



## PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

In-Person and Webex

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

May 14, 2025 | 11:30AM-1:00PM

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### In Attendance

**Board Members:** Chris Hill, Lisa Dean, Ashley Anderson, Kim Chandler, John Warnas, Jason Malczyk, Shauna Ayres, Robynn Masters, Collin Dumke, Jaren Cooper

**Absent:** Jackson Lewis, Courtney Peterson

**Staff:** Chris Otto, Julie Peck-Dabbling, Adam Johnson, Danielle Calacino, Callista Pearson, Patrick Leary, Eliza Fesolai, Brent Laulusa, Lauren Brady, Robert Sampson, Robin Chalhoub, Jerry Brewster, David Johnson

**Citizen Participation:** Soren Simonsen, Sandra Haak, Steve Van Maren

### Call to Order

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

### Public Comments:

Soren Simonsen with the Jordan River Commission presents an opportunity to develop a river access point to expand a recreation area. The current area is roughly 200 meters of uninterrupted water except for a weir that's part of the diversion flood control structure at the surplus canal and the flood control gates for the lower Jordan River.

Soren is requesting that the weir be relocated half a mile north near California Avenue and for Parks & Recreation to expand the river access point to accommodate more water sports than just canoeing and kayaking. He says they would love the support of the Parks & Recreation division and the board to match the vision the Jordan River Commission has to develop a sports area in the river, and any persuasion they can have with the Flood Control and Watershed teams to encourage the relocation of the weir. The board and Soren quickly talk about funding, support, and decide that Parks & Recreation will discuss it more and provide more information to the board at a following meeting.

Sandra Haak with the Dimple Dell Preservation Community gives the board a quick report on the success of their annual Earth Day cleanup event which they have hosted in the Dimple Dell Regional Park for the last 9 years. They had a total of 332 volunteers who worked in various sections of the park beforehand and day-of. She also talks about their work on implementing the Muir-Poulsen Farm Master Plan, and grants they are working on submitting for to support that work.

### Business Item – Approval of March 2025 Minutes

Chris Hill calls for a motion or any discussion on the March 2025 meeting minutes. Jason Malczyk motions to approve, Robynn Masters seconds, all approve.

### Division Director's Report

Chris Otto tells the board they will be presenting to the Salt Lake County Council soon regarding the My County Rec Pass and are looking forward to sharing the positive results they've seen and hoping for their continued support. He mentions they will also be sharing the results of the 100 Days Assessment the

Recreation Section has been working on, and the 2025 Facilities Master Plan is steadily still coming together and is hoping to present the draft to the board within the next couple meetings.

Chris reminds the board of their intentions of combining the Open Space Board into this board, and more conversations will be taking place soon about that. He says they have been working on a budget realignment and although it still needs review from Mayor's Finance, they expect to have something to show at the end of the year during the next budget cycle's approval.

He announces they will be reclassifying a few merit positions and hiring the following: a Contracts Administrator, Data Analyst, and Web Content Specialist. He mentions that at the previous meeting, the board approved the formation of subcommittees, and they will be following up on that soon.

Lastly, he says they have an RFP (request for proposal) currently out for a childcare analysis that they will award soon, and he wants to start having conversations with the school districts and how the division and districts use each other's spaces. Chris says he wants to start the discussions with Jordan School District, and the conversations will focus on facility usage and costs, and review if they're doing it equitably.

Lisa Dean and Ashley Anderson ask about the My County Rec Pass, if it's continuing and what information they should be taking back to their respective school districts. Chris confirms that although it was set up as a pilot program the budget was structured to be ongoing, and he believes that the presentation they are bringing to Council will provide enough information to show it's been a positive program for the community and will recommend keeping the program running with the hope Council will be supportive of that. He goes on to tell them that as the program stands right now, all passes have been automatically renewed, and they will not expire until the passholder's 19<sup>th</sup> birthday.

### **Board Member Survey Results**

Lauren Brady reviews the results of the survey the advisory members took back in March with former employee Josh Reusser. She tells them that they conducted the interviews to get a better understanding of board member priorities and enhance overall board effectiveness.

She reviews the following 6 categories:

- Top Board Priorities
  - Maintenance.
  - Open space, trails, walkability.
  - Safety, cleanliness, expanded recreation opportunities (underserved youth and disabilities), and Jordan River Trail care.
- Deferred Maintenance Funding (\$125 - \$150 million backlog)
  - Board members support using a combination of funding methods.
  - Board members are opposed to increasing fees and issuing bonds.
  - They want to consider using ZAP and TRCC Funds.
- Guidance on Aging Recreation Centers
  - Board members prefer building new if more cost-effective than repairing.
  - They want to limit service loss and ensure community input and strong maintenance plans for new facilities.
- Advisory Board Role & Function
  - Board members want more clarity on how the board functions.

- They primarily see the board as being a liaison to the community and being advisory to Parks & Recreation staff.
- The board members also see their power as limited for decision making.
- Enhancing Board Effectiveness
  - Most board members found the advisory role appropriate with some wanting more power.
  - Members are anticipating the formation of subcommittees and how they'll improve effectiveness.
  - The members enjoy the varied locations for the monthly meetings and desire more training such as feedback gathering and information sharing with the public.
- Desired Areas for Future Board Input
  - Board members want more financial stability input for the Parks & Recreation division.
  - They also want to provide input for survey/planning trends and on master plans.
  - They want the division to use demographic data to ensure equity among their services and locations throughout the county.
  - Board members also want to take stronger public positions on issues.

Lauren follows up by telling the board they will be sharing further information about the formation of subcommittees where they'll be able to dig further into issues.

### **Lodestone Ribbon Cutting Recap**

Jason Malczyk tells the board that the ribbon cutting for the new bikes skills course at the Lodestone Regional Park was neat, and he attended with his team from Wasatch Adaptive Recreation to promote the trails and test them out. He mentioned Trails Utah was part of it as well, the speeches were good, and it was a successful turnout. He mentions that Wasatch Adaptive has held events at that park already, but the new addition of the skills course will be very beneficial to the community now that they have been bolstered and added to. He says the questions now are what will the usership look like with a trail system like this because it's different than an urban trail system and a canyon system.

Kim Chandler tells the board that she attended because her son participates in his high school mountain biking team and really enjoyed the event and seeing the turnout. She asks how the public would know about an event such as that is happening outside of how she knew about it through the board and her son's team. Lauren and Callista let her know that they send event information out in patron emails, press releases, media advisories, and post about it on the website and social media pages. They continue to say they are open to more ideas on how to inform the community about ongoing events if the board has any suggestions.

### **Section Update**

Patrick Leary tells the board that his parks crews are out getting everything open, working, and charging to be ready for the summer season. He also mentions that they participate in a countywide task force on watching out for spring runoff and flooding, and due to the fluctuating temperatures, the flooding risk is currently low this year.

Adam Johnson tells the board that the cooler, rainier weather has been helpful for the golf courses, and they are currently aerifying their greens at a few of the courses. He says as for rounds, for April they are up to about 60000 this year from 54000 last year, he says revenue is up as well, and that they currently have 1184 participants registered for junior golf so far.

Lauren Brady tells the board they are working with Draper City for the next ribbon cutting on Tuesday, June 17 that is for the Traverse Range conservation easement. She mentions that the Wheeler Farm FarmFest is this upcoming Saturday, May 17, and the Sunday Farmer's Market begins for the season as well. Lastly, she mentions that outdoor pools will be opening Memorial Day Weekend, with both the Draper Recreation Center and the SLC Sports Complex

offering limited outdoor pool hours prior to Memorial Day and the splashpads at Wardle Fields Regional Park and Magna Regional Park also opening on Memorial Day Weekend for the season as all.

Brent Laulusa tells the board that his accounting team is hard at work with budget realignment to try and facilitate easier reporting. He says the budget is on track for the year, with some budget adjustments being made so far. He mentions the new RapBack fingerprint background check system Salt Lake County has implemented, and they are working to have all merit employees completed by June 1. Lastly, he says they have begun the implementation of the new point of sale system Parks & Recreation will be using, which is a product called SmartRec by the company Amilia. They had a week of kickoff meetings where the teams met, discussed what each user group will need, and are ultimately excited for the product to modernize the end user experience. They are hoping for an official implementation date for some time in October.

Eliza Fesolai tells the board that her recreation team is continuing to work on their 100 Days assessment, but so far, they have completed and set many standards of framework for their programs, and they are now building their zero-base budgets and finalizing templates to send out to the centers. She says they are also working on their space and time allotment at the recreation centers, and part of that is also reviewing operation and holiday hours. Lastly, she mentions their temporary employee hiring is going very well, spring sports are up and going and highlights that Magna Recreation Center's goal for their outdoor soccer league was 480 kids and they had 1100 kids participate.

Julie Peck-Dabling tells the board that the planning team currently has some RFPs (request for proposals) out and are getting estimates on costs for future construction, where they are seeing gaps, and where there are aging facilities. Some of the ideas they are looking at are:

- A potential recreation center and multi-court facility in Bluffdale
- Potentially replacing the Redwood Recreation Center with an ADA Mobility 365 model of a center so it can work for the entire community but specifically for people with disabilities.
- Adding another ice sheet at County Ice in Murray and what improvements they can make to the athletic fields such as field lights and concessions
- Looking at improving the Taylorsville Recreation Center by adding a possible multi-sport court there as well

She recognizes that many of the cities in the county are also looking at adding or replacing things so on top of the pressures of the \$125-150 million in deferred maintenance, there are also demands in the community for new or renewed facilities and they are working to make that information available to help elected officials make educated determinations.

Lastly, she mentions they are planning a cleanup of the Draw, the area west of the tunnel in Sugar House Park, for this Friday, May 16 starting at 8 am and invites the board to join.

### **Adjourn**

Lisa Dean motions to adjourn, Ashley Anderson seconds. The board approves unanimously.