



PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

In-Person and WebEx

Location: Government Center, 2001 S. State Street SLC, Utah 84190

August 14, 2024 | 11:00AM-12:45PM

In Attendance

Board Members: Chris Hill, Courtney Peterson, Connie Burgess, Jason Malczyk, Collin Dumke, Shauna Ayres, Lisa Dean, Robynn Masters, Jaren Cooper

Absent: Nate Salazar, John Warnas, Dan Schoenfeld

Staff: Chris Otto, Patrick Leary, Jerry Brewster, Adam Johnson, Julie Peck-Dabling, Doranne Pittz, Robin Chalhoub, David Johnson, Danielle Calacino, Liz Sollis, Josh Reusser, Walt Gilmore

Citizen Participation: Steve Van Maren, Kristine Millerberg, Katie Balakir

Call to Order

Chris Hill calls the meeting to order and for everyone present to introduce themselves.

Public Comments:

No public comments are made.

Business Item – Approval of June 2024 Minutes

Chris calls for a motion or any discussion on the June 2024 meeting minutes. Robynn Masters motions to approve, Connie Burgess seconds, all approve.

Division Director Introduction

Robin Chalhoub, Community Services Department Director, introduces Chris Otto, the new division director for Parks & Recreation to the board. She gives the board a brief overview of Chris's working history and says he's doing a great job so far as he's been thrown into the middle of budget season.

Division Director's Report

Chris Otto tells the board what has been going on with the division since he's started and emphasizes the priority budget has taken in his time so far. He mentions that he's learning quickly and there is no shortage of issues that he is becoming aware of.

Julie Peck-Dabling mentions that in the interim before Chris officially became the new division director, the leadership team took the time to talk with one another and build better collaboration between the sections rather than just reporting out to each other. She thanks Robin's leadership for helping make that happen and says it has helped foster new relationships among each other. Robin tells the board that the division is grateful for Julie and Jerry's time as co-interim directors and what a great resource they were and to Adam Johnson for his time stepping up to lead golf.

Salt Lake County Parks & Recreation 101

Julie reminds the board of the Parks & Recreation 101 informational session they started in June's meeting and why it's important to teach the board about the division. She says that last meeting's theme was about the structure of the organization, and this meeting's theme is about statutory authority.

Julie starts by discussing the existing ordinance in the Salt Lake County Municipal Code: Title 13 Parks and Recreation, Chapter 13.32 Parks and Recreation Advisory Board. The ordinance establishes the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board and how its membership is comprised. She touches on the difference between the citizen members and the school board members that make up the board and how their purpose is to provide critical feedback that helps the division operate efficiently and be responsible with taxpayer dollars.

Danielle Calacino continues by touching on the board's bylaws, which are written by the division the board represents. The bylaws outline how the board's membership is comprised and the terms the members serve, along with how often the board meets, and the responsibilities of the board members. She says the bylaws for the Parks & Recreation board are still mostly relevant to the current functions of the board, but bylaws in general can be formally edited and updated by the division and the board, and those changes must be approved up through Mayor and County Council.

Danielle quickly shows the board the Utah Public Notice website which is where information for all public meetings state-wide are posted for the general public's viewing. She says she is required to post for the boards 24 hours in advance, as required by statute, and where the public and the board members if they choose, can subscribe to a public body to be notified of their meetings and activities.

Danielle then discusses the Salt Lake County Conflict of Interest process and disclosure form with the board. She explains that all Salt Lake County officers, volunteers, board members, and employees are required to fill out a disclosure form once a year if they have in any way a conflict of interest with Salt Lake County and the business the County does. She says the forms are submitted and approved up through County Council, and Julie says they help engender a sense of trust and confidence in our advisory board members.

Utah Open Meetings Act Training

David Johnson from the Salt Lake County District Attorney's Office provides Utah Open and Public Meetings Act training to the board, which is required once a year. He tells them that as an advisory board, they are conducting the business of County citizens, and it should be conducted in an open and transparent manner. They then play a video provided by the State of Utah about the Open and Public Meetings Act to give a comprehensive overview of it to the board.

Once the video is over, David says that the biggest takeaway for the board is to pay attention to the agenda because they can only really discuss issues that are listed there. He emphasizes that they cannot take any action on something that was not noticed on the agenda, and to not stray too far away from what's listed.

There is a discussion on agendas and having conversations from items listed or not necessarily listed; David says he prefers that if a discussion is wanted to be had based off something said in a meeting they should tee that up on the next meeting's agenda instead of having that discussion then and there.

Section Update

Patrick gives updates for the Parks section by telling the board that his teams are trying to keep the parks alive and the trails well maintained as they're in the thick of summer. He mentions that there are scheduled high school mountain bike races at the Butterfield Canyon trail system in September, so they are prepping for those. Patrick also clarifies that the events have permits that close the entire trail system to the public.

Walt Gilmore gives updates for the Planning section by telling the board that they are getting close to completing the 2025 Facilities Master Plan and will plan to share it with the board in the next couple months. Walt also mentions that

they have started working on the Jordan River Regional Park Master Plan and have chosen a consulting firm from Philadelphia who has expertise with the Boise River parkway area. He explains that the Utah State Legislature designated the section of land along the Jordan River from 2100 S to 5400 S as a regional park; and the idea is to bring more people and development into the area to make it a focal point of the valley.

Collin Dumke asks if this project plans to include new recreation opportunities along the river such as kayaking and mentions there is hesitancy to get in the river currently. Walt tells him they are planning to include new recreation opportunities and in recent years they have added an ADA ramp at Pioneer Crossing Park and other boat launches and portages along the river to make it easier and safer for people to get in.

Jason Malczyk points out how large the park will be from 2100 S to 5400 S and asks if it is something that is needing to be proposed to all the cities and private landowners along that stretch. Walt says they are putting together their stakeholders list and with their consultants, they will begin meeting with each group that is located along the proposed site. Jason also asks if they're looking for more groups and non-profit organizations to bring into the space or if Walt meant more so bringing in the public to the space; Walt confirms they are wanting to bring more of the public into the space to recreate and use the river. Walt also confirms that the regional park will encompass both the east and west sides of the river, and they will be working on the plan for the next 18 months with the consultants and the cities involved.

Robynn asks how trail maintenance is addressed and that she is impressed in how it's been done so far. Patrick tells her that they created a formal Trails team, and they are the ones that are actively out monitoring, maintaining, and upkeeping every trail in our portfolio. He mentions that part of the master plan is assessing the maintenance of each trail and park and putting a plan in to sustain it all.

Jason emphasizes how the Jordan River Regional Park is a combination of everything Park Operations does: open space, trails, and park maintenance. Patrick agrees that it's a big undertaking but an exciting one.

Kristine Millerberg tells everyone that if they have never seen the high school mountain bike races it is worth seeing, and she asks about the increase of homeless individuals along the Jordan River and if the County has considered that for this master plan and if they know how they're going to address it. Walt says that with the consultants, they're going to consider that factor in the master plan and how they can address it. Liz Sollis mentions that the Mayor's Office just announced their Homelessness and Criminal Justice Reform Plan through a Public Safety Bond that aims to help homeless individuals get housing, treatment, and connect them with community resources.

The board continues to discuss the homelessness issue in Salt Lake County and around the state; Julie tells the board if they want to make it an agenda item at another meeting to really discuss it, she recommends that since it is such a complex issue.

Jerry Brewster gives updates for the Golf section by telling the board that they are still seeing great numbers and they are focusing on investing in their infrastructure. He highlights the irrigation renewal project at Mountain View Golf Course and how that is finally coming to an end but mentions how prices for everything have increased considerably in the industry. Jerry says that all the golf courses are focusing on water, water usage, and all the courses use secondary water or are going to be. He says that they are already \$1 million over in revenue compared to last year and they are seeing an increase of families and juniors playing at the courses. Lastly, he gives a shout out to Adam Johnson for stepping up this year while he was helping the division as co-interim director and says Adam has done a great job keeping golf going.

Liz Sollis gives updates for the Community Engagement section by telling the board that they just participated in a teacher fair with Canyons School District, helped with the Big Cottonwood Regional Park Master Plan open house, and will be participating in the ZAP (Zoo, Arts, and Parks) Summer Celebration at Wheeler Farm. She mentions more upcoming events they'll be participating in and gives a nod to her team for all their hard work and for stepping up when she's been gone.

Josh Reusser, Communications Manager, quickly adds that they have been working on getting a work management tool and have officially implemented one for their team to use and track all projects.

Collin asks if there is a current tool for the public to reach out to the Parks & Recreation team to surface issues. Liz says that currently we list the numbers and emails of the Park Operations office or the main office on signs. She says that the County did look at getting a citizen reporting tool at one time but it never transpired, but she says that's something the team can have conversations about.

Chris asks about if patrons have complaints about a recreation center or the hours of something, who would those go to. Liz tells him the best thing for them to do is email recreation@saltlakecounty.gov, and Danielle and Jackie filter those and get all complaints to the respective sections.

Doranne Pittz gives updates for the Recreation section by telling the board that they are just around 61,000 registrants for the My County Rec Pass, and although they are understaffed, her team is doing so well at providing their services and making the sure the program is running efficiently. She mentions they have wrapped up a majority of their outdoor pool season and explains that they close their outdoor pools according to school district openings, as most pool employees are students. Doranne highlights that County Risk Management praised Parks & Recreation's lifeguards and says that they were impressed by the all the lifeguards' professionalism and responsiveness to not only the patrons in the pools but around the centers as well.

Josh Reusser quickly says that he worked in aquatics for Parks & Recreation for 10 years and he says this year's lifeguards were the best he's seen.

Doranne lastly mentions that a few of the centers are experiencing malfunctioning HVAC systems and are seeing an increase of complaints coming in for those. She says that they are dealing with supply chain issues and are strategizing how to handle these deferred maintenance issues. She also mentions that when centers experience these types of issues, they allow passes to be accepted at the other facilities, so patrons still have access to the services.

Board Business

Julie says next meeting she wants the board members and staff to interact more and mix up where everyone sits, so everyone can get more comfortable with each other.

Adjourn

Robynn Masters motions to adjourn, Collin Dumke seconds, all approve.