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Ms. Nielsen reported that there are 14 finalist project proposals to review. She informed those present that the U.S. Forest Service was unable to attend the meeting, but the Forest Service has reviewed all 41 42

of the finalists and does not have an issue with any of the proposals. Mayor Monica Zoltanski asked

MINUTES OF THE CENTRAL WASATCH COMMISSION ("CWC") SHORT-TERM PROJECTS COMMITTEE MEETING HELD MONDAY APRIL 15, 2024, AT 10:00 A.M. THE MEETING WAS CONDUCTED BOTH IN-PERSON AND VIRTUALLY VIA ZOOM. THE ANCHOR LOCATION WAS COTTONWOOD HEIGHTS CITY HALL, 2277 BENGAL BOULEVARD, COTTONWOOD HEIGHTS, COUNCIL WORKROOM.

Mayor Mike Weichers, Chair

Mayor Monica Zoltanski Mayor Roger Bourke Annalee Munsey

Lindsey Nielsen, Executive Director

Sam Kilpack, Director of Operations

1. Chair Mike Weichers will Open the Public Meeting as Chair of the Short-Term Projects **Committee of the Central Wasatch Commission.**

Chair Mike Weichers called the Short-Term Projects Committee Meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

SHORT-TERM PROJECT FINALIST PROPOSALS REVIEW

1. The Committee will Review the Pool of Finalist Project Proposals and Make Recommendations for Funding.

Executive Director, Lindsey Nielsen, explained that the purpose of the Short-Term Projects Committee Meeting is to review the short-term project proposals. Many of the applicants are attending the meeting virtually and are available to answer Committee Member questions. The Committee will review each of the finalist project proposals, discuss the proposals, ask questions, and determine recommended funding amounts for the selected projects. This year, there is \$95,000 to allocate towards short-term project proposals. However, the requested funding amount is \$207,500.

Chair Weichers thanked CWC Staff for their efforts and welcomed everyone to Cottonwood Heights. He expressed appreciation for the Short-Term Projects Grant Program and explained that it assists with worthwhile local projects. Ms. Nielsen thanked Cottonwood Heights for hosting the meeting.

about the \$95,000 of short-term project funding. Ms. Nielsen clarified that it is a line item in the CWC budget. The source for that funding is largely the State appropriation. Mayor Zoltanski wanted to know what the typical budget is for short-term projects. Ms. Nielsen explained that it has been less in previous years. For the first year of the grant cycle, there was \$80,000, but the Short-Term Projects Committee made a request to the CWC Board that some reserve funding also be used.

The first project proposal was from the Cottonwood Canyons Foundation for the Cottonwood Canyons Watershed Education Program. Joanna Wheelton, the Executive Director of the Cottonwood Canyons Foundation, is attending the meeting virtually and can answer Committee Member questions. The amount requested is \$20,000, which is 36% of the total project cost. Ms. Nielsen reported that the CWC has fairly consistently funded project proposals from the Cottonwood Canyons Foundation during past grant cycles. Ms. Wheelton addressed the Short-Term Projects Committee. She thanked Committee Members for their consideration of the project proposal.

Ms. Wheelton reported that the project is focused on a new initiative, which is to build out the Junior Ranger program. There has been a rudimentary Junior Ranger program in the past, specifically at Silver Lake, but this year, there is a desire to produce booklets and have an online component. Additionally, there will be 20 backpacks for children to take out and utilize. The intention is to create a hands-on experience for children who are spending time at Silver Lake or Albion Basin.

In previous years, the CWC funded the Junior Ranger Activity Book through Friends of Alta. Ms. Nielsen wondered whether that has been absorbed by this program from the Cottonwood Canyons Foundation. Ms. Wheelton reported that Friends of Alta gave them all of the remaining Junior Ranger books for the year. The idea was that the Cottonwood Canyons Foundation would take this project on. She pointed out that the Cottonwood Canyons Foundation has a bit of a broader reach since most people served by the organization who are under 18 are at Silver Lake. While Silver Lake sees over 100,000 guests per year, there is also a significant amount of visitation at Albion Basin.

Chair Weichers asked how the Cottonwood Canyons Foundation determines which children will be able to use the program. Ms. Wheelton clarified that backpacks will be available for free to check out. Usually, backpacks are checked out when an adult shows their driver's license. Backpacks can be picked up on a first-come first-served basis. As for the booklets, the goal is to encourage people to use the online Junior Ranger booklet so not as many physical copies need to be produced. Paper copies will still be available so all abilities are served. Mayor Roger Bourke wanted to better understand what the backpacks contained. Ms. Wheelton reported that the backpacks include three different laminated guides that deal with mammals, birds, and macroinvertebrates. There is also a macroinvertebrate key that will assist children in identifying the bugs. In addition, there will be a magnifying glass, ruler, and other tools that can be used so all of their senses are involved.

Mayor Bourke asked what the appropriate age level is for the program. Ms. Wheelton explained that it is difficult to serve everyone, from preschoolers to teenagers. However, there is a desire to build it out so there will be components everyone can use. Everything done at Silver Lake and on the field trips is geared toward the fourth and fifth-grade level. It falls within that median area to be inclusive. Ms. Wheelton noted that there is usually a 50/50 split between minors and adults at Silver Lake. That meant in a year, likely 50,000 or so children were coming through that area. Approximately 25,000 visitors come to the Visitor Center, which means approximately 12,000 children visit.

Ms. Wheelton reported that the Trails Online Junior Ranger program is used across the valley. That has been built out and approximately 5,000 children have made use of that program. There are 85 teachers that the Cottonwood Canyons Foundation is in contact with. She explained that there is a desire to combine all of these different programs into one where the Junior Ranger booklet can be used in any green space. The hope is that there will be a broader reach by taking that approach.

Mayor Zoltanski noted that there are 20 backpacks and 4,000 booklets. She wanted to better understand the distribution. Ms. Wheelton explained that the Visitor Center is at Silver Lake. Approximately one-quarter of visitors come to the Visitor Center. The program materials are available there on a first come first served basis. It takes people between an hour and an hour and a half to walk all the way around. Each person who checks out a backpack will have it for that amount of time. Only one backpack will be checked out per family. If the backpacks are all checked out, there are still the booklets that can be used during a walk around Silver Lake. The booklets have different sections, including geology, natural history, human use, mammals, ecology, habitat, and watershed protection. There is information about using the space in the least impactful way possible.

Annalee Munsey asked about the structure for decision-making on the Short-Term Projects Committee. Ms. Nielsen explained that historically after each proposal is reviewed, a broad estimate for allocation is made. At the end, those numbers are added to see what the total amount is. From there, it is possible to make amendments to what was initially allocated. Chair Weichers noted that it is worth considering whether a project has been funded in the past. Ms. Nielsen clarified that the current proposal from the Cottonwood Canyons Foundation is a new one and has not been funded.

The second project proposal was also from the Cottonwood Canyons Foundation. It is for Trail Maintenance, Native Plant Restoration, and Control of Invasive Weeds in the Tri-Canyons. The funding request is \$20,000, which is 4% of the project cost. Ms. Nielsen reported that this is a program that the CWC has funded in the past. \$10,000 was funded in 2023 and \$7,500 was funded in 2022. Ms. Wheelton explained that the Cottonwood Canyons Foundation monitors trails across the tri-canyons, which include Big Cottonwood Canyon, Little Cottonwood Canyon, and Millcreek Canyon. There are approximately 300 miles of trail in those canyons and the Cottonwood Canyons Foundation has identified trails with urgent needs this year. The proposal includes both the trail and the weed program. She pointed out that both programs are aligned with watershed protection.

Chair Weichers wanted to know what locations have been targeted for the trail and weed work. Ms. Wheelton reported that there are 25 trails included in the proposal. Chair Weichers asked where most of the other funding for the project comes from. Ms. Wheelton explained that there is restricted funding that comes from the State of Utah through their Recreation Restoration Infrastructure Grant. Cottonwood Canyons Foundation has applied for that funding this year but has not received it yet. On the weed side of things, a grant has been submitted to the Utah Department of Agriculture, which is for the Invasive Species Management Grant. There is a little bit of funding that comes from the Forest Service and there is an Adopt-A-Trail Program that sponsors the work. Additionally, there is an American Trails Legacy Grant that will fund some of the work. That is a two-year grant for \$100,000. There is funding across some national sources and then funding from State sources as well. Salt Lake City Public Utilities Watershed Division is a sponsor of the weeds portion of the work.

Mayor Zoltanski asked if the work was done by employees or volunteers. Ms. Wheelton reported that the program will employ 15 seasonal full-time employees for 23 to 25 weeks. It is anticipated that there will be approximately 500 volunteers in the forest this year as well. The Cottonwood

Canyons Foundation has a robust volunteer program and there are 32 volunteer days set for the season. Mayor Zoltanski wanted to know the date for National Trails Day. Ms. Wheelton stated that it is June 1.

Ms. Nielsen wondered whether the Short-Term Projects Committee wants to discuss initial recommendations for the first two short-term project proposals. It was determined that all of the project proposals will be discussed before the Committee recommends funding amounts.

The third project proposal is for an Outdoor Film Festival. Ms. Nielsen explained that this was submitted by the CWC Youth Council Events and Outreach Committee. The amount requested is between \$1,500 and \$1,800 and that would fund 100% of the project costs. The proposal is to hold a one-night film festival that would be run by the CWC Youth Council. There has already been outreach conducted to determine a location for the event. She noted that the funding request will cover the costs. This is a way for the CWC Youth Council to build skills and for the CWC to interact more with the community. If the Short-Term Projects Committee recommends funding the CWC Youth Council proposal, the money would stay in the CWC budget and would essentially be absorbed.

Chair Weichers wanted to know whether CWC Legal Counsel was contacted about the proposal. It is important to understand if there are issues with funding a grant request put forward by the CWC Youth Council. Ms. Nielsen explained that CWC Staff proposed two projects during the first year of the Short-Term Projects Grant Program, so there is precedent for this kind of decision. Mayor Zoltanski asked how the movie for the screening will be determined. Ms. Nielsen reported that the film has not been decided, but the hope is that it would be a student-made film.

Mayor Zoltanski liked the request from the CWC Youth Council. She noted that it is a modest request and has the potential to reach others. Ms. Nielsen informed those present that some CWC Youth Council Members will attend the next CWC Board Meeting so there can be more interaction.

The fourth project proposal is from the CWC Youth Council Outdoor Access Committee. It is an application for a Community Gear Shed. The requested amount is \$15,000, which is 100% of the project cost. Ms. Nielsen was impressed with the CWC Youth Council and their desire to make positive changes in the area. Crystal Chen from the Outdoor Access Committee is present at the Short-Term Projects Committee Meeting to answer questions. She explained that the CWC Youth Council is hoping to partner with the Gear Fund Collective, which is a mutual aid organization based in Salt Lake that essentially collects and redistributes outdoor gear and clothing free of charge to underserved communities. Right now, the Gear Fund Collective will provide gear to people in the Salt Lake Valley and will also ship gear to people nationwide. The Gear Fund Collective has been building a gear shed on the west side, which is located at the Mobile Moon Co-Op. The idea is to have backpacking and camping gear for people to check out, similar to a library system. It would be free of charge for people to use, but instead of people keeping the gear, it will be available to all.

Ms. Nielsen pointed out that this is an opportunity for the CWC to build a new community partnership. The Mobile Moon Co-Op is a cooperative on the west side of Salt Lake City. The CWC has never partnered with them before, so this project would create a new community connection and expand outreach. She felt this is an important proposal, as it will also increase access to the outdoors. Recreation in the outdoors is increasingly becoming more exclusive because the gear is quite expensive. This kind of community gear shed would make it possible for many others to participate.

Mayor Zoltanski thought certain types of equipment in the shed made sense, like shovels and avalanche gear. However, she was not sure that personal use items, like water filters, would be appropriate to have in a community gear shed. She asked about recreation passes. Ms. Chen reported that the Forest Service is starting to charge recreation fees as early as May of this year for certain sites, but most of the sites will see this happen in December. The idea behind the passes is if people are visiting popular sites like Silver Lake and a Forest Service pass is needed to park there or camp there, it will be possible for them to stop at the community gear shed to pick up the gear they need and a Forest Service pass. The passes last for one year from the time they are given. It is not a one-time use pass, so someone can hang it in their vehicle and then bring it back for someone else to use.

Mayor Zoltanski wanted to know who would run the community gear shed and ensure the items were returned. Ms. Chen clarified that the Gear Fund Collective and the Mobile Moon Co-Cop will be responsible for checking the inventory, making sure it is cleaned in between uses, making sure items are returned, and facilitating conversations with people who want to request the gear. The funding request is primarily to help stock the shed as opposed to the actual management of the gear shed.

Ms. Chen reported that the community gear shed is located on the west side of the valley, which is more accessible for some of the communities targeted with this proposal. A lot of the existing gear rental operations do not serve as broad a range of communities. CWC Youth Council Members spoke to people at the Salt Lake Community College and there was interest expressed in the gear shed idea. A lot of students are unable to explore the mountains due to gear challenges. The hope is that providing the gear free of charge to people will increase accessibility to public lands.

Mayor Zoltanski asked how people will learn about the services. Ms. Chen stated that it is needs-based and will prioritize underserved communities. Currently, people can fill out a gear request form and state what group they fall under. That statement does not need to be validated. If someone wants to request gear but does not fall into an underserved community, the ask is that those people wait a certain amount of time so others have the opportunity to use the gear first.

Mayor Zoltanski asked what happens if the gear is not returned or is returned damaged. Ms. Chen explained that this is a new idea where the gear comes back, since prior to this, the gear was shipped out and people owned it. The idea is to have a library where people check out items as needed instead.

The fifth project proposal was reviewed. It is the Bonanza Flat Accessible Trail Project and the submission is from Park City Municipal Corporation. The request is for \$15,000 and that will cover 10% of the total project cost. The community partner is Utah Open Lands and the Director of Community Engagement, Alli Eroh, is present to share additional information. Ms. Nielsen informed the Short-Term Projects Committee that this is a new project, but the CWC has partnered with Utah Open Lands and Park City Municipal Corporation in previous years for different short-term projects.

Ms. Eroh stated that the project will be ADA accessible and there will be interpretive signage to encourage more sustainable practices. This specific proposal has to do with trails and maintenance that will improve the accessibility of Bonanza Flat. Mayor Zoltanski asked if there is a Design Plan or Master Plan to indicate how the area will look in the future. Ms. Eroh reported that in the actual application, there is a link to the information. This is all in collaboration with the Park City Municipal Corporation and their trails team. Mayor Bourke pointed out that the request is only for 10% of the total project costs. It was noted that the majority of the funding is coming from a grant, but there is still supplemental funding that is necessary in order to move the accessible trail project forward.

The sixth project proposal was discussed. It is for Dumpster Days and the application was submitted by Recycle Utah. The funding request is \$10,000, which accounts for 77% of the total project cost. This was funded in 2023, where \$6,500 was awarded. Ms. Nielsen reported that Dumpster Days is a program where Recycle Utah invites residents and non-residents of Summit County and Park City to dump their toxic waste in an environmentally safe manner. The idea behind this is to protect the water. Diverting toxic waste (batteries, paint, solvents) from the landfill means less will seep into the soil and waterways. As a result, this project proposal will protect the soil and water in the area.

 The Communications and Development Director from Recycle Utah, Addison Marr, was present. She reported that Dumpster Days has been going on for several years. It helps offset a lot of the hauling and tipping costs as well as labor costs. It is extremely beneficial to be able to continue this program. Last year, waste was collected from 814 households. In Summit County, there is no yard waste collection program, so Dumpster Days essentially acts as a temporary transfer station. From the 814 households that participated last year, approximately 32,000 miles of driving were saved. That resulted in an estimated 23,000 pounds of carbon dioxide saved in driving emissions.

Mayor Zoltanski wanted to know why Summit County doesn't have a yard waste program. Ms. Marr clarified that the Summit County landfill collects hazardous waste, but there is no pickup curbside program for that. Dumpster Days collects garbage and yard waste. Summit County does not have a yard waste collection program. There is a partnership with Summit County, Park City Government, and Spoil to Soil. The latter is the local compost facility that handles the composting portion.

The seventh project proposal was reviewed. Ms. Nielsen explained that it is from the Salt Lake Climbers Alliance and the proposal is for Fixed Anchor Maintenance: Wasatch Rock Climbing Routes. The funding request is \$10,000 and it is 9% of the total project cost. The CWC provided \$5,000 worth of funding to the Salt Lake Climbers Alliance in 2023. Last year, the funding was for trail maintenance to access climbing routes. The anchor maintenance was funded in one of the earlier years of the grant program. Mayor Bourke wanted to better understand the funding request. Director of Operations, Sam Kilpack, pointed out that a budget was submitted. It showed that \$84,500 is the labor cost and \$25,500 is the cost for anchor supplies. People will be hired to handle the labor.

Executive Director of the Salt Lake Climbers Alliance, Julia Geisler, was available to answer Committee Member questions. Mayor Zoltanski asked how ready the project was to move ahead. Ms. Geisler confirmed that the crew is in place for the anchor maintenance. Mayor Zoltanski wanted to hear more about the community impact of this program. Ms. Geisler explained that there are hundreds of outdoor climbing routes in Big Cottonwood Canyon and Little Cottonwood Canyon. There is no other entity but the Salt Lake Climbers Alliance maintaining the fixed hardware on those routes. Thousands of climbers are using these anchors, including university programs and search and rescue operations. Mayor Zoltanski wanted to know about the other funding sources. Ms. Geisler reported that this is part of a larger program. There is State and Federal funding as well as non-profit fundraising efforts. This is an ongoing program and maintenance is needed for the anchors.

 Chair Weichers asked how often anchors need to be replaced. Ms. Geisler explained that there are different anchors and those age at different times. Some replacements are needed and some checks are needed. Chair Weichers wanted to know about liability. Ms. Geisler reported that there is a professional crew that is fully insured. The work is done under a Special Use Permit with the Forest Service. Mayor Zoltanski wondered what would happen if an anchor fell out. Ms. Geisler explained

that in Utah there is the Recreational Use Statute. Where there are public resources on trails, as long as there is no charge to use the resource, the land agency is protected by that Statute. It is at the risk of the individual. The Recreational Use Statute provides some protections. Ms. Geisler shared some information about the Division of Outdoor Recreation grant. It operates on a two-year cycle. Mayor Zoltanski asked if the project work for fixed anchor maintenance would be in Big Cottonwood Canyon or Little Cottonwood Canyon. Ms. Geisler explained that the climbing routes are in both.

The eighth project proposal was shared. It is also from the Salt Lake Climbers Alliance and is for an Alpenbock Documentary Film. The requested amount is \$15,000 and that accounts for 10% of the total project cost. Ms. Geisler explained that the Alpenbock film will be a short documentary that celebrates the history of Wasatch climbing. It will also focus on the desire to preserve the canyons from development threats. She shared additional information about the proposed documentary.

The ninth project proposal was reviewed. Ms. Nielsen explained that it is from Save Our Canyons for a Conservation (Education and Outreach) Program. The request is for \$18,000 and it is 12% of the total project cost. This is something that the CWC has funded previously, with \$8,000 in 2023 and \$1,000 in 2022. Interim Executive Director of Save Our Canyons, Grace Tyler, was available to answer questions. Ms. Tyler thanked the CWC for their partnership over the years as this program has been funded by the organization in the past. The hope this year is to grow the program slightly. Part of the project relates to wilderness stewardship where trail maintenance will be done. There are approximately 180 volunteers involved in that process. The other part of this project has to do with advocacy and education, both in person and online. Education is done by hosting community events and distributing the newsletter. There is also a desire to focus on wildfire mitigation and fuel management practices to educate the community about the importance of these issues. Ms. Tyler explained that the major growth of this program has to do with the wildfire mitigation component.

Project proposal number ten was reviewed. Ms. Nielsen explained that this is a new proposal, as there has never been a proposal submitted by the Summit Community Gardens and EATS before. This is for Environmental Sustainability Education and it is located in the Wasatch Back. The request is for \$15,000, which is 13% of the total project cost. Executive Director for Summit Community Gardens and EATS, Helen Nadel, introduced herself to the Short-Term Projects Committee. She explained that two small non-profit organizations merged approximately a year ago. Summit Community Gardens and EATS is a 1.5-acre community garden. A lot of seasonal education is done through camps and after-school programs. There is community education done on-site as well as dinners in the garden, cultural programming, and work is also done in schools. 1,800 pounds of food is grown for distribution to various food insecurity programs throughout the Wasatch Back.

The community garden is a unique asset. Ms. Nadel explained that it is Summit County land and there is an agricultural easement that is held by the Summit Land Conservancy. Summit Community Gardens and EATS manage the land as a non-profit. The short-term project requests will increase the programming across the board. The hope is to expand the workaround soil health, compost, and sustainable agricultural methods. Ms. Nadel stated that the desire is to infuse the youth education programs with heightened sustainability and environmental literacy education.

Chair Weichers asked if funding is coming from the school district. Ms. Nadel clarified that the bulk of the funding is not from the school district. Summit Community Gardens and EATS try to provide the programs free of charge to the school district to represent a commitment to the public schools.

Approximately 40% of the budget comes from program fees like dinners in the garden and camps. There is also a fair amount of funding received from both private donors and foundations.

The eleventh project proposal was reviewed. Ms. Nielsen reported that it is from Trails Utah and the application is for White Pine Bridge Trail Erosion Repair. The requested amount is \$15,000 and that would account for 100% of the funding needed. The CWC has partnered with Trails Utah for trail maintenance work during past Short-Term Projects Grant Program cycles. Board Chair, John Knoblock, shared information about the White Pine Bridge at the White Pine Trailhead. That bridge has degraded significantly as a result of heavy snow melt. The south end of the bridge was almost completely washed away from a recirculation that formed along the stream. The project will bring in fill material and build an elevated walkway that extends from the end of the bridge to the area above where the floodplain of the creek is located. To prevent reoccurrence, culverts will be underneath the fill. That way, if there was another recirculation, the water could pass through underneath.

 Mayor Bourke wanted to know who owns the bridge. Mr. Knoblock reported that the Forest Service does. This funding would assist the Forest Service with some important maintenance work. Chair Weichers pointed out that there is no proposed participation from anyone else. The funding request is for 100% of the project costs. Mr. Knoblock reminded those present that the Forest Service often looks for partners to assist with necessary project work. It was clarified that the money would be for both the materials and the labor. The work would be done by professionals and not by volunteers.

The Forest Service has reviewed the proposal and determined that it would meet the definition of a categorical exclusion for maintenance of an existing trail. Ms. Nielsen explained that before the Short-Term Projects Committee meets, the proposals are sent to the land and water managers. The projects are reviewed and the CWC receives feedback about what projects might require a lengthy permit or environmental analysis. The ones that require those are not considered short-term projects.

Mayor Bourke wondered what would happen if the Short-Term Projects Committee chose not to fund the project. If the bridge continued to deteriorate, he assumed the Forest Service would close it for safety reasons. Mr. Knoblock clarified that the bridge itself is in fine shape. This has to do with the extension of the trail south from the footing of the bridge. That section of the trail was eroded due to a large recirculation that formed during storm periods. He reiterated that the bridge is fine. Mayor Bourke believed this is a trail maintenance issue rather than a bridge maintenance issue. Mayor Zoltanski pointed out that it is a heavily used area. \$15,000 seems like a small amount to get materials and crews up Little Cottonwood Canyon to White Pine. She asked if the estimate is current. Mr. Knoblock explained that it is the amount Zinnia Wilson with the Forest Service thinks is needed.

The twelfth project proposal was discussed. Ms. Nielsen explained that it is also from Trails Utah and it is for the Pipeline Trail Extension. The request is for \$20,000 and that is 11% of the total project cost. Mr. Knoblock explained that this is another project where the Forest Service is looking for a partner to assist with the work. He described the project area and the existing safety concerns. Mr. Knoblock discussed the Federal Lands Access Program ("FLAP") grant in Millcreek Canyon, which will rebuild Millcreek Road above the winter gate. The Federal Highway Administration ("FHWA") wants to close off all of the trails that will come on or off of the road during construction. The Salt Lake Ranger District has stressed the importance of the Pipeline Trail as it will be the only access for people to get onto the trail system in Millcreek Canyon. FHWA stated that this would only be allowed if there was a perpendicular straight across for the trail. The Forest Service is looking to extend the Pipeline Trail around the outside edge so there can be a perpendicular road crossing.

Mayor Bourke wanted to know if this would be a temporary solution. Mr. Knoblock explained that this would be a permanent feature, as it will resolve the long-term safety issue that exists in the area.

The thirteenth project proposal was reviewed. It is from Utah Open Lands and is for the Transit to Trails Shuttle. The request is for \$15,000 that is 28% of the project cost. Ms. Nielsen reported that the CWC has funded this program in three previous years. This is an important program that provides transit to three popular trailheads in the Central Wasatch. Ms. Eroh explained that the Transit to Trails Shuttle program started in 2021. This is something that began as a way to remedy some of the congestion and reduce the ecological degradation from vehicles parking along both sides of Guardsman Pass to access the Bonanza Flat Conservation Area. There was a partnership with Park City Municipal Corporation to offer the shuttle as a free transportation solution. Members of the public can sign up for the service and then take a shuttle up from Main Street to the three popular trailheads at the Bonanza Flat Conservation Area. This year, the funding request is for an expansion of the Transit to Trails Shuttle Program so it can accommodate users on the Wasatch Front.

Ms. Eroh reported that some area usage data was obtained from cell phone records. She explained that when cell phones are used, it can track where the use is originating from. It was discovered that over a third of the users from July to September were from the Wasatch Front. The proposal is to have this funding start the process so it is possible to create a new offshoot of the Transit to Trails Shuttle Program on the Wasatch Front. Chair Weichers believed there is support to reduce the number of vehicles on the road. He noted that charging a small fee for the shuttle would offset some of the costs, especially with expansion. Ms. Eroh stated that there have been those kinds of discussions internally. Something that is highly considered is the issue of equity and inclusion.

Discussions were had about the current shuttle route. Ms. Eroh pointed out that the costs would be different if the shuttle was run from the Wasatch Front rather than the Wasatch Back. There would need to be work done with transportation providers to obtain a more accurate quote. The idea is to shuttle visitors to the three main trailheads that the current shuttle route drops visitors off at. Mayor Zoltanski asked about ridership levels and how riders are attracted. Ms. Eroh explained that there is a fairly extensive outreach effort and campaign. That would need to be done in the Wasatch Front as well. A lot of marketing is done through in-person events as well as through online resources. She informed Committee Members that this is reservation-based. Without a reservation, it is first come first served if there are open spaces available. A reservation will guarantee a spot on the shuttle.

Mayor Bourke asked if there are concerns about overuse. Ms. Eroh confirmed this. The parking lots are designed to reflect the carrying capacity of the land, so that is something that has been discussed and considered with the shuttle. However, there is so much congestion and misuse of the area, even with increased parking enforcement and ticketing. Offering sustainable transportation does not result in an increase in use that overwhelms the resources, but this is something still being considered and tracked. She pointed out that the complementary educational components are useful as well.

Ms. Nielsen reported that the CWC markets the funded projects each year. If this expansion into the Wasatch Front is funded this year, the CWC can also assist with the outreach. She noted that in previous years when this served only the Wasatch Back, it extended into the winter months as well. Ms. Eroh explained that this expansion would focus on the summer months. The original program started as only a summer program. Based on the popularity and use levels, it was extended. Chair Weichers asked if the request is to expand the program to the Wasatch Front. This was confirmed.

The final project proposal was shared with the Short-Term Projects Committee. Ms. Nielsen reported that it is for a Backcountry Shuttle from the Wasatch Backcountry Alliance. The funding request is \$20,000 and that is 57% of the total project cost. She explained that the CWC has funded the shuttle program for the last two years. This is a Saturday shuttle that is free to use. The shuttle services backcountry trailheads in Big Cottonwood Canyon and Little Cottonwood Canyon. Director of the Wasatch Backcountry Alliance, Danielle Poirier, expressed appreciation for previous CWC support. The Wasatch Backcountry Alliance is invested in transportation solutions that service all users, but still maintain the integrity of the canyon. The program in the 2021/2022 season was run every Saturday to enable access to upper Little Cottonwood Canyon when Alta Ski Lift started to charge for parking. In the 2022/2023 season, there was an expansion into Big Cottonwood Canyon as well.

Mayor Zoltanski had a question for Utah Open Lands. Of the two applications, she wondered which one was the highest priority. Ms. Eroh was not sure she was able to answer that question. She worked a lot internally on the application for the expansion of the Transit to Trails Shuttle program. However, she knows that expansion and trail maintenance will promote accessibility. As a result, it is difficult for her to prioritize one application over the other in terms of importance.

Ms. Nielsen informed the Short-Term Projects Committee that it is now time to discuss the allocation of the short-term project funding. She reminded Committee Members that there is \$95,000 and the total request amount is \$207,500. Chair Weichers reminded those present that the Committee should consider which of the Mountain Accord tenants each project request applies to. He also asked that the criteria be shared. Ms. Nielsen stated that the project has to fulfill at least one of the four Mountain Accord tenants (recreation, economy, transportation, environment), it has to occur within the CWC study area, the request has to be short-term in nature, and the request must be under \$20,000.

Mayor Bourke thought it would be interesting to categorize the proposals. There were several applications that were education-oriented and several that were maintenance-oriented. For instance, the White Pine Bridge Erosion Repair application was for maintenance. Ms. Kilpack started to organize the proposals into different categories, such as education, infrastructure, and maintenance.

Mayor Zoltanski stressed the importance of the geographic disbursement of the funds. Some of the applications are for the tri-canyons, and some are for Big Cottonwood Canyon, Little Cottonwood Canyon, Summit County, Park City, and so on. She liked the idea of looking back historically to determine what areas have been focused on in the past. Ms. Nielsen pointed out that this year, many applications come from the Wasatch Back. That is an increase from previous years. In past grant cycles, the majority of the funding for projects in the Wasatch Back has gone towards the Transit to Trails Shuttle program and Dumpster Days. Other requests for the Wasatch Back are new this year.

Mayor Zoltanski asked whether CWC Staff has made any recommendations based on the criteria. Ms. Nielsen confirmed this and explained that the finalist projects before the Committee are the recommendations. The fourteen projects reviewed during the meeting are not all of the applications received. These are the projects that were most appropriate for the Committee to deliberate on.

Mayor Zoltanski wanted to know if this is a reimbursement program. This was denied. Ms. Nielsen explained that the Short-Term Projects Committee will make recommendations for funding at the meeting. The Committee recommendations will then go to the Executive/Budget/Audit Committee later that afternoon. From there, the recommendations will be presented to the CWC Board at the CWC Board Meeting on May 6, 2024. There will be consideration and approval at that time.

 If the resolution is approved without amendment, on May 7, 2024, the money will be allocated. Ms. Nielsen noted that there is a reporting component to the grant. The awardees are given one full calendar year from the date of the allocation of funds to share a report on the project with the CWC. Mayor Zoltanski pointed out that not all the applications request full funding. When the CWC distributes partial amounts, she wondered whether the applicant reports on the project completion or the use of the funds given by the CWC. Ms. Nielsen clarified that it was on the whole project.

 Discussions were had about project goals and whether there have been delays in the past. Ms. Nielsen reported that there has been near-full success. She explained that success is defined as the completion of the projects within the given timeframe. The way that is accounted for is through the reporting forms as well as site visits that CWC Staff conducts. However, one of the projects in the previous year that took longer than originally proposed related to trail maintenance work. That was because the trail maintenance became more expensive than the Salt Lake Climbers Alliance had anticipated.

Mayor Bourke suggested that the percentage of the total project costs be considered. In some cases, the CWC has been asked to fund a small amount, and in other cases, the request has been to fund the full project. He pointed out that the request from the Cottonwood Canyons Foundation for Trail Maintenance, Native Plant Restoration, and Control of Invasive Weeds in the Tri-Canyons is only 4% of the total project costs. The funding will have less of an impact on that application than some of the others. Mayor Zoltanski thought it was important to have funds from other sources.

Mayor Zoltanski suggested that the Short-Term Projects Committee consider the public benefit of each application. She was not in favor of funding essential government services, like the Dumpster Days. She felt that was a core function of local government and did not believe the CWC funds should be used to assist with local government services. Chair Weichers was in favor of removing Dumpster Days from consideration. Ms. Munsey noted that she highlighted applications of interest and the Dumpster Days proposal was not highlighted, as it would benefit only a specific group.

Ms. Nielsen took a moment to read the criteria that the CWC shared as part of the grant application process. The purpose of the call for applications is to explore short-term project ideas in the CWC project area that are largely ready for funding. Projects should address one or more of the areas of focus of the CWC. If the project is proposed to occur on Forest Service land, the project should not require a lengthy National Environmental Policy Act ("NEPA") analysis. The project must be implemented within 12 months of the contract and the request limit is \$20,000. Projects with dedicated funds from the applying entity or community partners will be given increased weighting during the review process. The applicants wrote their proposals with all of this in mind.

Discussions were had about whether or not the full amount needs to be allocated. Ms. Nielsen explained that an applicant may have requested \$20,000, but the Short-Term Projects Committee does not necessarily have to allocate the entire amount. Mayor Zoltanski felt applicants with more than one request should state what their priority application is. Ms. Nielsen clarified that this was not requested as part of the application, but that can be a requirement added to future grant cycles.

Mayor Bourke suggested discussing the projects there is not a desire to fund. One of them is the Dumpster Days application. He wondered if there were any others there was not an interest in funding. Mayor Zoltanski thought it made sense for the White Pine Bridge Erosion Repair project to come back with partner funds during a future grant cycle. She encouraged the applicant to reapply

with some partner funding. Ms. Munsey liked the trail extension project more than the White Pine application. She noted that there was a safety element with the Pipeline Trail Extension application.

Out of the two applications from the Cottonwood Canyons Foundation, Ms. Munsey preferred the Trail Maintenance, Native Plant Restoration, and Control of Invasive Weeds in the Tri-Canyons over the Cottonwood Canyons Watershed Education Program. Chair Weichers noted that both projects are significant asks. Mayor Zoltanski also preferred the second application from the Cottonwood Canyons Foundation. She likes the idea of the backpacks and materials but thought that the second application would make a more significant difference. Chair Weichers asked if there was an amount the Committee would want to fund for the Trail Maintenance, Native Plant Restoration, and Control of Invasive Weeds in the Tri-Canyons. Ms. Munsey was supportive of an amount between \$16,000 and \$20,000. Mayor Zoltanski suggested using the total amount as a placeholder.

 Mayor Bourke referenced the CWC Youth Council's request for an Outdoor Film Festival. The requested funding amount is between \$1,500 and \$1,800. He noted that it will only play once to a limited audience, so it is important to consider the impact of the event. That being said, he likes that this will fund a youth-oriented project. Ms. Munsey thought it should be funded in full at \$1,800. She pointed out that the CWC Youth Council will try to sell refreshments to earn some money as well. Mayor Zoltanski was also supportive of the application. Ms. Nielsen explained that if the project is less expensive than anticipated, there is a stipulation that excess money be sent back. Chair Weichers expressed discomfort about funding a CWC Youth Council project as the CWC Youth Council is directly associated with the organization. Ms. Nielsen clarified that this was considered. Funded CWC Youth Council applications can be considered as part of the budget next year.

The Committee discussed the Wasatch Backcountry Alliance application for a Backcountry Shuttle. Mayor Bourke explained that parking on weekends is often a concern. The reservation that the town and ski area imposed was necessary and resulted in some sensible responses. The Backcountry Shuttle is one example of a sensible response to the issues. He thought that project should be at least partially funded. Ms. Munsey pointed out that a smaller group would benefit from the shuttle.

Ms. Poirier stated that the program will be even more important in terms of equitable access next season when the Forest Service trailhead fees are implemented. As an organization, there is support for the reservation systems. Those have had a lot of success in reducing traffic congestion in the canyons. That being said, with the Town of Brighton employing some new parking policies this past season, it further inhibited dispersed access. The shuttle program is becoming even more important for access. This summer, there is a desire to obtain a permit from the Forest Service to allow the shuttles to drop off at more trailheads with proper restroom infrastructure. In addition, there will be a more strategic approach when it comes to the way funds are used. If any shuttle is less than 75% reserved, that shuttle will be canceled, so the funds are not being used for partially full shuttles.

 Chair Weichers asked for additional information about equity. Ms. Poirier explained that when Alta Ski Lift started its parking policy, it was \$25 for parking reservations for those who were not resort patrons. Last year, the roadside parking was \$10. She has not seen concrete numbers for the new Forest Service trailhead program, but she offered to follow up about that. Ms. Poirier explained that the shuttle provides trailhead access to people who might not be able to afford a four-wheel drive vehicle with snow tires. It creates an access point for different users. The Committee discussed an appropriate funding amount. Mayor Bourke suggested that \$15,000 of the requested amount be funded.

 The Committee next discussed the Transit to Trails Shuttle. Mayor Zoltanski noted that the percentage of the total project cost makes sense and she is more inclined to fund that at the full amount. Mayor Bourke pointed out that parking lots essentially place a limitation on the number of visitors. To encourage a shuttle might result in some unintended consequences. On the other hand, he likes the idea of there being access from the Wasatch Front to Bonanza Flat. Ms. Munsey asked if the funding request was for the actual shuttle or to expand the service. It was noted that it was to expand. Mayor Zoltanski suggested that the Committee recommend \$15,000 worth of funding.

Chair Weichers mentioned the Alpenbock Documentary Film project proposal from the Salt Lake Climbers Alliance. It was noted that the funding request was \$15,000. Ms. Munsey liked the idea of preservation and stories about the area. Ms. Nielsen informed Committee Members that the CWC is considering hosting the Central Wasatch Symposium early next year. As part of the agenda for the symposium, there has been discussion about screening a film on the final day. This could possibly be the film that was screened as part of the Central Wasatch Symposium. Chair Weichers suggested funding the documentary at a lower amount. Mayor Bourke liked the idea that this kind of project would create something that could be used for education indefinitely. Mayor Zoltanski thought that capturing the history of the community was beneficial. There was support to fund the project proposal but at a lower amount than the \$15,000 initially requested. \$5,000 was selected.

Mayor Zoltanski was not supportive of the Community Gear Shed project that was submitted by the CWC Youth Council. She believed that was a niche service that will have a low yield for the dollars that are involved. Additionally, she pointed out that there was no partner funding. It might make sense for that request to come back next year instead. Mayor Bourke pointed out that the gear shed would serve an underserved community and would introduce more people to outdoor opportunities. Ms. Munsey suggested that there be outreach to outdoor sporting goods stores for donations. Ms. Nielsen thought this was an impressive and imaginative idea. It will create new community partnerships and it will serve people who would not otherwise have the opportunity to recreate in the mountains. Committee Members determined that a partial funding amount will be awarded at \$6,000.

The Committee discussed the Environmental Sustainability Education proposal. Chair Weichers loved the education piece and the fact that there will be good reach with the schools. Mayor Zoltanski thought \$5,000 for that project was appropriate because of the school district component. Ms. Nadel stated that she is available to answer any outstanding Committee Member questions. Ms. Munsey asked about the outreach. Ms. Nadel reported that the number of people served each year is 2,800. There is regular outreach with approximately 1,000 students and there are 700 or so students that come for field trips, camps, and so on. There are also between 1,000 and 1,200 people who come to the garden who are adults or families. Those people visit the garden for other programming.

Ms. Munsey asked if the school district supports the programs. Ms. Nadel clarified that the school district supports the program in a lot of different ways. All of the after-school programs are funded through the district. There are some programs actually in the schools. For example, there are discussions about environmental sustainability during cooking, gardening, and nutrition classes. Some of the smaller programs do not receive funding from the school district. Committee Members determined that \$5,000 would be the recommended amount for that project proposal.

The Fixed Anchor Maintenance: Wasatch Rock Climbing Routes proposal was discussed. Mayor Bourke pointed out that this is a safety issue. Mayor Zoltanski agreed that this project will have a significant safety impact. The full funding request of \$10,000 was suggested to be awarded.

Ms. Nielsen noted that Save Our Canyons asked for \$18,000 for the Conservation (Education and Outreach) Program. The program has been funded in the past at \$8,000 and \$1,000. Ms. Tyler explained that the increase is due to fuels management education in the Wasatch Front and Wasatch Back. Over 30% of the work overall as an organization falls into education and outreach. Additionally, there is work done with the Forest Service for trail maintenance and removing invasive weeds. Mayor Zoltanski is supportive of awarding more than \$8,000, but not necessarily the full \$18,000 request based on the budget limitations. \$12,000 was a suggested funding amount.

The Bonanza Flat Accessible Trail Project was considered next. Ms. Munsey noted that she wrote down \$5,000 as a possible funding amount. It was suggested that there be \$5,000 for that project and \$10,000 for the Transit to Trails application. Ms. Nielsen reminded Committee Members that it is possible to request that the CWC use some reserves to award additional short-term project funding. She added that there are considerable savings in the budget this year, so reserves might not need to be used for that purpose. Unused funds from the current fiscal year budget could be used instead.

As a result of that information, it was suggested that the funding for the Environmental Sustainability Education project from the Summit Community Garden and EATS have more funding than previously discussed. It is a developed program and it has a direct impact on young people. The Save Our Canyons application could increase to \$15,000. Ms. Kilpack shared the current budget information with those present. Ms. Nielsen noted that there is surplus in the current budget, but she is not sure whether that will cover all of the short-term project amounts that are being discussed.

Additional discussions were had about the short-term project applications as the Committee finalized the recommended funding amounts. Ms. Nielsen reported that one of the only ADA-accessible trails in the Central Wasatch is Silver Lake. Any project that is trying to increase access is worthwhile. Committee Members considered the Trails Utah application for the White Pine project proposal. A final review of the project proposals was done and the numbers for funding were further discussed.

The short-term project funding amounts recommended by the Short-Term Projects Committee are:

- Trail Maintenance, Native Plant Restoration, and Control of Invasive Weeds in the Tri-Canyons - Cottonwood Canyons Foundation (\$20,000);
- Outdoor Film Festival CWC Youth Council (\$1,800);
- Community Gear Shed CWC Youth Council (\$6,000);
- Bonanza Flat Accessible Trail Project Park City Municipal Corporation (\$5,000);
- Fixed Anchor Maintenance: Wasatch Rock Climbing Routes Salt Lake Climbers Alliance (\$10,000);
- Alpenbock Documentary Film Salt Lake Climbers Alliance (\$5,000);
- Conservation (Education and Outreach) Program Save Our Canyons (\$15,000);
- Environmental Sustainability Education Summit Community Gardens and EATS (\$10,000);
 - White Pine Bridge Trail Erosion Repair Trails Utah (\$5,000);
 - Pipeline Trail Extension Trails Utah (\$15,000);
 - Transit to Trails Shuttle Utah Open Lands (\$10,000);

• Backcountry Shuttle – Wasatch Backcountry Alliance (\$15,000).

Ms. Nielsen explained that CWC Staff will put the recommendations into a memo. It will be presented to the Executive/Budget/Audit Committee later that afternoon. During the May 6, 2024, CWC Board Meeting, the recommendations will be considered by the full CWC Board. It was noted that the total budget for short-term projects is \$95,000 and the Short-Term Projects Committee has recommended \$117,800 of project funding. That is \$22,800 above the short-term project budget.

MOTION: Mayor Zoltanski moved to RECOMMEND the Short-Term Projects in the Amounts Listed to the CWC Board at the May 6, 2024, CWC Board Meeting. Mayor Bourke seconded the motion. The motion passed with the unanimous consent of the Committee.

CLOSING

1. <u>Chair Weichers will Call for a Motion to Adjourn the Short-Term Projects Committee Meeting.</u>

MOTION: Mayor Zoltanski moved to ADJOURN the Short-Term Projects Committee Meeting. Mayor Bourke seconded the motion. The motion passed with the unanimous consent of the Board.

21 The Short-Term Projects Committee Meeting adjourned at 12:45 p.m.

I hereby certify that the foregoing represents a true, accurate, and complete record of the Central
Wasatch Commission Short-Term Projects Committee Meeting held Monday, April 15, 2024.

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Terí Forbes

- 5 Teri Forbes
- 6 T Forbes Group
- 7 Minutes Secretary

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9 Minutes Approved: _____