

Bingham Creek Regional Park Authority | Minutes

Date/Time: July 21, 2025, 12:00 pm – 1:00 pm

Location: South Jordan City Hall/ Zoom option

Board Members		Attendance
Don Tingey	Chair	In-person
Angela McGuire	Vice Chair	In-person
Lars Erickson	Board Member	Online
Amber Brown	Board Member	Absent
Sonia Lopez	Board Member	Absent
Colby Hill	South Jordan Representative	In-person
Patrick Leary	Salt Lake County Representative	Online

Others Present: Ambra Holland, Janell Payne, Dan Langford (online), Kevin Steed (online), Brent Laulusa (online)

This meeting was conducted both in-person and electronically via Zoom. Agendas, recordings, and meeting minutes can be accessed on the Utah Public Notice site at utah.gov/pmn.

A. Welcome, Roll Call, and Introduction: *Board Chair, Don Tingey*

Board Chair Don Tingey brings the meeting to order.

B. Public Comment:

Don Tingey opened the public hearing.

Dan Langford provided an update on the recent three-day disc golf tournament held at Bingham Creek. The event was organized by Ben from Another Round Disc Golf, who collaborated with the Daybreak Disc Golf Club to help manage operations at the site. Approximately 150 players participated across three different courses, with about 50 players per day using Bingham Creek. The course was in good condition, and the maintenance crew was responsive and accommodating when asked to make specific adjustments. While the windy weather led to mixed feedback, overall impressions of the course were positive. A camera crew filmed part of the tournament, and Dan Langford offered to share the video link once available. He noted that players expressed interest in having additional trees, restrooms, and water access near the course. Spectator turnout was higher than expected, with the natural hills providing excellent viewing opportunities. Temporary baskets and tee pads were installed for the event, and based on their success, he suggested considering permanent installation of certain features for future use. He concluded by expressing appreciation to city staff and indicating that there is interest in reserving the course for future tournaments.

Don Tingey expressed appreciation for the timely feedback following the recent disc golf tournament. He acknowledged that many of the suggestions provided had already been noted in previous correspondence and are on the list of planned improvements. He also commented on the success of the event, highlighting the impressive turnout of 150 players, including participants from out of state.

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Don Tingey closed the public comment portion of the meeting.

C. Approval of May 19, 2025 Minutes

Angela McGuire had a correction to page 7.

Action: Angela McGuire motioned to approve with change. Colby Hill seconded the motion. The board approved unanimously.

D. Park Maintenance & Operations:

D.1. New Event or Field Requests, *Patrick Leary, SLCo Parks and Recreation*
Action Item: Approval(s), *if necessary*

Don Tingey reported that there were no new event or field reservation requests at this time.

D.2. Park Maintenance & Operation and Financial Update. *Patrick Leary and Blake Jackson, SLCo Parks and Recreation*

Patrick Leary introduced Kevin Steed, who was present on behalf of Blake Jackson, to provide the operational update. Kevin Steed reported that activity at the park has been very quiet.

Kevin Steed discussed ongoing issues with plant health and the irrigation system. It was reported that the Water Department temporarily switched the system to culinary water for three days to help flush salts that had accumulated in the soil. This deep watering was intended to improve plant health by reducing salt levels. The system has since returned to secondary water. The plan is to monitor how the plants respond, assess survival rates, and replace any necessary plant material in the spring. A question was raised regarding funding for plant replacement. It was confirmed that the Salt Lake County Planning Department has funds set aside for such projects, and the available budget should be sufficient to cover anticipated needs.

Concerns were also raised regarding frequent clogging of irrigation filters, with reports of clogging occurring as often as every 10 minutes when using secondary water. In response, Kevin Steed explained that a rotation system is in place to ensure regular cleaning of filters, potentially on a daily or weekly basis. The issue is believed to be related to small particulate matter within the pipes. Testing is ongoing to determine whether the problem is organic in nature, which may require treatment of the system. Russ Jacobson, who was involved in the original park design, is reviewing the system. While the filtration equipment is considered standard for this type of installation, he is investigating other possible causes for the clogging. Similar issues have been reported at nearby systems, such as Daybreak, which required treatment. Kevin Steed noted that Russ Jacobson is gathering information on how those issues were resolved. In the short term, staff will continue to clean filters regularly and flush lines as needed to maintain system function. It was noted that after flushing with culinary water, the filters stopped clogging within 24 hours and remained clear for the remainder of the test period. Based on these results, staff would like to repeat the culinary water flush later in the season to support plant health.

Lars Erickson inquired about the long-term plan for restoring the irrigation system's Master Filter, expressing concern about staff having to manually change baskets at the valves. Kevin Steed clarified that the Master

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Filter located at the pump station is operational and has not been bypassed. The challenge lies downstream, as organic matter appears to be clogging filters within the system. Attempts to change filter micron levels only altered flushing frequency without solving the root issue. Kevin Steed noted that Russ Jacobson suspect's organisms may be growing in the pipes, which could be treated, flushed, and monitored moving forward.

Angela McGuire asked about the type of Master Filter in use. Kevin Steed confirmed it is a 120-micron screen filter, not sand or disk, and reiterated that no bypass is present at the pump station. Angela McGuire raised the concern that screen filters are not ideal when organic material is present. Kevin Steed explained that replacing the system with sand filtration would require a massive installation, costing several hundred thousand dollars, in his opinion, which is not practical.

The board then discussed alternatives, including limited conversion to culinary water for plant irrigation rather than the entire park. Kevin Steed suggested prioritizing the installation of a splash pad, which would run on a pass-through culinary water system, providing consistently clean water. He noted that similar systems have performed well in other locations.

Colby Hill added that if they were to flush the system with potable water, sufficient notice must be given so South Jordan Public Works can plan accordingly. Colby Hill also confirmed the system water is already filtered twice, once at the canal intake and again at the park. Testing will help determine whether salts or organic material are the primary issue. The board requested that Kevin Steed and Russ Jacobson keep Colby Hill updated so findings can be discussed at the next meeting.

Patrick Leary reported that the park looked good overall, aside from affected plants. Grass was green, and disc golfers appeared to be enjoying the facilities.

Discussion then shifted to security cameras. Don Tingey noted the trial with LVT cameras showed similar results to previous systems. A broader discussion on the feasibility, cost, and whether to install portable or permanent units will be scheduled in a future meeting.

Regarding operations, the June 30 operations financial report was forwarded and will be shared with the board. No significant issues were raised, though members noted the need to prepare for the upcoming budget process.

Discussion then turned to the budget process. Board members agreed that preparation should begin in August, with a tentative budget hearing scheduled for October and final approval in November, following the same timeline as the prior year. Patrick Leary and Brent Laulusa confirmed that the county will begin internal discussions soon, as the county's first departmental budget meetings are scheduled for the end of this month.

Board members emphasized the importance of including fertilizer as a budget line item, given its increased use this year. Patrick Leary confirmed this adjustment will be made.

E. Future Park Development:

E.1. Small Project(s) discussion, Board Vice-Chair, Angela McGuire

E.2.1. Art Project(s) considerations – Janell Payne, South Jordan City, Arts

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Janell Payne provided a slide show/handout (Attachment A)

Don Tingey introduced Janell Payne from the City's Arts and Recreation Department to discuss opportunities for collaboration on small-scale art projects. Janell Payne explained that the Arts Council's current priority is installing a mural in the tunnel at the park's northwest corner, adjacent to the Bingham Creek Trail. The tunnel spans approximately 160 feet. Unlike rotating or student art projects, this mural would be a permanent, professionally commissioned piece, similar in scope to murals completed at the City's baseball and softball complexes.

Janell Payne outlined the process for public art projects as defined in the City's Arts Master Plan. A project committee would be formed, typically consisting of Arts Council representatives, City staff and department representatives (e.g., Public Works, Parks, or Planning), and community partners. For this project, at least two representatives from the Bingham Creek Board would be invited to participate. The committee is responsible for setting project goals, posting a call for qualifications, reviewing artist submissions, and ranking candidates. Selected finalists are then invited for interviews and to submit concept designs, which are refined in consultation with the committee. On average, the process takes about four months, with installation targeted for spring due to weather.

Board members asked about the scale of the project, given the tunnel's length and the associated costs. Janell Payne responded that the budget is consistent with past large projects and that professional muralists are accustomed to handling equipment rentals, insurance, and logistics. The board has committed \$10,000 toward the project, which will supplement City funds. Board members agreed this is an appropriate contribution level that reflects the board's partnership while still ensuring the project has City support.

The second project under discussion involved improvements to the park restrooms. Angela McGuire noted that restrooms are often perceived as uninviting spaces, and the idea is to surprise visitors with uplifting, visually impactful interior murals. Possible concepts include bright, unexpected artwork or inspirational text. The board agreed to form a subcommittee to draft a scope of work for this project, in consultation with Janell Payne and City staff, with a draft to be presented at a future board meeting. Janell Payne explained that while the City generally discourages text in public artwork, the board may set its own guidelines with full awareness of the considerations involved. A site visit to the restrooms was proposed before finalizing the scope. Board members expressed interest in serving on the committee, but Angela McGuire will first gauge overall interest by email to avoid a quorum at committee meetings. The board agreed that no more than three members should participate to remain compliant with open meeting laws.

E.2.2. Disc Golf Course considerations – Patrick Leary, SLCo Parks & Recreation

Patrick Leary reported that staff had not yet reviewed disc golf course improvement recommendations. Dan Langford, representing the disc golf community, expressed interest in being involved in the planning process and suggested that modest improvements, such as alternate baskets or tee pads, could extend the course's lifespan, reduce wear and tear, and improve sustainability. He emphasized that community input would be valuable in guiding these enhancements. The board supported this collaborative approach and agreed that user input should be incorporated when the project moves forward.

E.2.3. Additional trees – Lars Erickson, Board Member

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Lars Erickson opened a discussion on trees, noting that while there is clear interest in enhancing the park with more plantings, strategic planning is needed to ensure new trees align with irrigation capacity, park design, and functionality. He suggested developing a tree master plan to guide placement and species selection, possibly in conjunction with ongoing work by the Think Architecture on Phase 2 park planning.

The board discussed potential tree planting locations in existing spaces, such as the knoll overlooking the soccer fields and the dirt parking lot west of the pump track, but agreed these ideas need to be evaluated against irrigation logistics. Andrea Sorenson will be asked whether an existing tree plan exists and, if not, whether the Architect could develop one as part of their Phase 2 scope. Lars Erickson offered to consult directly with the project landscape architect.

Dan Langford added that the disc golf community is also interested in tree placement, both for aesthetic value and to enhance the course's design and sustainability. He offered to meet with Lars Erickson to share specific ideas.

The board discussed progress on Phase 2 planning. Andrea Sorenson is coordinating the ZAP (Salt Lake County Zoo, Arts & Parks program) application with Think Architecture. The target budget for the application is \$12–15 million. While the application has not yet been released, Think Architecture is designing their scope with that budget in mind. Once the draft application is available, Andrea Sorenson will circulate it to the board ahead of a meeting for review.

The board clarified that while cost estimates will not be finalized until the application is complete, the design and budget process is intended to align closely. The original expectation was that applications would be available in July, but as of the latest update, Andrea Sorenson anticipates an August release.

F. Public Stewardship:

- F.1. Board appointment updates. *Board Chair, Don Tingey & Patrick Leary, SLCo Parks & Recreation*

It was confirmed that Sonia Lopez has been officially approved by the Salt Lake County Council and is now an official member of the Bingham Creek Regional Park Board. Don Tingey noted that Sonia had received email notifications but had not realized her appointment was finalized.

- F.2. Stakeholder engagement discussion, Board Vice-Chair, Angela McGuire

The board discussed that Sonia Lopez may be well-suited to help lead future stakeholder engagement efforts, as she had expressed strong interest in that area at her previous meeting. Don Tingey will invite her to participate in those discussions at an upcoming meeting.

G. Stakeholder Relationships

- G.1. Park Authority Monthly Financial Report(s), Board Chair *Don Tingey*

- G.1.1. Monthly Financial Reports

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Don Tingey reported that discretionary funds are available for small projects. The board agreed that these expenditures should be tracked as a specific line item for transparency. Don Tingey will coordinate with the accountants to ensure that small project allocations are reflected on future reports, with the budget adjusted accordingly.

In addition to the financial update, he confirmed that all required quarterly and annual reports have been submitted to the State of Utah. The Authority is fully compliant with state reporting requirements. The accounting team maintain the reporting schedule, so the board does not need to manage compliance deadlines directly.

G.2. Next meeting(s) agenda item(s) discussion, Board

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, August 18. Key agenda items will include:

- Review and formalization of the ZAP (Zoo, Arts & Parks) application being prepared by Andrea and Think Architecture.
- Preliminary discussion of the FY budget, with Patrick Leary drafting an outline to guide board review and approval.
- Updates on art initiatives, including progress on the tunnel mural project and further discussion of restroom artwork.

Closing Comments:

None.

ADJOURN

Lars Erickson motioned to adjourn. Angela McGuire seconded the motion. The board approves unanimously.

This is a true and correct copy of the July 21, 2025 Bingham Creek Regional Park Authority Meeting Minutes, which were approved on October 27, 2025.