRIORITIES AND NEXT STEPS**

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41 **3. Committee Members will Discuss and Review Priorities as Discussed in Previous**
42 **Meetings and Determine Next Steps.**

43
44 Chair Fields asked for an update about the last Stakeholders Council Meeting, as he was unable to
45 attend. He wondered if leadership was determined at that time. John Knoblock reported that Tom
46 Diegel was now the Stakeholders Council Co-Chair. Executive Director, Lindsey Nielsen, shared
47 additional updates from the meeting. There is a call for applications currently open for the

1 Stakeholders Council. The call for applications closes tomorrow. Some new Stakeholders Council
2 Members will be added for the next meeting, which is scheduled to take place in March 2024.

3
4 Various updates were shared with Committee Members. Mr. Knoblock informed those present that
5 at the end of February or the beginning of March, the U.S. Forest Service will release the draft version
6 of the Tri-Canyon Trails Master Plan. Chair Fields asked if anyone has received any ridership data
7 from Cottonwood Connect. Ms. Nielsen explained that she can reach out and ask for that information.

8
9 Chair Fields stated that he has put a request into Utah Transit Authority ("UTA") for an update on
10 their driver staffing. He is interested in seeing full bus staffing and service return. It was proposed
11 that this be a priority of the Economy Systems Committee's work. He believed that continuing to
12 urge UTA to restore bus service to the canyons is something that aligns with the desires of the
13 Committee. Mike Doyle confirmed that the 15-minute bus service in the canyons is needed. Chair
14 Fields noted that no one at UTA has responded to his inquiry about staffing and the resumption of
15 canyon service.

16
17 Ms. Nielsen reported that in another Committee, former Stakeholders Council Member, Mike
18 Christensen, shared the requirements to be hired as a UTA bus driver. He highlighted how difficult
19 the requirements and constraints were. Mr. Christensen had shared the requirement packet that UTA
20 sent out to applicants. Ms. Nielsen offered to share that information with interested members of the
21 Economy Systems Committee. Discussions were had about the UTA hiring process.

22
23 Chair Fields noted that the ability to move buses and mass transit to the head of the line during road
24 closures is continuing to go well. That being said, there are still many vehicles that do not have any
25 business being in the canyon on snow days. He has met with the Salt Lake County Sheriff, Rosie
26 Rivera, and continues to ask that the process of checking for proper tires at the mouth of the canyon
27 be a priority. Mr. Doyle explained that he often sees improper vehicles driving in the canyon as well.

28
29 Mr. Knoblock wondered who ultimately is the decision-maker and what the monitoring process looks
30 like. He pointed out that he has never had his vehicle inspected for proper chains when heading up
31 the canyon. Chair Fields explained that according to the Utah Department of Transportation
32 ("UDOT"), it comes down to enforcement, which falls on the Unified Police Department ("UPD").
33 UPD has stated that they do not have the bandwidth to do those inspections. Mr. Knoblock believed
34 security guards need to handle the inspections. Mayor Jeff Silvestrini informed him that it is more of
35 a legal issue. If someone gets in an accident and does not have the proper equipment, that can be
36 considered.

37
38 Chair Fields reported that there has been a serious improvement in participation from the Cottonwood
39 Heights Police Department when it comes to moving vehicles onto the shoulder that are queueing up
40 for Little Cottonwood Canyon. This allows neighborhood traffic, buses, and plows, to flow more
41 freely. That change has gone well so far this year. As a Committee, it is important to continue to
42 focus on these kinds of issues as they are impactful. Chair Fields reported that UDOT pushed the
43 rental car companies at the airport to have snow tire options available. Currently, approximately half
44 of the rental car companies are offering them. All canyon users will benefit if that reaches 100% of
45 the rental car companies. Unfortunately, larger companies, like Hertz, are not offering this.

46
47 Co-Chair Morgan Mingle asked how many visitors from outside the Salt Lake area are taking airport
48 shuttles or booking rental vehicles. Chair Fields explained that they try to encourage lodging guests

1 to use canyon transportation. There is no desire to have a lot of rental cars in the canyon. However,
2 with the Ikon Pass, more people want to stay in the Valley or Kimball Junction, because there are a
3 lot of options. That may be impacting the number of rental cars that are being utilized in the area.
4 Mr. Doyle has noticed similar trends. Co-Chair Mingle noted that there is a push in Park City to
5 advocate for a carless visit. Having better interconnectivity between the canyons for users without
6 vehicles might be something for the Committee to think of when it comes to long-term priorities.

7
8 Chair Fields stated that years ago, it was possible to purchase a transfer and lift ticket from Park City
9 into the Cottonwoods. He wanted to know if that still exists. Co-Chair Mingle was not aware of that.
10 Canyon Transportation is used a lot of times for people who want a shared shuttle. Currently, the
11 focus is on finding a better solution to airport arrivals. It is a heavy lift for public transit and private
12 drivers in Park City. Knowing how hard the airport transfer piece is to tackle, she would be surprised
13 if there was something established that goes between the canyons. She did not believe it exists.

14
15 Chair Fields explained that the Economy Systems Committee wants to continue to engage with the
16 rental car companies on snow tire options and urge the agency responsible for enforcing the traction
17 laws next winter. Ms. Nielsen wondered whether there was a desire to formalize those intentions.
18 The Economy Systems Committee can draft a letter, which the Stakeholders Council can consider in
19 March. From there, it can be forwarded to the CWC Board for potential approval. Ms. Nielsen
20 thought that kind of letter is appropriate for a CWC Resolution. Ed Marshall noted that a letter from
21 the CWC Board could be meaningful, especially if there is an explanation to the rental agencies that
22 the Mayors of several communities are the ones who serve on the CWC Board. He supported a letter
23 being drafted for approval from the Stakeholders Council and CWC Board.

24
25 Chair Fields suggested that a letter be written to the rental car companies, Sheriff Rivera, and Mayor
26 Jenny Wilson, acknowledging that there is some uncertainty about the future of policing in the
27 canyons. Regardless of what jurisdiction that falls in, the organization feels enforcement of the
28 traction laws should be a budgeted priority. Mr. Knoblock believed the proposal is worth pursuing.

29
30 **MOTION:** John Knoblock moved that the Economy Systems Committee draft a letter for approval
31 at the Stakeholders Council level, followed by the CWC Board level, to encourage the respective
32 agencies to enforce the traction laws in the canyons. Morgan Mingle seconded the motion. The
33 motion passed with the unanimous consent of the Committee.

34
35 Discussions were had about the airport rental cars. Mr. Knoblock asked if those are regulated by a
36 certain agency. He wanted to know if there is an agency to work through that can impose that as a
37 requirement for all rental car businesses in the State. There was some uncertainty about that. Mr.
38 Knoblock wondered if it might be possible to regulatorily impose the snow tire option on the
39 companies. Ms. Nielsen noted that CWC Staff can look into that and do the necessary research.

40
41 **MOTION:** Dave Fields moved that the Economy Systems Committee draft a letter for approval at
42 the Stakeholders Council level, followed by the CWC Board level, to the Salt Lake City Airport car
43 rental agencies, encouraging those who do not offer the option of snow tires on their fleet to do so.
44 Mike Doyle seconded the motion. The motion passed with the unanimous consent of the Committee.

1 **CONFIRM SHRED ACT PRESENTATION FOR STAKEHOLDERS COUNCIL MEETING**

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3 **4. Committee Members will Discuss and Confirm a Presentation on the SHRED Act for**
4 **the Stakeholders Council Meeting Scheduled for March 20, 2024.**
5

6 Ms. Nielsen explained that the Ski Hill Resources for Economic Development (“SHRED”) Act item
7 on the Economy Systems Committee agenda is a holdover from the last Stakeholders Council
8 Meeting. The plan was for Nathan Rafferty to address Council Members at the last meeting, but this
9 can still take place during the March 20, 2024, Stakeholders Council Meeting. If Mr. Rafferty has
10 interest presenting in March, that can be accommodated. Mr. Knoblock asked when there will be a
11 comment period for the SHRED Act. Chair Fields has not heard of anything, as the discussions seem
12 to have cooled. Additionally, he has not seen any correspondence from the National Ski Area
13 Association (“NSAA”) about the SHRED Act recently. Mr. Marshall asked about the status of the
14 bill. For instance, whether it has been introduced and whether it has gone through committees. Chair
15 Fields offered to do additional research on the current status and report back to the Committee.
16

17 Mr. Knoblock noted that if there is not a strict timeline, it might be best for the SHRED Act
18 presentation to be done at the May 2024 Stakeholders Council Meeting instead of the March one.
19 Ms. Nielsen reported that the Forest Service will present during the May meeting about the Forest
20 Plan. However, it is possible to accommodate two presentations if that is desired by the Committee.
21 Mr. Knoblock suggested reaching out to Mr. Rafferty to determine which meeting he prefers. Mr.
22 Doyle explained that it is important to get the information about the SHRED Act out there.
23

24 Chair Fields asked whether there are other issues Committee Members want to discuss with the
25 remaining meeting time. Mr. Knoblock asked if any goals and objectives for the Committee have
26 been finalized. Co-Chair Mingle reported that she has a list of potential priorities discussed at the last
27 Economy Systems Committee Meeting. She offered to review some of the priorities mentioned:
28

- 29 • Active support of fire suppression;
 - 30 • Broadening the definition of what recreation is in the canyons;
 - 31 • Transient Room Tax (“TRT”) allocation for the canyons;
 - 32 • Transit stop at the mouth of Millcreek Canyon if the idealized system comes to pass;
 - 33 • Continued focus on developed recreational sites;
 - 34 • Exploration of lodging opportunities in the canyons;
 - 35 • Seasonality and supporting a more year-round income stream for workforce.
- 36

37 Mr. Marshall wondered whether the list should state that the Committee supports the adoption of the
38 SHRED Act. Co-Chair Mingle believed that when the list was brainstormed, the intention was to
39 look at things more broadly and to consider the Mountain Accord. The SHRED Act feels more
40 immediate. It was discussed as a separate item, mostly because there was going to be a presentation.
41 Mr. Marshall thought it made sense to include the SHRED Act on the list, but it is also possible to
42 wait until after the presentation has occurred to determine whether it is a priority for the Committee.
43 Co-Chair Mingle stated that she is looking forward to the presentation on the SHRED Act. She has
44 not researched it enough yet to determine whether it is something to add to the priority list. It was
45 determined that following the presentation on the SHRED Act, it will be further considered by the
46 Committee. Chair Fields offered to send out a short document from Mr. Rafferty on the SHRED Act.
47

1 It was reported that Mr. Rafferty will be in Washington, DC, on the date of the next Stakeholders
2 Council Meeting. As a result, the SHRED Act presentation will need to take place in May instead.
3 Ms. Nielsen wondered whether any other Committee Member felt comfortable giving the
4 presentation. Mr. Doyle stated that he knows some information, but not all of the details. Mr.
5 Knoblock reported that the website for Congresswoman Ann McLane Kuster from New Hampshire
6 has information about the SHRED Act, including the actual language of the bill. Mr. Doyle noted
7 that there was a meeting with her last year and she is a supporter of the SHRED Act. It is possible to
8 look at the information on her website and learn more about the SHRED Act. Chair Fields reiterated
9 that Mr. Rafferty will share a presentation with the Stakeholders Council at the May 2024 meeting.

10
11 Chair Fields asked for additional discussion about the list read by Co-Chair Mingle. Mr. Knoblock
12 wondered whether there are actionable items on the list that should be prioritized. Co-Chair Mingle
13 referenced the item about broadening the definition of what is considered recreation. She did not see
14 a reason to push that off as it is not particularly technical but is important to think about. Chair Fields
15 asked who the current definition is prescribed by. Co-Chair Mingle explained that a lot of what was
16 written in the Mountain Accord was centered on traditional outdoor recreation. The discussion the
17 Committee had was about redefining what recreation is, so it included activities like using picnic
18 tables or sitting and enjoying nature, rather than simply using the trails. Mr. Marshall added that the
19 idea is to promote recreation that is non-athletic. Mr. Knoblock suggested reaching out to the Chair
20 of the Recreation Systems Committee, Sarah Bennett, about that, as there can be some collaboration.

21
22 Mr. Marshall offered to introduce the definition of recreation at the next Recreation Systems
23 Committee Meeting, so other Stakeholders Council Members are aware of the issue. That way, there
24 will also be better awareness when the item is ultimately brought to the full Stakeholders Council.
25 Ms. Nielsen reported that the next Recreation Systems Committee Meeting is March 14, 2024. Mr.
26 Marshall reiterated his offer to discuss that at the Recreation Systems Committee and report back.

27
28 Co-Chair Mingle explained that the broadening being discussed relates to activities that generate
29 economic power. For example, eating at restaurants, outdoor weddings, and events like Oktoberfest.
30 It was noted that there is money attached to certain non-athletic recreation activities in the canyons.

31
32 Mr. Marshall stated that another actionable issue relates to fire prevention. He has been working with
33 the Forest Service and has made some progress with that in Millcreek Canyon. Mr. Knoblock noted
34 that the Environment Systems Committee has discussed fire prevention. Salt Lake County is going
35 to work on fire mitigation along Millcreek Canyon Road as was done with Big Cottonwood Canyon
36 Road last summer. It is a good idea to follow up with them and make sure it is still on their list. In
37 addition, the Forest Service is putting money towards fire reduction efforts via cross-cutting patterns
38 and clearing where necessary. This will be similar to what was started in Lambs Canyon. Mr.
39 Knoblock wasn't sure that the CWC needs to push that forward as it seems to be moving ahead.

40
41 Mr. Marshall noted that it is important to have the support of the full Stakeholders Council when it
42 comes to fire prevention efforts. At some point, it is also a good idea to obtain the support of the
43 CWC Board, but that should be at a point where there is a direct request. Mr. Knoblock stated that
44 the wheels are already in motion and he is unsure that something from the CWC Board is necessary.
45 He asked Patrick Nelson if enough action is currently being taken. Mr. Nelson understood that the
46 money for that kind of work has been reduced by approximately \$4 million. Protecting the canyons
47 from wildfire is something that will be ongoing. It is a large capital investment and there are not a

1 lot of contractors currently in place. There will be a first round of fuel treatments, but after that, it
2 will be an ongoing effort. Developing awareness within groups like the CWC is beneficial.

3
4 Ms. Nielsen reported that the CWC has funded fuel mitigation work in Millcreek Canyon in previous
5 years through the Short-Term Projects Grant Program. There is clear evidence that the CWC Board
6 is in support of fuel mitigation and fire prevention work. With all of the other funding that has become
7 available, she was not sure another application to the Short-Term Projects Grant Program is
8 warranted, but if there is more to be done than is planned for, that is a potential option.

9
10 Mr. Knoblock wondered whether a letter from the CWC that went to Salt Lake County and the Forest
11 Service is something to consider. It might reinforce that the protection of the watershed, environment,
12 recreation, and economy can be addressed by making sure there is not a catastrophic wildfire. A letter
13 could state that there is a desire to see efforts and funding go towards that effort. Mr. Marshall
14 confirmed that this is the approach he thought made the most sense. Creating awareness and offering
15 support for fire prevention work is something that the organization can continue to do.

16
17 Chair Fields asked if there is anything practical that can be advocated for. There is a desire to focus
18 on items that are specific and measurable. Mr. Marshall noted that there is a plan in place to prevent
19 fire from spreading from Parleys through Millcreek to the Cottonwood Canyons. Some work has
20 been done in Lambs Canyon and part of the work has been done in Upper Millcreek Canyon. There
21 is a plan to continue to the Cottonwood Canyons, but he did not know the status. A study was done
22 to outline what would be accomplished. He asked about the plan implementation. It was noted that
23 clearance work is being done in Big Cottonwood and Little Cottonwood. If the Committee wanted
24 to speak to someone about this, Deputy District Ranger, Scott Frost, was recommended.

25
26 Co-Chair Mingle noted that Deer Valley did a pilot where the clearing of fuel was used for an
27 experimental biochar. It was interesting to turn that into useable fuel and compost. That is something
28 that might be worth looking into further. Chair Fields reported that there have been discussions with
29 Mr. Frost about fire mitigation in the past. He offered to continue that dialogue with him in the future.

30 31 **CLOSING**

32 33 **5. Chair Fields will Call for a Motion to Adjourn the Economy Systems Committee** 34 **Meeting.**

35
36 **MOTION:** Ed Marshall moved to ADJOURN the Economy Systems Committee Meeting. John
37 Knoblock seconded the motion. The motion passed with the unanimous consent of the Committee.

38
39 The meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

1 *I hereby certify that the foregoing represents a true, accurate, and complete record of the Central*
2 *Wasatch Commission Stakeholders Council Economy Systems Committee Meeting held Thursday,*
3 *February 8, 2024.*

4

5 Teri Forbes

6 Teri Forbes

7 T Forbes Group

8 Minutes Secretary

9

10 Minutes Approved: _____